

## MY RED INK PEN

James 3:16-17 ... “For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

As a professional writer for many years, and an editor of what other people write, I developed certain skills to aid my work. For example, you can easily miss mistakes in written materials when looking at them only on a computer screen. If I am working on a book or article or government documents that others will read and learn from or adopt as policies, I will usually print them out in hard copy in my final edit. It is important to edit material I am writing as others will see it, on paper.

A technique that I use in performing the final edit on printed materials, is to note corrections using a pen with red ink so that they are clearly seen when I return to the computer to fix them. The red ink contrasts with the black ink on the paper and makes my corrections stand out. In a spiritual sense, I have also learned to apply red ink to the issues that crop up in my life that could distract me from the will of God, or when I make my own self-interests more prominent than the expectations of God. Our verse today suggests that if I do something that reflects my self-seeking interests – meaning that I am doing something to glorify myself instead of God – I create an opportunity for confusion or even evil to prosper.

Some occupations are more vulnerable to self-seeking than others. A janitor who cleans a store's floors and comfort rooms alone after dark, does so with great humility because no one is around to see him work. Employees and customers only see the results the next day after he is gone. But a professional athlete is a constant celebrity and may negotiate a ridiculous salary simply because he can demand it. Fans forgive his immoral lifestyle and his abuse of his wife; they idolize him while his life drifts away from the thrill of the sporting event, to his self-seeking desire for fame and fortune.

Is there something in your life that needs to be circled in red; something that you need to remember to offer to God for help in changing? Some Bibles have the words of Christ printed in red to get our attention. Is there some sin (selfishness, greed, dishonesty, bigotry, etc.) in your life that needs to be highlighted in red to get your attention as a daily reminder to surrender it to God?

Copyright © 2017 Datu Wali Mission Foundation