

# *NOBODY'S FOOL*

by Tom Wacaster

The phrase, "Nobody's fool" refers to a person who cannot be duped or taken advantage of, as in, "You can't put anything over on Ryan—he's nobody's fool." I suppose that the world has had its fair share of fools in every generation. But it seems of late that, relatively speaking, we have had more than our fair share in the last decade or so. I read a news report last week telling of some criminals who stole some merchandise and then attempted to sell it back to the owners. That may go beyond foolishness to sheer stupidity. I once read that a congressman named Young who answered especially caustic and critical mail by means of a terse, one-line retort. He would write, "Dear Sir or Madam, I just thought you'd like to know that some nut has been writing me letters and signing your name." The congressman's method of answering his critics might very well put him in the category of being *nobody's fool*.

I have decided that some politicians revel in avoiding being called *nobody's fool*. Will Rogers is credited with saying, "A fool and his money are soon elected." I'll let you be the judge of that. I think I am on safe ground, however, when I say that foolishness is not isolated to Washington D.C., nor do politicians own the market on foolish acts and ideas. If it were a matter of mere sophisticated silliness being practiced by the few it would be of little concern. But we are witnessing an entire generation that is being duped into believing some of the most bizarre, immoral, and foolish ideas ever to come down the proverbial pike! What makes us think, for example, that man can somehow destroy the world's climate? God Himself has promised, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Gen. 8:22). I might be able to accept the idea that God will permit man to destroy the climate and thus bring the world to an end except for the fact that God has also promised that He will destroy the world by fire (2 Pet. 3:10-12).

Jeremiah was once told to go through Jerusalem and look for a "man" (Jer. 5:1-5). The Hebrew word refers to a man of integrity. If the prophet were living today, I wonder if he could walk through the streets of Any Town, USA and find that man or woman of whom it could be said, "He is *nobody's fool*." It would be difficult to find *nobody's fool* in many of our institutions of higher learning where students are taught there is no God and that man evolved from some primordial slime. Can we find *nobody's fool* in Washington? If so, the number of those who are such is certainly small. Can we find a *nobody's fool* in places of moral responsibility? Are the calls for tolerance and acceptance of some of the most perverted lifestyles drowning out the voices of the more reasonable pleas from those of whom it can be said, "They are nobody's fool"?

Paul warned Timothy of religious fools who had nothing better to do with their time than to sit around and engage in speculation about endless genealogies. Fables made shipwreck of the weak and ignorant, but they were of no value to the building up of faith on the part of the hearers. We have such men in the midst of congregations throughout the brotherhood—congregations that left their first love and whose shepherds feed the flock on the dainties of the world rather than the spiritual milk and meat of the Word of God. Seldom do such men provide anything worth listening to. They think themselves to be wise. Their grandiose claims make it evident that they are fools in the sight of God.

While some think themselves to be wise, proclaiming "I am nobody's fool," the truth of the matter is, they are their own worst enemy.