

## FADS

An interesting phenomenon in our society is that of fads. They come and go like the wind, but like a river always take some things with them and leave other things behind. A fad can range from very large in scope to very small. They can have various appearances such as seeming dangerous or soul-saving. Without a doubt the longer one lives, the more fads he will see. They will come, affect many people, and then pass away.

The news media is particularly affected by fads. When people assemble for a cause and make quite a splash about it, the media reports it. For a while it, seems newsworthy, only to die out in time, and the media looks for something else to write about.

Diets are one of the most popular fads. People, who read of new diets, think they can lose weight fast without harming their body. Many different kinds have been tried, and all have failed because the bottom line of losing weight is that one's calorie intake must be less than calories burned up. The sad part about this kind of fad is that great harm can be done to one's body, especially when that person is overweight in the first place.

Clothing is another area of fads in which many people feel trapped. If we don't dress according to the current lines of fashion, an inferiority complex results; we haven't, become part of the fad. The bottom line is that we can always dress well, and we don't have to follow the particular fad of styles which are currently changing.

But of all fads, the most tragic are those which involve the "Christian community." Individuals can be swept up by a flurry of religious excitement, only to later find that what they thought to be powerful and sound in the faith, to be but a passing fad. Religious history is filled with such endeavors. Schemers have tried to discredit religious teachings, take money under the facade of saving souls, and control every aspect of people's lives by using fads.

Fortunately, the Scriptures are not silent concerning this kind of false doctrine. Jesus spoke about different kinds of soils showing that people will not always follow true teaching. He also stated that any plant not planted by His heavenly Father would be rooted up. See Mt. 13:18-23; 18:36-40; 15:13,14.

When religious fads appear, they look good on the surface. They usually are accompanied by great promises, and a lot of blown out of proportion publicity. All of this to the searching mind is appealing, but there is a way out, and a way to tell if this "new teaching" is really of God.

The Bereans were more noble than the Macedonians because they searched the Scriptures daily (Ac. 17:11). Religious fads do not last because they are not based on the teachings of God's word. They will, in time, fall by their own weight. The way to know whether something is of God, is to see if it will be supported by sound, Bible teachings.

Having a Positive Spiritual Attitude (PSA) means that we shall be level-headed enough to see passing fads and treat them that way. Our mature knowledge of the word of God will keep us on the straight and narrow" and away from fads that will lead us astray.