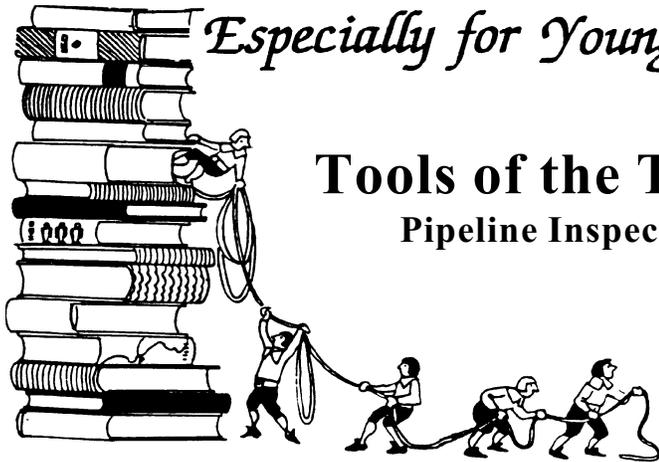


Especially for Young People

Tools of the Trade Pipeline Inspector



After working many years for the gas company, I saw a parallel of a Christian life and a gas pipeline. You might think of that as a strange comparison, but let me explain. When a steel gas pipeline is placed underground, a process of corrosion starts to take place. Understanding that this process was taking place, the gas companies have tried to combat it by coating the pipe to separate it from making contact with the earth. I liken this to us as Christians, who are in the world but not of the world. We are clothed with the cloak of salvation.

The process of corrosion is an electrochemical process. The type of earth in which a pipeline is laid has much to do with the speed of corrosion. Wet, mucky clay is very corrosive. This is due to it being a low resistivity soil. In other words, it is a good conductor of electricity.

Galvanic corrosion takes place when part of the pipeline becomes anodic and current flows from it to a part that is cathodic. As the current leaves the anodic part, it takes with it a part of the steel pipe. Normally, this is a low amount of current measured in milliamps.

Like the pipeline, the Christian may find himself in low resistivity areas, which is a very bad environment. Sometimes it might be school, work, or some other environment. When the corrosion process takes place on a pipeline, it eventually leads to a hole in the line, resulting in a dangerous situation. When a Christian is exposed to a bad environ-

ment, he has to watch that he does not get "holes" in his cloak of salvation. He must keep himself unspotted from the world.

We install cathodic protection to correct corrosion of a pipeline. Magnesium anodes are fastened to the pipe by wires. These sacrificial anodes start to corrode and produce a small electric current, which flows through the earth, collects on the pipeline, flowing to the wire, then back to the anode. This controls the corrosion on the pipeline.

As Christians, we have a cathodic protection: the Holy Spirit is our protection. Jesus Christ was our sacrifice.

In order for the protected pipeline to work properly, it must be insulated, or isolated. The tie-ins and meter settings must not be directly connected, and dielectric insulators are installed. As Christians, working and living in the present world, we must be careful of our contacts with those of this world. If you are too close to the world, it will drain the Spirit of God from your life, causing a hole in your Christian experience.

This is an oversimplification of pipeline protection, but I believe you can see the parallel with the Christian experience. Your contact with the world and its many vices can be dangerous to your Christian experience.

Part of my job at the gas company was to monitor the cathodic protection. If the readings were too low, I had to search and find the reason for the drop in the readings. I liken this to when we read, pray, and attend the preaching services. God

shows us the weak places that need to be corrected. We also had to do this with a pipeline. May God bless you.

Brother William Miller

It's Up to You

It's up to you, my fellow dear,
To do the right or wrong;
To go with those who live for God
Or with the wicked throng;
To be a man sublime and good,
Or sell yourself as junk.
To value life a priceless gem,
Or stagger as a drunk;

To wear a pleasant face;
It's up to you my fellow dear,
To love the Lord and all mankind
And fill a worthwhile place;
Or idle time and life away
With nothing great in view—
Just drifting with the downward tide
Where Satan lands his crew.

It's up to you, my fellow dear,
To live a life that's clean;
To show the world you do not bow
To anything that's mean;
Or have no aim and purpose great
For which to live or die,
Then go unhonored and unsung
Where souls forever sigh.

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