

Two of my favorite cartoons from recent history are the Far Side and Calvin and Hobbes. These cartoonists have retired, though, and left us in need. From this sort of a vacuum has emerged something new. I think that most everyone is now familiar with the cartoon entitled Dilbert. This has developed into a craze that has hit worldwide. Believe it or not, it is centered around the life of an engineer! But the real draw, so to speak, of this character is that he lives in an environment with which we are all extremely familiar: management bureaucracy. We are all subject a various times to the vagaries of someone at the top deciding our lives for us without our consent. The beauty of this cartoon is not in its artistic value, but in the fact that everyone at the worker level thinks its funny. Management, however, always feels that those sorts of things simply don't happen in their company.

The popularity of Dilbert I believe is due to the fact that so many people recognize that this cartoon speaks for them. Everyone feels a kinship; a connection; a fellowship with Dilbert. Everyone who has suffered at the hands of fate and management can relate to him. Such people are able to release some of their frustrations by laughing at the situations presented to them in Dilbert.

Christianity should be a similar thing. We should be able to see the truth and applicability of God's word in our lives. We should all be able to see the effects on us from the continual hassling from our adversary, the devil. We should feel a common bond from this. I wish that the Bible could have the instant appeal that Dilbert has. There is, of course, much more value in it. But the world doesn't want to think about their frustrations unless they can laugh about them.

The key is that there are no real solutions in Dilbert. Occasionally the little engineer has the last say, but usually he is totally defenseless in the grasp of his enemies. The only true solutions that we have are in Christ.

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
(Heb 4:16 NIV)