

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

"I AIN'T BEEN DOIN' NOTHIN' "

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART FIFTY TWO OF SIXTY FOUR*

I once heard of a church that regularly had what it called "Quitting Meetings" in which the members would confess their sins and promise to quit. There were always some women to confess to gossiping and backbiting with a promise to quit. Maybe a drunkard would confess or a merchant would acknowledge how he had been cheating his customers. The meeting usually ended with everyone having confessed something. At one meeting, however, one brother never made any sort of confession. At last, under pressure from the others, he finally confessed, "I ain't been doin' nothin'", and I'm gonna quit."

That is a confession a lot of people who claim to be Christians need to make. As far as the work of the Lord is concerned, they "ain't been doin' nothin'." James addresses a few choice words to them when he says, "To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). How many people will be lost, not so much for evils done, but for good undone. The folk proverb is true which says, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." Maybe you "ain't been doin' nothin'" when

you should have been worshiping God on Sunday, visiting the sick, caring for the needy, giving to preach the word, studying your Bible, or praying for the lost. To know that something needs to be done, and to leave it undone is a sin. Ignoring God's will is destructive. You don't have to murder, lie, steal, or commit adultery to be lost. In fact, you don't have to do "nothin'."

In the parable of the talents, the man who had one talent was condemned because he buried his gift and did not use it. He didn't squander it on some evil purpose, but he did no good with it either. It was as if he had no talent at all. In the story of the good Samaritan, the priest and Levite did not harm the wounded man, but they did nothing to help either.

What positive good are you doing for God and His church? We are not planning a Quitting Meeting, but if you are guilty, you can confess to God, "I ain't been doin' nothin', and I'm gonna quit."

(B. G. Echols)

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