

## Getting By With It

---

by Robert F. Turner

He got by with it! That colloquial expression means someone is unaware that he was caught. He **thinks** he got by with it, but this is never true. The one who makes the statement knows better, and has already changed his opinion of the one who tried to get by with it. There is very little we really get by with — even in this life.

I believe man's capacity for greatness is a divine endowment (we are made in His image) but we are molding our individual character day by day, by our response to the experiences of life — drawing closer, or pulling further away, from what our Maker would have us be. And make no mistake about it, we **ARE** what we **ARE**, not what we like to kid ourselves into thinking we are.

When a man gives in to temptation, no matter how well the matter is concealed from others, his own make-up is affected. A thousand victims have a thousand shoulders upon which to bear their burden, but the man who tries to get by with it must take the total wrong upon himself. He is guilty before God, and even if he cares little for that, he has whittled a bit more from the stature of the man he could have been.

This amoral, god-less generation tells us there is no standard for determining a good or bad man, but in practice they repudiate their theory. They recognize, and do not want to do business with the bad man. One can not fool all of the people all of the time.

Proverbs 11:3-f. reads, *"The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of the treacherous shall destroy them."* We can build in to our character that which will sustain us in adverse times; or we can cut ourselves loose from solid mooring, and drown in our own folly.

And we fool God none of the time. All creatures stand before God naked and opened, (Heb. 4:13), (The last word means literally, "to bend back the neck" of a victim to be slain, or exposed. How can we expect to get by with anything, when we are so exposed to Him who judges righteously?

— Plain Talk  
vol. 9, No. 10, p. 1

### Editor's Note:

The article by brother Turner was written back when I was 18, and now I am 62. Nothing has changed among brethren in the last 44 years — there are those who attend the least number of services possible — and think they are getting away with it. There are those who **never** study their Bible class lesson — and think they are getting away with it. There are those who are not separate from the world, but live, dress and act like the world — and think they are getting away with it. Many preachers are no longer preaching the "whole counsel of God," but are ear-ticklers to their audiences — and think they are getting away with it. There are elders in the Lord's church who are more interested in money and numbers than in standing for the truth — and they think they are getting away with it. The list goes on and on, but the fact of the matter is that each of us — individuals and churches — need to examine our lives or our existence by the Standard of God's Word! God, and God alone, will judge us in the last day, and He will not be a respecter of persons! You and I will not get away with anything then!

314903