

May 2017

McInteer Sermon Outlines - Psalms

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OLD

Psalm

1. Jer. 6:16 Ask for the old paths good way, walk therein.
2. 2 Cor.5:17 If any man be in Christ he is a new creature old thing.
3. I Cor. 5:7 Purge out the old liven.
4. 2 Pet. 2:5 God spared not the old world but saved Noah.
5. Ps. 37:25 I have been young and now I am old yet have I not seen the righteous.
6. Prov. 23:10 Remove not the old landmark and enter not into field of fatherless.
7. Acts 2:17 Spirit...and your old men shall dream dreams.
8. Acts 21:16 Mason of Cyprus an old disciple.
9. John 3:4 Nicodemus -how can a man be born when he is old?
10. Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go and when old not depart.

-over-

11. Prov. 17:6 Children's children are the crown of old men.
12. Gen. 44:20 We have a father an old man and a child of his old age.
13. Rev. 12:9 Great dragon, cast old that old serpent called the devil.
14. Josh. 9:5 Gibeonites and old shoes and old garments.
15. Gen. 21:4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old.

BONUS

- Ruth 4:15 Be a restorer of thy life and a nourisher of thine old age.
- Neh. 9:24 40 years sustained, lacked nothing, their clothes waxed, not old.

Neely's Bend C/C -- 1/4/09
Heritage C/C -- 1/4/09

NEW

1. Rev. 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
2. Lam. 3:23 His compassions fail not, they are new every morning.
3. Matt. 9:16 No man put a piece of new cloth unto an old garment.
4. John 13:34 A new commandment I give...love as I love.
5. Eph. 2:15 To make of himself twain one new man making peace.
6. Heb. 10:20 Enter into the holiest by blood of Jesus by a new and living way.
7. Rev. 21:5 Behold I make all things new.
8. 2 Cor. 5:17 If any man be in Christ he is a new creature.
9. Matt. 26:27 This is my blood of the New Testament which is shed.

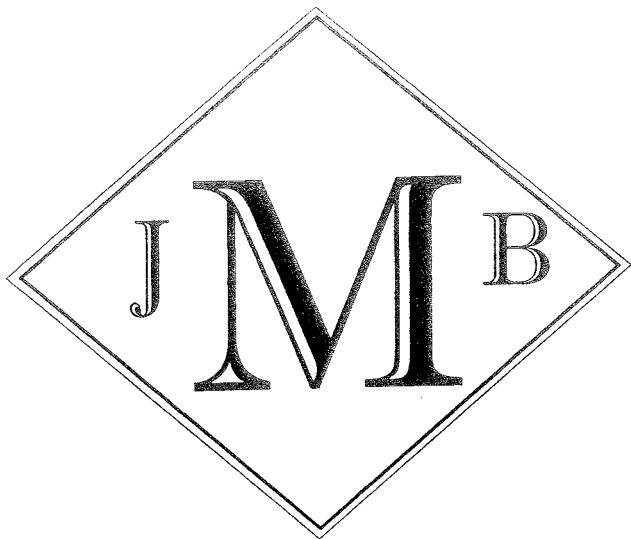
-over-

10. Matt. 27:60 And laid (the body) in his own new tomb.
11. Heb. 12:24 To Jesus the mediator of the new covenant.
12. Isa. 62:2 Thou shalt be called by a new name.
13. Acts 2:13 Others mocking said these men are full of new wine.
14. 2 Pet. 3:13 Nevertheless we according to his promise look for new heavens and earth.
15. I Pet. 2:2 As newborn babes desire the sincere milk.

BONUS

- Ecc. 1:9 There is no new thing under the sun.
- Rev. 2:17 Give him a white stone a new name written.

Neely's Bend C/C -- 1/4/09
Heritage C/C -- 1/4/09



THE LEAD PSALM

Psalm 1

- I. It's called the anonymous Psalm as it has no heading (but maybe it's heading them all as a glorious introduction.
 - A. We call it Psalm 1.
 - B. It has other glorious titles.
 1. Ps. of Psalms.
 2. Ps. of contrasting men.
 3. Ps. of Prescribed Happiness--show you how it comes.
 4. Threshold Ps.--Entrance to all others.
 5. Psalm of the Two Ways.
 6. I have a title shortly to introduce, but--
 - C. See some features.
 1. This Ps. is the Standard Setter for life.
 2. Meyers calls it the Sign Post on the way to happiness.
 3. Hubbard points out its realistic statements about sin--its showing sin's attractiveness and its devastating results.
 4. It calls for a rigid self examination.
 - D. Perhaps this will whet your appetite to what I shall call the Psalm of Amazing Plurals--lets study it.
- II. Psalm 1
 - A. The Blessed Man.
 1. That brings us to our 1st plural--the multiplicity of blessings.
 2. He'll describe blessednesses "many times over"--Swindoll.

3. The Sermon on the Mt. starts with a benediction, so do the Psalms.
 4. Ash says blessedness is used 33X in the O.T. and is always of man, never God.
 5. Seems so strange the world believes the Devil's lie that Christ robs man of happiness--He's the only one who knows how to give it.
 6. That (specific, emphatic) man is to be introduced to life's happiness & fullness.
 7. Blessedness = enriched, fulfilled, contented.
 8. We'll see the peace & piety of pleasantness (Spurgeon)
- B. He has Some Negations
1. Walks not in counsel of ungodly.
 - a) This our 1st step in a downward digression.
 - b) Walk
 - (1) Story of the progression of Sin.
 - (2) A leisure action.
 - c) Counsel
 - (1) Never goes by the advice of the ungodly--Moffett
 - (2) Doesn't take the wicked for his guide (NEB)
 - (3) He's too wise to listen to the ungodly.
 - (4) He learns to say "No", one of the 1st necessities of life.

(5) His footsteps are ordered by the Lord, not carnal man.

(6) Every type of society has its laws--even thieves.

(7) Guard against evil directions.

d) Ungodly

(1) Don't think they aren't there.

(2) Have no "truck" with them.

2. Stands not in the way of sinners.

a) More firm now in rejection of God.

b) Stands

(1) Obstinate

(2) Stiffnecked

(3) Fixed, firm.

Rom. 14:4 "To his own master he"

c) Word column from to stand.

d) Not to flirt with questionable life.

e) Way--precise!

f) Surely choose better than sinner's way.

3. Sits in seat of Scornful.

a) Deepest rebellion.

b) Scoffers sit rather than serve.

c) Permanently settled.

d) Seat

(1) Men in sin go from bad to worse.

(2) To act as instructor.

Matt. 23:2 "Scribes sit in Moses seat"

(3) Habitation

Prov. 5:20-23 (Read)

e) Scornful

- (1) The scoffers, mockers (Plural)
- (2) Some mock & have their St. Peter jokes--he does not.
- (3) When a man spits against heaven it comes back in his face--Sputter Smith swallowed his tobacco chew.
- (4) Scoffers found only here in Ps.
- (5) Has a degree--Dr. of Damnation
- (6) Have no time for those who have no time for religion.

4. Charles Brewer told us about man who walked in the seat & stood.

C. Can't live on negatives so go to Positives.

1. Delights in the Law of the Lord.

- a) The authentic life has communication with God.
- b) Happiness has a Bible base.
- c) Loves Torah--David had only 5 books.
- d) Law shows what God expects of us and also what He has done for us.
- e) Turnbull said godly life is Bible based.
- f) Happiness is not found in a life-style that leaves out God and His truth.
- g) Clip on where found.

2. Meditates Day and Night

- a) Meditate defined.
 - (1) Ponder, discuss, dispute

Ps. 32:30 "Mouth of Rt. meditate"

- (2) Means to think, compare
different Scriptures, chew cud.

Prov. 23:7 "For as a man thinketh"

- (3) Sit & study words--love with
mind.

Ps. 119:99 "Thy test. are my meditation"

1 Tim. 4:15 "Meditate on these things"

Josh. 1:8 (Read)

b) Day & Night

- (1) With him constantly.

- (2) Today we daily can live under
the blessings of God.

D. Like a Tree

1. Tree

a) No ordinary one

b) Planted, transplanted

c) Not a seedling like the palms
coming up in Everette Pearson's
place.

d) Chosen, selected--we pick the
best to transplant.

2. Planted

a) Fixed

b) Purposely placed

3. Rivers

a) Plural blessednesses

b) Plural rivers

- (1) If one fails another ready.

- (2) We still irrigate as water runs
down rows.

Jer. 17:7-8 (Read)

4. Fruit

- a) This an essential quality of all--
even in old age.
- b) External evidence of inward life.

5. Leaf

- a) Faintest word is everlasting.
- b) Loses neither beauty nor fruit.
- c) No winter destroys our green.

6. Prosper (Casey Stengel)

- a) Expectations of eternal value never
disappointed.
- b) Lord reckons the times that pass
over us.
- c) Our work comes to maturity.
- d) Godliness here, gain hereafter.

E. The Final Contrast

1. No so the ungodly.

- a) Definitely not for them.
- b) So sad to see folk continue in sin.
- c) Wicked totally unlike the rt. way.

2. Chaff

- a) Tree or chaff--you choose.
- b) Garfield told difference in oak &
squash.
- c) Chaff--worthless, dead, unservice-
able, without substance.
- d) Separated from wheat it has no
value, no weight.

3. Wind

- a) Easily carried away (chaff)
- b) Scatters it.

4. Stand

- a) Different word from earlier stand.
- b) Erect, arise

5. Judgement

- a) He'll be there.
- b) He won't pass muster.
- c) Won't be acquitted.
- d) All earthly congregations today are mixed.

6. Lord Knows

- a) Is knowing, constantly looking
- Job 23:10 "He know the way I take"
- b) Nothing hidden from God who bottles our tears.

Ps. 56:8

- c) Not a simple awareness but a special concern that causes our prosperity.
- d) Way--trodden path.

Josh. 3:4 "For ye have not passed"

7. Perish--Prosperity vs Wasting away.

- a) Sinners won't be in Heaven.
- b) Worthless & unwept.
- c) Starts with blessings, ends with perish.

Riverwood - 1/23/91

FOR ALL HIS CIRCUMLOCUTIONS, Casey Stengel was a keen judge of baseball talent. "See that fella over there?" he once said of one of his Mets. "He's twenty years old. In ten years he's got a chance to be a star. Now that other fella over there, he's twenty years old. In ten years he's got a chance to be thirty."

—Cincinnati *Enquirer*

Where Is Happiness Found?

The psalmist here makes it quite clear that man will *not* find happiness in certain areas. That gives us another clue why many people aren't finding happiness. They don't know *where to seek it*. People who are free to pursue happiness will not find it if they don't know what it is, or if they chase it where it isn't.

It was January 1 when I arrived on my first visit to the United States. I turned on the television and saw a picture the like of which I had never seen before. It was a rear view shot of a row of big men in tight pants bending over in such a fashion that they appeared to be putting intolerable strain on said pants.

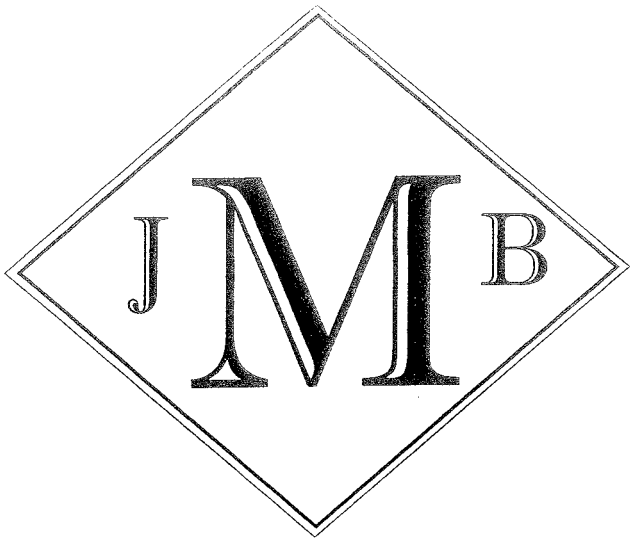
Behind them stood a man who seemed to have lost his temper completely. He was yelling and shouting, apparently because the other men had his ball and he wanted it back. Eventually, after much shouting, they gave it to him. He promptly gave it to one of his friends who ran a few steps and was treated to an awful beating by some other men wearing similar tight pants, but of a different color.

They were apparently very sorry about their behavior because, after they had beaten him up, they gathered in a small group to pray about it. They were not sincere, however, because they went straight back and did the same thing again.

After repeating this whole outrageous procedure about 10 times, the man with the ball suddenly threw it about 60 yards to another man I hadn't noticed before. He caught it, ran a few yards, did a funny little dance, and the crowd went wild. I thought I had stumbled on some religious festival (subsequently I discovered I was right!) and was completely mystified until someone started to explain what was happening so that a newly arrived Englishman could understand.

It appeared that the quarterback had so effectively faked a hand-off to his running back that the defensive line and linebackers had played the run, leaving the receiver wide open to catch the pass and go in for a touchdown. And it all happened because the defensive players chased the man without the ball.

The moral of the story is, if you are free to pursue happiness, don't be faked into pursuing it where it isn't!



3 MINUSES AND 2 PLUSES

Ps. 1:1-3

I. Do you remember:

- A. Mickey Mantle
- B. Jim Ryun
- C. John Wayne - he's killed more Indians than Custer.
- D. Mae West
- E. Got the Whole World in His Hands
- F. 100 Miles, Unchained Melody
- G. 4 Freshmen
- H. Joan Stafford
- I. Lettermen
- J. Serependity Singers
 - 1. What does serependity mean?
 - 2. I know of a man who is happy - it's a by-product of his life.
 - 3. Shall we see him?

II. Define Happy

- A. Doctor asks are you allergic to anything
 - 1. God prescribes nothing that's wrong for me.
 - 2. "Blessings are to the man" literally.
 - 3. Ages ago said call no man happy till he's dead.
 - 4. Means "straight, right".
- B. Did you notice it's for a man!
 - 1. Choose between chicken & a goose sometime.

III. 3 Minus'

A. Walks not

1. Don't throw in c wicked & share in their projects.
2. Employ no shady deals.
3. Shun the ungodly - those who have no fear of God in their eyes.
4. They are restless.
5. They are perpetually self-willed.
6. They lack self control.
7. Feel no sympathy for wicked ways.
8. Don't be a part of their action.
9. Surest way to infection is contact c disease.
10. Evil companions corrupt.

B. Stand not

1. Don't take part in wicked action.
2. Choose your company to keep c your aims.
3. These sin openly - Herb Bell said in prayer, "It's hard to be young today."
4. Stand is to linger - get your picture made c the big shots.

C. Sit not

1. Openly plan destruction of good.
2. Note steady progress in sin.
3. These scorn & hate goodness.

IV. Now 2 Pluses

A. But

1. Very strong Hebrew word like "but nay!"

B. 2 pluses are:

1. Delights in the law.

Romans 7:22 "*for I delight in the law of God*"

(a) Law means all God's revelation, not just Moses.

(b) Jesus is final head.

(c) Not guided by world's maxims.

(d) Life must have its aims & maxims, what's yours?

(1) Rich

(2) Be good

(3) Famous

(4) A Christian? *in all wisdom, fearing*

(e) Written word is precious.

Col. 3:16 "*let the word of Christ dwell in*"

(f) Enthroned Scriptures in your heart.

(g) Your "inclination" is to bend to the law of the Lord.

(h) God doesn't leave us blank!

2. In law he meditates.

(a) He thinks, ponders, digests, & incorporates word as part of himself.

V. End Results - Like a Tree

A. Tree planted

1. To be planted is *My MOMOSAS everywhere* not self sown.

James 1:8 "*of his own will begot he as*"

2. Water is fresh & unending.

As ye have rec Christ Jesus the Lord 4.

3. It's rooted - like we must be in Christ.
Col. 2:7 "Rooted & built up in him"
4. Environment is favorable.
5. Has power to assimilate.
Mk. 4:27-28 "The earth bringeth forth fruit"
6. We must get the right food.
Jn. 4:34 "My meat is to do the will of him"
7. Right company & to finish his work
Matt. 12:50 "For whosoever shall do the will...
the same is my bra"
8. Rt. Education
Ps. 143:10 "Teach me to do thy will"

B. It bears fruit Thy spirit is good ^{lead me into the}

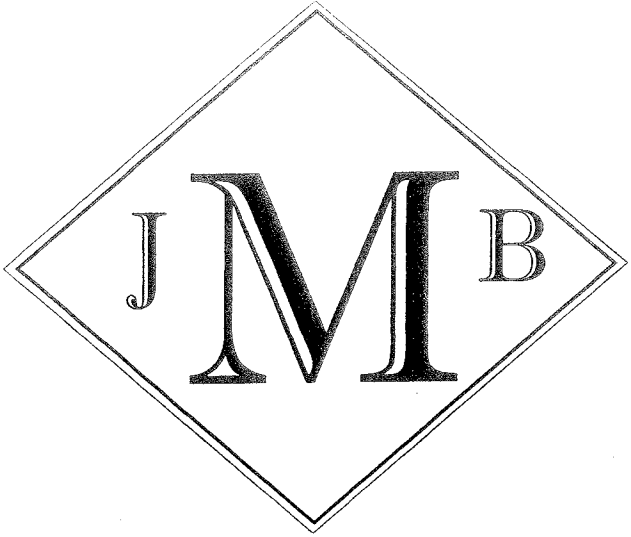
1. Seasons may vary but they come.

C. Doesn't wither - Prospers! ^{land of}

1. It's secure - evergreen ^{Uprightness}
3 Jn. 2 Thou mayest prosper & be in health
I Pet. 1:4 "To an inheritance incorruptible
I Pet. 5:4 When the chief Shepard... crown of
I Cor. 15:58 "My beloved brethren be ye st"
2. The Lord knows such & rewards him.
3. God loves me and seeks my happiness.
4. Happiness doesn't depend on what man does but what man is.
5. In God, blessings of peace, purpose, noblest society, moral advancement.
6. Success his - all brot to maturity.
7. Has perpetuity.
8. Sinner has his brief day.

Fayetteville Tenn. Washington St. Church Youth Rally
West End 8-17-69
8-17-69

Shady Grove church 7-29-71



Kiss the Son

Psalm 2

- I. We are ever challenged to see how strong is God in the affairs of men.
 - A. Does He care-or does this earth run as a wound up toy?
 - B. If He cares, can He do anything about it?
 - C. Psalm 2 - answers this.

- II. About the Psalm
 - A. It has no title, age, known author.
 - B. It's Messianic
 - C. It's one of conflict-wicked vs. God in righteousness.
 - D. Style points to David
 - E. Fulfilled in Christ and no one else.

- III. In the first five verses.
 - A. Vanity of the heathens.
 - 1. He opposes God - foolishly.
 - 2. He employs many attitudes.
 - a. Raging - tumultous agitation
 - b. Imagining - meditation on vain things - it's purpose will come to naught; don't think Christianity will die - it won't.

- c. Counsels - turn over in joint mind-against the Lord in combined action.
 - d. Set themselves-resulting from meditation.
3. They set themselves against God and His anointed.
- a. Kings
 - b. Rulers - have authority but a cut below King
 - c. They are united.
4. Anoint
- a. Christ
 - b. Anoint for purpose of consecrating and appointing.
 - c. Set aside to service God
5. Say - verbal utterance
- B. Purpose of the enemy
- 1. Break bands
 - a. Wicked always feel God's rule and restraint of His laws.
 - b. Plan resistance
 - c. Yet they are subject to His law
 - d. Forsook God but He has not them.
 - e. Great is the peril of power.

Ecc. 7:7 Oppression (the power of oppressing) makes a wise man mad.

f. Reason elders refuse to quit.

2. Cast away cords

C. God's reaction

1. Laughs at futile efforts of men to take control.

2. Decision - offers mighty restrains and complete distrusts

3. False will fail

4. Wrath - man will obey willingly or unwillingly

5. Vex - strike terror

IV. Declaration of God

A. Set King in Zion

1. Kingdom founded on an unalterable decree before world started.

Jn. 6:40

10:18

14:31

1:18

2. God's power seen

3. Son seen

a. King - Christ - anoint

b. Son

4. Son has the same nature as the father - wisdom, power, holiness

Prov. 8:30

Jn. 3:35

5.20

Acts 13:33

Rom. 1:4

Col. 1:18

5. Son voluntarily puts self in state of inferiority to father to be in the flesh
6. All founded on an eternal decree

B. Can ask of powerful king

1. Has right to speak
2. Has power to give
3. Has reason to punish
4. All has to do with choice and consequences
5. Bonds imply services
6. Fear of God should swallow up every other fear
7. Neglect Christ and perish
8. Can make you like broken pottery

C. Call therefore to:

1. Be wise
2. Be instructed
3. God above Kings and Judges

V. The Path of Wisdom

A. Serve the Lord with fear

B. Rejoice with trembling

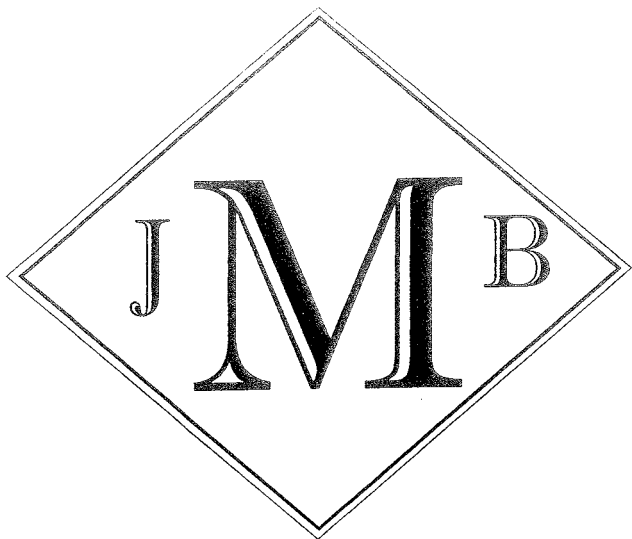
1. Use reverence
2. Stand in awe
3. He's God - we serve
4. Quake via strong emotion
5. If son is angry, who intercedes for us

C. Kiss the Son

1. Pay homage
2. Alterate - anger, perish wrath
3. Men bend or break
4. Offer pure homage
5. Kiss of believing or betraying

D. Blessed are they that put their trust in Him.

1. God's able to keep every promise
2. Blessedness found in submission
3. Righteousness way alone one of peace and happiness
4. God will ultimately triumph
5. Conquers rebels by leading them into Kingdom
6. He who has power to destroy has no pleasure in it.



"HOW 'KISS THE SON - AS A BELIEVER OR
BETRAYER?" Ps. 2:7-12

I. I'm given glorious choices?

- A. Support or disown the church.
- B. Pray or Make it on my Own.
- C. Study or Remain Ignorant.
- D. Kiss the Son - As a Believer or a Betrayer.

II. It's the Part of Wisdom for me lovingly to submit to
God & His will. Note 3 commands.

A. Be wise.

Ps. 2:10 "Be wise now therefore O ye Kings

B. Be Instructed.

C. Serve the Lord.

1. Serve.

a.) He's Lord - Serve Him.

Phil. 2:12 "Work out your own salv. c

2. With fear.

a.) Reverence God.

b.) Stand in awe.

3. Rejoice c trembling.

III. Really there is no other choice!

A. God said, "I will declare the decree.

1. Kingdom founded upon an unalterable decree
before there was a world. *John 1:1-3*

Jn. 6:40 "This is the will of him that sent me

10:18 "No man taketh it from me but I ... *Power*

14:31 "As the Father hath given me com. *even so*

1:18 "No man hath seen the Father *I do*

B. God recognized His Son.

1. By Inheritance.

as he hath by inheritance obtained ^{Num 2.}
Heb. 1:4-5 "Being so much better than the angels, as
Jn. 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh &

a.) Son of Father thus has the same nature as the
Father.

b.) Expect wisdom, power, holiness.

Jn. 3:35 "The Father loveth the Son & hath *all things*

5:20 "The Father loveth the Son & sheweth him all

Acts 13:33 "As it is written in the 2nd Ps. thou art my

Rom. 1:4 "Declared to be the Son of God with power

Col. 1:18 "Who is the beginning, the firstborn from th

2. Also by agreement.

Zech. 6:13 "Even he shall build the temple of the Lord

a.) Voluntarily puts self in state of inferiority to
Father to be in flesh.

b.) Kingdom to be universal.

c.) Was his prayer answered?

IV. How do you embrace the Son - Believer or
Betrayer?

A. Kiss the Son.

1. As a believer.

a.) Offer pure homage lest he be angry.

2. As a betrayer.

a.) Enemies are subject to God.

Job 4:9 "By the blast of God they perish

2 Thess. 2:8 "Destroy c the brightness of his coming

b.) He who has the power to destroy has no pleasure
in it.

B. Consequence of our actions.

1. If son be angry, who will plead for us?

2. Arm self c discipline.

3. We've time now to amend.

C. The Beatitude.

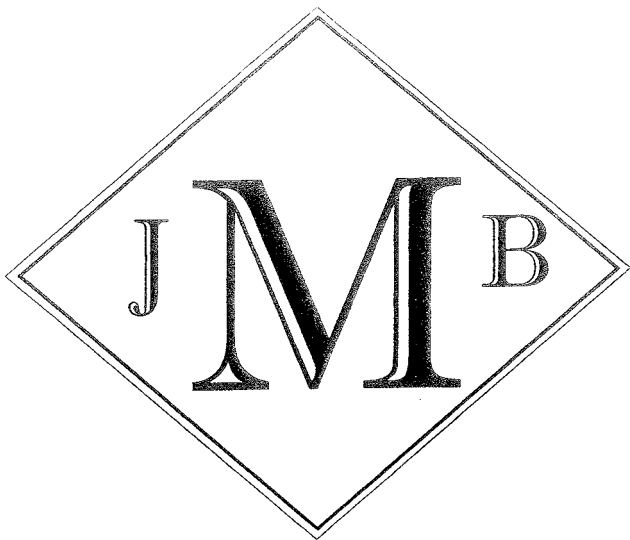
V. 12 "Blessed are all they that put their *trust in the*

1. Righteous way alone one of peace & happiness.

2. God & Good will eventually triumph.

3. Conqueror rebels by bringing them into the Kingdom.

Heart End 1-22-78



GOD'S UNTOUCHABLES

Ps. 3

I. Our Introduction Takes 2 Parts:

A. 1st the Psalm itself.

1. 1st titled Psalm.
2. No one knows who nor when titles added.
3. We are told the Rabbis used them in their chants.
4. Goes all the way back to the Septuagint.
5. Mizmor = Hebrew for cutting twigs, pruning, all extra words removed.
6. Wouldn't you like to do this to our sermons. Mizmor vs. Misery!

B. Nature of Psalm.

1. Theme--Deliver--verses 2, 7, 8.
2. Called Morning Song in Perilous Times.
3. We see Peril, Prayer, Rescue, Fearlessness, Testimony (P.C.)
4. Song to be sung as we go forth to day's battles.

C. Historically

1. Nowhere does it say David wrote it.
2. Yet most ascribe it to him.
3. They feel it's his flight where he is quite old from the rebellion of Absalom.

D. Since it fits the picture let's review this O.T. sad story.

Text: 2 Sam. 15 & 16

1. Absalom--chariots, horses, 50 men.

2. Early at gate to meet the people.
 - a) David will reap harvest of his wild oats.
 - b) He will feel the results of his adultery, murder, description of country.
 - c) Absalom saw people will quickly fall for demagogue.
 - d) Knows the importance of self-display--showman.
 - e) Salutes every citizen with chip on shoulder.
 - f) Pretends interest in people but showed no love for anyone but Tamar.
 - g) Seems to be in line to inherit throne but could not wait.
 - h) So he pictured himself as he saw himself to be--heir apparent.
 - i) Undermine confidence of people in his Dad, offer self as solution, utilize the time people were delayed to his advantage, give answer they want.
 - j) Never really helped anybody--just seemed to.
 - k) Cared only for himself yet stole the hearts of the people.
3. Pretended a religious interest--sad to do evil in name of religion.
 - a) David seemingly suspected nothing.
 - b) Fooled 200 hostages.

- c) An unpunished murderer is on his way to the throne--human memories are short & selective.
 - d) Was David out of touch? Can't rest on laurels.
 - e) (40 yr. mistake--really 4)
 - f) Ahithophel only important one to join with Absalom, Bathsheba's grandfather. Would granddad stay with man who seduced his granddaughter.
 - g) Yet strong & increased (v-12).
4. David gets word.
- a) Flee--spare city & possible treachery.
 - b) Friends stayed with him--Ittati (v-21) 600, priest.
 - c) Bows to will of Lord (v-25).
 - d) Lays plans for defense & counter-spies.
 - e) We need the advice and counsel of friends.
5. Fled--barefooted, head covered, waiting.
6. V-1 Absalom prepared chariots.
V-37 Absalom came to Jerusalem.
7. Perhaps if we were the parents we should be, these things would not happen.

II. 1st Part of Psalm the writer cites his troubles.

A. His foes that trouble are numerous.

- 1. In Absalom story we see his faction gather like a snowball.

2. Their number amazed David.
3. Obviously David suddenly lost his people.

B. On a more general basis.

1. Aren't you amazed at the extent of your troubles?
2. Aren't elders shocked at what can so quickly go wrong and distress in the church?
3. Was not Shakespeare right when he said troubles come in battalions.
4. But keep in mind we are eventually on a winning team--we are one of God's untouchables so far as permanent defeat is concerned.

C. Troubles Counted

1. Many

- a) David heard of revolt but was not prepared for the severity of it.
- b) We often are surprised to see our support vanish.
- c) Remember finger in water bricket.
- d) Many used 3X in many translations.
- e) Many seen as 10,000 later.
- f) We'll see=many say vs. but I say--you are one of God's untouchables.
- g) Don't be shattered by unexplained sorrows.

2. Many say I have no help from God.

- a) Unkind cut to say God does not care about me.
- b) It deepens the darkness in which we talk--but you don't believe them do you?

c) Nothing shatters us more than to think God does not care.

(1) Jesus asked "why?"

(2) Job felt it.

Job. 7:20 "Why hast thou set me as a mark against thee"

(3) Jeremiah

Jer. 17:17 "Be not a terror unto me; you are my hope in day of evil"

(4) David's feelings hurt by the evaluation the enemies made of his spiritual life.

(5) All of us tend to write off people--but you are God's untouchables.

(6) But caution: Do I give any reason for folk to have this low attitude of me?

(7) Did David & Bathsheba help his image?

(8) But remember this accusation against the saint is a lie against him & libel upon God.

(9) Don't question His power to help.

D. Selah

1. Musical pause.

2. Signal to change keys.

3. Signal to add volume.

4. Signal to return to harps.

5. Means to lift up.

6. Often came after an impressive statement.

7. Not in Latin Vulgate.

8. 73X in Ps.

9. 3X in Habakkuk.

10. Never translated.

11. Rarely in middle of the verse.

Ps. 55:19

57:3

12. Amplified has "pause & calmly think of that."

13. Reality--no one knows.

III. The God of the Untouchables

A. Thou Art a Shield.

1. Never accept any shield but God.

2. Here means buckler that goes all the way around David.

3. He is completely covered.

4. God told Abraham He was his shield.

Gen. 15:1 "Fear not A., I am thy shield...reward

Deut. 33:29 (Read)

5. If you feel helpless please note "but thou O God"

6. David knew he was ousted but it was only for a little while--he'd be back!

B. My Glory

1. Question: in our tribulation can we respect glory?

2. Do we find our glory in God alone?

Jer. 9:23-24 (Read)

C. Lifter up of my Head

1. He's there to support.

2. Lifts up in honor after shame.

IV. I Appealed to Him

A. I cried.

1. Prayed out loud.

2. Not a single cry but a habit of life.

B. Raised Voice

1. We have a right to tell our grief to God.

2. Absalom had the crowd.

David had the Lord.

3. God knows our troubles but it relieves us to recite them.

4. Voice was earnest and constant.

C. Heard Me

1. Don't fear a frowning world when you have a hearing God.

2. Hear means he answers.

3. Defense, Honor, Joy--ours.

4. God answers in bad times.

5. What He did for David He will do for us.

V. Results Came to Untouchables

A. I laid down

1. In faith I rest.

2. Relax in confidence as I put myself in position of weakness.

B. I Slept

1. Dr. Cayce had confidence in my sermons--and slept.

2. Examples.

Mk. 4:38 (Jesus)

Acts 12:6 (Peter)

3. Our problems smaller after night of rest.

4. We do not acquire security by elimination of enemies but by God.

- C. I Awakened
1. Refreshed
 2. Spared
 3. Buckles on harness for the day's battles.
 4. Sustained obviously.
- D. Not Afraid of 10,000
1. He does not underestimate his enemies.
 2. Neither will he venture into battle without prayer.
 3. "Have set" is a military term.
- E. Prayer
1. Arise--all God has to do is show himself--they flee.
 2. Save
 - a) From trouble, persecution, false accusations, fear of men.
 - b) Be my rescue.
- F. Enemies smitten
1. Break jawbone of enemies as beast that pursue.
 2. Or they that spoke against David hit their cheekbone.
 3. Break teeth--disarm animal.
 4. Stops their cutting ways & words.
 5. Enemies become a toothless lion.
 6. Enemies still roam around but powerless to hurt.
 7. We can even pray for our enemies.
- G. Salvation is the Lord's.
1. He alone saves & blesses.
 2. Not Calvinistic view as tho. you can do nothing--He does it all.

3. We see:

Numbers do not make right.

Numbers do not determine qt. of success.

Numbers do not determine happiness.

4. Salvation (deliverance) the theme introduced 3rd time.

5. Your hand lit. is on my pillow.

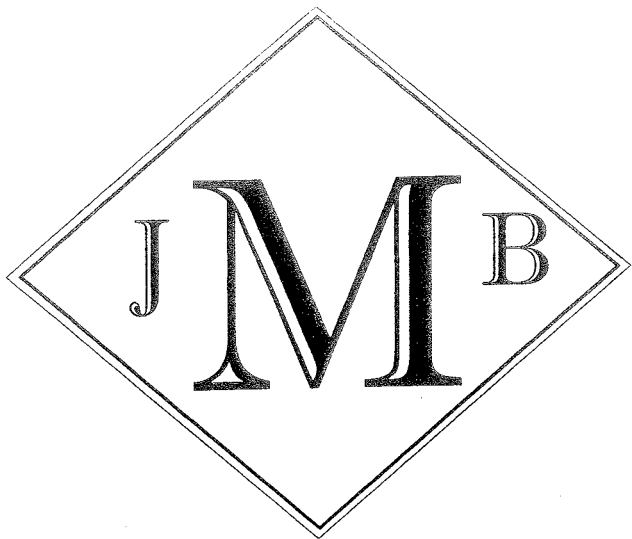
Matt. 10;28 "Do not fear those who kill"

6. Salvation is full and at the disposal of God.

7. You are his untouchables.

Riverwood - 2/6/91

Funeral, Mrs. Marjorie Emerson Williams--5/13/91



Prayers Most Beautiful Plea

Psalm 4

- I. Not every audience I seek is granted.
 - A. The phone line is busy.
 - B. The party I want to visit is not home.
 - C. The business appointment I sought is not granted.
 - D. But my plea to God is heard.
- Psalm 4 -- read it.

- II. Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness.
 - A. Hear me for thy mercy's sake is my best plea.
 1. I do not deserve a hearing.
 2. I come often - weary Him?
 3. Yet no man has a right to expect God to hear him if he does not call.
 4. Clark said there are multitudes which expect the blessing of God as confidently as if they had prayed for Him fervently and yet such people do not pray at all.
 5. Donald Kirby expected me to sense what he needed.
 - B. God of my Righteousness
 1. God is the source of all righteousness in him.
 2. He sees the sincerity and goodness of my heart.

3. This type of person God hears.
 4. God maintains my right and my cause.
 5. This name for God not used anywhere else in the Scriptures.
 6. He is the witness, maintainer, judge, rewarder of my righteousness.
- C. He enlarged me when I was in distress.
1. Enlarge - increased.
 2. Given room a military figure describing one hemmed in by the enemies.
 3. God drives the foe away and enlarges the threatened one.
 4. Pleads past mercies for present favors.
 5. Enlarge - a figure from the army enclosed in a defile and hard pressed by surrounding enemies.
 6. The narrow and restricted path he broadened into a wide place--but still all is not well.
 7. Servant has his trouble--the best of men need mercy as surely as the worst of men.
- D. Have mercy and hear my prayer.
1. Remember the experiences of one of God's saints concerning His promises.

2. Certain are the privileges of the Lord's people.
3. All have proof of God's mercies and ground of hope.
4. Note bulletin "Honest Temptation."

III. David's Enemies (v.2) Shamed Him

A. Sons of men.

1. Refers to men of rank, high degree, influence, wealth.
2. People of importance.
3. Great men yet foolish ones and he chides them as though they were children.

B. Turn my glory into shame?

1. Cites this accusation against him.
2. Seeks to convince them of their folly.
3. In spite of your action God loves me and has separated me and chosen me for Himself.

C. You love vanity and seek lies.

1. Yours in vanity an empty way.
2. Your soul dwells upon the emptiness of things here below and you trample on God's people with your haughty heart.
3. Leasing is lying, empty fancies, vain conceits, wicked fabrications.

IV. God Has Set Apart the Godly for Himself

A. God's aim is for us to be his acknowledged children.

1. He has adopted you as His.
2. You are special in His sight.
3. Godly -- one who loves.
4. If you assail the saint you assail God who claims him and appoints him to his office.
5. He took David from the sheepfold to the throne--makes you great.
6. Fools must be told again and again that the godly are chose of God and are by distinguishing grace set apart and separated from above men.
7. Godly are precious--set apart by God.
 - a) We set apart what's precious to us.
 - b) You are His:
 - 1) His peculiar treasure (Psalm 135:4).
 - 2) His redeemed (Isa.43:1-7).
 - 3) My delight (Psalm 16:3).
 - 4) Fine gold (Lam. 4:2).
8. Do not act irrationally and oppose the godly.
9. Take heed how you hurt those God protects.

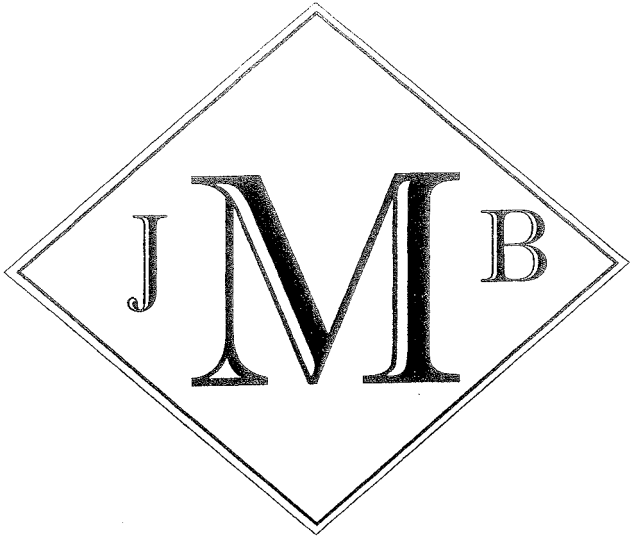
10. God makes such and puts them aside as His property.
- B. Certainly the Lord Will Hear Me When I call.
1. Power of prayer is certain.
 2. Forsake it not.
- C. Stand in Awe and Sin Not.
1. You are somebody - God's chosen.
 2. Tremble before Him.
 3. Teach the ignorant the power of God.
- D. Commune With Your Own Heart Upon Your Own Bed.
1. Let reason speak.
 2. At your pillow let the quiet of the night instruct you.
 3. Find the contentment and peace.
 4. Consider the subject deeper before you attempt to act.
 5. Do nothing rashly.
 6. Do not justify one evil act by another.
 7. Sleep on the business.
 8. Converse with your own heart upon your own bed.
 9. Consult your own pillow (Clark).
 10. Do it on your own bed secluded from all company.
 11. When resting you can best judge whether you are in error.
 12. Secrecy of your own bed helps.

13. When you have not else to talk to, talk to yourself.

E. Be Still.

1. Let passions rest.
2. Review and meditation on matters.
3. Let be dumb--hold your peace.
4. Selah!

Owen's Chapel - 8/26/01



BEFORE YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES TONIGHT

Ps. 4:7-8

- I. What a blessed time to reflect.
 - A. The day is done.
 - B. Work is over for this day.
 - C. In the bedroom a privacy attends me as during no other time.
 - D. It is a privileged moment:
- v-8 "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makes me dwell in safety."
- II. I hope the day has brought you:
 - A. Gladness
 1. It is superior gladness.
 2. Harvest is complete.
 3. Corn is in the crib.
 4. The tally of the day shows closure.
 5. Gladness more than when corn and wine increased--that was a joy but this evening is still superior.
 - a) Superior to all temporal blessings.
 - b) Christ in the heart better than corn in the barn.
 - c) Corn and wine are the fruits of this world--God's countenance is the fruit of heaven.
 - d) World feeds on scraps from God's table--you its bounty.

- e) Yours is a reward beyond dollars and cents.
 - f) The eye of faith sees further than the eye of sense.
 - g) You have a happiness earthly things cannot reproduce: peace of conscience and comfort of the Holy Spirit.
 - h) The vacuity of earth's emptiness is filled with the spirit's bounty.
 - i) There is as much difference between the spiritual banquet that's consumed as contrasts the banquet painted on the wall.
 - j) He pictures two joys: one prosperity of the material, contrasts with the spiritual one.
- B. I will both lay me down in peace and sleep.
- 1. There is a cluster of things that come to a life of trust.
 - a) Deliverance, v-7.
 - b) Assurance prayer is heard, v-1.
 - c) God's favor, v-3.
 - d) Joy, v-7.
 - e) Peace, v-8.
 - f) Safety, v-8.

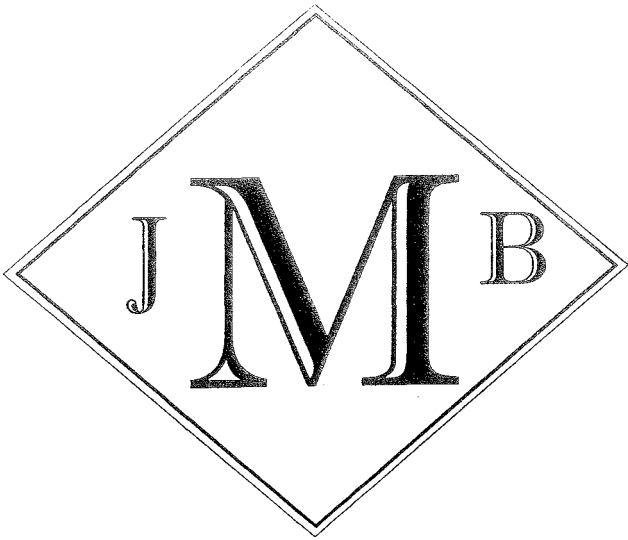
2. Assured God keeps you through watches of the night.
3. David does not cry for vengeance over his enemies, but seeks to bring them to a better mind.
4. Sleep comes quickly--not distressed.
5. I will lie down myself--assured of God's favor and peace as I dwell in safety.
6. Commit all your affairs to God and contentedly leave the issues of life with him.
7. It's impressive that he "lay down" voluntarily give up guardianship of self.
8. Resigns himself to the hands of another who neither slumbers or sleeps.
9. Complete absence of care.
10. Full exercise of trust.
11. I'll sleep and leave the morrow to God.
12. We all have to lie down as we are exhausted--but in peace?
13. Rest by peace; peace in soul.
14. Won't sit up and watch through fear of every rustling sound.
15. Better than bolts and bars is the safety and protection of the Lord.

16. Security is seen under the metaphor of sleep.

C. It is only in the Lord.

1. Seek his praise, let the world go by.
2. Others will fail, God alone is sufficient to help.
3. "Only" - God alone can do it.
4. No pillow is so soft as his promises.
5. No coverlet is so warm as his assurance and interest.
6. The Hebrew word may mean either that God alone gives him protection or that God makes him to dwell in safety when he is alone.
7. All of this underscores the minuteness of God's personal care for his child.
8. See the individuality of his love.
9. He watches not only over the great but he stoops and acts for the little ones.

Mike Compton's funeral - 8/26/04



J M B

WHAT'S GOD LIKE?

①

Psalms 5:4-5

I. If my life is to mesh with the life and being of God, I must know what He is like.

- A. No one sermon explains God.
- B. Neither does any one Psalm--but at least it helps!

II. The Psalmist lists some characteristics of God in Psalms 5.

A. He is a God who hears prayers.

1. He listens to his people. *Key (My silent musings)*

v-1, 2 "Give ear to my words, O Lord

a. Prayer and meditation go together.

b. His prayer was a cry--denotes says

Henry "fervency of affection and importunity of expression." *Called God "My King"*

2. David promises 4 things:

a. I will pray. *Reality in prayer - to a person*
v-1 "Unto Thee will I pray"

b. He will pray in the morning. *ie every AM.*

(1) Fit time--lively and composed frame of mind--clear of slumber--revived--not yet filled with the business of the day.

(2) Time of need--dangers and temptations of day to which to be exposed.

(3) Example of Jesus who rose a great while before day.

3. David would have his heart intent on duty.

a. Directs prayer as a marksman his arrow

b. Fixedness and steadfastness toward God

- c. Honors Him as God. 20% *1st* (2)
- d. He asks God to set in order things as a priest would the shew bread. *Lev 6:5*
4. Wait patiently for an answer. *Nu 28:4*
- a. He'll look up = Mizpeh or watch tower.
 - b. Either stand or lay prostrate with hands lifted up and spread out.
- B. God has no pleasure in wickedness. (v-4)
- 1. Contrary to his holy nature.
 - 2. God loves purity.
 - 3. *Abhors wickedness - unchanged opposition*

- C. Evil does not dwell with God. (v-4)
- 1. Wicked man is not his guest -- righteous is.
 - 2. To dwell is to lodge, stay under his protection.

D. Foolish do not stand in the sight of God.

- 1. Literally "the shiners"--displayers of self.
- 2. Self praisers and boasters.
- 3. Vainglorious and insolent.

4. God has no gracious intercourse with wicked men.

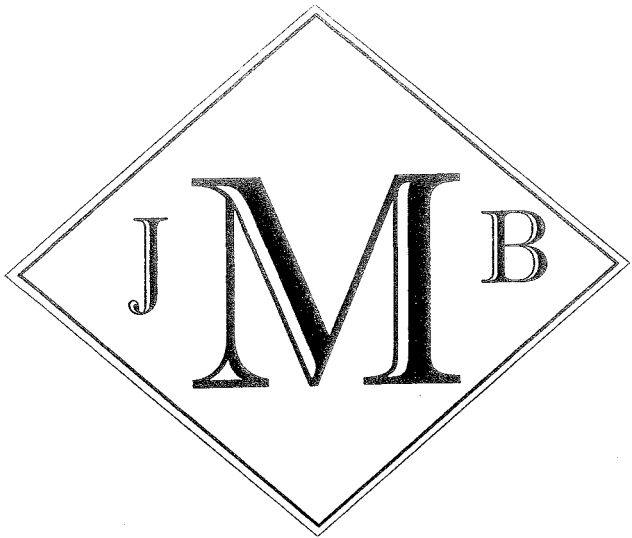
E. Thou hatest all workers of iniquity.(v-5)

- 1. Do we talk about one another and stab in the back?
- 2. Do I purposely tell a story to lessen your esteem of a friend?
- 3. Iniquity is a negation, a defect.

F. God destroys them that speak leasing.(v-6)

- 1. Liars and murders remain one of the Devil.
- 2. Leasing is lying.

G. He abhors bloody and deceitful man. (v-6)
1. Means mean of blood and deceit.



THROATS: DEADLY AND DRY

Ps. 5:8-9

I. We hear a lot about throats.

- A. Dry.
- B. Raspy.
- C. Raw.
- D. Sore.
- E. Swans neck.

II. We talk about them.

- A. I could choke him.
- B. Slit his throat.
- C. Wring his neck.

III. Just as surely as we've talked about throats, so has the Holy Spirit. Let's see what He says.

A. Some throats are putrid.

Ps. 5:8-9 "Lead me, O Lord, in thy rtness.

Rom. 3:13 "Their throat is an open sepulchre; with the

1. "Lead me, O Lord, in thy rtness.

- a.) Lead as a little child.
- b.) Lead as a blind man.
- c.) Enemies.

(1) God vindicated before them.

(2) Enemies = watchers c an insidious intent.

2. Make thy way straight.

- a.) Note it's thy - not my.
- b.) We need to see His way.
- c.) Straight = level.
- d.) Speak of a man being straight as a string.
- e.) Give the ability to meet all life brings.

3. Some use all their parts for evil.

- a.) No faithfulness in their mouth.
- b.) Their inward parts is very wickedness.
- (1) Hearts evil.
 - (2) Depth of them wrong.
- c.) Throat an open sepulchre.
- (1) Some throats are like death.
 - (2) They are full of pestilence & disease.
 - (3) Men stumble in & find themselves among the dead.
 - (4) Open.
 - (1) Spread it all about.
 - (2) Can we seal mouth of wicked.
 - (3) Men engage in filthy words.
 - (4) Cruel words can destroy as does a sepulchre.
 - (5) Unreliable words are deadly.

B. Some throats are dry & burning.

Ps. 69:1-4 "Save me, O God; for the waters are come

1. Save me, O God.

a.) This the cry of man.

(1) David.

(2) Jesus.

Heb. 5:7 "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had

b.) Story of innocent man unfairly treated.

Vulnerable man subject to painful abuse.

c.) God can right the wrong.

Isa. 58:12 "And they that shall be of thee shall build

d.) How do you face trouble.

2. Many burdens - 1st waters came into my soul -

Many metaphors.

- a.) More concerned with inside than outside.
- b.) Waters penetrate - like one under water, covered c doubt.
- c.) Up to my neck - up to my life.
- d.) Sorrow is selfish-- "Why me?"

3. 2nd metaphor - mire.

- a.) Sucks down its victim.
- b.) No foothold - fate worse than drowning.
- c.) Nothing firm or settled. No fd.
- d.) Overflow.
 - (1) Sorrows gather c greater force.
 - (2) Position extremely crucial.
 - (3) "Each family will sooner or later have its hush- the hush of grief, shame, sickness, the hush of economics, physical, moral or mental sorrow." Spanish Proverb
 - (4) Man's need is desperate.
 - (5) Man's Remedy is the Lord.

4. The 3rd is weary of my crying.

- a.) Crying wore me out.
- b.) Crying = gasping - via great vehemence.
- c.) We are neither insensitive nor stony.
- d.) Screams til exhausted.

5. 4th Metaphor "Throat is dried."

- a.) Parched.
- b.) Inflamed.
- c.) Made hot.
- d.) Lit. burned.
- e.) Are we ever hoarse from praying.

6. 5th, eyes fail while I wait.

- a.) Looked but nothing came.
- b.) Strained eyes look for succor - conveys powerfully the emotional state.
- c.) Nothing came.

7. 6th, Hated w/o a cause.

- a.) Sin makes you have crazy judgements - I hate good things & good people.
- b.) We have a history of such opposition.
 - (1) Samuel asked, "Whose ox have I taken?"
 - (2) Classic was Jesus:

"For which works do you stone me"

"Away c such a fellow - it is not fit he should live." *Lu 13 Jn 19*

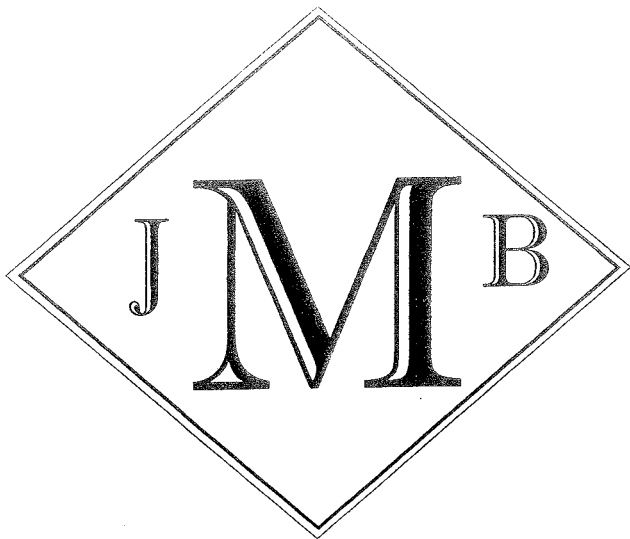
Jn. 19:29 "Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar"

Ps. 129:3 "The plowers plowed upon my back; they me

8. Restores what He took not away.

- (1) Jesus didn't take away God's glory - nor man's righteousness.
- (2) Cicero, "There is no grief which time does not lessen & soften."
- (3) Falsely accused - still does right thing.

2nd End 11-29-81



THE TASTES OF GOD

Ps. 5:4-6, 11-12

- I. If you are entertaining a very important guest, you do all at your command to comply with his likes and dislikes.
 - A. I know of a lady that can't tolerate cats--due to asthma.
 - B. When Bro. Gibson was cutting such a swath the word was out "serve no alcohol in the presence of the Gibsons."
- II. I've invited one into my heart--God! It's imperative that I properly receive Him.
 - A. He is not a silent guest. *Return V, lit*
 - B. He's spoken of His likes and dislikes *4*
 - C. In this one lesson from the inspired Poet we seek to learn some of his "tastes." *Tripe - Bird Nest Soup* *5*
4
5
4
5
4
5
4
5
- III. The Psalms he just prayed.
 - A. This is called by some a morning meditation.
 1. "Ere you left your room" song.
 2. Am I so busy worshipping God I don't have time for Sunday prayers.
 3. Clip on prayer -- #1
 4. He makes a resolve he will pray--perhaps we should.
 5. Not only does he pray but he expects an answer--look up!
 6. He believes he will be heard.

Ps. 4:1

- B. Now he acknowledges the Tastes of the God to whom he prays.
 1. Has no pleasure in wickedness.
 - a) However witty, grand, proud sin may present itself God hates it.

There is some pleasure in sin. 2.

- b) Lawlessness despised.
- c) No delight in vice--Moffett
- d) Stands for the idea of unchangeable opposition to wickedness.

Ps. 97:10 "Ye that love the Lord, hate evil"
e) Clip on Visions of Eternity #2.

- 2. Evil does not dwell with God.
 - a) Gives no shelter. *Good sign*
 - b) God & Evil cannot occupy the same dwelling.
 - c) This is the 2nd in a series of 6 that offend God.
 - d) Wrong can be no guest of thine--
one translation.
 - e) Broken Homes clip #3.
- 3. The foolish shall not stand in his sight.
 - a) Means the arrogant (RV).
 - b) The proud.
 - c) The boaster--important in his own eyes.
 - d) Proud sinners won't survive.
- 4. Hates workers of iniquity.
 - a) Some actually work at being bad--not just a careless sin.
 - b) God against the wrong doer.
 - c) Clip on alcohol #4.
- 5. Destroy them that speak leasing.
 - a) Means those that lie.
 - b) Sin makes us enemies with God--so sad.
 - c) Avoid all that God hates.
 - d) Story on \$500 -- #5.

6. Abhors Bloody men & deceitful men.
- Lit. man of blood.
 - Blood thirsty & treacherous.
 - Bloodshed & traitors, frauds.

IV. Turn now to the Positive Side.

A. Happiness to the Trusting. - V-11

- Shout for joy--display feelings.
- God defends them.
- Joy the privilege of the believer.
- Note David's delight in contrasts-- here he presents those acceptable.
- 90X in Ps. we have happy words-- joy, glad, gladness, rejoice.
- Trust in God lights up the future.
- "We never know what ripples of healing we set in motion by simply smiling at one another."

Henry Drummond

B. God blesses the righteous. V-12

- His great promise--cello story #6.
- His holy design. *he looks to his note - I've found mine!*
- We must learn to pray for others.
- These are happy because they know they have the blessings of God.

C. Covers with Shield

- Some put crown for it covers all parts.
- Big shield though is meant.
- Covers whole body.
- Luther was asked what shelter he'd have if the Elector of Saxony, his patron, should desert him. He answered, "under the shelter of heaven" & Cardinal Cajetan turned & walked away.

5. The big shield is intended to show the fullness of his coverage.

Walnut St., Dickson, TN (BC) - 1/14/90
 Stroudsville church, Adams, TN - 6/11/90
 Ministers' Workshop - King of Prussia, PA-9/6/90
 Tuscumbia, AL (AM service) - 9/17/90
 Riverwood - 11/7/90
 Adairville, KY - 11/18/90 (BC)
 Pratt, KS (BC) - 11/25/90
 Stones River church, Murfreesboro, TN (BC) - 12/30/90
 Beville Road - Daytona Beach, FL (BC) - 1/13/91
 Philippi church, Columbia, TN (BC) - 1/27/91
 Westwood church, McMinnville, TN (BC) - 2/24/91
 West President - Greenwood, MS (BC) - 3/10/91
 White Rock church - Dallas, TX (BC) - 3/24/91
 Riverchase - Hoover, AL (BC) - 4/7/91
 Lexington, TN (BC) - 4/14/91
 Camden Ave., Parkersburg, WV (BC) 4/28/91
 Little River, Hopkinsville, KY - 6/9/91 (BC)
 Franklin, KY (B.C.) - 7/7/91
 Brushy church, Centerville, TN - 7/21/91 (BC)
 Bethel church, Dunlap, TN - 8/4/91 (BC)
 Collegeside, Cookeville, TN (BC) - 9/1/91
 Roane church, Kingston, TN (BC) - 9/15/91
 Sheridan, AR (BC) - 9/22/91
 Antioch church (BC) - 9/29/91
 Northside, Harrison, AR - 10/13/91 (BC)

Prayer—Stronger Than Iron #1

Bible Thought: *"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16, NIV).*

THE JEWS HAD A SAYING that "penitence can do something; but prayer can do everything." They understood the tremendous power of prayer. They described one who prayed as surrounding his house with a wall that is stronger than iron. Prayer is nothing less than contacting the power of God. Prayer is the channel through which the strength and grace of God are brought to bear on the troubles and ills of life. If that was so for the Jew, how much more must it be so for the Christian!

James speaks of the prayer of a righteous man being powerful and effective. Putting one's life right with God is a requirement for effective praying. This is the reason for the emphasis earlier in this passage on confessing our sins in connection with our prayers. Jesus put it this way: "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you" (John 15:7). Prayer is the greatest power in the world. Use it!

*I know not by what methods rare,
But this I know, God answers prayer.
I know not if the blessing sought
Will come in just the guise I thought.
I leave my prayers with Him alone
Whose will is wiser than my own.*

—ELIZA M. HICKOK

Hymn: "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah"

Lord, we believe in You and Your power in our lives. Help us to learn to pray as we ought. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—JOE D. SCHUBERT, Houston, Texas

IX. BITS & PIECES

#2

VISIONS OF ETERNITY

Most Americans have faith in a heaven, and expect to find their way there. Some hope to meet their Maker, others just their friends and family. Hell is a different matter.

About Heaven:

77% Believe there is a heaven

76% Think they have a good or excellent chance of getting there

About Hell:

58% Believe there is a hell

6% Think they have a good or excellent chance of getting there

What It Might Be Like In Heaven:

91% Think it will be peaceful

83% Think they will be with God

77% Think they will see people they know

74% Think there will be humor

32% Think they'll be the same age in heaven as when they die on earth

For this NEWSWEEK Poll, The Gallup Organization interviewed a national sample of 750 adults by telephone Dec. 21-22, 1988. The margin of error is plus or minus 4 percent; The NEWSWEEK Poll © 1989 by NEWSWEEK, Inc.

#3

Broken homes and drugs are the two major factors why juveniles land in jail. That's part of the findings of a 1987 Justice Department study of youngsters held in long-term state youth correctional institutions.

Seventy-five percent of incarcerated youths came from one-parent families, and more than half disclosed that a family member had been imprisoned at least once. Also, 60 percent revealed they had taken drugs regularly, including heroin and cocaine. Half of these juveniles began the habit by the age of 12.

Many of the confined youths had long criminal backgrounds. About 20 percent said they had been arrested at least 10 times before; 40 percent had been jailed more than five times.

The survey also indicated that 40 percent had used a weapon while committing offenses. Many of the juvenile offenders had criminal histories as long as those of adults in state prisons.

— The American Legion, 2-89

Richard Blummer:

Alcohol

We drink for joy and become miserable. We drink for sociability and become argumentative. We drink for sophistication and become obnoxious. We drink to help us sleep and awake exhausted. We drink for exhilaration and end up depressed.

no

X

We drink to gain confidence and become afraid. We drink to make conversation flow and become incoherent. We drink to diminish our problems and see them multiply.

—Quoted by Sid Ascher

In Writing

Wilbur was seemingly in difficulties. In a moment of weakness, he had loaned a friend \$500, and didn't get a written receipt.

He consulted his father about this. After thinking a minute, his father replied, "That's easy, my lad. Write him and tell him that you need the \$1,000 instantly."

"But, Dad, you mean \$500," said Wilbur.

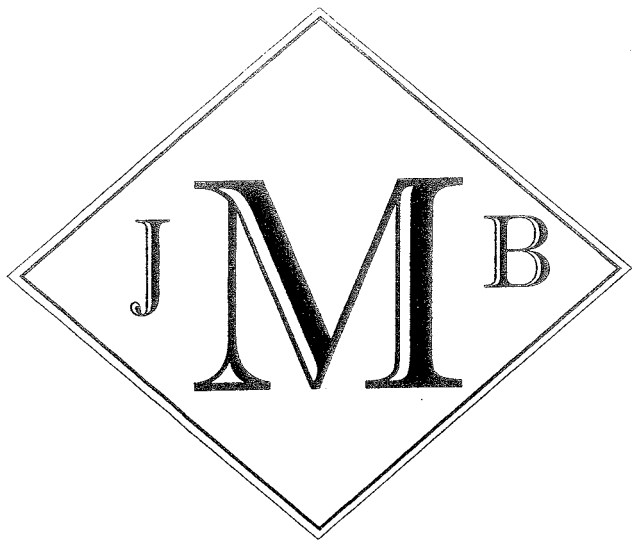
"No, Son," he replied. "You say \$1,000 and he will write back that he only owes you \$500. Then you will have it in writing."

Parker, Colo.

Nellie

A man bought a cello and sat all day playing one note. Finally his wife said, "I don't know much about music, but I do know that others who play the cello keep moving their fingers up and down the strings." "Ah," said the husband, "they are searching for the note. I have found it!"

— Harry N. Peelor



PSALM 7

Pulpit Commentary

1. Introduction has shigioneth meaning uncertain.
2. Perhaps a peculiar kind of tune.
3. A lyrical poem of David.
4. Who's Cush?
A person unknown or one who has held a high position, Saul himself, or Shimei (2 Sam.16:5-13), by a feigned name.
5. Psalm 2 divisions, 1-5; 6-17.
6. V-1 like other openings, Ps.11,31,71.
7. It's when D. sorely pressed by danger and persecution.
8. He fears one special enemy, Ahithophel.
9. Lion tears sheep to pieces.
10. V-3 - this which is laid to my charge.
I Sam. 24:9
2 Sam. 16:7-8
11. D. doesn't deny human weakness and imperfection.
12. He denies he wantonly attacks anyone with whom he was on friendly and peaceable terms.
13. V-5 - If I've been guilty of any of these acts, let my enemies not persecute my soul as he is doing, but take it, make it, his petition --obtain full power over it.

14. Or bring one to my grave in shame.
15. Arise--take action, God lay aside the neutral attitude.
16. Visit them with open manifestation of his displeasure.
17. God, appear in full strength.
18. Let force meet force.
19. Arise on my behalf now use the judgment you've ordained.
20. Israel will crowd around thee of acknowledgement thy majesty.
21. Go above the congregation--return on high.
22. Go back to your throne.
23. God will vindicate D.
24. If God finds D. not righteous, acquit him.
25. Job 29:24.
26. Remove the wickedness of the wicked.
27. Heart--seat of understanding.
28. Will--natural impulse and affection.
29. Shield rests on God.
30. God's anger continuous on the wicked as long as they are wicked.
31. Wrap fire around arrows--fiery darts (Eph. 6:16).
32. Name
Psalm 8:1
8:9

32. (cont'd)

Deut. 12:5

12:21

I King 14:21

2 Chron. 12:31

Psalm 111:10 Holy, Rev.

Mal. 1:11

I Chron. 17:24

I Kings 8:14

Psalm 44:5

Isa. 26:8

Psalm 92:1

96:8

99:3

103:1

105:1

113:1

115:1

119:55

114:1

:2

:21

148:13

149:8

33. We have confidence in God's justice
(Gen. 18:25).

34. D. is willing to suffer if he deserves it.

35. His enemies are also God's enemies.

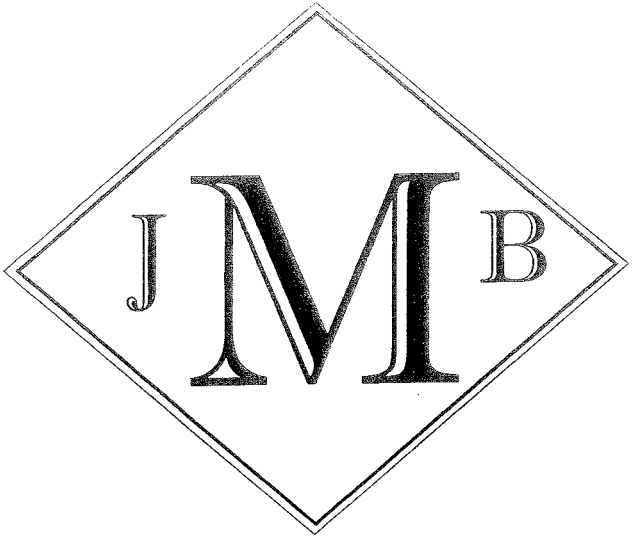
36. If God has no holy wrath against wrong,
he could have no delight in and approval
of goodness.

37. The more benevolent one is the more odious is cruelty.
38. The more truthful one is, the more he hates lies.
39. Suppose a mother sees her child tortured, a son hears his parents slander, a soldier hears his commander assaulted, proportioned to love is the flame of indignation.
40. Slandered saint appeals to God.
41. However unjust is man, God is the opposite.
42. God's his refuge til the storm passes over.
43. Good men are often slandered.
44. No man can probe a negation he cannot show what he has not done.
45. These enemies plot against D. life.
46. Attributes of God are a terret to the wicked and a shelter to the righteous.
47. O my God-- God is ours!
48. Five-fold petition:
Arise
Save me
Vindicate me
Bring wickedness to an end
Establish the just.
49. Evil men's devise for others comes back on them.

50. Some lean on friends.
51. Others preach patience as a defense.
52. Hope deliverance will come--like miners in
destruction, underground.
53. My ear is pain'd
My soul is sick with everyday's report
of wrong and outrage which the earth is
fell'd.

-- Cowper

Neely's Bend C/C - 7/30/06
Heritage C/C - 7/30/06



WHO AM I?

Ps. 8:4-9

I. Bible is filled with self questions.

A. What is man? Ps. 8:4

B. Who do men say that I am?

C. Who shall I say sent me?

II. Perhaps no question of greater meaning to me than "Who Am I?" About you I know several things!

A. 1st man's origin is in the creation of God

Gen. 1:1 "In the beginning

Gen. 1:26 "And God said let us make

Gen. 1:27 "So God created man in his

1. What does this mean?

(a) Henry Mencken said, "Man is a sick fly taking a dizzy ride on a gigantic fly wheel."

(b) David McLennan in his "Let's Take Another Look" wrote "quote card".

(c) But God says he made you.

(1) We are not the result of an evolutionary accident.

(2) We are not God but rather depend on Him.

(3) We exist for a purpose.

2. What does "in his image" mean?

(a) Reason.

(b) Free choice.

(c) Ability to change.

(d) Memory.

(e) Man can communicate c God. We can accept or reject.

3. Anthropos = the upward looking man.
We are dust & divinity.

4. Two views:

(a) "Society is like a collection of hedgehogs driven together for the sake of warmth." Schopenhauer

(b) "Behold what manner of love" -
I Jn. 3:1.

B. I thrill to the fact God believes in me.

1. God believes I can do & be better.

2. Jesus gave himself to prove it.

John 1:12 "But as many as received.

Jn. 3:16 "God so loved

3. We are loved creatures whom God designed to be useful & good.

4. If God has this view of man, so must I!

I Jn. 3:11 "For this is the message that y

I Jn. 3:23 "And this is his commandment

C. I don't have to stay like I am

"Choose you this day"

"If a man Matt. 16

Geo. Matheson, "Make me a captive Lord & then I shall be free."

D. I can become a Christ.

A - ccept Jesus.

B - e baptized.

C - hurch membership is automatic.

D - o all He commands you.

Sir Isaac Newton, the great scientist, one time wrote before his death, he said, "My life seems to have been only like a little boy playing on the seashore and diverting myself now and then in finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell, while the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."

"The Challenge" - By Billy Graham - Pages 92-93

Arthur Miller in "The Death of a Salesman" tells of Willie Loman, who always envisioned himself to be a type of super-salesman. Willie actually did not have the ability that he thought he possessed. One day, Willie had to face the reality of his ability. Unable to accept this reality, Willie was driven to alcohol. Finally, Willie died at a premature age. Two people stood by Willie's grave. One commented to another, "He never really knew who he was." This may be Walter's problem. He may have had visions of unrealistic worlds to be conquered.

"When Trouble Comes" - Compiled by John Ishee

Once well-known American writer, Henry L. Mencken: "Man is a sick fly taking a dizzy ride on a gigantic flywheel."

"Let's Take Another Look" - By David A. MacLennan

Page 47

I hoped to become a decent human being, alive to the wonders of the world and sensitive to the feelings and needs of others. . . . Love and friendship cannot flourish without understanding, and understanding others rests pretty much on understanding ourselves.

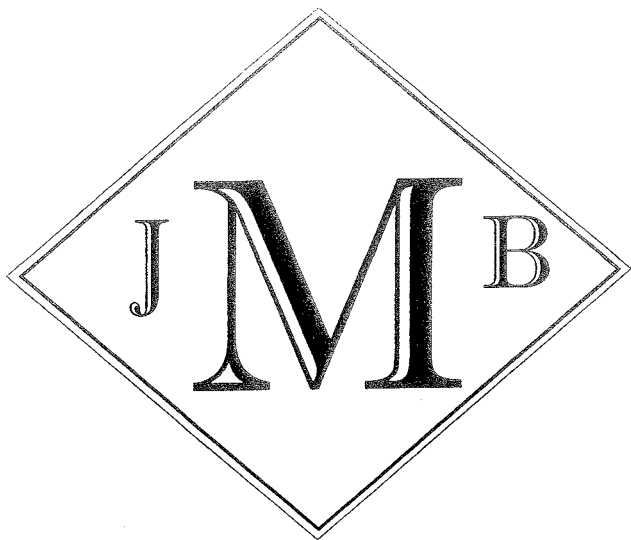
From Dr. Carl A. L. Binger of the Harvard Medical School

"Herein is the way of perfection," said Marcus Aurelius, "to live out each day as one's last, with no fever, no torpor, and no acting a part."

From Dr. Carl A. L. Binger of the Harvard Medical
School

Statisticians have calculated that 100 years ago the average American had 72 "wants"; 16 of them were considered "necessities". Today, they say, the average American has 484 "wants", with 92 rated as "necessities". Yet, this "average American" of today is one of history's most vehement complainers.

"Happiness . . . Day and Night" - By Joe Barnett and
John Gipson



WE ARE BUT MEN

Ps. 9:13-20

I. Some lessons of life are hard.

A. The way of the Transgressor.

B. Sowing & Reaping same.

C. Sin will find you out.

D. Men are only men, not Gods.

II. David struggles with the latter idea--does it via contrasts, confessions, consignment.

A. Contrasts--mercy of God & maliciousness of man.

1. Prayer for mercy.

2. Consider my trouble.

a) Suffer from hatred of some.

b) Gates of death vs Gate of Zion.

(1) Gates most public place of concourse in East.

(2) Gate of death opens once Zion continually.

Heb. 9:27

Isa. 60:11

3. Gate of death without our will;
Zion only by choice.

Ecc. 8:8

Matt. 7:13

4. Death to Transgressors
Zion to objects of grace & salvation.

Rom. 5:12

Isa. 26:1-2

5. Death dark & Terror
Zion bright with hope

Heb. 2:10

Ps. 118:20

6. Both under control of God.

Rom. 14:8-9

Rev. 1:18

7. Death enter with fear
Zion enter with joy

Job 38:17

8. We are one heartbeat from death.

B. Rejoice in Thy Salvation

1. It must come God's way.
2. From deep distress, great deliverance.
3. Salvation ascribed to God--there are human means but He is it.

C. Pit of the Heathen

1. Enemies' works bring about their own downfall.
2. Shows power & character of God also.
3. Higgsaion, Selah (pause)
 - a) Only 3 other times.

Ps. 19:14

92:3

Lam. 3:61

- b) May mean meditation, gentle strain, musing, reflecting.
- c) Or play a gentle strain.
- d) Or be quiet.
4. Wicked & hell
 - a) Note he puts "wicked" and those that "forget" as equals.
 - b) Hell = unseen world
 - c) Turned headlong--it's a dramatic word.
5. Poor & needy neither forgotten or perish.

D. Let man remember who he is.

1. Arise, O Lord

a) Subdues by love, not violence.

b) Foreshadows judgement of God for all.

c) Appeals to God to show himself.

2. Let not man prevail.

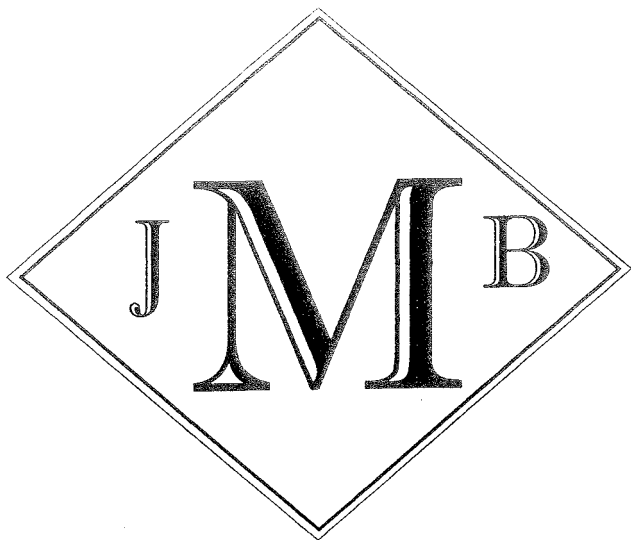
a) Heb. word for man is "weak."

b) Prayers are saints' weapons of war.

c) Make judgements conspicuous.

Exo. 14:30-31

Ps. 58:10-11



SAME SONG, SECOND STANZA

Psalms 10

- I. Men vary on history
 - A. Gossip
 - B. Pointless
 - C. Prologue, etc.
- II. One thing I know is that it has a way of repeating itself.
 - A. Psalms 10 an example.
 - B. We'll see:
 1. Righteous impatience (v-1)
 2. Wicked arrogance (v 2-11)
 3. Resurrected prayer (v 12-18)
- III. Let's study these divisions.
 - A. Righteous impatience.
 - v-1 "Why standest thou"
 1. It begins with "why?"
 - a) We fail to understand the providence of God.
 - b) We question his timetable.
 - c) "To the tearful eye of the sufferer the Lord seems to stand still." (Spurgeon)
 - d) He who is a present help seems to stand afar off.
 - e) God does not always vindicate himself immediately & this troubles some. (Ash)
 - f) Be patient--wind shakes the ripened fruit.
 - g) Saints of all ages have been tested. (Heslop)
 - h) One day we'll exchange cross for a crown.

i) God plans to get us home safely.

2. Have you ever voiced the same "song"?

B. Now comes Wicked Arrogance that seems to Prosper!

1. Pride is the source.

a) Pride behind his evil deeds.

b) Self confident, made a mental rejection of God, became ruthless toward the weak--communism a classic illustration.

c) Man tries to be the god of God.

d) Pride's fruit.

(1) Breeds proud looks & stiff knees.

(2) Prohibits the search for & reliance on God.

(3) Every proud thought is a twin brother to a cruel one.

(4) Pride is the egg of persecution.

(5) Makes Nebuchadnezzars.

Dan. 4:30

(6) Pride in v-3 from "the height of the nostril" lit.

2. It results in cruel affliction of the weak.

a) Persecute the poor (v-2)

b) Sits in lurking places of the villages (v-8). (Villages a collection of houses w/out a city wall--defenseless).

c) Murder the innocent (v-8)

(Do you think abortion enters here--
or cruelty to aged).

d) Eyes against the poor (v 8-10)

3. Look at the afflicted.

a) Poor, helpless, hapless--word only
here in v-9.

b) Carnal security opens the door for
all impiety.

c) Look at the "prey" they hunt for--
the poor!

d) Add fatherless, meek, oppressed
to list.

4. Boasts of his own independency.

a) This Ps. originally one with 9--
in some Heb. MMS.

b) Has no title--thus rare.

c) The two do an acrostic.

d) "God is not in all his thots"(v-4)

(1) No philosophical denial of
God's existence to enact a
practical policy to live as tho
God did not exist.

(2) Says God has no interest in
current human affairs (v-5),

(3) God does not see or care
(v-11).

(4) Cruel folk comfort self in that
God is either blind or forget-
ful.

(5) Trace evil to source--atheism.

(6) A God forgotten is as good as
no God to us.

(7) God is not a grandparent that overlooks all wrong--Les Canady didn't want Mark spanked.

(8) These never trouble self to ask whether God approves or not.

Isa. 22:16

(9) Right is what feels good afterward; wrong is what feels bad.
(Hemingway)

5. Let's see deeds of the Proud

a) Read v-5

b) Puffs--blows away enemies as tho nothing--scorn, contempt shown.

c) Uses our words--I shall not be moved (v-6).

d) V 9,10 shows his methods.

(1) Under tongue is poison (v-7).

(2) Curse & bless from same word-context declares meaning.

(3) Tip of tongue--ever ready.

(4) Serpent, bandit, lion.

(5) We only weigh you in your own scale and measure your corn in your own bushel.

(6) Athenians would try men in the dark lest their countenance should weigh judges.

(7) Always there are bad men lying in wait for saints.

(8) They dig deep to hide their counsel from the Lord.

Isa. 29:15

Ecc. 8:11

C. Now comes the Resurrected Prayer

(v 12-18)

1. Rise up and act.
2. Break arm--thus derived of power.
3. Reject idea that God is quiet and has abdicated his throne.
4. Expose the error of the wicked men's conception of God.
5. Your past action a pledge you'll do it again.
6. Enemies must be made to feel their impotence against God.
7. GK statesman said the greatest rarity in the world "to see a tyrant live to be an old man."
8. The Lord is not just a spectator but a rewarder & avenger.
9. God considers all our ways, do we his?
10. Faith triumphs over appearance as God observes & is concerned.
11. The nightmare will end.
12. Two constants: God sees & God calls to account.

Walnut St., Dickson, TN (B.C.) - 1/21/90
Hillsboro - 1/31/90

Each generation of Americans will continue to be greater and greater . . . taxpayers.

• • •

The reason worry kills more people than work is that more people worry than work.

• • •

People who fly into a rage always make a bad landing.

• • •

Employer to employee: "Don't think of me as your boss. Think of me as your friend who is always right."

• • •

Most people who sing their own praises can't carry a tune.

• • •

If 'All the world's a stage' as Shakespeare says, some of us have trouble learning our parts.

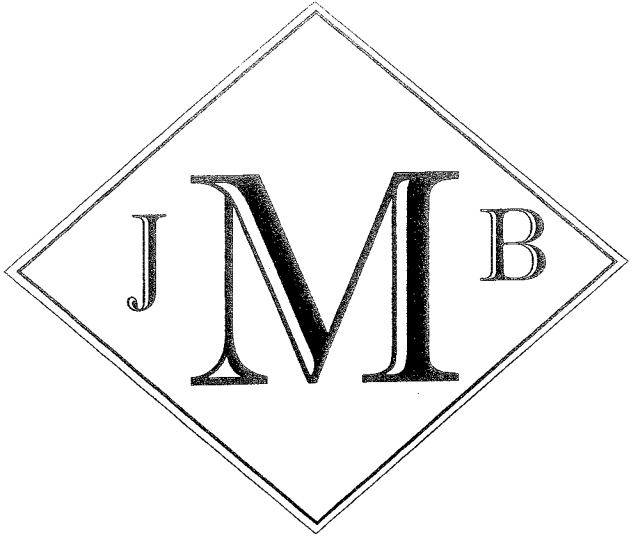
• • •

The person who talks too much for his own good doesn't do much for his listeners either.

• • •

President Eisenhower once said, "An intellectual is a man who takes more words than necessary to tell more than he knows."

• • •



WICKED BY DEFAULT

Psalms 10

- I. God knows the way of the wicked.
 - A. He describes his actions.
 - B. He delineates his deeds.
 - C. He tells of his impending doom.

 - II. But I wouldn't do anything like that--
therefore I am pretty good.

 - III. But before we declare ourselves
righteous--is life all negative? Though
I would not emulate his deeds, do I by
default fail to negate what the wicked
does? Is it all "I don't," but is there
some "I do."

 - IV. The Acts of the Wicked
 - A. David almost asks "are you inter-
ested? Do you are, Lord?"
- v-1 "Why standest thou afar off, Lord?"
1. "Emotional language of a deeply
troubled soul." (Broadman)
 2. Men complain of God hiding.
- Isa. 45:15 "Thou art a God that hidest
thyself..."
- Job 13:24 "Wherefore hidest thou thy face?"
3. Remember!
- Ecc. 12:14 "For God shall bring every
work..."

B. Surely it's wrong to hurt the poor!

v-2 "The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor..."

1. Wicked praises only what he desires.
2. He's out for gain at any price.
3. God is not in his plans.
4. He's proud and persecutes the poor.
5. He boasts of his wealth.
6. Barnes says he's a practical atheist as he boasts of his own power.
7. His ways ever produce evil.
8. Voices no concern for the future.

v-3 "He blesseth the covetous, whom the Lord hates."

9. Pursues selfish ambitions.
10. Persecutes poor--to burn, to eat up.
11. Poor - crushed, afflicted, down troden.
12. Proclaims his self superior. Makes boastful display.
13. Prides self on whatever we have: temper, shameless passions.
14. Covetousness is idolatry.

v-4 The wicked through the pride of his countenance will not seek after God. God is not in his thoughts--will not seek after God--there is no God.

15. Has a lofty air.
16. Offers no prayers--self-sufficient.
17. Wishes there was not God but himself.
18. All the while God bids us seek his face.

Job 21:14:15 "Therefore they say unto God
Depart from us; for we
desire not the knowledge of
thy ways."

"What is the Almighty, that
we should serve him? and
what profit should we have,
if we pray unto him?"

v-5 "His ways are always grievous; thy
judgments are far above out of his
sight."

19. God's ways are foolish to some.

1 Cor. 2:14

Ps. 94:7

Deut. 29:19

20. Too strong and too smart to need
God.

21. Too occupied with carnal to need
God.

Eph. 2:12

22. If God is indifferent to our needs
what about a brother who is?

23. Grievous--to whirl, to twist,
opposite of the stable.

24. Puffs at his enemies.

C. But there will be better days for the faithful.

v-18 "To judge the fatherless..."

v-14 "The poor committeth himself unto thee..."

v-14 "Thou art the helper of the fatherless"

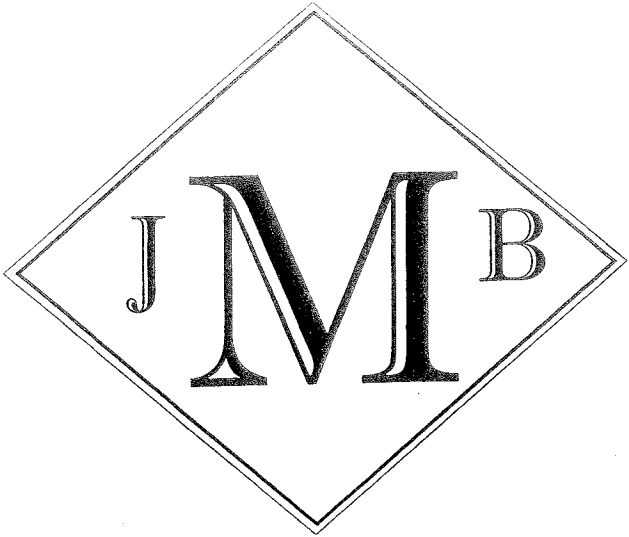
1. If we be the opposite of the wicked must we not commit ourself to these ways?

2. Must we not seek after God?

3. Must we not believe God remembers and rewards?

4. They say v-11 God has forgotten, but we say He remembers.

Timothy Hill Children's Ranch Breakfast--11/19/05



THE PLACE OF TRUST

Psalm 11

- I. Many assign times to David's Psalms.
 - A. Psalm 59 cited many as to the time of writing when Saul, spear in hand, then the commandeering of his "sick bed" think this was when he wrote Psalm 59.
 - B. Also in that same period sometime, Psalm 11 with those experiences, could be.
 - C. I thought Simeon in his writings makes David's trials the same as ours—thus added value to David's writings.

He wrote:

"David at different periods in his life was placed in almost every situation in which a believer, rich or poor, is placed."

He further pointed out:

1. He introduces sentiments and conduct of various persons who are accessories to either trouble or joy.
2. Do we not have the same experiences?
3. He wrote: "Thus sets a compendium of all that is passing in the heart of men throughout the world."

4. We remain grateful for the relevancy of the Scriptures.
5. Let's study Psalm 11 and make today's application.

II. Psalm 11

A. V-1 (To whom do we turn for advice?)

1. Saul hunts for David.
2. Where does one go to flee from a mad king?
3. We ask friends for their advice and they say like a bird flee to the mountains.
4. They see David begin his wandering.
5. David counters, "I put my trust in the Lord" -- not caves and wilderness.
6. God is primary, my plans are secondary.
7. Are we not tempted to think our self-devised security is better than God's?
8. My new neighbor who was robbed said, "I now have an alarm."
9. Friends are honest but yet how wise are they? Smarter than God?
10. Spurgeon said, "David dares danger rather than distrust God.

B. V-2

1. Shows dangers are real.
2. Devil a roaring lion bent on our destruction.

C. V-3

1. Admittedly we often feel helpless.
2. We feel woefully outnumbered.

D. V-4

1. God is in his heaven.
2. He is above us and sees everything.
3. That also means he is not far from any of us.
4. All regions of the earth he beholds.
5. His eyes behold--what can the wicked do he does not behold?
6. One called God the world's great emperor.
7. Read Psalm 121.
8. Consistently God respects truth--Jesus is truth--his "administration" changes not.
9. God beholds you as though there is no other individual on earth.
10. Our danger is not hidden from him.
11. He tries the righteous--no child escapes trial--God just refines them.

E. V-5,6.

1. God cannot stand the wicked, why flee from them.

Ezek. 38:22

Gen. 19:17-19

2 Peter 2:7-8

2. Wicked run snares--they booby trap corpses in Iraq.

3. Can the foundation be destroyed?

Matt. 16:18

2 Tim. 2:19

2 Cor. 13:8

4. "Faces of men shall be faggots in the fires of hell."

5. God sees and knows.

F. V-7

1. God loves righteousness.

2. When he sees this in you, he sees himself.

3. There is reason for hope.

4. David saw lion, bear, giant, king-- and with a stone and sling he won.

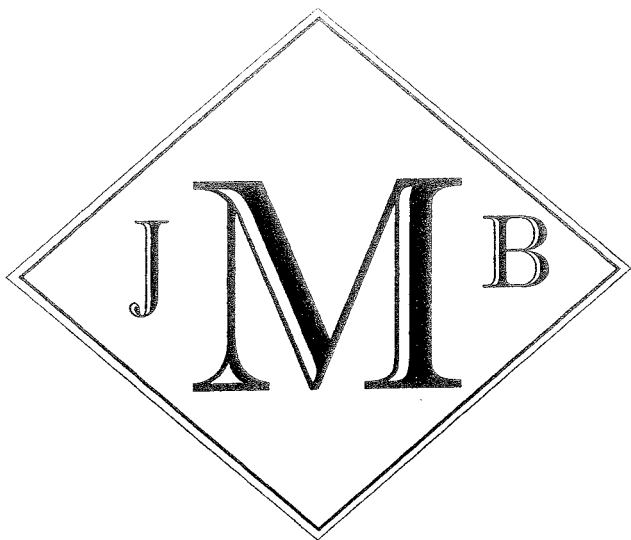
G. Conclusion:

Trust God!

Isa. 40:27-29

Ps. 42:11

Matt. 28 - with you always.



WHO IS LORD?

Ps. 12

I. How many questions do you suppose you've either asked or been asked?

A. Some profound.

1. Acids that destroy.

2. Burglar - awake?

B. Some ridiculous.

1. Mustache.

2. Tom cat & taffy.

C. Some meaningful.

1. \$9,500 Cadillac.

2. Warm kiss.

D. But one of superior importance!

Ps. 12:4 "Who is Lord over us?"

II. May I tell you the 12th Psalm.

A. Origin & time.

1. Date unknown.

2. Tension there but what caused it not known - it just fits the ordinary pattern.

3. It begins, because of calamity, with a two word prayer - "Help, Lord." *hit, hard save*

(a) Trouble has a way of moving men to pray.

(b) Those prayers are original. Not like "Help us to partake", etc. One kid said to Dad as they visited, "They know our prayers up here."

(c) Only God can help. He saves!

B. Pressure is on the Godly.

1. Believers always distressed by corruption in the Land.

2. Deeds that were dastardly were cited.

(a) For the godly man ceaseth (V. 1).

(1) He's driven out of the Land.

(b) For the faithful fail (V. 1).

(c) They speak vanity everyone *lit falsehood*

(1) It's falsehoods.

(2) Literally with lips of smoothness & with a heart & a heart.

(3) Men are beguiled to get them in one's power.

(4) Lady Astor Clip. *Vanity & Tie*

(d) Warned the Lord shall cut off all flattering lips & tongues that speak proud things (V. 3).

(e) Still they boast:

(1) V. 4 "With our tongues will we prevail; our lip

(a) Any desire we'll capture via tongues. We'll use in persuasion -

threat -

out talk -

(b) Measure for Measure.

"Who will believe Thee Isabel

My place in the state

Will so your accusations outweigh

That you shall stifle in your own report

And smell of calumny."

(2) Our lips are our own.

(a) They are on our side, *lit.*

Prov. 18:21 "Death & life are in the power of the tongue

Col. 4:6 "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned

(3) Who is Lord over us?

Don't delay answer.

I wish I was a little rock
 A-settin' on a hill,
 I wouldn't do a single thing
 But jes' keep settin' still.

("Serendipity" By J. Wallace Hamilton, P. 68)

There was an old sailor my grandfather knew,
 Who had so many things which he wanted to do,
 That whenever he thought it was time to begin,
 He couldn't because of the state he was in.

("Serendipity" By J. Wallace Hamilton, P. 99)

(a) Missionary & \$1.00 vs Doll

III. Look at this Qt. - Who is Lord Over Us?

A. Boasts can any impede?

1. Judas, hypocritically said, "Hail Master."

B. Who can interfere?

1. In 2 Cor. 1 Paul said his preaching not an ambiguous yes & no - "But Christ Jesus was preached - in Him was Yea."

2. He is our Amen to God II Cor. 1:20.

C. Man begins to think he owns the hour.

1. God gives us richly all things to enjoy but it's still His!

2. He thinks he can impose the standard - one of his own making. *Clip on Spy in Sky*

3. Simeon called it "atheism in the heart."

D. Who is Lord?

1. If it's God, He has:

(a) Right to inspect your ways.

Ps. 10:11 "He hath said in his heart, God hath forgott

Psa. 10:13 "Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God?"

Psa. 94:7-10 - Read. *CONT. "Inspect Way"*

(b) He can order your path.

Neh. 9:26 "They cast thy law behind their backs

Jer. 44:15-16 "As for the word...we will certainly de

Exo. 5:2 "Who is the Lord?"

Job. 22:13-14 "How doth God know - cloud - coverin

MAN doesn't know enuf - Max Hawkins that stuff see not

(c) He has the right to call for purity. *was post tense of*

Psa. 12:6 "The words of the Lord are pure *SAITS*

Psa. 146:8 "The Lord loveth the righteous

9 "The way of the wicked he turneth

(1) Your denial of him does not alter the fact He is.

(2) Deny gravity - still fall.

(3) Our disbelief only insures the hell we doubt!

2. Who then is the Lord?

Does #1

Job 31:24 "If I have made gold my hope, *Pressure*

Job 31:28 "An iniquity - denied the God *DRINK*

Isa. 45:22-23 "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the

ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else

I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my

mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto

me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear."

I Cor. 6:20 "For ye are bot c a price

(a) God only can meet the challenge.

(b) His every promise is pure - no dross there.

Harding College Commencement 8-10-73

Intro.: Statistics fascinate me.

A. What you eat - between 12 & 20 yrs.

1. 4732 bottles of pop.

2096 # hamburger

5408 candy bars

5702 Hot dogs

4298 bowls cereals

6156 ice cream cones

5624 eggs

2. All totals \$15,000 - not counting meals!

B. Body.

1. Blood vessels go around world $2\frac{1}{2}$ X. 60,000 mile system.

C. Pollution.

1. If all pollutants dropped on us at same time, be covered c
20' dirt. *the Pollution that erodes bldg etc. costs you \$320 annually.*

2. Air pollution that erodes bldg. & lungs costs you \$320 annually.

MORE SPIES IN THE SKY: HOW U.S.-RUSSIA WATCH EACH OTHER

"Open skies" now prevail over U. S. and Russia—thanks to all-seeing spy satellites. This report tells where espionage from space helps keep peace.

The U. S. and Russia—with all the talk of warmer relations—are spying on each other as avidly as at the height of the cold war.

This espionage has been stepped up sharply in the past six months. It is carried out largely by "spy in the sky" satellites that have stripped away all but the last vestiges of each nation's military secrets.

Neither can hold maneuvers, test a new weapon, launch a ship or transfer arms to another country without the other country's knowing about it almost immediately.

There are satellites that detect missile silos, record military communications, monitor nuclear bursts in the atmosphere, count warplanes, track the flight of rockets, make weather reports, assess the health of crops and inventory the resources of any nation in the world.

Spy-in-the-sky operations have reached the point where satellites control other satellites, one telling the other when the cloud cover over a target area is too heavy for picture-taking and to turn off cameras to conserve film. Some satellites relay orders from the ground to others to shift orbit and take a closer look at unusual activities.

During the past five years, Russia has routinely placed about 30 reconnaissance satellites into orbit annually.

The U. S. average over the same period has been around four. U. S. satellites are more sophisticated and longer-lived than those of the U.S.S.R.

Stepped-up surveillance. During the first six months of 1973, both nations launched what was previously a full year's quota—apparently in preparation for the June summit meeting between President Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev.

Each leader came to that conference armed with a staggering array of facts about the other's military capability.

Spy satellites can spot just about everything except underground nuclear explosions, submarines and laboratory experiments.

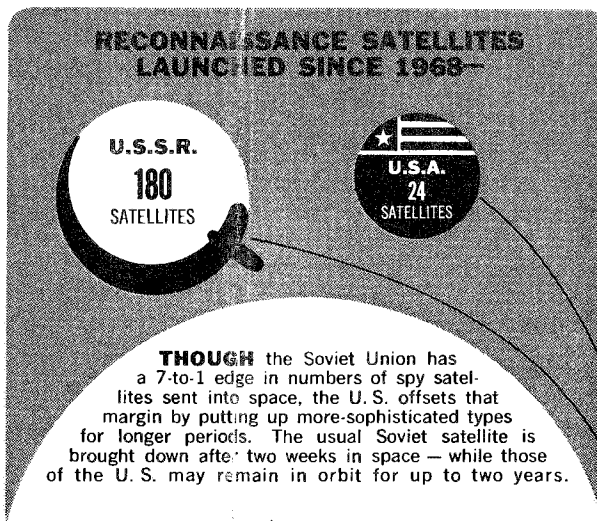
Even submarines may lose their present immunity to satellite detection at some point in the next 10 to 20 years. If current theory proves out, satellites equipped with high-intensity laser

beams may be able to locate submarines by measuring the water displacement that marks their passage.

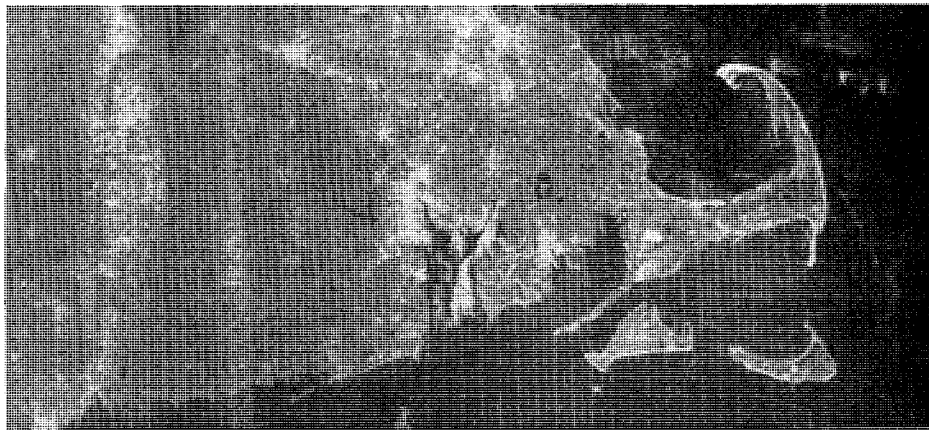
It is possible, too, that lasers in a color spectrum close to that of sea water may be able to "see" into the ocean depths, exposing the underwater activities of men and fish.

Both the United States and Russia have the capability of destroying the other's satellites in space. But the two countries agreed in 1972 not to interfere with the other's satellites and to forgo attempts at concealing military activity. There would not be much point in the latter, because cameras in space can distinguish a camouflaged area by the amount of reflected light.

Underground missile
(continued on next page)



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Spy satellites take pictures a thousand times sharper than these, both of which were snapped with a hand-held camera as Skylab, flying at an altitude of 271 miles, passed over Cape Cod, Mass. [above], and Kennedy Space Flight Center, Cape Canaveral, Fla.



MORE SPIES IN THE SKY

[continued from preceding page]

silos can be pinpointed by infrared instruments so sensitive that they detect the heat inside a silo as contrasted to the cooler ground around it.

JFK's ace. Satellite operations have come a long way since the late 1950s when the first experiments were conducted by the Air Force under the code name "SAMOS," which stands for "satellite and missile observation system."

The first real test of the system came during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis when it appeared that the United States and the Soviet Union were headed toward a nuclear confrontation over the latter's placement of 1,500-mile-range rockets in Cuba.

President Kennedy needed to know the size of Moscow's intercontinental-missile arsenal in order to assess the risks to the U. S. from a possible Soviet attack. The intelligence community had projected as many as 400 long-range missiles scattered throughout the Soviet Union. A reconnaissance satellite counted only about a dozen. Armed with this knowledge, President Kennedy stood firm on his demand that the Russians remove their missiles from Cuba—and they did.

Russia's system. While U. S. and Soviet satellites perform essentially the same functions, each nation employs a different technique.

Soviet spy satellites remain in orbit 3 to 17 days, returning to earth by parachute so their cargoes of photographs and other data can be recovered. Most remain in space 10 to 14 days.

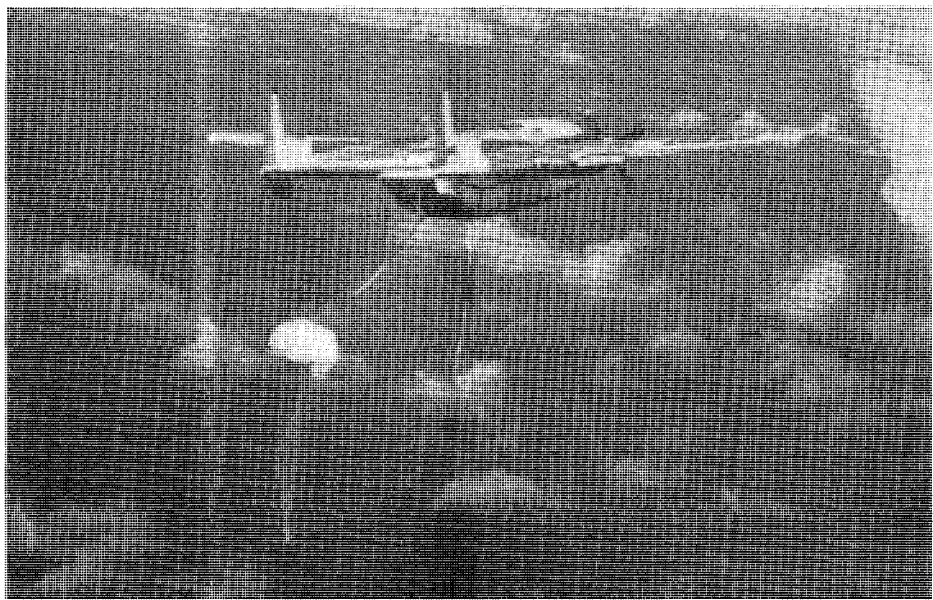
One worrisome problem for the Russians is that the satellites do not always respond to ground signals and there is the ever-present possibility that one may land outside the country's borders.

Because of this, nearly all Soviet satellites are believed to carry explosive charges. In April, for example, Cosmos 554 was blown to bits after it ignored landing instructions.

Most U. S. spy satellites are designed to burn up in the earth's atmosphere after completing their missions. This precludes the possibility of falling into unfriendly hands.

American technology. The U. S. satellite-reporting system employs at least five types of "birds." They fly at altitudes ranging from 98 miles to 22,210. Most are launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base near Santa Barbara, Calif.

One 3,500-pound U. S. satellite scans the earth's surface completely once in every 24 hours, searching for suspicious activities—perhaps a large construction



A U. S. Air Force plane, using a special "sky hook," practices recovery of spy-satellite picture capsules, usually ejected over Alaska and parachuted down near Hawaii.

site or an unusually heavy concentration of aircraft or ships. It radios photographs to one of seven ground stations scattered around the world.

If its pictures warrant, a second satellite, twice as heavy, is put into use to take a closer look with cameras capable of spotting objects 2 feet wide from an altitude of 100 miles.

These pictures are returned to earth in a special canister. As the satellite passes over Alaska, the canister is ejected. Thereafter it follows a ballistic trajectory, dropping into the atmosphere near Hawaii.

At about 50,000 feet, increasing air pressure prompts the canister to deploy parachutes.

At this point, cargo planes using "sky hooks" snatch the canister from the air and reel it aboard. If the plane misses, the canister is designed to float for 24 hours—enough time for it to be recovered by highly trained swimmers dropped into the sea. If it is not reached in time, the film package blows up and sinks.

Satellites of this type are operational for three to four weeks.

Double duty. A third—and new—satellite in the U. S. inventory weighs close to 20,000 pounds. This satellite does the jobs now performed by two. It can take general-survey photographs and relay them to earth by radio, or take close-ups which are sent back by parachute. Its life span is close to two months.

Another type monitors military communications, storing data in a memory bank for eventual transmission to a ground station.

Ultimately, this information reaches

cryptographers who attempt to decipher secret codes.

Finally, there are warning satellites. These are rocketed deep into space and held in stationary orbit over one region of the earth. Their job is to flash warnings of missile launchings.

The U. S. placed such a device over the Indian Ocean on June 12, 1973, to keep watch on the Soviet Union and Red China.

It replaces another, which had been on guard since 1971.

Era of "open skies." Spy satellites helped pave the way for the latest summit meeting between President Nixon and Mr. Brezhnev in June. As a result of the work done by these silent sentries, each leader knew almost exactly how well the other was living up to the May 26, 1972, agreement to limit strategic arms.

Until 1972, all efforts by the two nations to curb the nuclear-arms race had foundered on one point: U. S. insistence on the right to make on-site inspections of the Soviet strategic arsenal and Russia's refusal.

The U. S. abandoned that position in the 1972 meetings. Both nations then agreed that compliance would be policed by "national technical means of verification." In plain words, that means spy satellites.

Thus, in the new world of espionage, spying in the 1970s has led to the "open skies" policy that President Eisenhower advocated in the 1950s as the way to keep peace between the world's superpowers. Today's leaders, President Nixon for the U. S. and Mr. Brezhnev for the Soviet Union, have agreed on that policy.

when things fall apart."

- ⁴ The Lord is in his holy temple;
 he has his throne in heaven.
 He watches all men
 and knows what they do.
- ⁵ He examines both the good and the
 wicked;
 he hates the lawless with all his heart.
- ⁶ He sends down flaming coals^a and burning
 sulphur on the wicked;
 he punishes them with a scorching
 flame.
- ⁷ The Lord is righteous and loves good
 deeds;
 those who obey him will live in his
 presence.

A Prayer for Help

- 12** Save me, Lord!
 There are no good men left,
 and honest men can no longer be found.
- ² All men lie to one another,
 and deceive each other with flattery.
- ³ Silence those flattering tongues, Lord,
 and close those boastful mouths!
- ⁴ They say, "We will speak as we wish,
 and no one will stop us.
 Who can tell us what to say?"
- ⁵ "But now I will come," says the Lord,
 because the needy are oppressed,
 and the persecuted groan in pain.
 I will give them the security they long
 for!"

- ⁶ The Lord's promises can be trusted;

^aOne ancient translation coals, Hebrew traps.

they are as genuine as silver,
refined seven times in the furnace.

- ⁷ Keep us always safe, Lord,
and preserve us from such people.
⁸ Wicked men are everywhere,
and everyone praises what is evil.

A Prayer for Help

13 How long will you forget me, Lord?
Forever?

How much longer will you hide your-
self from me?

- ² How long must I endure pain?
How long will sorrow fill my heart day
and night?
How long will my enemies triumph
over me?

³ Look at me, Lord my God, and answer
me.

Restore my strength, so that I will not
die.

- ⁴ Then my enemies cannot say, "We have
defeated him!"
They cannot be glad over my downfall.

⁵ But I rely on your constant love;
I will be glad, because you will save me.

⁶ I will sing to the Lord,
because he has been good to me.

The Wickedness of Men

(Psalm 53)

14 Fools say to themselves,
"God doesn't matter!"

They are all corrupt,

[One ancient translation endure pain; Hebrew make plans.]

ever some "on" to go to.—MICHAEL DRURY, *How To Get Along With People* (Doubleday).

MEN—Vanity—38

At a large banquet, Nancy, Lady Astor once remarked that men were vainer than women and, meeting with stormy opposition, declared herself ready to substantiate her statement. Steering the conversation to men's fashions, she suddenly said in a loud voice:

"It's a pity that the most intelligent and learned men attach least importance to the way they dress. Why, right at this table the most cultivated man is wearing the most clumsily knotted tie!"

As if on a given signal, every man in the room immediately put his hand to his tie to straighten it.—*LeHumeur, Paris.*

Vol. 52, No. 8

■ Professor: "Today, students, we will discuss those acids and/or chemicals that can destroy everything they touch by dissolving each particle of matter."

Student: "What kind of containers do they come in?"

se,
n's
aft-
osi-
vis
was

Sound Asleep

Wife: "I think I hear burg-
lars; John, are you awake?"
John: "No."
West Plains, Mo. W. M.

"I"
"I"
heal-
take
Pao

by
s,

Dairymen See End

■ A tomcat and tabby were court-
ing on the back fence when the tom-
cat leaned over to her and said, "I'd
die for you, you beautiful thing."
The tabby gazed at him longingly
and asked: "How many times?"

ng torn
up of

A shepherd was doing his best
to be polite to the kind of critter
that scared him, a portly female tour-
ist from the East. Keeping his dis-
tance, he patiently answered all her
questions about the sheep industry.
Then, to his embarrassment, her ques-
tions became more personal, "Are
you married? Don't you get lone-
some? About how old are you?"

Crimson beneath his sunburn, the
shepherd mumbled a few responses
and made as if to go. But the woman
stopped him.

"Why," she demanded, "is your
mustache so brown when your hair is
so gray?"

X
"Well, Ma'am," he said as he whis-
tled for his dogs, "me hair is 20 years
older than me mustache!" — *Capper's*
Wkly.

" "

“ ”

An \$8000 Cadillac convertible shot by a jalopy on a country road. The driver leaned out and hollered: "Hey, rube! What's making that awful rattle in that chariot of yours?"

"I reckon," replied the owner of the jalopy, "it must be the \$7,500 jingling in my pocket." — *Rotacian*, Ajax, Ont, Canada. **k**

“ ”

1. ten on old

Professor: "Psychologists say a hysterical girl is easily quieted with a warm kiss."

Student: "What do they say about the best way to get them hysterical?"

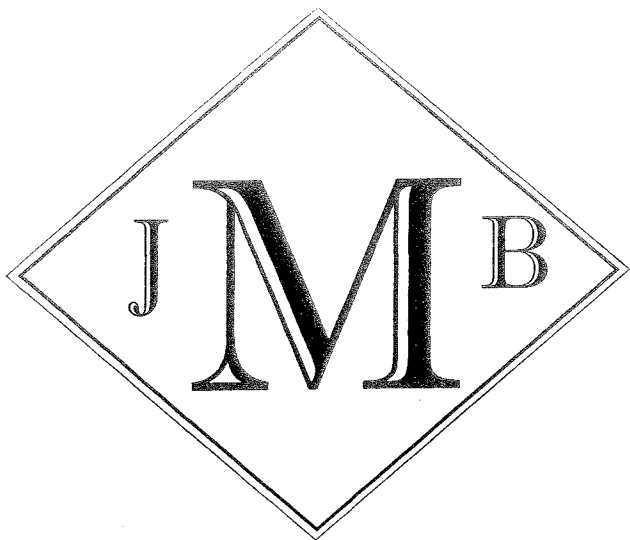
A missionary in China sent a small Chinese idol to a friend back in the U S. "This is what the people worship over here," he related in a letter.

The friend from America sent the missionary an American silver dollar and wrote, "This is what they worship over here." — *Arkansas Baptist*.

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Page 8

Quote
Matriculation



WHEN A MAN MAKES THE RIGHT DECISION

Psalm 16

I. Many benefits come when you make the right decision.

A. Life abounds with choice.

B. When God is first there is blessing.

C. Psalm 16 clearly shows this.

D. Calling elevator mechanic #1.

II. Its title is interesting--Michtam of David.

A. Authorship subscribed.

B. Michtam

1. Title of obscurity.

2. Various means suggested.

a) To hide, secret, mystery.

b) To cut, groove, write.

c) Golden

d) Commemorate a victory.

C. One called it "a Psalm flooded with dancing sunlight."

III. What attitudes does it show?

A. Preserve me, O God.

1. Guard, as shepherds their sheep.

2. Guard, as bodyguards their king.

3. Look to God for protection.

Job 7:20 "Preserve of men."

Isa. 49: 7-8

4. Wants providential protection of God.

5. God--the Mighty One--in whom I take shelter.
- B. In thee I do put my trust.
1. Constantly subscribe to God's will.
 2. His trust is the reason he can pray.
 3. This trust cannot be misplaced.
 4. Outsiders are poor judges of the value of faith.
- C. Thou Art My Lord
1. Unequivocally stated.
 2. Vow it with lips and soul.
 3. Satisfied with God, nothing in wealth or comfort outside of him.
 4. My goodness does not enhance God.
 - a) Even Jesus modestly states it.
 - b) We do not add to the glory of God by our deeds.
 - c) We receive all good from God but return no luster to him.
 - d) He is not rendered happy by us--rather we by him.
 - e) His goodness makes us merciful to others.
 - f) Soul that loves God, loves man.
- D. God has names for you.
1. Saints
 - a) Arrayed in Lord's righteousness.
 - b) Men undervalue their power.
 - c) Relationship with God determines relationship with people.

2. Excellent
 - a) Highly regarded.
 - b) Calls you excellent.
 - c) Illustrious, glitter, splendid.
3. My delight.

IV. What about idolatry?

A. Sorrows multiplied (The Old-Time R)- #2.

1. Heart closed to disobedient.
2. Some move rapidly from one god to another; we slowly to real one.
3. Those who exchange God for another will have sorrows multiplied.

B. Drink offerings of blood ours.

1. Debatable meaning.
2. Some:
 - a) Human sacrifice.
 - b) Sacrifice with blood-stained hands.
 - c) Detestable libations.
 - d) Jewish apostacy.
 - e) TV lessons -- # 3.

C. Names

1. Despises idolatry--won't even name one of their gods.
2. Such would stain lips.

V. The Lord is to me my:

A. Portion

1. Allotment
2. In days of materialism, God is my portion!

B. My inheritance.

1. Fully puts his destiny in the hands of God.
2. No blind commitment to chance:
Que sera sera--whatever will be will be.
3. God loves him to the end, to the inheritance.

C. My cup.

1. He is my all.
2. He's better than a banquet.

D. My lot.

1. God holds his lot.
2. None can take it from him.

E. Lives in pleasant places.

1. Obedience leads to victory.
2. Praise and prayer presented.
3. Real estate figures as division of land by lots.
4. Idea of measuring off land.
5. Sense of God's presence turns stones into bread.
6. Ours a godly heritage.

F. My Counselor

1. Ancients used ouija boards, closed formations, fish livers.
2. Men today have Dear Abby.
3. Remember no idol ever spake one word of counsel.
4. Microwave--fat faster -- # 4.

G. Reinstruct at night.

1. Kidneys
2. Inner man's affection and feeling.
3. Great generals fight their battles in their own minds long before the trumpet blows.
4. Workings of the mind have a remarkable effect on rest of the body.
5. "Pillow is the best counselor."
6. Lie in bed and think about God.
7. Logical reasons for happiness:
 - a) Confident in God's counsel.
 - b) Secure in God's protection.
 - c) Enriched by God's fellowship.

Riverwood C/C -- 11/14/90

The Old-Time R - #12

Religion in American life has been systematically erased from textbooks.

The fifth-grade U.S. history texts include modest coverage of religion in Colonial America and in the early Southwest missions. However, the treatment of the past 100 or 200 years is so devoid of reference to religion as to give the impression that it has almost ceased to exist in America. One social studies book has 30 pages on the Pilgrims, including the first Thanksgiving, but there is not one word (or image) that referred to religion as even a part of the Pilgrims' lives. One mother whose son is in a class using the book wrote to say that he came home and told her that Thanksgiving was when the Pilgrims gave thanks to the Indians.

Helen E. and Lynn Sauls

"Who Erased the R Words?", Pulpit Helps; quoting research by Paul C. Vitz, New York University

The manager of a 10-story office building was informed that a man was trapped in an elevator between the 2nd and 3rd floors. He rushed to the grillwork under the stalled car and called to the passenger, "Keep cool, sir. We'll have you out soon. I have phoned for the elevator mechanic."

There was a brief pause, then a tense voice answered, "I am the elevator mechanic."

Quote

"The Speak

Get the message?

The lessons TV teaches children are not those that promote a long, happy life. According to research, the tube instructs kids:

- To be aggressive toward others and accept violence. It is not hard to get this message; the average child sees 18,000 televised murders, robberies, and beatings during his youth.

- That eating fatty, sugary foods is healthful. This message is driven home by 20,000 commercials yearly.

- The drugs, booze, and cigarettes are a good way to deal with tensions and problems.

- And that sex, while exciting, carries with it no responsibilities or worries.

Robert M. Statler

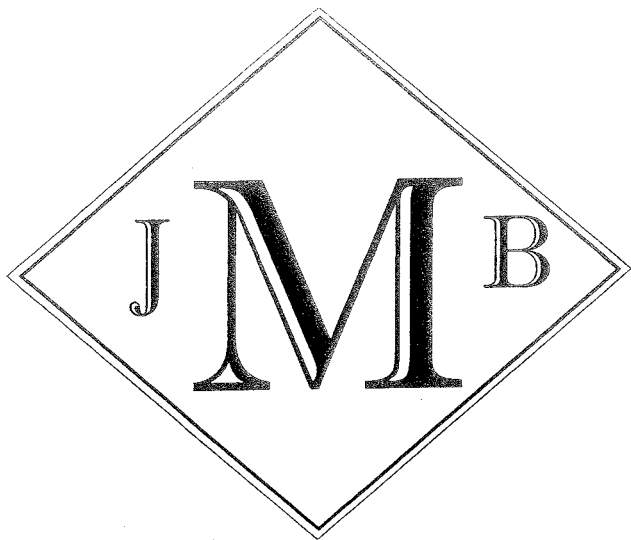
Quoting research by Dr. William Dietz, chairman, American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Children and Television; in Pulpit Helps

MY MOTHER always resists our attempts to simplify her life with modern conveniences. She claims it's more relaxing to wash dishes by hand and just as easy to use a knife as a food processor.

Last Christmas, however, we surprised her with a microwave oven. "Look, Mom," I said, "these brownies took only four minutes to bake. Isn't a microwave marvelous?"

"Just what I need," she retorted. "A machine to make me fat faster!"

—CARRIE S. BROWN (San Ramon, Calif.)



A FATHER AND SON TELL ME THINGS THAT
PLEASE THE LORD Ps. 16:8-11

- I. All of us are conscious of wanting to please.
 - A. With gifts.
 - B. With response.
 - C. While thinking, why not study what it is that pleases our Lord. (All from David & Solomon)
- II. These things, all within the scope of my ability, please the Lord.
 - A. The Proper desires.

I Kings 3:5-10 "In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solon

1. Solomon asked not:

a.) Long life, *tho' in 20's (?)*

b.) Riches.

c.) Life of thy enemy.

2. He asked for "understanding heart", "discern between good & bad." *(true & false)*

3. It please God.

a.) *Discrimination, penetration*

b.) *Judicial mind*

4. *What do you want from God's treasure house*

5. *all must make choices in life. Choose best gifts*

B. Uprightness.

1. We move to David's observation.

2. He spoke beautifully of our Lord (I Chron. 29:10-13).

a.) *Give credit to God*

b.) *One of closing up of life of David*

3. Then he turned the spotlight on himself & his relationship to God.

I Chron. 29:14-19 "But who am I, and what is my peo

a.) Pleasure in uprightness.

b.) Cliff Ganus call, "There is no escaping greatness in the absence of integrity. A man must be a man of his word."

c) *Using no merit of own - only uprightness, unworthiness felt*

d) *Sought to lead others in this prayer*

e) *Prayer also intercession to God*

C. We turn to David's writings & find God has pleasure in worship & thanksgiving.

Ps. 69:30-31 "I will praise the name of

1. To tell God our adoration of Him is pleasing.

2. He likes us to say "thank you."

D. David Again - Reverence.

Ps. 147:11 "The Lord taketh pleasure in

1. Fear Him.

Prov. 16:7 "When a man's ways please the Lord

2. Hope in his mercy.

E. Solomon - Once More - Unworthy women Avoided.

Ecc. 7:23-26 "All this have I proved.

- 1. It pleases God for man to escape an evil woman.
- 2. True - it takes two to tango - but she can set the stage.

2 Tim. 2:4 "No man that warreth entangleth himself

3. lit "He who is good before God"

(v 26)

West End 12-21-80

Max Rafferty, former superintendent of public schools in California, wrote in one of his nationally syndicated columns:

Horrors! I mean, who really knows what's right or wrong these days? The schools are currently teaching mostly "situation ethics," or "what's good for the cannibal is bad for the missionary". How can a teacher possibly tell students that certain things are eternally and damnably wrong? I know Jesus Christ did, but He wouldn't be allowed even to open His mouth in a public school classroom today.

"Turning Point" - Compiled by Roger Elwood - Page 32

("Christian Schools: Their Growing Impact" - By Dr. Paul A. Kienel)

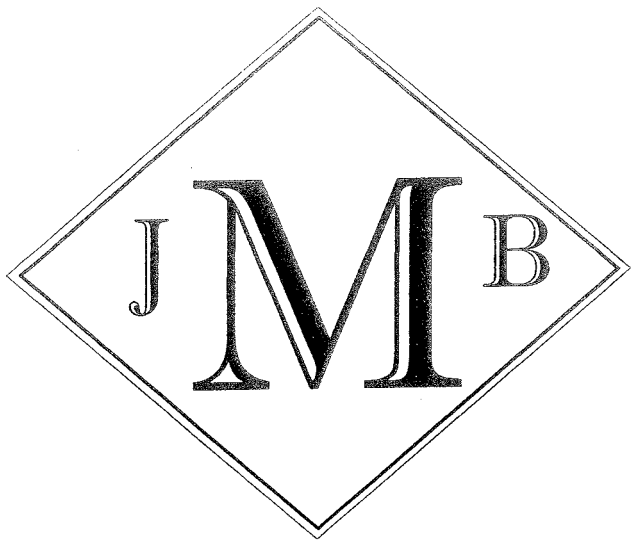
In his monograph on "While Men Slept," Dr. Donald Boys wrote: (John Dewey, "Traditional belief in God is an unproven and outmoded faith."

Spending an afternoon with books used by the early American schools is an exciting discovery. In every subject the Bible was the only reliable authority for the right answers and the right way to live. In 1800 the Bible or moral lessons consisted of 99 percent of the material, but by 1875 the moral and spiritual content had been slashed 50 percent. By 1946 less than 1 percent of the readers in Massachusetts had any moral or biblical content! ... Our present texts are riddled with sex, vulgarity, and violence. They are anti-American, anti-free enterprise and anti-parents. They are crude, depressing, and filled with inaccuracies--the result of a strange religion known as Secular Humanism. Humanism

teaches that there are no absolute answers, so anything is acceptable.

"Turning Point" - Compiled by Roger Elwood - page 28

("Christian Schools: Their Growing Impact" - By Dr. Paul A. Kienel)



GOD--ON THE WINGS OF THE WIND

Psalms 18:4-19

- I. Will you love the Lord more if:
 - A. I show you his power to deliver.
 - B. If I support this claim by his own statement in Ps. 18 & repeated in 2 Samuel 22?
 - C. If you see one of the greatest theophanies in all the Scriptures as one describes it as "unrivaled product of art & reflection?"
- II. I want you, like David of old, to "call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised"--thus demanding:
 - A. "I will love thee, O Lord, my strength" (v-1).
 - B. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my strength in whom I trust, my buckler, the horn of my salvation, my high tower.
 1. Seven glorious things.
 2. Seven means perfection.
 3. He is your living protector.
 - C. Obviously what He did for David he can do for you--Trust Him as he delivers you from all enemies.
- III. The Question Arises: Do Saints ever feel put upon, in despair, at wit's end? David describes his despair.
 - A. Sorrows of death encompassed & the flood of ungodly men made me afraid (v-4).
 1. Death pictured as a hunter.

what are you hunting for - Ain't seen it yet

- a) Cruel conqueror who twists about him cords of pain.
- b) Drew rope tighter to give good shot at the prey.
- c) Snares used, traps.
- d) Hooks of death set to catch him-- the velcro of hell.
- e) All coiled about him encompassing the victim.

2. Flood of ungodly men make afraid.

- a) Floods mentioned most in Biblical calamities.
- b) Torrents sweep one away helplessly.
- c) Sad for the holy to be assaulted by the unholy.
- d) The most seaworthy bark is sometimes hard pressed.
- e) "On all sides barked the hounds of hell." (Spurgeon)

3. All these things came before David.

B. Is there a solution?

"In my distress I called upon the Lord."
 "I cried unto my God."

- 1. When we are blockaded, the port of prayer is open.
- 2. Prayer need not be eloquent but must be earnest.
- 3. Persians & Czars had no open doors to persecuted-God does.
- 4. The incense penetrates the veil.
- 5. The prayer of a single saint is followed by great achievement.
- 6. All the verbs in this are imperfect thus expressing habit.

7. He took the only route open--no other recourse.

C. Note he called, he cried.

1. In seemingly a hopeless situation:

a) Bound

b) Flooded

c) Surrounded

d) Captures like a bird in a net.

2. He calls and cries.

a) Increase intensity.

b) No opposition can stop our prayer.

c) At the supreme moment when entangled he cried.

d) Same word of Egypt cry.

Exo. 2:23 *Sighed by reason of bondage & they cried*

3. We appeal to God as our only hope.

D. God heard my voice, my cry came to His ears (v-6).

1. Above their den of all the enemy noise God hears--even as a mother her baby.

2. Nothing drowns out this cry--the signal gets through.

3. Passes all interceptors--my cry came before Him.

4. God in his Heaven hears me.

IV. That raises the question: What did & can God do?

A. He shows great concern for his servant.

Ps. 17:7 *Saved by thy rt. hand them that put their trust*

B. We see little space between the cry & the answer.

C. Now comes the most magnificent, figurative display of the intervention of God on behalf of one who in righteousness and clean hands (v-20) comes before Him.

THEN

V. This God Did!

A. The Earth shook & trembled.

1. The most solid things feel the force of prayer.
2. He who fixes the earth's pillars can move them in their sockets.
3. Earth violently shook & reeled like a drunken man.
4. Voice of man may be thin but shakes creation.
5. Earth quailed.

B. Foundations of the Hills moved, shaken.

1. Puny man can't face God when mountains tremble before Him.
2. Mountains even unsteady in presence of God--shake like jelly.
3. But please note the form of God is no where described--only his power and attentiveness to man.

C. Why did this happen? God's Angered.

1. His wrath produced these responses.
2. Smoke out of his nostrils.
 - a) Violently expresses wrath.
 - b) To abuse his child makes God fiercely angry.
 - c) Literally it burned him.
 - d) See the steady, lasting fire.

D. He bowed the Heavens.

1. His foot bends the arch of Heaven as He descends.
2. He finds the enemy with the sharp falchion of his vengeance.
3. It seems the horizons bend to touch the earth as he spreads heavens apart.
4. Didn't send an angel but He himself came down even as Jesus returns personally.

E. Darkness was under his feet.

1. Darkness no impediment to God.
2. Though He hides, he's kind.
3. Black clouds veil Him.
4. Faith seems him through thick clouds.

F. He rode upon a cherub & did fly upon the wings of the wind.

1. Cherubs were the chariots of God.
2. "He on the wings of cherubim uplifted, in paternal glory rode far into chaos." (Milton in Paradise Lost)
3. Nature & the powers of the air are subservient to God.
4. These cherubs:

a) Affinity with Rechub, a chariot.

1 Chron. 28:18

~~Ps. 68:18~~

~~Dan. 9:21~~

~~Exo. 25:20~~

~~Heb. 9:45~~

Ps. 99:1

Ps. 80:1-2

(Read)

Pattern for chariot of Ch. - wings - zrk

*The Lord reigneth; let the people tremble
He sitteth between the cherubim - let earth move*

b) Cherub has:

- (1) Countenance of man = intelligence.
- (2) Lion = majesty.
- (3) Bull = strength.
- (4) Eagle = life of nature.

c) We see them in Ezek. 1 & 10.

d) Etymology of word unknown.

e) Represents life of the creature in its most perfect form. (Perrine)

f) Meet them.

Gen. 3:24

1 Sam. 4:4

East of Garden of Eden, Cher: flaming sword

5. This on wings of the wind.

a) See swiftness.

b) No obstruction or opposition can be given him who rides the wings of wind.

6. Little appears of man but much of God in this deliverance.

7. Clouds may show his inscrutability but note he is inescapable!

G. He opens next the artillery of Heaven.

1. Brightness--his lightning.

2. Hail stones and wall of fire.

3. Thundered & gave his voice.

4. Sent arrows & scattered opponents.

5. Lightnings

a) Multiple thunderbolts shot one after another.

b) Storms remind us of his power.

c) Pierces & parts the sky as he lights up the area momentarily.

6. Channels of the waters seen as it seems all creation is being undone. We see the river's bottom.

VI. Then Comes the Deliverance

- A. He sent.
- B. He took me. *(V-16)*
- C. He drew me.
1. Note the He-me.
 2. See the rescue.
 3. He drew--even as Moses--same word.

Exo. 2:10

4. As was David & Moses the Christian is drawn out of the water.
- D. "He delivered me" (v-17)
1. The enemy that was too quick for David is not so for God.

VII. Praise God, He is my:

- A. Stay *(V-18)*
1. When rescued ascribe praise and confess weakness.
 2. Sweet is the pleasure after pain.
 3. Grace of God seen.
 4. God our stay, support in shaky circumstances.
- B. Brings to a Large Place.
1. No longer restricted--we come to a broad place.
 2. We are out of our "tight spot."
 3. Place of safety & release.
 4. As with Christ, sorrows of death surrounded Him, in his distress he prayed (Heb. 5:7), God made the earth shake & tremble, rocks split,

*Heaven
prayer
help
love
extra
spirit
that
release her
new room*

brought him out in his resurrection unto a broad place & delighted in His undertaking.

C. He delivered me.

1. We take heart as we recall God's past dealings.
2. We too have our Red Sea & need his deliverance.
3. He'll do for us what He did for them.
4. All the deliverance ascribed to God.
5. The more earnest we are in prayer, the greater the deliverance & the more need for gratitude.

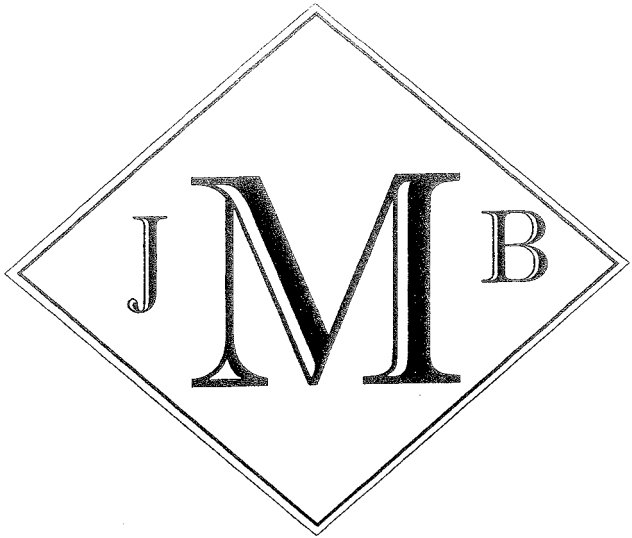
D. Why did He do it? He delights in me!

1. Oh the marvel of His grace.
2. Why he does so, only He knows.

E. Are you?

1. Righteous (v-20)
2. Hands clean
3. Keep the way of the Lord
4. Upright
5. Kept from iniquity.

F. He'll deliver as he rides upon his cherub and the wings of the wind.



ROCK AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

Ps. 18:31-36

- I. Veda Mai Smith received many kindnesses.
- A. For 3 yrs. she had shared Wilma's home.
 - B. She knew the kindness of a loving sister.
 - C. A lady who was a professional nurse gave her every consideration.
 - D. I'd just written Wilma a thank you note for assistance to poor.

II. We often choose the place of our burial.

- A. For the Shorts it's Little Rock.
 1. I've been there several times c loved ones.
 2. I've seen the special spot atop a hill reserved for the Shorts.
 3. I've known of Wilma & Veda Mai's visits there to show respect for their dad.
- B. But I don't know the origin of the name Little Rock.
 1. Names have a significance.
 2. They add much at this time to think of ROCK.

III. What does the Rock Mean?

Ps. 18:31-36 "For who is God save the

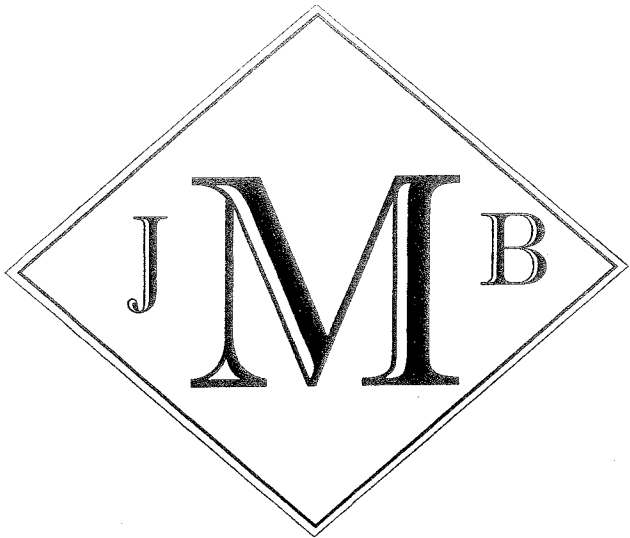
- A. David writes of his battles.
 1. The mere mention of God causes his heart to sparkle.
 2. As we have battles we too need support.
 3. Let's see what he found.
- B. About God--
 1. He is the one & only Rock.
 - a.) Challenged to find one His equal.
 - b.) God - not idols - creates, sustains, foresees,

...overrules.

- c.) To whom else should I bow.
 - d.) Where else is rest & strength.
 - e.) Uses Eloah - 50 X in Scripture - 4 X in Psalm
as it's the plural of Elohim.
 - f.) Who is God if He is not?
2. He girds c strength.
 - a.) Gird c ability to stand.
 - b.) Gives support.
 - c.) I need it in battle against sin.
 3. Makes my way perfect.
 - a.) Never makes a mistake.
 - b.) Perfect in every act.
 - c.) Glorious in every tribute.
 4. Makes my feet like hinds feet.
 - a.) He grants swiftness.
 - b.) Virgil spoke of the hind as "brass footed" -
could go over rough hard places.
 - c.) Sure footness & swiftness admirable qualities
 5. Makes hands to war - break bows of steel.
 - a.) Meant much to a warrior in ancient battle.
 - b.) Says to me I have a strength above myself.
 - c.) Has no illusions about own efforts.
 - d.) Breaks in pieces the bow of the enemy.
 - e.) Never rob God His due but faithfully give Him
His praise.
 6. Gave me the shield of thy salvation.
 7. Right hand holds me up.
 - a.) Can't stand alone.
 - b.) Need the strong support of God.

- c.) Lets you hold your ground in battle.
8. Gentleness made me great.
- a.) It's God who makes one great.
- b.) Speaks of his humility.
9. Enlarged my steps - feet that did not slip.
- a.) Brings me to wide, high places.
- b.) There w/o falling.
- c.) He gives access.
- d.) "There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the
wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in
His justice, which is more than liberty.
For the love of God is broader than the
measures of man's mind; and the heart of
the Eternal is most wonderfully kind" (F.
W. Faber, "There's a Wideness in God's
Mercy").

Mrs. Veda Mai Smith Funeral 2-8-83
Mr. Rufus Berk Emerson Graveside Service 2-12-83



6 THINGS ABOUT THE WORD

Ps. 19:7

I. How many reasons must be offered you to accept something?

A. Will you accept 6?

B. If convinced, will you share it c others.

II. 6 Descriptions & Reasons to love the Bible.

A. It's the law of the Lord - converting.

1. It's His rule of life for rational creatures.

2. It's great body of truth wherein God wants folks instructed.

3. This law is holy.

Rom. 7:12 "Wherefore the law is holy, and the comma

4. It's perfect - w/o flaws & full.

5. It converts.

a.) Restores in margin.

b.) Brings back from disorder & decay.

c.) Note soul - addressed to innermost being of man

d.) Touches spirit, conscience, regulates the moral.

e.) Calls one back from his wandering - brings him home.

B. It's testimony - makes wise.

1. Especially employed for 10 commandments but can embrace all.

2. It's "sure" - fixed, firm, stable compared to man's laws.

3. Makes wise.

a.) Enlightens moral judgement.

C. Statutes - Right - Rejoice.

1. Precepts.

2. Proper, correct.

3. Rejoice --

a.) Via disclosures of God's grace.

b.) His wealth & love.

c.) Not just stern commands to hurt or trick.

d.) Way clearly marked out.

D. Commandments - Pure - Enlighten.

1. Not mere counsel or instruction, but authoritative

2. Pure.

a.) Clear.

b.) Can see.

c.) Spotless.

3. Enlighten.

E. Fear - Clear - Endure.

1. Really Instruction.

2. Pure.

3. Perpetual obligation.

F. Judgements - True - Rt.

1. They search.

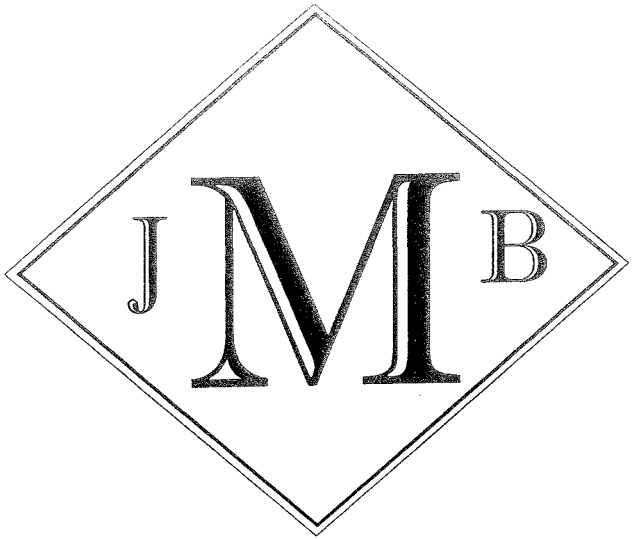
2. They warn.

3. They offer reward.

4. More value than gold.

5. Much to be loved.

West End Combined Adult Classes 8-31-80



TRUE EXCELLENCY

Ps. 19:9-13

- I. There comes to each of us the ultimate-- nothing can be finer--you've climbed Mt. Everest--there's no more stairs to the stars.
- II. So comes our passage and the effect of the word of God. We study Ps. 19:9-13.
 - A. Fear of the Lord is clean.
(Infidel said one things mars all life-- "I'm afraid the Bible is true.")
 - B. It endures forever.
 1. Only this forever satisfies human cravings.
 2. Do we not like David experience joy of obedience? Personally?
 - C. Judgements of the Lord Are True.
 1. Word lays a man bare to himself.
 2. True.
 - a) Sure
 - b) Just
 - c) Dependable--chickens are dead.
 - d) Jointly and severally the Word is true.
 3. Petersen said 2 things impressed: created skies and inspired Scriptures.
- III. Quality Stated.
 - A. More to be desired than gold.
 1. They enrich more than gold.
 - a) Ross Perot in response to a Nashville neighbor, "I'll look after your daughter," said "I've already bought house next door and have guards there."

b) He called Candy Sullivan on security and said, "Tell that boy to stop trying to go with my daughter."

2. Gold is useful only so long.
3. Scriptures do not terminate their benefit.

B. Sweeter than Honey.

1. Gold & honey both excellent. *Scrappings of the comb & purest of the honey*
2. Sweeter than the taste of honey.
3. Truth sweet to my soul.
4. Precepts high and promises great.
5. We feast upon it.

Ps. 119:140 "Thy word is very pure...feast"

Rom. 7:12 "Law is holy, just, good"

Jer. 15:16

Job 23:12

IV. Usefulness Seen.

A. By them servant warned.

1. We are in enemy territory.
2. God's word like pickets to tell of impending assault.
3. They remind us of duty.
4. They expose weakness.
5. They show persecution.
6. They show trials to be expected.
7. So earnestly study them. (Spurgeon)
8. Evil would slip up on us unless warned.
9. Maybe illuminate. (Ash)
10. Word warns of duty, danger, remedy --song, "Ring Out Danger."
11. Hitchhikers Clip

B. Keeping Great Reward.

1. We keep them--they keep us.
2. What's committed to us to keep--as Jews kept oracles.
3. Everything necessary for our instruction and salvation.
4. Reward of Obedience (Keeping).
 - a) Only God's servants see this.
 - b) Some are:
 - (1) Quiet mind.
 - (2) Increased knowledge.
 - (3) Power in Prayer.
 - (4) Habitual holiness.
 - (5) Usefulness to others.
 - (6) Opportunities to glorify God.
 - c) Reward = the end.
 - d) The heel--thus the end of work--does not come until the end tho.
 - e) Reward--consequences.

C. We Check Our Sins.

1. We understand ourselves and by God defeat Satan.
2. Cleanse Secret Faults.
 - a) Some lesser sins escape notice.
 - b) Secret--things hidden--in observance, forgetfulness.
 - c) Some sins done with a high hand. Ali--Superman
 - d) Yet wonder how many mistakes we all make.
 - e) Lateran Council of Rome passed a decree that once a year you'd have to count--but who knows all?

Jer. 15:16

f) Small sins can get the upper hand.

Heb. 10:26-28 "For if we sin willfully"

g) Guilt great but Christ's blood cleanses all.

D. Keep Back From Presumptuous Sins.

1. That's neglecting duties we know we have.
2. Only God can do this for us.
3. We turn grace into licentiousness--
"God won't care."

Ps. 81:11-12 "But my people would not"

4. Sins a grim chamberlain.
5. Sin is a great evil--do we see as such--fools make a mock of it.
6. Now is time to do something about it.

E. No Dominion, Upright, Innocent

1. Total vulnerability produces complete security.
2. Never satisfied til fully clean.

Devotional, Ridgewood, Beaumont, TX - 11/2/92
South Harpeth - 11/22/92

Religious hitchhikers

Church attendance is infected with a malaise of conditional loyalty which has produced an army of ecclesiastical hitchhikers. The hitchhiker's thumb says, "You buy the car, pay for repairs and upkeep and insurance, fill the car with gas—and I'll ride with you. But if you have an accident, you are on your own! And I'll probably sue."

So it is with the credo of so many of today's church attenders: "You go to the meetings and serve on the boards and committees, you grapple with the issues and do the work for the church and pay the bills—and I'll come along for the ride. But if things do not suit me, I'll criticize and complain and probably bail out—my thumb is always out for a better ride."

R. Kent Hughes

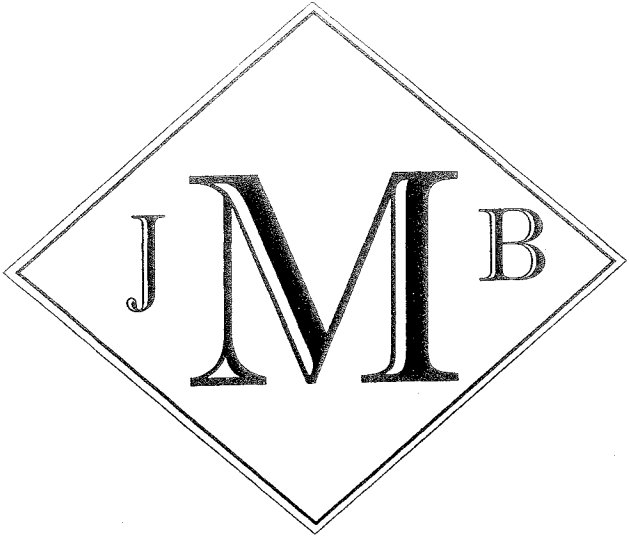
A flight attendant asked Mohammed Ali to fasten his seat belt.

Ali said, "Superman doesn't need a seat belt."

And the stewardess said, "Superman doesn't need an airplane, either." -Susan S. Sutter. Director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

The chicken farmer was losing a lot of his flock, and wrote to the Department of Agriculture: "Gentlemen: Something is wrong with my chickens. Every morning when I come out, I find two or three lying on the ground cold and stiff with their feet in the air. Can you tell me what is the matter?"

Eight weeks later the reply came from Washington: "Dear Sir: Your chickens are dead."



Do What the Fathers Did

Psalm 22:4-5

- I. We come to a highly controversial Psalm, but we want to concentrate on two verses.

Ps. 22:4-5 "Our fathers trusted in thee

- II. But of the Psalm we want to learn other things too.

- A. Prophecy given even to the very words Jesus spoke
- B. Mood from darkness to light or Song of Early Dawn - "hind of the morning - time of the early light."
- C. 8 New Testament references to Christ
- D. What causes our troubles? - Our numberless transgressions.
- E. Last 10 verses are joyous.
- F. Great expressions:
 - 1. Roared for help - none came
 - 2. Groanings - word for a lion's roar
 - 3. Make mouths - used only here in Old Testament
 - 4. Head wagging
- G. Is God interested in my troubles?

- H. See how great is the love of Christ for us.
- I. Marvelous description of suffering
 - 1. Mockers like pack of wild dogs
 - 2. Watched with malicious anticipation
 - 3. Greedily waited for him to die
 - 4. "My life" lit. "My only one" - unique and precious possession
 - 5. Grim thought to have a dog destroy precious possessions (Ash)
 - 6. Frame so emaciated could count bones
- J. Last part joyous
 - 1. Three fold call - praise, glorify, stand in awe
 - 2. Good news passes from generation to generation
 - 3. There is a path of wisdom
 - 1) Turn to right road to walk there
 - 2) Sustained by eating right thing
 - 3) Study Scriptures
 - 4) Pray
 - 5) Forsake not

- 6) Eager to learn
- 7) Avoid all that destroys-
like poison
- 8) Look to Jerusalem

John 6:53
6:63

III. Let's go to chosen verses - 4&5

- A. Our fathers trusted in thee
 1. Sustains the sufferer to think how many before him trusted God
 2. At first seemed they didn't hear, but at length they did
 3. Pedigree of faith & piety
 4. A thankful remembrance - honor to come from good stock
 5. Were given a Holy example
 6. Have a claim - it was a trust
 7. Those who go before inspire us
 8. We inherit the past
 9. We are making the future as we hand down something to our successors
- B. I cried to thee -
 1. Jesus felt all our blows
 - a) Cutting remarks

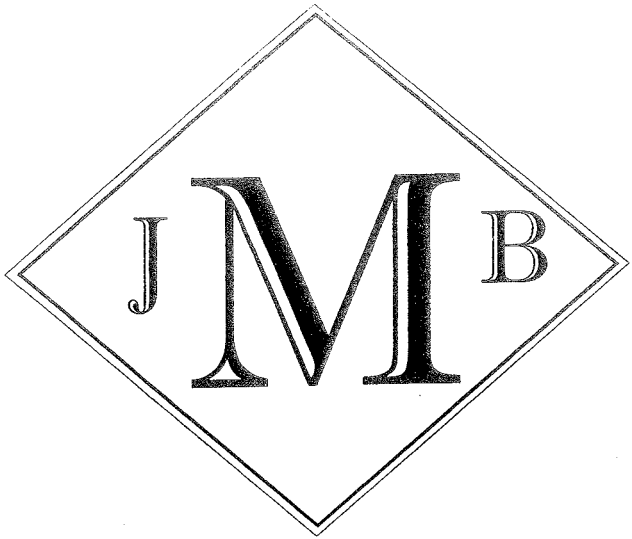
- b) Weakness
 - c) Reproach and scorn
 - d) Plotting of foes
 - e) Treachery of friends
 - f) Sense of separation from God
2. Others have known horrors of great darkness

Genesis 15:12

32:12

Isaiah 40:27

C. Eventually delivered



SEEMS LIKE I'VE BEEN THERE!

Ps. 22:1-10

- I. There is a Psalm to which most every Christian can say "Seems like I've been there!"
 - A. Prayers seemingly unanswered.
 - B. Saints confounded by delay.
 - C. World laughs at you.
 - D. God--your greatest treasure--and your faith insulted.
 - E. Folk treat you less than a human being.

- II. If you've had that, then Psalm 22 speaks to your soul.
 - A. Psalm of the heart.
 1. Herod began hunting down Jesus as soon as he appeared.
 2. Title "the morning heart."
 3. He escaped the hunter's net and stands before God alive.
 4. Hind is the figure of suffering innocence.
 - B. Psalm of Prophecy
 1. 33 prophecies of the cross.
 2. Crucifixion had not been thought of when the Psalm was written thus shows the inspiration of the Scriptures.
 3. No Psalm in which sense of loneliness so utter, or peril so imminent.

4. 69th is like it.

5. Most of is found in New Testament.

Matt. 27:46

:7

:43

:39

Jn. 19:28

:23

Heb. 2:1

6. Israel says it's the suffering of Israel in exile.

7. Some call it photo of Christ's saddest hour.

III. The Psalm's Message

A. "My God, my God, why?"

1. My God

a) Calvary's cry

b) El=strength--expect it but never distrust it.

c) Only here repeated Eli, Eli.

2. Why?

a) The question touched the Son--surely it does us.

b) Cry of a lost child who can't imagine why his father forsakes him.

c) Any homes like that today?

d) We grapple to grasp the mind of God.

3. Forsaken me.
 - a) Hast--it's done, it's true.
 - b) Thou I can understand Judas and Peter, but not the living Lord. (Spurgeon)
 - c) I can endure the chastisement but not the forsaking.
 - d) Me--so personal--our sins separate us--but Jesus had none.
 - e) For a moment the perfect man was alone with the sins of the whole world.
 - f) He endures the torture of spiritual loneliness.
 - g) Remember the--Christ's desertion prevents your final one.
 - h) He is forsaken so we will not be.
 - i) Never again would the world see divinity's vengeance against his only Son. (Spurgeon)
4. So far from helping me.
5. Away from the words of my roaring.
 - a) When he could not speak he roared.
 - b) Like the cry of a wild beast.
 - c) I won't speak but roar my complaint.

B. Extent of his crying.

1. O, my God.
 - a) Never lose hold on God.
 - b) Never falsely accuse or criticize.
2. I cry--to thee and no other--we are tempted to go to the "healing handkerchief."
3. Day and night.
 - a) No day too bright.
 - b) No night too dark to pray.
 - c) If you feel unheard, Jesus felt it first.
 - d) Just never silent.

IV. Never lose esteem of God.

A. He is holy.

1. However ill things look there is no ill in God.
2. Knows God's graciousness too well to libel his character.
3. Whatever God may do, settle in your own mind he is holy.
4. Though prayer not immediately answered, he does not impure character of God.

B. Inhabits praise of Israel.

1. Let him do what he will, he is to be praised.
2. If prayer is not granted it is not because God is unfaithful or puny.

3. God may turn his face but never his supportive arm.
4. Enthroned him above the praises.
5. "Praises" will be the temple.

V. Now a little previous history.

A. Our Father's trusted.

1. Experience of other saints can be a great consolation.
2. When we feel ourselves sinking others are swimming.
3. Previous history suggests you do it again.
4. Trusted
 - a) Mentioned three times.
 - b) Rule of life of God's family.
 - c) Faith can do it when nothing else can.
 - d) Repetition conveys fervent desire.

B. Were delivered.

1. What you did before, do again.
2. God's faithfulness of the past a plea for the future.
3. Ancients trusted, cried, were not confounded.

VI. My unhappy lot.

A. I am a worm.

1. Gld "I am."
2. Man "I am a worm."

3. Song, "Alas and did my savior bleed."
 4. Jesus covered his godhead in the worm of human nature.
 5. Man treated him as such.
 6. Nothing more difficult than not be accepted as a fellow human being.
 7. We are not a "he," we are an "it."
- B. Knew reproach, despite, scorn.
1. Caustic power in reproach.
 2. Bear it patiently.
 3. Leaders scoff while we languish in weakness.
 4. Laugh to scorn.
 - a) Pun our prayers.
 - b) Laugh at our suffering.
 - c) Some looked with gratification to see Jesus on the cross.
 - d) Men mock, God treats tenderly.
 - e) There are things worse than death.
 - f) Christian dies hard, but courageously.
- C. Shoot out lip.
1. Gesture of contempt.
 2. Pant, grin, shake head, thrust out tongue.
 3. Protrude lower lip the symbol of contempt in the East.

D. Laugh at his trust.

1. God is the most tender spot in a man's soul and it's ridiculed.
2. Poke fun at faith.
3. John P. Sartre quote - #4.

VII. Reason for trust.

A. Loved me from the womb.

1. Uses the mercy of his nativity as an argument for help.
2. Faith finds weapons everywhere.
3. God begins his care over us at our earliest moment--the womb.
4. Earle says everyone is born for a reason, yet God does not force us to become what we do not want to be.

B. So --

1. Keep trusting.
2. God loves you.

Riverwood C/C -- 1/9/91
(Wed. night class)

PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON used to tell this story, attributed to Mark Twain, about the time Twain was visiting a friend in the country:

The old boy was walking along the road and he asked a farmer, "How far is it to Henderson's place?"

"About a mile and a half," the farmer answered. So Twain walked awhile longer, and he met another farmer and he asked the same question.

"About a mile and a half," the farmer answered. Twain walked a little farther, and he met a third farmer and he asked again, "How far is it to Henderson's place?"

"About a mile and a half," the farmer answered.

"Well," said Twain, "thank God I am holding my own!"

-Frank Cormier, *LBJ: The Way He Was* (Doubleday)

Brainstorm

A tired looking man dragged himself through his front door and slumped into a chair.

"Busy day at the office, dear?" his wife asked sympathetically.

"Terrible," he sighed. "The computer broke down in the middle of the afternoon and we all had to think."

Stanhope, Iowa

Vera

Promising

Tommy's father told him to rake leaves. Tommy didn't want to, but he was raking them anyway. A friend saw him and asked, "Did your father promise you something if you rake those leaves?"

"No," Tommy replied, "but he promised me something if I didn't."

Bowen, Ill.

Bobbie Mae

Icon believed crying over Middle East

By William Cormier
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Thousands of people are flocking to a Greek Orthodox church to see an icon that they believe began shedding tears last month after a special prayer session for peace in the Middle East.

The icon of St. Irene, patron saint of peace, has drawn Christians of many denominations and smaller numbers of Moslems, Jews and the curious to the St. Irene Chrysovalantou Cathedral, church officials say.

Visitors have come from as far away as France, Japan and India, according to Maria Galiatsatos, assistant secretary at the church in a largely Greek Astoria neighborhood in the Queens borough.

She said she receives up to 500 phone calls a day.

"We have had more than 100,000 people

visit here since she began crying," Galiatsatos said. "One Sunday we didn't close the church until 4 a.m., and we reopened at 6 o'clock in the morning."

The church's Bishop Vikentios of Avlon says he believes the icon of St. Irene — whose name means "peace" in Greek — is weeping for the Persian Gulf.

Worshippers believe the icon, painted in Greece in 1919 and brought here two decades ago, began crying Oct. 17 after it was taken to a sister church in Chicago for a special service for world peace.

"At 7 o'clock in the evening, after the prayer service — in which we had about 1,000 people praying for peace, especially in the Persian Gulf — several people came running to us. They said 'Come look, the icon is crying,' and we came upstairs and we saw the tears and everyone started crying. . . .

"This was it, a message to the world, that

it must continue to pray for peace."

After the icon was brought back from Chicago, word of the "weeping saint" spread quickly in the neighborhood.

The painting, a portrait of a dour-faced woman cloaked in black, is encased behind glass on a carved oak stand set up before the altar of the darkened church.

People file past to the sounds of mournful Greek chants. A figure in a black hood beckons them one at a time, lighting a taper to illuminate the painting.

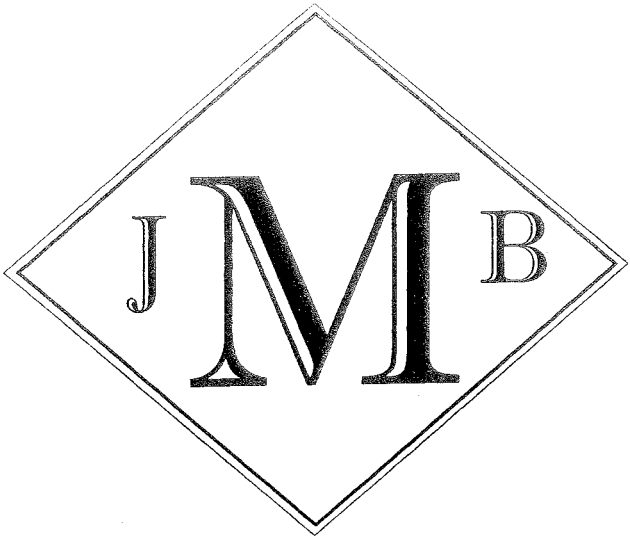
At first, the flame reveals little. But then the light seizes on the face of St. Irene, where glistening streaks can be seen extending from each eye down the cheeks.

The church has ruled out taking the icon from the church for scientific tests, but invites skeptics to examine the painting and even take some "tears" for laboratory analysis.

I read a quote recently that sent up my radar antenna. They were the words of Jean Paul Sartre:

Man can will nothing unless he has first understood that he must count on no one but himself; that he is alone, abandoned on earth in the midst of his infinite responsibilities, without help, with no other aim than the one he sets himself, with no other destiny than the one he forges for himself on this earth.

Gobbledygook! We are not abandoned, and we are not alone. What's more, it's a tragic mistake to attempt "forging destiny" with-



AN AMAZING TRANSITION

Ps. 22:22-31

Intro Preacher #1 & Dog #2

- I. Earlier in the Psalm great sadness & despair.
 - A. Suddenly it changes.
 - B. It breathes brightness & a moving missionary spirit.
 - C. Wish all by Jonah's! (Jonah 1:9)
- II. The Current Declaration
 - A. I will declare thy name unto my brethren.
 1. Love the brethren unashamedly and acknowledge them openly.
 2. Jesus not ashamed to have a church.
 3. We act like child who hits dummy in not loving brethren - #3.
 - B. In the midst of the congregation I will praise thee.
 1. It is our job to proclaim Him.
 2. His praise a settled resolution.
 3. Caligula threatened the air if it rained on him in his past time.
 4. Protest replaced by praise.
 5. Duck shot--fall kill.
 - C. You that fear God, Praise Him.
 1. If all the seed of Jacob should, what about our families?
 2. Jonah, "I am a Hebrew & I fear God" (Jonah 1:9).
 3. Christ wants us to glorify His Father -- He did!
 4. Forget God--you are lost.
 5. Momma "I'm here"--where am I?

- D. God (v-24) loves the afflicted.
1. Praise Him for this.
 2. Note how God occupies all his thoughts.
 3. Unlike the proud, God does not despise the afflicted.
 4. Woman mouth enough for 2 sets teeth - #4.
 5. Insufficient funds.
- E. Meek; Eat Satisfied, Live
1. Not enough to be alive--be fed!
 2. Sustained by eating the right thing.
 3. Pay vow--article on giving - #5.
 4. \$50 teeth.
- F. Tomorrow--Ends of the Earth
Remember, Turn, Worship
1. Great missionary idea.
 2. Remember--Turn--Worship.
 3. Reagan & Runway - #6.
 4. Notice when soup boiled over--
I did 10:30.
- G. The Kingdom is the Lord's--He is
Governor Among Nations.
1. Kingdom won't fail.
 2. Fat will come.
 3. Dust of earth can.
 4. No man can keep his own soul.
 5. Poor & fat sit together at table of
the Lord.
- H. A Seed Shall Serve Him.
1. Don't pull cat's tail.
 2. Posterity shall perpetuate the
worship of God.

3. Nothing thwarts the divine purpose.
4. You'll be able to tell what was done for you.
5. Conversion is individual--1 by 1.
6. Seed may be small compared to harvest.
7. Human beginning--size of dot over little "i". Grows 3500X in length. 1 cell becomes 200 billion cells.
8. Ruskin quote - #7.

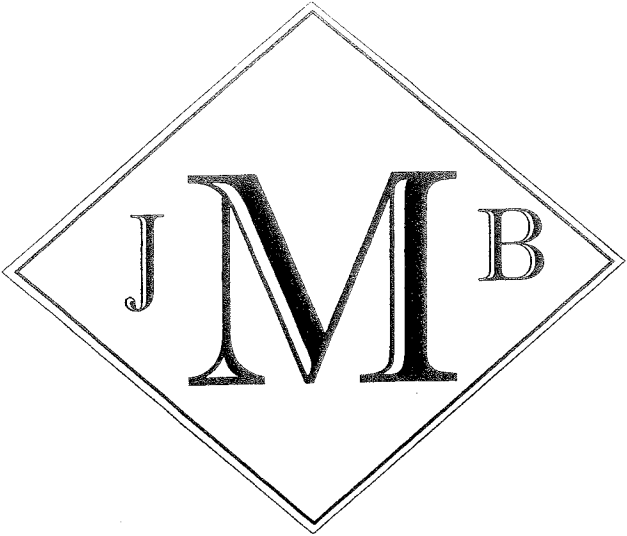
Riverwood church - 1/9/91

Beville Rd.,Daytona,FL(Men's Breakfast)-1/14/91

Madison(Zone Appreciation Dinner) - 1/26/91

Beltine,Decatur,AL-(Valentine Banquet)-2/9/91

Walnut St.,Dickson,Tn - 2/17/91



WHEN DID YOU STUDY PS. 23?

Ps. 23

I. How would you answer my subject?

- A. Everybody knows it.
- B. Why not something new?
- C. What more can be said?
- D. Well, at least let's try.

II. Via of Introduction

A. New Commentary lists reasons for its attractiveness.

1. Outdoor.
2. Indoor.
3. Pastoral peace.
4. Protection through peril.
5. Possibility of evil.
6. Prospects of good time.
7. Ominous gloom.
8. Experience of following.
9. Need for guidance--never this way before.

10. Life of stable security.

B. Lists seven fold activity of God.

1. Makes
2. Leads
3. Restores
4. Guides
5. Companionship
6. Preparation
7. Perpetual blessing

C. Note 1st word is the Lord as is the last word.

III. Go to the Psalm.

A. The Lord.

1. He is my everything.
2. Takes me away from self and moves me to a greater trust.
3. The guide's name guarantees protection and safety.

B. My Shepherd

1. Immediately telegraphs that the sheep shall not want for anything that is good for them.
2. We are completely dependent on Him as sheep the shepherd.
3. This the 1st description of God-- later the Host.
4. Shepherd the title for Kings in the Near East as the idea of care and authority is advanced.

Ezek. 34:1

5. See Bruce McLarty's quote.
6. All shepherds not good.

Isa. 56:9-12

C. I Shall Not Want

1. Not want but supplied all I need.
2. If I have not everything I desire I'll conclude:
 - a) It's not fit for me.
 - b) It's not good for me.
 - c) Or I'll have it in due time.(Henry)

D. Makes Me Lie Down in Green Pastures.

1. Lie down--comfort & contentment.
2. Green Pastures
 - a) Comforts from Him.
 - b) Well guided and well fed.
 - c) Essential I follow Him.
 - d) Tender grass.

E. Lead by Still Waters.

1. Not filthy standing waters.
2. Not troubled waters.
3. But silent purling waters.

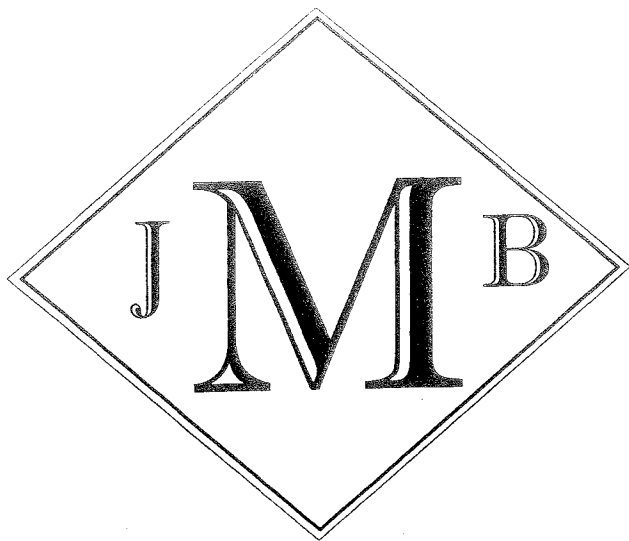
4. Restful waters.
 5. Lit. waters of stillness.
- F. He Restores My Soul.
1. He knows the way I should go.
 2. I miss it, he mercifully restores.
 3. Revives and quickens.
- G. Leads in Paths of Righteousness for His Name's Sake.
1. Righteousness--idea of straightness.
 2. Conformity to law.
 3. Deliverance.
 4. His name could grant nothing less.
- H. Walk Through the Valley
1. Valleys are fruitful--corn better in the bottoms.
 2. He conveys us through dark spots and we are better for it.
 3. Shadow of a sword does not hurt--comic page had a man worn out pulling his own shadow.
 4. In midst of danger I'm at ease.
 5. Ravines overhung by precipitous cliffs as valley filled with dense foliage.
 6. In life's darkest hour the Lord is there.
 7. Fear not the deep darkness.
- I. Thy Rod & Staff Comfort.
1. Pass under to count.
 2. Rod short oaken club with iron end to defend.
 3. Staff longer pole for climbing and hooking, support, guidance.
 4. Drives away troublesome dogs.

J. Prepares Table

1. See Lord's magnificance as the perfect Host.
2. Anoints
 - a) Act of a good host.
 - b) Lit. make fat, richly bathed(NEV).
 - c) Not word for anointing a King but entertaining a guest.

Lu. 7:46

3. Oil symbol of gladness.
 4. Lavish & abundant--don't run short at God's table as Sister Alma Gatewood & 6 chicken breasts. God's hospitable.
 5. Enough for all.
- K. Surely Goodness & Mercy.
1. Marvelous twins.
 2. Perpetuity of his mercy.
 3. Forever--as long as earthly life lasts--His social security never exhausted.
 4. Feasting will not be withdrawn while life lasts.
 5. Continual communion with God.
 6. Forever--lit. to length of days--my whole life long.



PREPARATION FOR ENTRANCE

Ps. 24:1-6

- I. When you recall a special lady, Louise Howard, what do you first think?
 - A. My visits with Jack and Louise.
 - B. My character evaluation.
 1. Courage--as a widow.
 2. Conviction--no doubt about her love for Christ and the church.
 - a) Spoke her piece.
 - b) Never vicious or destructive.
 - c) Open and unashamed of her views.
 3. Compassion
 - a) Served individually.
 - b) Served part of a group.
 - C. All my words are "C" words--and of course they revolve around the Christ.
- II. She spent her life in contemplation of an entrance. May I tell you about it.
- III. Ps. 34:1-6 our text.
 - A. It could be the Ps. of David prior to moving the Ark from house of Obed-Edom to Mt. Zion.
 1. Similar to Ps. 15.
 2. See 2 Samuel 6
I Chron. 15:2-27
 - B. First proclaims the Sovereignty of God.
 1. The earth is His and the fullness thereof.
 - a) He's the Creator and the Governor of Earth.
 - b) Fullness--trees, plants, silver, gold, cattle on a 1000 hills.

2. World and they that dwell therein.
 - a) We are tenants here.
 - b) Humans are his.
3. Founded it on the seas.
 - a) Separated land and water.
 - b) Mt. elevated above waters to look as though founded on them.

C. Next who can approach God--as ark moved to tabernacle?

1. What type of person must he be?
2. Who is sufficient to wait at the temple?
3. Who will stand in his holy place?
4. Extend this--for one day all of us face the judgement.

D. Identity Established

1. Has clean hands.
 - a) With our hands we:
 - (1) Work
 - (2) Earn & pay; get & give.
 - (3) Symbol of faith & honor.
 - (4) Symbol of power & conduct.
 - (5) Presentation of cleanliness as been washed.
 - (6) Units of achievements--
Louise made our children's clothes.
 - b) Our conscience irreproachable.
 - c) Hand & heart convey true holiness.
2. Has Pure Heart
 - a) Without deceit.
 - b) Uninfluenced by unholy passion.
 - c) Genuine.
 - d) Inward--hands outward.

3. Soul not lifted to vanity.
 - a) No idolatrous inclination.
 - b) Keeps faith and promises to God.
 - c) Vanity--vain, worthless.
 - d) Desires brought into captivity of the Law of God.
 - e) Idol = emptiness, worthless thing.
4. Not Sworn Deceitfully
 - a) Lying one of worst sins.
 - b) Pretense abominable.

- E. Such a person God blesses--Righteousness from the God of his salvation.
1. Mercy of God crownsthe obedient.
 2. God adds his graces to such a person.
 3. We are but tenants as God moves us to higher ground.
 4. He is the final judge.
 5. Good we know the type of person God approves.

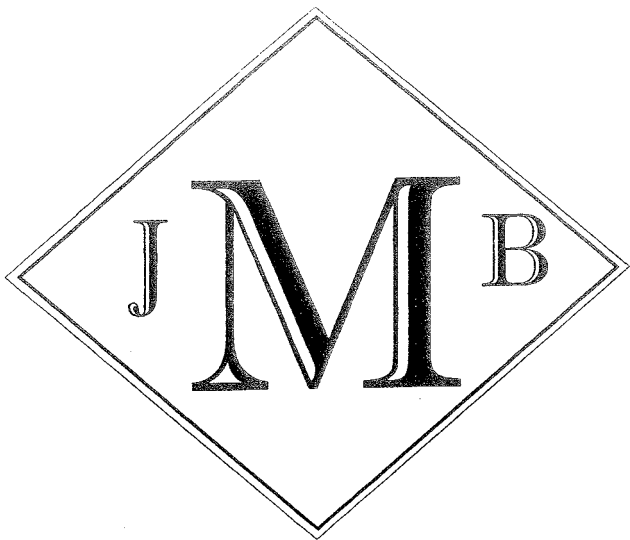
v-6 "This is the generation of them that seek Him"

Words to Remember

1. Moral conditions necessary to approach God.
2. Not distinguished by race but by character.
3. Stand--continue there, maintain his ground.
4. Who wants his table waited on by filthy hands?

5. People of honor always people of their word.
6. Life should be an assension.
7. Hands are instruments of accomplishments.
8. Deceit--Fraud, lit. to trap.

Funeral, Mrs. Louise Howard - 3/17/00
Brentwood Hills BC - 3/19/00



LIFE'S GREAT QUESTION

Ps. 24:3-6

I. The Bible in Ramada Inn, Bartlesville, was puckered from pages where folk carelessly sat wet glasses.

- A. I read - open at Ps. 24.
- B. It asked an all time great question.
- C. Holy Spirit ans. his own question!

II. The Question.

V. 3 "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or

A. Feel the impact.

1. Who - worthy?

- a.) God made all, but won't save all.
- b.) Not there by race, but by character.
- c.) We inquire as to who is worthy?

2. Hill.

- a.) To God it's an upward climb.
- b.) Hard but elevating.
- c.) Both height & glory.
- d.) Put forth uttermost.

3. Stand.

- a.) Continue there.
- b.) Maintain his ground.

B. Life Should be an ascension.

- 1. Do I rise higher daily?
- 2. Or sink lower?
- 3. Do I make an inquiry into heavenly things?
- 4. Did not Rachel Rucker?

III. The Ans.

A. Has Clean Hands.

- 1. Outwardly fine.

- 2. Hands are instruments by which we accomplish things.
- 3. Some are cruel, dishonest, meddlesome, beautiful
- 4. Rachel's were clean.
- 5. Who wants to be waited on by filthy hands? God doesn't!
- 6. Don't treat good works c contempt.

B. Pure Heart.

- 1. Inwardly clean.
- 2. Pure motives work good, not evil to neighbors.
- 3. Serve c humility & sincerity.
- 4. God sees inside too.
- 5. Sincerely serves.

C. Not Left Soul to Vanity.

- 1. Lift = set heart upon.
- 2. Vanity = perishing things of earth or
 - a.) Falsehoods.

Job 31:5

- b.) False Gods.
- 3. Carnal delights are empty vanities.
- 4. Vanity = affection & desire for earthly, empty, worthless things.

D. Nor sworn deceitfully.

- 1. Always people of honor are people of their word.
- 2. God has nothing to do c liars but cast them out.
- 3. Moral conditions are necessary to approach God.
- 4. Deceit = fraud, lit. to trip upon.

E. No rotten communication.

III. The Promise.

- A. Some of Bible 17000.

1. Rec. blessings.

2. Rec. righteousness from God of Salvation.

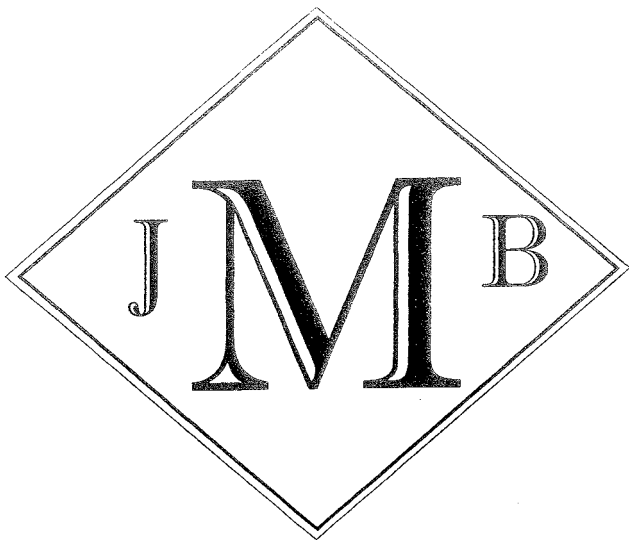
B. The is the Generation.

1. Legitimate seed.

2. In every age a remnant.

Acts 9:26

3. We must be seekers.



TRUST TO THE NTH DEGREE

Psalms 25:1-7

I. About this Psalm.

A. Perhaps at a crucial time in David's life.

1. The alphabet is not perfect. *the an acrostic*

2. The Holy Spirit was willing to throw his words into the mould of human thought & speech. This accounts for writers' styles.

3. Ps. 22 - Lying down

Ps. 23 - Standing

Ps. 24 - Sitting & reviewing theology

Ps. 25 - Kneeling

(Someone so pictured these)

B. Partial acrostic.

C. Duplicates our experiences.

1. Family worries.

2. Perplexities as to proper course to take.

D. After we've said all it is a Psalm emphasizing TRUST!

II. You have heard this one set to music-- let's set it now on our hearts.

A. "Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul."

1. See how the holy soul flies to God.

2. "True prayer is the soul rising from earth to have fellowship with Heaven" (Spurgeon)

3. We leave our cares at the foot of Jacob's ladder. *Story of Soldier praying!*

4. Prayers not answered are called "stopped from ascending."

Lam. 3:44 *covered c a cloud that our prayers pass not thru*

5. David on a moment's notice was ready to speak to God--car, closet, office.
 6. This Ps. will expose us to many of our treasures:
 - a) Prayer
 - b) Trust
 - c) Instruction
 - d) Guidance
 - e) Communion
- B. "O my God, I trust in thee"
1. Note my God.
 2. Woe to the warrior who throws away the shield of faith.
 3. Trust is the key to the whole Psalm.
- C. "Let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me."
1. Suffer no wicked mouth to make blasphemous mirth of my distress - (Spurgeon).
 2. Enemies would delight in knowing David sinned.
 3. Read v-3.
 4. "If we pray earnestly for ourselves we shall not soon forget fellow sufferers."
 5. Our petitions must be of benefit to all God's servants.
- D. "Show me thy ways, O Lord--teach me thy paths."
1. Do not clamor for your own way.
 2. "Thy will be done."
 3. Ways of men vs. ways of God.

4. Path of sin vs. path of righteousness
 5. Thy ways of truth--my ways of error.
 6. Before making trips we study maps-- then stop & ask for guidance on the way also.
 7. God is the best teacher--knows all the way.
 8. God gives daily directions else why pray.
 9. Trial & error poor strategy for learning how to live.
 10. Go the way of trusting faith.
- E. Lead me in thy truth & teach me--God of my salvation.
1. Who is the God of my salvation--on what are you relying?
 2. Wait--patience is the handmaid of faith.
 3. Let me ever abide in thy truth.
 4. Are we like Pilate & truth?
 5. Truth is not situation ethics. *Dreaper Card*
 6. Truth is the word.
- John 17:17 *Sanctify them thru thy truth*
7. It's Jesus
- John 14:6 *I am the way, the truth*
8. It's Spirit
- John 16:13 *The Spirit of truth*
- 1 John 5:6 *The Spirit bears wit. because the Spirit is*
- F. Remember thy tender mercies & loving kindness--even of old.
1. After self-exam we surely need this.

2. When all thy mercies, O my God
My Rising Soul surveys.
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love & praise.
 3. Moses 1st to use "thy mercies."
 4. God's nature is unchanging--as of
old!
- G. Remember not the sins of my youth.
1. Sin is the stumbling block.
 2. Especially so of youth due to
passion & inexperience.
 3. Yet offenses we remember with
repentance God forgets.
 4. He who presumes on youth is
poisoning his old age.
 5. David wants his sins forgiven &
forgotten.
 6. It's the goodness of God that grants
salvation.

Walnut Street, Dickson, TN (B.C.) - 1/28/90
Franklin, Ky (Radio) - 7/12/91

During World War II a British soldier was caught ^{#1} creeping stealthily from a near-by woods to his quarters. He was immediately taken before his commanding officer and charged with communicating with the enemy. His only defense was that he had been praying. The officer demanded, "Are you in the habit of praying?" "Yes, sir," the soldier replied. "Then get down on your knees and pray," his superior ordered. Expecting to be quickly executed, the soldier knelt and poured out his soul in prayer. When he finished the officer said, "You may go. I believe your story. If you hadn't drilled often, you couldn't have done so well in review."

- Millie Stamm

"Beside Still Waters";pg. 36

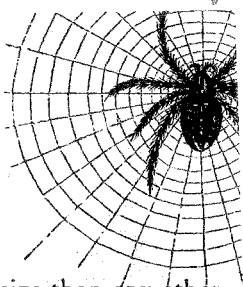
A "great" theologian stood at a Baptist seminary recently and actually claimed that it is blasphemy to say that God has spoken through a completed Word. He said that restricts God and cuts down any possibility that God might have some revelation for us today. But God said all he wanted to say in his Word. He said it, he meant it, and that sealed it.

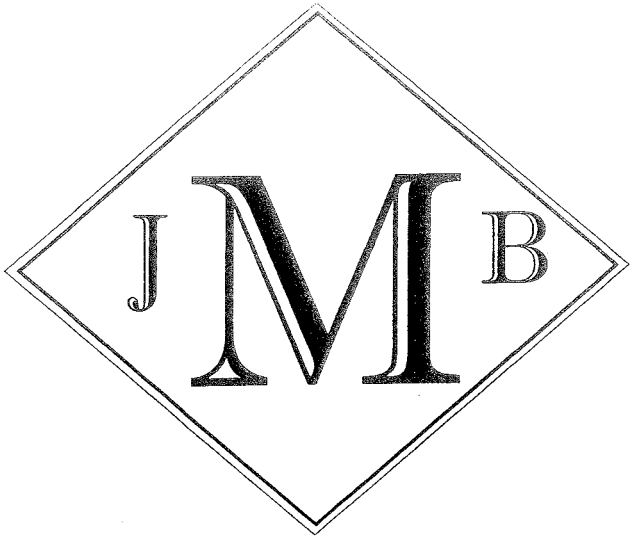
--James T. Draper, Jr.

PROVERBS - Page 36

• **Spider webs are delicate threads**

The thread spun by the spider may look weak, but spider's silk is stronger for its size than any other fiber in nature. It is very elastic—stretching one-fifth its length without breaking—and has a tensile strength greater than that of steel.





CAN I PASS THE TEST?

Ps. 26:1-7

I. All of us know exams.

- A. Schools.
- B. Sports.
- C. Business.

II. We've also one before God.

- A. Psalmist asked for a test.
- B. My point - how well would I do on it - like the word test in "Reader's Digest".

III. The Call for Exam.

A. Note his words.

- 1. Judge me.
- 2. Examine me.
- 3. Prove me.
- 4. Try my reins & heart.

B. Obviously personal - me & my.

C. Obviously thorough - inside & outside.

- 1. Lord alone final judge. He alone knows facts & will read nothing unwarranted in the report.

2 Cor. 10:18 "For not he that commendeth himself is

- 2. Dr. does careful exam.
- 3. Prove - like metal, assay me.
- 4. Try reins (Divine judgement is thorough - reins, seat of lower animal passion & heart the highest affection, will & conscience.

IV. Things to which He Lays Claim.

A. I have walked in mine integrity.

- 1. Held as a principle.
- 2. Walked in it as a practice.
- 3. Life guarded by the highest of principles.

- 4. Ours is a practical following.
- 5. Better to walk than talk truth.
- 6. Integrity is a term applied to an unblemished animal in sacrifice.
- 7. It's the mind aimed at right & true c undivided purpose.
- 8. Comfort to have approbation of one's own conscience.

B. I have trusted in the Lord.

- 1. Faith is the root & sap of integrity.
 - a.) Why steal when the Lord's promised to supply?
 - b.) Why destroy when He'll use **vengeance**. He'll repay.

2. So strong won't fall - won't even slide.

C. I have walked in thy truth.

- 1. This is God's Word.
- 2. I wrote a man in NYC an ans. "What is Church of Christ?" We try to follow God's truth.
- 3. Comforted that God's lovingkindness is before mine eyes - adds grace & mercy.

D. Now a negative, I have not sat c vain persons, neither will I go in c dissemblers.

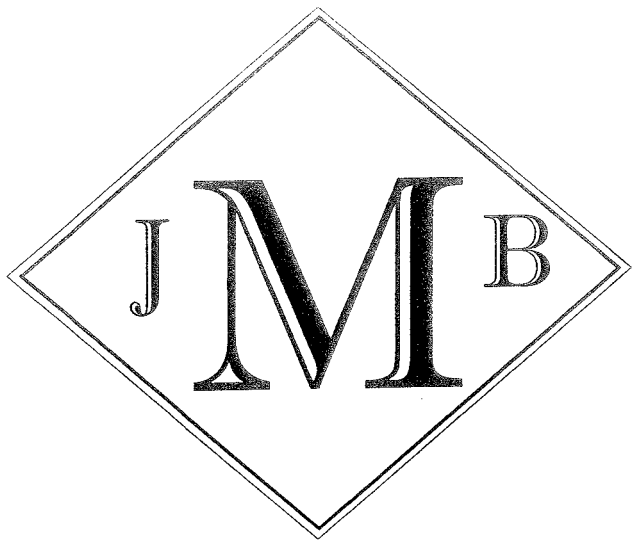
- 1. We are known by company we keep.
- 2. All who live for this life only unworthy of Chr. friendship.

I Cor. 5:10-11 "Yet not altogether with the fornicators:

- 3. Saints have a seat at another table.
- 4. Sit.
 - a.) Position of choice.
 - b.) Position of pleasure.

- Eph. 2:6 "And hath raised us up together, and made u
- c.) Position of staying - abiding.
- 2 Kings 5:3 "And she said unto her mistress, Would Go
- 5. Hearts set on worthless things.
- 6. Not c dissemblers.
- a.) Note future clause - will not go - no desire to enter companionship he earlier avoided.
- b.) How do you move from the pulpit to Printer's Alley; from Campaigns for Christ to Champagne in the refrig. ?
- c.) Dissemblers are hypocrites, pretenders.
- 1 Tim. 3:5 "Having a form of godliness, but denying th
- 7. Further says I hated the congregation of evildoers & will not sit c the wicked.
- a.) Hate their vices.
- b.) Weary of the world.
- c.) To be transfigured c Jesus, don't be disfigured by conformity to world.
- E. I will wash my hands in innocency; so I will compass thine altar.
- 1. To wash hands is to disclaim association c a thing
- 2. Priest must be clean.
- 3. Brazen laver as essential as golden altar.
- 4. God's worship requires a holy life.
- 5. Also note holiness alone is not enuf - must worship publicly.
- 6. We are not to be satisfied in serving God in private.

Work-End: 12-25-77



I STAND ON LEVEL GROUND

Ps. 26:7-12

- I. We have a tug of war at WEBE.
 - A. Even side.
 - B. Even weight.
 - C. Even terrain.
- II. Can't be very solid with one ft. out of relation to the other - security demands level ground - your standing in an even place.
- III. Long ago a Psalmist stood there - let's duplicate his stance. These things were going for him.
 - A. He was vocally grateful.
- V. 7 "I...publish with the voice of thanx.
 1. God's folks aren't tongue tied.
 2. We've something to say because there is something we've experienced.
 3. Count your blessings.
- B. I Loved the Habitation of thy house - the place where thine honor dwelleth.
 1. We've no sacred bldg. but a living structure of all who honor the word.
 2. We come not to honor the preacher ("I'll come hear you sometime"), but our God.
 3. This sets motive, taste, why - we do what we do.
- Ps. 27:4 "One thing have I desired of the Lord.
 4. Greater for us - boldness to enter.
- Heb. 10:19-22 "Having therefore, brethren, boldness
 5. We see God clearly.
- Col. 2:19 "In whom dwelt all the fulness
 - C. Free me from evil folk.
 - 1.) Gather not my soul c sinners.

a.) When I'm gathered like fruit, don't put me in the basket c the best of sinners, much less the worst.

2. Put not my life c bloody men.

a.) Worst kind.

b.) Cut throats.

3. In whose hands is mischief.

a.) Note both hands full.

b.) Rt. hand - bribes.

(1) Giver & taker is bad.

(2) Bribe a bargain to betray a trust.

D. For me - I will walk in mine integrity.

1. Means to be clean.

a.) Have walked (V. 2).

b.) Will walk (V. 11).

2. Redeem me.

3. Be merciful.

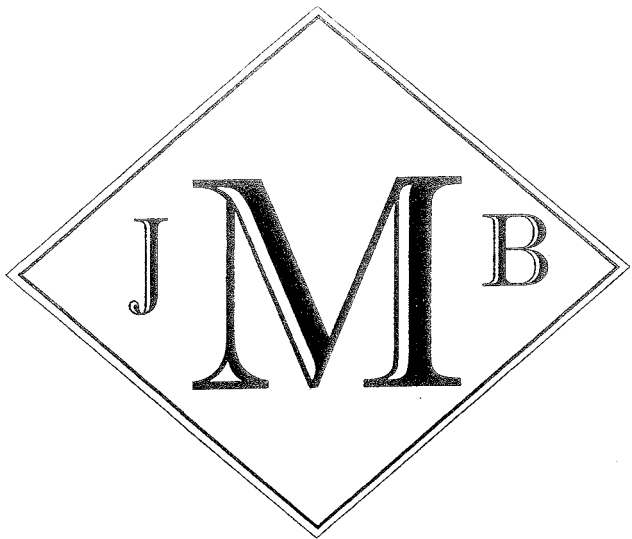
IV. My Foot Standeth in an Even Place.

A. Feels good when you are right & do right.

B. Why be tormented by error & uncertainty.

C. On level ground one can move freely.

West End 12-25-77



WHERE RESTS A NATION'S STRENGTH

Psalm 33

- I. As we approach July 4 we have reason to be grateful for our country.
- II. Supreme Court has made a decision I do not fully understand.
 - A. Some places the ten commands must be removed.
 - B. Other places they stay put--remove if trying to teach religion. What does this mean?
 - C. I know we had the liberty of a great VBS.
 1. Taught there is one God.
 2. He had one begotten Son.
 3. He speaks to us in one Book.
 - a) Not R.C. additions.
 - b) Not Koran
 - c) Not Book of Mormons
 - d) All this a protected, national liberty.
 - e) Pray for the continuation of this liberty.
 - D. Added to this was my Power for Today assignment -- portions of Psalm 33.
 1. Praise is comely.
 2. Under David used instruments but silent about it today.
 3. Principles electrifying.

III. Because of the appropriateness of V-12 on this holiday eve, I want to use this Psalm as our lesson.

A. Appropriately a new son--loudly raised as the Psalms moves to great thought.

B. We find:

1. V-4 Word is right--God moves in truth.
2. V-5 Blesses the whole earth via righteousness, judgment, goodness.
 - a) God knows what He wants of us.
 - b) That spirit is abundantly abounding.
3. V-6 Tells how this earth came into existence. Heb. 1:3; Heb. 11:3
 - a) Word is powerful--words make a difference.
 - b) Even his breath--we blow soap bubbles.
 - c) See his power - V-7. He did not create earth and leave it unattended.
4. Appropriate we fear him - V-8,9.
5. None equal to God and he easily disposes of them, V-10.
6. He alone is eternal, V-11.

IV. Here's what I want us to see.

V-12 Blessed is the nation whose God is love.

A. These points:

1. God's counsel stands--not man's.
2. He calls for human responsibility.
3. Eye is on man--omnipresent, omniscient.
 - a) He sees.
 - b) Has perfect knowledge.
 - c) Calls us to proper behavior.
 - d) Acts out of love.
 - e) Four all's (v.13-15) - knows what we need.
 - f) No heart can hide from him.
 - g) No response but obedience is proper.
 - h) No force: multitude, horse, kings equal to him.
4. Hope and trust due him.
5. His goodness ever passes by.

Exo. 33:19

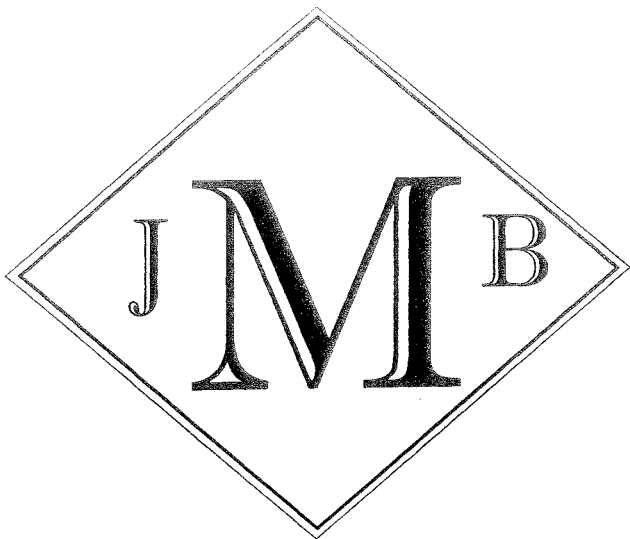
6. Enemy hurts (Matt. 13:28).

Neely's Bend C/C 7/3/05

Heritage C/C 7/3/05

He who, from zone to zone,
Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight,
In the long way that I must tread alone
Will lead my steps aright.

W. C. Bryant



BUT WEREN'T THERE INSTRUMENTS IN O.T.?

Ps. 33:1-

I. One of the most difficult things for our religious neighbors to see is our opposition to Instrumental Music.

A. "Everybody does it"--not so.

B. "It's always been"--not so.

C. "They had it in the Old Testament--did God change His mind for the New?" and this compounds the problem--tho many things from slaughter of babies to ashes of Red Heifer were vogue to be done away with.

D. But I'd like us to study this problem as it concerns many--and some of our own preachers seem unconvinced.

E. The study of Ps. 33 will put it in focus.

II. The Opening Sentence

A. Call to Worship.

1. Worship is indispensable in the full complete exercise of Christian fellowship.

2. It should be outward, spiritual, hearty, joyful, collective, public.

Acts. 4:24

3. Above from P.C.

4. So the answer is not absence from worship but proper compliance--it's not found in "then just don't assemble."

B. Rejoice in the Lord.

1. To rejoice in temporal conflicts is dangerous.

2. To rejoice in self is foolish.
 3. To rejoice in sin is fatal.
 4. To rejoice in the Lord is heavenly.
(Spurgeon)
 5. Word rejoice is from "dance for joy."
- C. It is for the righteous to do it which, being righteous is our first duty.
- D. Praise is comely.
1. God has an eye to things that are becoming and praise is one of them.
 2. "It becometh well the just to be thankful."
- E. Praise should come from the Upright-- now down wrong.
1. Praise is not comely for any but the righteous.
 2. When life dishonors God they cannot praise Him.
 3. The godly are the only fit choirsters of God.

Isa. 56:3

4. Crooked hearts make crooked music.

III. The Next Sentence--v.2.

A. Praise the Lord with Harp.

1. 7 reasons to Praise Him.
 - a) Word is right, no contradictions, law is just, holy, good.

Rom. 7:12

- b) Works done in truth--can be thoroughly trusted.
- c) He loves righteousness and judgement--judgement carries out the righteous acts.

- d) By his word were the heavens made--praised for his goodness and his greatness--made (created) by the Word--2nd person of Godhead.

John 1:3

Heb. 1:2

Heb. 1:10

All done by mere utterance without any mechanical means.

- e) Host of heaven by breath of mouth, by simple utterance of his command.
- f) Gathered waters as a heap--retention of sea in one convex mass.
- g) Lays deep in storehouse--stored up in huge ocean cavities for his own use--yet will not destroy us with water. (PC)
2. Praise though not to be left to a handful of choirsters or only excellent voices--but to the upright.
3. Praise with the Harp.
- a) An instrument under the Old Testament dispensation.
- b) First mention of instrument under Psalms (One P.B. lady said "wish he had not done it"--that's no answer--it's there.
- c) Answer not "David's intervention" or Amos take away noise of viols--flat out--it's there!

- d) Distinctive instrument--nearly triangular frame, crossed by 7 strings.
- e) Egypt had on 6' tall, broad base, 22 strings.
- f) Sing to Him with lute of 10 strings as David used all he had.

4. Sing to Him

- a) Sweetest king of music.
- b) No instrument like the human voice.
- c) Keys and strings do not praise the Lord.
- d) Singing is the music of nature--
Mountains sing--Isa. 55:12
Valleys--Ps. 65:13
Trees--1 Chron. 16:33
Jesus--Matt. 26:30
Heaven--Rev. 5:11
- e) Him--all to Him.
 - (1) Are we mindful of our direction?
 - (2) Don't run in old groove without that thought.
 - (3) David 10 strings--must have full octave and beyond--all notes are his.

B. Is there an answer as men of all ages wrestle with problem.

1. No NT usage for 600 years.
2. Catholics finally authorized it.
3. Why were they hesitant and how did early folk feel about its usage?

C. Ancient Statements

1. Israel was at school, used childish things to help her learn, but in the days when Jesus gives us spiritual manhood, we can make melody without strings and pipes.
2. We do not believe these things to be expedient in worship lest they should mar its simplicity.
3. We do not affirm them to be unlawful--we do not need them, they would hinder rather than help our praise, but if others are likewise minded are they not living in gospel liberty? (Spurgeon)
4. Early church with one accord rejected instruments.
5. Thomas Aquinas, "Our churches do not use musical instruments."
6. Chrysostom: "It was only permitted to the Jews. God condescended to their weakness because they were lately drawn off from idols. Instead of organs we use bodies to praise God."
7. Justin Martyn: "The use of singing with instrumental music was not received in Christian churches."
8. But the answer comes to me, "where was it ever authorized for today-- give me just one Scripture."

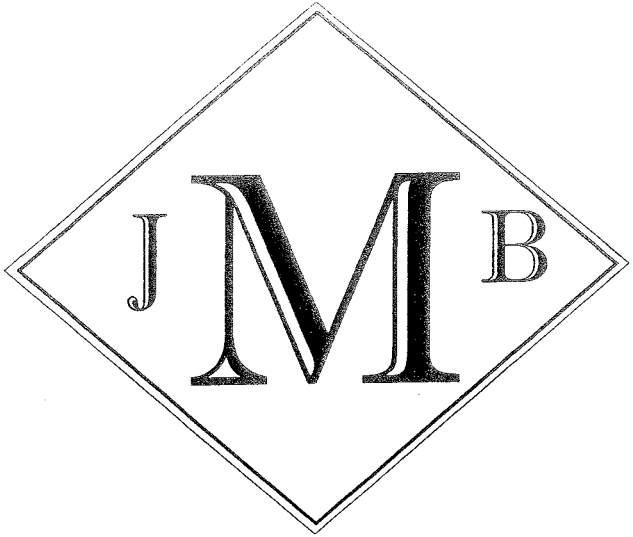
IV. Move to v-3

A. Sing to Him New Song.

1. Make every hymn of praise a new song.
2. Keep freshness in worship.
3. Wretched to hear God praised in a slovenly manner.
4. He deserves our best and new is that.
5. Don't offend with hard tunes growled out by discordant voices.
(Spurgeon)
6. New result of repeat benefits.
7. New--fresh & full of life.
8. New--not common.
9. Seeing God's grace never waxes old.
10. Not an easy matter to praise God aright.
11. Maintain freshness of our devotion.
12. Worship calls for freshness, skill, heartiness.
13. New--not necessarily new but fresh from singer's heart.

B. Play skillfully with loud noise.

1. Use decided ability.
2. Loud
 - a) Heartiness should be conspicuous in worship.
 - b) Men shout at the sight of their Kings--shall we offer no loud hosannahs to the Son of David?



LIFE'S MOST VALUABLE LESSON

Ps. 34:11-14

- I. We've all heard many speeches.
 - A. Easiest way to stay awake - deliver it.
 - B. IRS says No-Doz tablets taken during sermon are not deductible as a charitable deduction.
- II. May I tell you of life's grandest lesson? (Seems strange to find it in 4 verses when some spend 4 yrs. in college to get it!)

Ps. 34:11-14 "Come, ye children, hearken unto me:

 - A. Come, children (as abrupt as a slammed door).
 1. Leave your play, lay by your toys & hear - Spurgeon.
 2. Call to reality - more ye to learn to become a real man!
 - a.) McGavran - "We also trust" #1.
 - b.) Hasting - Uranium #2.
 - c.) Reagan - sportscaster - actor - Pres.
worry if Cosell takes up acting.
 - B. I will teach you the Fear of the Lord.
 - 1.) Nature of true religion.
 - 2.) Call to all of a teachable spirit.
 - a.) McGavran #3.
 - b.) Mullens - Violin #4.
 - 3.) Fear of the Lord.

Prov. 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge"

Ps. 16:11 "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand is help for ever"

 - a.) Learn not all at once but by careful, continuous study.

- b.) More to come - Krutza #5.
- c.) Learn by hearing & observing.
- d.) Could have taught harp, shepherding, spear, sword, bow, state policy but rather fear of the Lord.
- e.) 3 ft. ball squads: offense, defense, & 1 to attend class.
- f.) Columbia test #6.
- g.) Principle as irrevocable as a haircut.

III. What spirit Need I Have to Get the Lesson?

Ps. 34:12 "What man is he that desireth life, & loveth

A. I must want more than existence.

1. Benefits of life not length, but usage.

2. Some who live longest live least.

3. All he ever did was grow old & look how long it took him to do it.

4. Barclay on Time #7.

B. Life to be good must have happiness via accomplish

1. Card on Terms of Years #8.

2. Card on Work & Dr. Martin #9.

IV. What are the Secrets of the Good Life.

Ps. 34:13-14 "Keep thy tongue from evil

1 Pet. 3:10-11 "For he that will love life &

A. Keep Tongue from Evil.

1. Pulpit Comm. selected Ps. sins of tongue.

Ps. 57:4 "Their tongue is a sharp sword.

Ps. 5:9 "Their throat is an open...they flatter.

Ps. 10:7 "Their mouth is full of cursing, deceit, fraud.

Ps. 12:3 "The Lord shall cut off the t. ... that s. pro

Ps. 15:3 "He that backbiteth not c his tongue

Psa. 73:8-9 "They are corrupt & speak wickedly

2. Great men have trouble c tongue.

a.) Moses.

Psa. 106:33 "He spoke unadvisedly c his lips

b.) Job - (Lord said to him).

Job 38:2 "Darkeneth counsel by words w/o kn.

c.) Peter.

Matt. 16:23 "Get thee behind me, Satan.

B. Lips from guile.

1. Lord Melbourne, "Religion is all right so long as it does not interfere with a man's private life!"

Nonsense

2. List of folks to bite.

3. Daniel Webster #11.

4. Some as restless as windshield wiper.

C. Depart from Evil.

1. Negatively - break no law of God.

2. Evidently evil is near men - it keeps close - shun it.

3. Seek to do nothing wrong.

a.) Hammorskjold.

b.) Road Blocks - Lions #12.

4. Evil doers by contrast will become as if they never existed! (V. 16)

a.) Dobson - Proverb #13.

b.) As frustrated as a termite in a yo-yo.

D. Do Good.

1. Positive - Practice Virtue.

2. Present World is only one in which we can serve

God, overcome evil & convert sinners - don't miss it!

- a.) Watkinson "Sunset" #14.
- b.) Nietzsche, "Show me that you are redeemed & then I will believe in your Redeemer."
- c.) Our life is not suspended half way between heaven & earth, like Mohammed's coffin, touching neither.

3. Discharge every holy duty - do good!

- a.) Christianity's done wonderful things #15.
- b.) Any hope #16.
- c.) Fosdick - Chemical Man #17.
- d.) Royal Navy regulation "No officer shall speak to any other officer discouragingly in the performance of his duty."
- e.) Christian certainty #18.
- f.) The church #19.
- g.) Do good by stealth & blush to find it fame.
Alex Pope

E. Seek Peace & Pursue It.

- 1. "Christianity is not a dream but a life; it is not a conception but a character" Bennett.
- 2. "For the maintenance of peace, nations should avoid the pin-pricks which forerun cannon-shots Napoleon to Czar Alexander"
- 3. Tom Dewey #20.
- 4. Harlow poem #21.
- 5. Cyprian's letter #22.

Oklahoma Christian College Commencement 4-24-81

We also ~~trust that readers themselves will~~ examine the #1
Scriptures in the light of today, in the midst of this pluralistic
confusion which asserts so loudly, "God has not spoken. Each
man and each culture is the final authority. Right is what 51%
of the people vote for. If it feels good, do it. Let everyone do
his own thing." To us, that dogma is foolish and utterly opposed
to God's Word.

"Back To Basics in Church Growth" - By Donald McGavran and
Win Arn

Page 20

To show that we often overlook the real value of a person #2
product, or idea, note the definition of uranium which appeared
in a 1945 dictionary. It defined uranium--now recognized as
having tremendous value--as "a white, heavy, metallic substance
that has no apparent value." Compare Matthew 21:42, "The stone
which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the
corner." A small amount of creative imagination can develop a
powerful illustration of the unseen and unappropriated power
available in Christ.

"A Word Fitly Spoken" - By Robert J. Hastings - Page 93

X
"Ronald Reagan went from sportscaster to actor to president, which should make us all worry if Howard Cosell ever takes up acting." — Bob Talbert in *Detroit Free Press*.

If any one believes in his own reason as ultimate authority, he will not become a Christian. If he believes in God's Word as ultimate authority, then he will become a Christian.

#13

"Back To Basics in Church Growth" — By Donald McGavran and Win Arn

Page 54

all alike will have to give up thinking in feet & miles & begin to think in liters & kilometers. All alike will be molded by educational standards laid down by the state. Many Christians are unhappy at this last one. They see their children being conformed to the image which pleases a secular state and a dollar dominated television industry. A 8

X
One university football team is going to try out the three-squad system this year. One will play offense. The second will play defense. And the third squad will attend class.

The violin can cause great agony in the early stages. When a child announces the desire to learn this instrument, parents may hear, in their mind's ear, the melodic sounds of the next Jascha Heifetz or Yehudi Menuhin. What they get, however, is a reminder that violin playing at its fundamental level is a process of pulling the hairs of a horse's tail across the intestines of a dead cat. At times, in fact, one gets the impression the cat is still alive!

Seriously, Life is a Laughing Matter by
Tom Mullen p. 59.

KNOWLEDGE—I Q Tests—27 #6

Dr Large of Columbia Univ, using the same achievement tests which were used with pupils of an earlier era, tested their children in certain academic knowledges and skills. In every test the children received higher scores than their parents. The average pupil today knows more, is able to comprehend more, and can acquire knowledge more quickly than we did when we were his age. — HOWARD SEYMOUR, "Disease of Prejudice Needs Proper Cure: Education," *American School Board Jnl.*

July 24, 1966

LOVE—33

No one is altogether lovable. A love that is worth talking about must include forbearance, tolerance, forgiveness. One man said: "You know, our marriage has improved since two bears moved into our house: 'Forbear one another in love'—'Forbear one another's faults'." We need this forbearance because of our many imperfections. Dr Ernest Jones, world famous psychoanalyst, was once asked his definition of a normal person. Said he: "I have never seen one."—Rev C A McClain, "Love and the Banana Fish," *Pulpit Digest*.

Here are some odd facts!

Breakfast time takes ten minutes (I guess!)

Lunch time takes twenty minutes.

Teatime takes another twenty minutes.

Supper adds ten minutes more.

In other words, you spend one hour in a normal day just eating.

Or seven hours a week.

So we spend about fifteen days a year just eating!

If you live to be seventy, you will have spent three years just eating.

(Art Donovan, former 310# Packer on Colt defensive lineman described self as light eater "as soon as it's light I start to eat")

What about sleeping?

Eight hours a night--on average (it's more at your age but it gets less, hence the average) i.e., a third of each full day of twenty-four hours. Or in seventy years life, about twenty-four years asleep!

#7
Time

No wonder tempus fugit! So much of it is just eating and sleeping!

We must use our non-eating, non-sleeping time well.

How?

Learning! About life and the one without whom life is meaningless--God.

Read I Samuel 3:1-10

"Marching Orders" - By William Barclay - Page 15

You cannot measure the value of a life in terms of years.

Think on these people--some of whom I have mentioned to you already.

Alexander the Great died at 33.

John Keats the poet died at 26.

Another poet, Rupert Brooke, died at 28.

Franz Schubert, the great musician, died at 31.

Mozart, that other great musician, died at 36.

#8

"Marching Orders" - By William Barclay - Page 80

I would miss work.

#9

Dr. Hugh Martin once wrote that the saddest words in all Shakespeare are: "Othello's occupation's gone."

John Wesley prayed the famous prayer: "Let me not live to be useless."

To lose work is tragedy.

That is why redundancy and unemployment can be a very terrible thing to happen to a man--or woman.

"Marching Orders" - By William Barclay - Page 185

#10

The situation was desperate. The woman had been bitten by a rabid dog and the doctors were not certain that they had begun treatment in time.

After consultation, they came into the room and told her the plain truth — that she might develop hydrophobia — that her chances were pretty bad.

Instead of seeming to be upset at the news, she asked for a pen and paper and began to write at great length. After an hour of steady writing, a nurse asked her, "What are you writing? Is it you will or a letter to your family?"

"No," said the woman. "It's a list of people I'm going to see."

#11

Knowledge does not comprise all which is contained in the large term of education. The feelings are to be disciplined; the passions are to be restrained; true and worthy motives are to be inspired; a profound religious feeling is to be instilled, and pure morality inculcated under all circumstances in education. → DANIEL WEBSTER.

X

Road blocks are there to be circumvented--or dynamited. A movement started by the Crucifixion cannot be stopped by inconveniences. As in "Pilgrim's Progress", lions in the way deter the faint-hearted, but sturdy pilgrims walk right past the lions--and find them chained.

#12

"Back To Basics in Church Growth" - By Donald McGavran and Win Arn

Page 99

Dag Hammarskjöld, former Sec-General of the UN wrote in "Meditations": "In our age the road to holiness necessarily passes thru the world of action."

A very old proverb reads, "No one can stand the awful knowledge that he is not needed." What wisdom is recorded in that phrase! It is not uncommon for a man to develop major illnesses within a few months following his retirement. Just knowing that his job is finished often accelerates the process of deterioration. A well known physician-author stated recently that a man who believes he has no further worth or purpose in living will be dead in eighteen months. Likewise, the most rebellious hostile teen-agers are usually those who are bitterly disappointed with who they are and what they are becoming.

#13

What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women - Dobson P. 24-25

W. L. Watkinson tells how he was walking along the promenade in Brighton with his little grandson. They met an older minister who was sadly disgruntled. Nothing in this world was right; everything and everybody was all wrong; and to make matters worse he was suffering from a slight touch of sunstroke. #14

The little grandson had been silently listening. When they had left the gloom-stricken old man and walked on for a short distance, the little grandson looked up at W. L. Watkinson and said, "Grand dad, I hope that you never suffer from a sunset."

"Marching Orders" - By William Barclay - Page 165

THANKS TO CHRISTIANITY

Hasn't Christianity brought about wonderful things? #45

For example this.

There was no such thing as a hospital until Christianity came. The care of the aged, the sick and the poor began as Christian undertakings.

Aristotle, the Greek philosopher, said when laying down the law for his "ideal state"; "Let there be a law that no deformed child shall be reared."

The writer Varro in giving rules for farming, advises that any aged slave who is past working, should be thrown out and left to die--as if he were a broken implement.

Look what happened in Nazi Germany. Christianity was banished: the aged died in gas chambers: Jews were tortured; the

poor and the sick were used for medical experiments.

We ought to be grateful for Christianity!

"Marching Orders" - By William Barclay - pp. 77-78

Socialism, capitalism, communism, monarchies, oligarchies, and dictatorships have never produced one sinless day. Since Eden, all man's efforts to regain paradise have been marked by failure. The common man through all these centuries of human history is "bone weary" of talk and promises. He has died in wars not knowing why he fought. He has watched the rich eat meat while he ate bread and wondered why. He has watched his wife and children die for need of medicine that only the rich could get and cursed the inequities of life. Is there any hope?

"People-Centered Evangelism" - By John F. Havlik - Page 87

Here are three very important questions:

Where do I come from?

Where am I going?

How do I get there?

Where do I come from?

#17

Dr. H. E. Fosdick, the noted American preacher, once gave the "chemical" analysis of a man. "In a man there is enough fat to make seven bars of soap; enough iron to make a medium-sized nail; enough lime to whitewash a henhouse; enough sugar to fill a sugar-sifter; enough magnesium for a dose of magnesia; enough potassium to explode a toy cannon; enough phosphorus to tip 2,200 matches; and a very little sulphur."

That is one answer to the question!

But Christians want to say more than this. They say that all life, including human life, comes from God. It is not a collection of

chemical elements. It is not a chance conglomeration. It is a gift of God.

Do you agree?

"Marching Orders" - By William Barclay - Pp. 112-113


It is still a main secret of growth today. Church growth #18 rises from theological roots, from Christian certainty. People of unshakable conviction can profitably employ many insights from the social sciences and from communication and management, but without certainty all human resources suddenly become mere methods. Without certainty all the swords of the church suddenly become wooden.

"Back To Basics in Church Growth" - By Donald McGavran and Win Arn

The church is never a place, but always a people; never a fold but always a flock, never a sacred building but always a^{#19} believing assembly. The church is you who pray, not where you pray. A structure of brick or marble can no more be a church than your clothes of serge or satin can be you. There is in this world nothing sacred but man, no sanctuary of God but the soul.

Anonymous

"People-Centered Evangelism" - ^By John F. Havlik
Page 47



Our problem is within ourselves. We have found the means to blow the world physically apart. Spiritually, we have yet to find the means to put together the world's broken pieces.

— *Thomas E. Dewey* #20

#21

Who is so low that I am not his brother?
Who is so high that I've no path to him?
Who is so poor that I may not feel his hunger?
Who is so rich I may not pity him?
Who is so hurt I may not know his heartache?
Who sings for joy my heart may never share?
Who in God's heaven has passed beyond my vision?
Who to hell's depths where I may never fare?

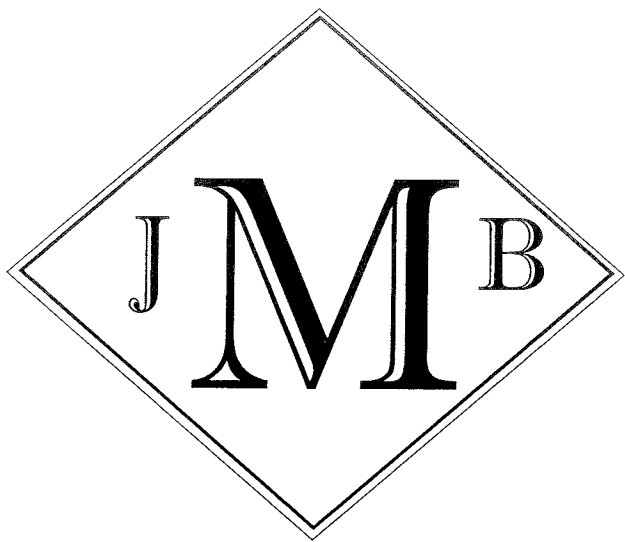
May none, then, call on me for understanding,
May none, then, turn to me for help in pain,
And drain alone his bitter cup of sorrow,
Or find he knocks upon my heart in vain.

S. Ralph Harlow

A LETTER WRITTEN in 250 A.D. by Cyprian of Carthage in North Africa to his friend Donatus:

#22

"This seems a cheerful world, Donatus, when I view it from this fair garden under the shadow of these vines. But, if I climb some great mountain and look out over the wide lands, you know very well what I'd see -- brigands on the road, pirates on the high seas, in the amphitheatres men murdering each other to please applauding crowds, under all roofs misery and selfishness. It is really a bad world. Yet, in the midst of it, I found a quiet and holy people. They have discovered a joy which is a thousand times better than all the pleasure of this sunful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. These people, Donatus, are Christians, and I am now one of them."



AN EVIL MAN; A GOOD GOD; A PRAYER

Psalms 36

I. Title of lesson really outlines the Psalm.

A. One of contrasts:

1. Extreme wickedness of depraved men.
2. Inexhaustible fullness of love of God who is faithful and righteous.
3. Then a prayer to Him.

B. Division

1. V. 1-4
2. 5-9
3. 10-12

C. No historical reference to its time of writing by David.

D. Lesson:

1. Miserable state of wicked.
2. Grandeur of God.
3. Ever the need of prayer.

II. The Wicked Man

A. Transgression Personified.

1. Difficult translation but here RSV is good.

"Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart"

2. We'll see transgressor's heart turned inside out.
3. It's personified and utters its counsel to men.

B. It speaks.

1. Saith - oracle.
 - a) Enthroned.
 - b) Speaks with authority.
2. Hears a voice but not of proper conscience or duty.
3. No regard for oracles of God--has his own set.

4. Greg Dwyer, Pueblo, Colorado, told me he felt he was his own master till converted--met wife in bar who wanted a relationship with men.
5. We dislike anything governing us.

Ps. 12:14

2:3

C. Speaks Inwardly.

1. In the interior of my own heart.
2. Thinks his wickedness is known only to himself--all locked up in the recesses of his heart.
3. Remember God sees & describes this heart.
4. Man begins to think God is like himself.

III. This Describes Further the Wicked Man.

A. No fear of God before his eyes.

1. First of several terrible negations.
 - a) No desire for God's approval.
 - b) Loses respect for man--no desire for excellency if God is absent.
 - c) Abhors not evil.
2. Remember Divine vengeance only tarries.
3. Has no dread of God.
4. Thinks God impotent to deal with evil.
5. Why act prudently if never called to give account.
6. Unholiness is clear evidence of ungodliness.
7. When man has no fear of God he is prepared for any crime.

B. Flatters himself in own eyes.

1. Thinks he can conceal his sin from God so that God will neither discover or hate it.
2. He counts himself a fine fellow.
3. Considers servants of God narrow-minded.
4. Flatters self:
 - a) No such thing as another world.
 - b) My death a long way off so plenty more opportunities.
 - c) Lead life good enough to be rewarded.
 - d) I'm advantaged--like in Bible belt.
 - e) Good future intentions.
 - f) I'm already a Christian (J. Edwards)

Clip
"Is son there?" #1

Rev. 3:17

C. Words are iniquity & deceit.

1. Power to say NO is the positive test of character.
2. Goodness is an uphill battle.
3. Note progression: thought, word, deed

D. Left off to be wise & do good.

1. His own "wisdom" blinds.
2. Doesn't know really what good is.

E. Devises Mischief in his bed.

1. In the night when he should be repenting or sleeping he lies awake to devise evil.
2. Bed palace of plotting.
3. Devil his bedfellow.

TIP
Tipton #2
story

F. Sets Self in a Way Not Good.

1. No longer matters if a thing is good or bad.

2. Guilt means debt.
3. Redemption is payment of debt.
4. Many degrees of it:
 - a) Weakling
 - b) Misled
 - c) Backslider
 - d) Reprobate--past feeling.

G. Abhors Not Evil

1. Becomes completely wicked.
2. Determined to do evil.
3. We must hate sin--are we today more benevolent but also more tolerant of sin?
4. Do we really oppose it?
5. Do we feel it's not as great & God is softer?

Ps. 97:10 "Ye that love God hate evil"

6. Evil in thought & deed.
7. Plants his foot in an evil way.
8. To know the disease is a step toward its cure.
9. To go wrong--just yield "give way"--British sign.
10. Rottenness smells sooner or later--as airline lost box of fresh fish. You'll find it!

IV. Now we move to description of God's characteristics.

A. But 1st --

1. Learn the lesson to stop viewing evil & see God.
2. Fix your mind on Him and be enriched.

3. Similar to Ps. 57:10; 108:4.
4. Shortly will come some of the greatest words in O.T.

B. Of His characteristics:

1. Mercy reaches Heaven.

- Love sickness
excuse #3*
- a) 1st principle about Him.
 - b) Shows mercy to earth's men & Heaven's angels.

2. Faithfulness to the clouds.

- a) Fidelity to every promise He's made.
- b) Ever loyal to his people.
- c) His truth ever consistent.
- d) Not one thing has failed of all he's promised.
- e) Like the ethereal blue it encompasses the whole earth.

3. Righteousness like great mountains.

- a) Righteousness by His standards.
- b) Never affected by circumstances to any degree.
- c) Like mountains--lofty & sublime.
- d) Like mountains--dependable--
reason for ~~Nomad~~ **NORAD**

4. Judgements a great deep.

- a) Judgements are past finding out.
- b) Judgements are unsearchable.
- c) Judgements not fathomed by every boaster.
- d) His character like unmovable mts. and unfathomable as the deep.
- e) Cites mightiest things in creation--height & depth.

5. Preserves Man & Beast

- a) His providence great.
- b) We possess but borrowed existence drawn from Him.
- c) He offers protection & supply.
- d) All creatures are fed by hand of God.

6. Loving kindness is excellent.

- a) It's above all expectations.
- b) This is love in action.
- c) Excellent = precious.
- d) King's regalia motley in comparison

Father's
Dad #4
Calls

V. This Causes Things to Happen: Therefore

A. Children of Men Trust

1. It comes naturally & full.
2. Great things of God makes us respond.
3. Lit. flee for refuge.
4. Fly to place of safety.

Phillip Barok's
Pacing #5

Ruth 2:12

B. Satisfied with the Fatness of thy House

1. At peace & rest--full.
2. Fat Jew saw as best part.

C. Drink of River of Pleasure.

1. Made to--one horse that's brought to water & made to drink in gracious provisions.
2. Drink of Eden.
3. Pleasure means Eden.
4. Garden that God planted.

D. Reason for all this--

1. With thee the ft. of life as God is the ultimate source.

2. In thy light we see light.

a) Some things absorb sunlight & glow in the dark.

b) Normally can't see God & live.

Exo. 33:20

Dan. 10:8

c) In our prisons little light--higher we go greater the light as we fly above clouds.

I Tim. 6:16

VI. Then the Rightful Prayer.

A. Continue thy loving kindness to those that know thee.

1. Deal justly with those that are thine.

2. Imperative we be in Him.

B. Continue righteousness to the Upright.

1. We have our part to play.

2. We need to subscribe to His way.

C. Let not foot of pride come against me.

1. Pride can boot me out.

2. Military leaders put ft. on throat of conquered.

*Antiochus
F Herald
F Circle
#6*

D. Let not hand of wicked remove me.

1. Don't let them drive me away.

2. Or exile me.

E. Lastly he sees the downfall of the wicked.

1. Almost as though he saw a vision.

2. We can be confident of the downfall of the wicked.

3. *We will win!*

ANSWERING the phone one evening, I heard a young man say, "Hello, is Jan there?"

"There isn't anyone here by that name," I replied. #1

For a moment there was silence. Then the caller said, "Thanks. I'll try again later."

- Contributed by Ralph Clarke

#2
At Dardanelle, AR, Tip Tipton's wife, school librarian, told me of a little boy, 3rd grade, who kept misbehaving. Finally he was sent to the principal's office. No one had had a lick in a long time. He gave him one swat. The boy almost became hysterical, perhaps his first spanking ever, started rolling in the floor and shouting, "I need to be saved, I need to be saved."

3/2/89

MY HUSBAND and I first met while we were teachers in Idaho. We planned to be married during spring vacation in my hometown in New Mexico. Since we had such a long distance to drive, we wrote a letter to the superintendent of schools asking if we might be granted two days of personal leave in order to make the trip. The superintendent replied that the school board, in determining valid reasons for personal leave, did not include getting married. Since there was no such provision, he went on, he would grant us the two days as medical leave—on the premise that we were both clearly suffering from love-sickness!

—JUDY MORTON (McMinnville, Ore.)



Touching Messages. The Illinois Bell Telephone Co. reports that the volume of long-distance calls made on Father's Day is growing faster than the number on Mother's Day. The company apologized for the delay in compiling the statistics but explained that extra billing of calls to fathers slowed things down. Most of them were "collect."

—UPI

Patience

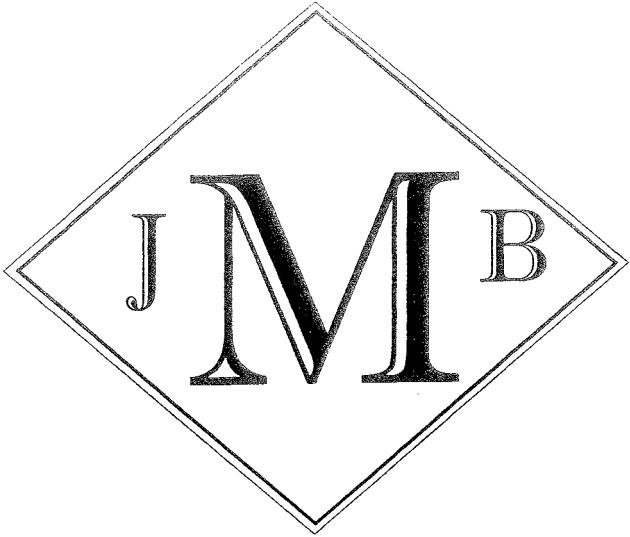
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New England preacher Phillips Brooks was known for his calmness and poise. His intimate friends however, knew ut, too, suffered moments of frustration and irritability. One day a friend saw him pacing the floor like a caged lion. "What is the trouble, Dr. Brooks?" asked the friend. "The trouble is," replied Brooks, "that I'm in a hurry, but God isn't." Have you ever felt that way.

G. S.

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting
P/197-198

When Antiochus of Syria invaded Egypt, the Romans send a herald, to order him to withdraw. Antiochus heard the order and replied that he would consider it. But the herald took the symbol of his office, marked a circle in the sand around Antiochus and said, "Consider and answer before you step out of this circle." This is what Christ demands of us!



THE MARCH OF THE VERBS

Ps. 37:1-7

- I. We read of the march of many things:
 - A. Bands
 - B. Troops
 - C. Flowers
- II. Let me tell you of the march of 4 imperative, impressive verbs.
 - A. Trust
 - B. Delight
 - C. Commit & trust
 - D. Rest & wait
- III. But 1st David gives a difficult assignment.
v-1 "Fret not thyself because of evil"
 - A. But it is so hard not to!
 1. Aristotle said we have special emotions implanted in our nature which causes us to fret when we witness undeserved prosperity.
 2. Evildoer & workers of iniquity will get their comeuppance.

Job 20:5

3. Easy to get upset when you see evil do well.
4. Fret: (worry, fume)
 - a) Like walking of a caged lion.
 - b) Heat in vexation lit.
5. Evil is short-lived.
6. Questions:
 - a) What do you fret about?
 - b) Do you feel yourself put upon?
 - c) Do you feel God can handle it?
7. Evil cut down as one swath with the scythe.

8. Browning Poem:

Me thinks we do as fretful children do
 Leaning their faces on the window pane
 To sigh the glass dim with their own breath's
 stain

And shut the sky & landscape from their view.

9. Evil will fade like the green of
 spring. (NEB)

B. As hard as this is to do he will now
 give you the method.

IV. Our Imperative Verbs

A. Trust in the Lord

v-3 "Trust in the Lord and do good"

1. Faith cures fretting.

2. Trust, as you do the pilot of a
 plane.

3. Note Trust & Do--actively obey.

4. Reward comes:

a) Dwell in the land.

(1) Everybody wants a homeland.

(2) Promised security.

b) Shalt be fed

(1) Fed or shepherded

(2) Feed on trust

(3) Most of the outward depends
 on the inward.

B. Delight

v-4 "Delight thyself also in the Lord"

1. Let the Lord be your delight--his
 wisdom, power, goodness, perpetual
 presence.

2. Thus move from fret to delight.
 Don't brood over injustices.

3. Only as we center in the Lord are desires fulfilled.
4. We are caught between wanting to have what the world offers through greed vs. be what the Lord wants us to be.
5. Words about desire.

"He shall give thee the desire of thy heart"

- a) Eye, ear, imagination bring desire.
- b) Some things we may want may not be permissible to have.
- c) Condition our desires to the tastes of God.
- d) Wouldn't it be great if all I ever want is what God wants!

C. Commit--Trust

v-5 "Commit thy way unto the Lord"

1. Farmer plows, sows, cultivates & leaves harvest to God--we control neither rain nor sun.
2. Don't try to hide anything from God--commit it all to Him.
3. Commit is lit. "Roll". Roll as camel his burden--give ours to the Lord.
4. P.O. can't deliver a letter unless we release it.
5. All have rewards:

v-6 "He shall bring forth thy righteousness"

- a) Night of adversity turned to light of day.
- b) Get interested in the other fellow--it relieves.

D. Rest & Wait

v-7"Rest in the Lord & wait patiently"

1. Waiting is not easy when things seemingly are going wrong.
2. "Be still my soul" song.
3. Leave it to the Lord & wait for Him. (NAB)

V. Thus our assignment

A. Fret not--negative

B. Positive:

Trust -- do good

Delight in the Lord

Commit thy way -- Trust

Rest -- wait

Walnut St., Dickson, TN (BC) - 10/21/90

ON AN Oklahoma car: "GOD IS BACK . . . AND IS HE MAD!"

—Jerry Hopkins, quoted by Troy Gordon in *Tulsa World*

ON OHIO car: "Unemployment Isn't Working."

—George Barmann in *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

A MINISTER, running in a local election, distributed bumper stickers which read: "Get thee behind me."

—Contributed by Wayne C. Johnson

ON A New York City car: "Happiness Is Five Green Lights in a Row."

—Henro Le Troadec, quoted by Robert Sylvester, *Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate*

ON A CAR in Portland, Oregon: "THESE LETTERS SEEM TO BE GETTING LARGER BECAUSE I'M BACKING UP."

—*Funny Funny World*

ON A Pennsylvania car: "Don't you feel silly reading a bumper sticker that doesn't have a message?"

—Meadville, Pa., *Tribune*

MY TWO SONS, ages eight and four, resent their deprived childhood. Although virtually all their friends have seen *Batman* and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, my wife and I cling to the old-fashioned notion that watching one act of violence after another may be harmful to young minds.

Are we being ridiculous? I admit that the Roy Rogers shoot-'em-ups that I saw as a kid didn't warp me for life. But I never saw anything really violent before I could tie my shoelaces, and I still don't have the stomach to watch *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*.

As a teen-ager I thought the Rolling Stones' "Let's Spend the Night Together" was cool. But it's a long way from that to this Guns N' Roses lyric: "Doin' dat grind with a push and squeeze/Tied up, tied down, up against the wall. . ."

I realize that I can shelter my boys for only so long. As they grow older, they will eagerly sample the forbidden fruit. Pop culture and peer pressure may overwhelm my influence.

It is easy to dismiss protests about pop entertainment as prudishness. But there is often little difference between sex and rape in heavy-metal music and the rap recordings of 2 Live Crew. Clearly too much of today's entertainment carries messages that are damaging to young psyches and dangerous to society. Among them: 1) women are sexual objects to be used and abused by

No society can survive if its only rule is "Anything goes"

Let's Get Tough on Pop Sex and Violence

Condensed from TIME
CHARLES P. ALEXANDER

men; 2) violence is an effective means of resolving conflicts.

Parents would not be so upset if the sex and violence were confined to the screen and stereo. But our children are at risk in the real world. While the teen-age population is dwindling, the number of murders and brutal rapes committed by juveniles is on the rise. There are many reasons for teen-age crime, but who can say for sure that violent entertainment is not a contributing factor?

Last year in New Jersey five middle-class teens were indicted for molesting a 17-year-old mental-

ly impaired girl in the presence of eight friends. Were these boys all psychologically disturbed, or were they acting "normally" in a culture where sexual violence is deemed tolerable, even entertaining?

Whenever parents raise these questions, the entertainment industry invokes the evil specter of censorship. But who really believes that there should be no censorship whatsoever? Should hard-core pornography be allowed on network TV? No society can survive if its only rule is "Anything goes."

No one is suggesting that police root out every raunchy record from store shelves. There will always be filth on the fringes of entertainment. The problem arises when filth becomes mainstream—when it is mass-marketed.

A few corporations, including Disney, Fox, MCA, Paramount, Time Warner and Sony, produce a huge proportion of our children's entertainment. These companies

should take the lead in setting standards. How? Perhaps some rock groups should lose their well-financed promotional campaigns.

Entertainment firms have a responsibility to society that must be balanced with their mission to maximize profits. Parents are now beginning to give media executives a warning: "Make your marketing decisions more responsibly, or we will get governments to make them for you."

Can the media companies mend their ways without government interference? There is certainly a precedent for it. In the 1960s and '70s, much entertainment, from Beatles music to the movies *Easy Rider* and *M*A*S*H**, glamorized drug use. Nowadays the message that children receive from entertainment is strong and unambiguous: taking drugs is dangerous and foolish. I hope that the future messages my two boys receive about sex and violence make just as much sense.

Reprints of this article are available. See page 198.

Revised Versions

A bird in the hand is the best way to eat chicken.

—Charles J. Milazzo in Seminole, Fla., *Beacon*

People who live in glass houses need a cleaning lady who does windows.

—Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate

A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever.

—R. G. Menon

Nothing is certain except death and taxes.

—Herb Caen in *San Francisco Chronicle*

Hell hath no fury like the lawyer of a woman scorned.

—"Graffiti," Tribune Media Services

COMMENTARY

BY LARRY W. POLAND

Persecution

Christians may be the most widely hated and persecuted people on earth, enduring everything from limitations on freedoms and civil rights to attempts to suppress or eradicate their faith.

In this country, the persecution takes the form of verbal abuse in the media and from anti-Christian groups and organizations. It's present in the courts and even in our schools.

The verbal attacks come from the homosexual and lesbian communities, the proabortion community, radical civil libertarians, the pornography industry, TV and film industries and the political left.

Pornographic publications are the nation's leading forum for anti-Christian propaganda. But mainstream film and TV producers are becoming overtly anti-Christian as well. Universal Pictures, which released the blasphemous *Last Temptation of Christ*, is said to be considering "dozens" of scripts with anti-Christian themes. Cinecom Entertainment released *The Handmaid's Tale*, a film about "fundamentalists" who overthrow the government and send "unbelievers" and minorities to work camps.

Movies such as this make it socially acceptable to hate Christians through the suggestion they want to ruthlessly suppress and persecute non-Christians.

But, it's not just the entertainment media that's fueling the fires of anti-Christian sentiment in this country. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) pursues an unceasing campaign of legal terrorism against Christians, and Christian symbols and practices in public life. For example, in mid-1988 the

ACLU wrote to the California Assembly Education Committee, opposing a proposed sex education bill.

"It is our position," the ACLU said, "that teaching that monogamous, heterosexual intercourse within marriage is a traditional American value is an unconstitu-



Larry Poland

tional establishment of a religious doctrine in public schools."

Of even more concern is anti-Christian litigation being proposed by the American Bar Association. Last year during a San Francisco seminar sponsored by the ABA's division for professional education, attorneys were trained in the "Expanding Use of Tort Law Against Religions," and "Tort Law as an Ideological Weapon." A brochure promoted the seminar for "attorneys who want to be on the leading edge of an explosive new area of

law." A selling point was that attorneys could make good money using this ideological weapon against churches and religious organizations.

The persecution is spreading to colleges around the country. In a practice not that uncommon, university professors who are Christian are being denied tenure—and soon graduate students may be denied fellowships and degrees—for taking public stands for Christian values or holding biblical views on everything from sexual morality to marriage and family, from the origins of earth and man to catastrophism.

In a speech before the Iowa Academy of Sciences, Dr. John Patterson of Iowa State recommended faculty contracts held by creationists be cancelled, and their degrees taken away.

The mood is increasingly ugly. Unless we make every effort to preserve our religious freedom, the present social momentum indicates that overt persecution of believers will be common very soon. Our churches will be desecrated and worship services disrupted—something already happening with alarming frequency.

But marvelous promises from our Lord assure us that through it all we can emerge victorious—if we keep our eyes on Jesus and our hearts and lifestyles pure. His protection and defense will be ours. Persecution throughout church history has meant purification, purification has meant power, and power has meant victory. ■

Larry W. Poland is director of ministries at Trinity Evangelical Free Church, Redlands, Calif., and founder and president of Mastermedia International Inc.



Most reporters liked Ronald Reagan, but not his policies. Most don't like God or his policies.

community you have opportunities to meet journalists—probably more opportunities than in the big media power centers.

Perhaps a reporter or editor from your local newspaper, radio or TV stations is a member of the Rotary Club or another civic organization. Perhaps they attend only sporadically to write about a guest speaker. Christians who attend these meetings can make a point of getting to know them. Eventually, you may have an opportunity to invite them home for dinner. It's not necessary to validate yourself as a Christian on the first meeting by stuffing a tract into their pocket. I've known some people for two or three years before they've been open to a presentation of the Gospel. That opportunity has come only because I first demonstrated love.

One reason for a communications gap between most people and the communications industry is that many people don't understand journalists or journalism. I'm critical of my profession, and the way it deliberately misrepresents the Christian faith and those who share it. But some of this is our own fault.

Too many Christians live as practical atheists. I'll never forget something Madalyn Murray O'Hair once told me during an interview. I asked why so many Christians were afraid of her. She said, "They're not sure what they believe is true. If they did, I wouldn't be a threat to them."

I thought, and still think, that an incredibly profound statement. We're so unsure about God's ability to control and direct events we're threatened that a newspaper, which will be in the trash by tomorrow morning, or a TV news program, which will be forgotten 20 minutes after it's off the air, will somehow replace the God of the universe. The media isn't more powerful than the Spirit of God.

Despite the distortion of Christian values, I'm not discouraged because the outcome isn't in doubt. Only followers of Christ have such blessed assurance. God doesn't look down from heaven, shake his head and say, "I don't know whether I'm going to prevail. Look at all those terri-

ble things happening on earth."

What ought to disturb us even more than the abortion statistics, the number of people on drugs, and crime and divorce rates is our own lack of spiritual conditioning. A Gallup Poll reported only 11 percent of Christians read their Bibles every day. That's a scandal. It's also the reason the church has no real power. We're biblically illiterate. We don't have the mind of Christ, and that's why we don't have the power of Christ.

Imagine if only 11 percent of Christians ate regularly. Believers at least would be visible, because they'd look malnourished. It's possible to be spiritually dead, and project health and a conditioned physique.

Too many of us are on cruise control. We're set at a comfortable speed, and are coasting through life on the way to heaven. For us, sacrifice means missing the opening kickoff of our favorite NFL football team because the sermon runs 10 minutes long.

I believe if we take God and his commands seriously, if we're obedient to Christ, if we're faithful in the small things, God will be pleased to give us charge over larger things. But he's not going to revise the priority.

If we commit ourselves to Christ and our spouse and children, if we read the Bible regularly and pray, we'll have the kind of spiritual power even the biased press cannot ignore. In that case, it really won't matter whether we have the approval of the press at all, for we'll have the approval of God. In the end, that's all that matters anyway, but along the way we can and will make an impact that even cynical, skeptical journalists will notice.

How do I know? Because they come to dinner at my house, and we talk about God, and because one of them—a few months before she died—received Jesus Christ as her Saviour, and is in heaven with him. Does anything matter more? ■

Contributing editor Cal Thomas' latest book is *Uncommon Sense: A Layman's Briefing Book on the Issues* (Wolgemuth & Hyatt).

the most intolerant and close-minded people you'll meet. Once Christians live their faith in the marketplace—whether it's trying to influence TV programming or running for the local school board—they're bombarded with anti-Christian bigotry.

Secular Sermons

Many fundamentalist and evangelical Christians have stayed away from vocations in the entertainment media; they say it's the devil's playground. But our separateness has only helped poison the industry. And now the industry tries to keep the door closed to those with a Christian perspective.

It's easy to understand why. The real televangelists aren't people like Billy Graham or Jerry Falwell. They're people like Norman Lear of the left-wing *People for the American Way* and producer of such influential shows as "All In The Family," along with other faceless preachers whose message is derision of Christian values. Alan Alda of the TV program, "MASH," said "The less obvious the message, the more effective it is." They preach their message over TV every day, using music and canned laughter to make it more effective.

These people have an agenda they're preaching every night, a fact left-wing actor Ed Asner admits. Asner, one of Hollywood's strongest supporters of communists in Central America, told Iowa State students that 75 percent of Americans form their

opinions from TV. A primetime show reaches as many as 40 million people, he said, and "has the power to disturb and overthrow any given social order."

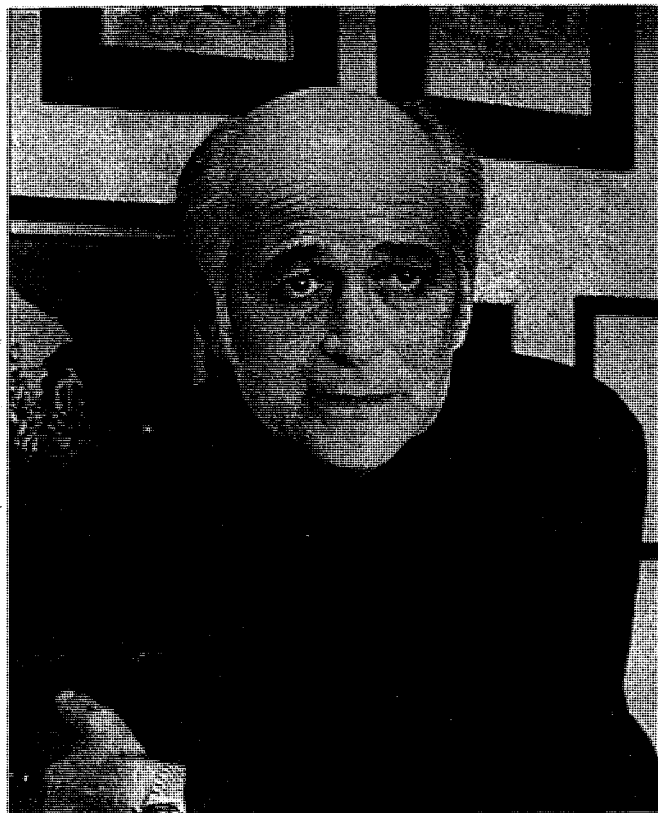
The new social order is being shaped by TV elite who seldom attend religious services, avidly support abortion and homosexuality, and don't consider adultery wrong, according to often-quoted research. The research also showed TV's elite want to diminish religion's influence on society.

Battling Back

But Christians have an obligation to take a stand. Here are some suggestions for ways we can be salt in our increasingly decadent society.

1. Re-evaluate what being a Christian really means,

The real televangelists aren't people like Billy Graham, but faceless preachers whose message is derision of Christian values.



Putting the message in the media: Norman Lear, founder of the left-wing "People for the American Way."

in order to better understand your responsibilities to society.

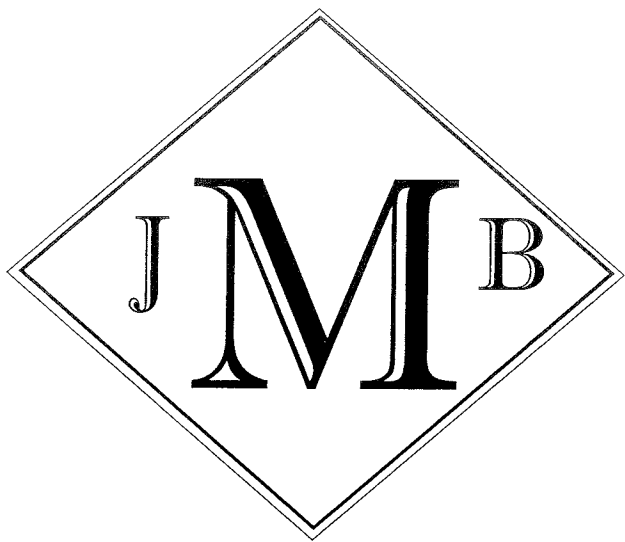
2. Become well-rooted in your faith. There have always been anti-Christian bigots in this country, but there was also a general consensus that Christian ethics undergirded our society. Media efforts, among other things, have succeeded in shifting that consensus to a humanistic ethic. We are in spiritual warfare with a philosophy diametrically opposed to Christianity.

3. Take your faith outside the sanctuary's four walls. Speak out against anti-Christian bigotry, say it isn't acceptable, especially in this society. Put your faith to work. Remember what James said: "Faith without works is dead."

4. Remember that Jesus needs good businessmen, lawyers, TV producers. We must be willing to get involved, knowing we're going to be persecuted and will have to pay the price. Cheap grace doesn't exist.

We don't have any easy options here. If the Christian faith is going to continue to undergird our society, we're going to have to be followers of Jesus in practice as well as word. We've got to combine personal piety with an application of our faith to the social arena. As John Wesley said, "I know of no holiness except social holiness." ■

Donald Wildmon is executive director of the American Family Association and Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLEAR-TV) in Tupelo, Miss.



A REPEATED THEME

Ps. 37:1-7

- I. Often in the Ps. we find a theme repeated.
 - A. This one does it in the same Ps.
 - B. It speaks to our spirit of today.
 - C. Let's heed its understandable message.
- II. From Ps. 37 I learn:
 - A. Fret not because of evildoers.
 1. Worry, fume, heat.
 2. Do you feel at times you are left out & dealt with harshly?
 3. Poem:

Me think we do as fretful children do
Leaning their faces on the window pane,
To sigh the glass dim with their own
breath's stain

And shut the sky & landscape from
their view.

4. We get agitated when we see wicked prosper & wonder why God allows it.
 5. Note begins with negative that gives way to positive.
 6. What do we fret about the most?
- B. See their End.

1. Soon cut down like grass.
 - a) Comes with one blow of the scythe.
 - b) Complete.
 - c) God won't overlook the wicked man.

Job 20:5

- d) Know that evil is short-lived.
- e) Dry up just like the severed herb.

4.

f) Ruin is at the door--they are ripening for it.

C. I'm to Trust god & Do Good

1. This is my task: God will take care of the wicked's end.
2. Faith cures fretting.
3. Much of our outward depends on our inward.
4. We must live a life of confidence in God.
5. Not passive--do good.
 - a) True faith is active obedience.
 - b) Trust and do are joined inseparably.

D. Furthermore, Delight in the Lord.

1. He must be our heart's desire.
2. He must be our guide.
3. All our affairs are to be at His disposal.
4. Commit your ways--lit. roll thy way on Him.

Prov. 16:3

Ps. 55:22

1 Pet. 5:7

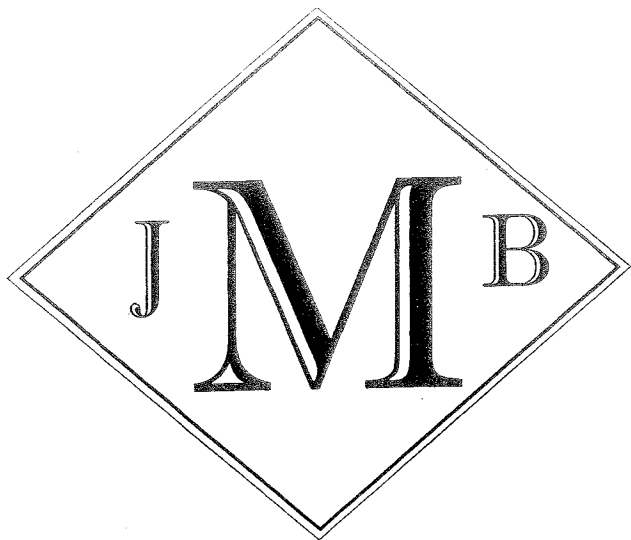
5. If God is the joy of your spirit you will be rewarded.

6. We plow & sow--the harvest is His.

E. He'll Take Care of Your Reputation

1. Bring forth thy righteousness as the light.
2. He will not only punish the wicked but vindicate you.
3. If we keep a good conscience God will take care of our good name.

4. Conceal nothing from Him--He'll see us through.



CONTRASTING CONDITIONS

Psalms 37:8

- I. As we look at life it's hard not to be aggravated at injustices.
 - A. Evil goes unpunished.
 - B. Wicked prosper.
 - C. Righteous oppressed--so it seems!
- II. But God pulls the curtain & lets us see the end of life's play. Let us see some of His conclusions.
 - A. Three Red Lights
 1. Cease from anger.
 2. Forsake wrath.
 3. Fret not over evil.
 - B. These facts:
 1. No rightful reason for us to be led to fretfulness.
 2. No reason to envy the wicked's prosperity.
 3. Certain we should not do evil to counter evil.
 4. Injustice ever with us but don't let it throw you.
 5. Christians often have a hard time.
 6. But don't give up to injustice since God is in control.
- III. Look at the Final Estate of the Wicked.
 - A. Little while shall not be (v-10).
 - B. Consider his place--shall not be
 1. Grubbed up by the roots.
 2. No longer a place--passes to other hands.
 3. Ax of justice falls.
 4. Glitter of the wicked is not true gold.

IV. Contrast with Meek

A. Inherit the Earth.

1. Earth is the Lord's.
2. He gives it to whom He will.

Matt. 5:5

B. Meekness is power under control thus serene.

C. Peace & Prosperity his.

D. Live in such a manner God's blessings follow them to grave.

V. Wicked Nullified by the Lord.

A. Plots Proudly Against the Just.

1. Gnashes upon him with teeth.
2. I don't want the Just for my enemy.
3. Lord laughs--his day's coming as he awaits Judgement.

B. Armed to the Teeth.

1. 2 weapons.
2. Has them out for ready use.
3. Watches for time to use them.
4. Sword & bow.
 - a) Those who take sword perish by it.

Matt. 26:52 "Put up again thy sword into his p!"

b) Bow so strong walk on it to bend it--broken.

5. Hunt for poor & needy.
6. They want nothing short of death--yet all useless.

VI. Get Your Ratio's Right.

A. Righteous Little Better Than Wicked's Riches.

1. Righteous outlasts evil.

2. Implacable becomes incapable.
3. Evil's future is black indeed.
4. Enemies as fat--burned on altar(v-20)

B. Wicked borrows & doesn't repay;
Righteous shows mercy & gives.

1. Expect temporary trials.
2. Know righteousness wins.

C. Good man's steps are ordered by the Lord.

1. Established, upheld, made firm.
2. Lit. Lord support his hand.
3. Journey made of single step & one false one could be fatal.
4. Life made depend on one particular one.
5. Steps planted evenly & safely.
6. Don't take 1 step without the Lord.
7. Steps show he lives righteously.

D. Fall--not utterly!

1. God knows what lies ahead each day.
2. Great history of protection.

Jer. 37:21

3. Douay "the Lord putteth his hand under him."
4. Evil may strut & laugh but where is their successor?

VI. Now Comes an Observation & a Plea.

A. Righteous not forsaken nor seed beg bread.

1. From experience--now old.
2. Only Ps. where David mentions his age.
3. God pays back with interest the next generation.

B. God is Ever:

1. Merciful
- 2.
3. Seed blessed.
 - a) Don't envy wicked.

C. You:

1. Depart evil & do good,
dwell
 - a) Lot of repetition in Psalms.
 - b) More closely see wicked see their business.
 - c) One bad turn does not deserve another.
2. (V-30) Speak wisdom--talk of judgement--meditate on it.
3. Wait on the Lord (v-34)
 - a) Continue in the narrow path.
 - b) Believe in divine providence.
 - c) Way may be rough but it leads home.
4. Wicked show temporary power like a green bay tree (v-35).
 - a) Means noble timber tree.
 - b) Tree that grows in its own soil.
 - c) Stays green all time showing powerful life.
 - d) Towering--spreads out.
5. Lord takes care of righteous.
 - a) Can determine our own end & die in peace.
 - b) To die well, serve well.
 - c) Success possible because they trust in Him.

5.

6. For me--is it the embodiment of the
Law of God or law of Self?

Joy can be real only if people look upon their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.—LEO TOLSTOY.

Spin and Wait – In the past, while young women awaited marriage, they would spin threads to make household linens for their trousseau. In a rather unkindly way, it was said of the ones who never got a husband that they were kept spinning and waiting all of their lives – thus creating the term “spinster.”

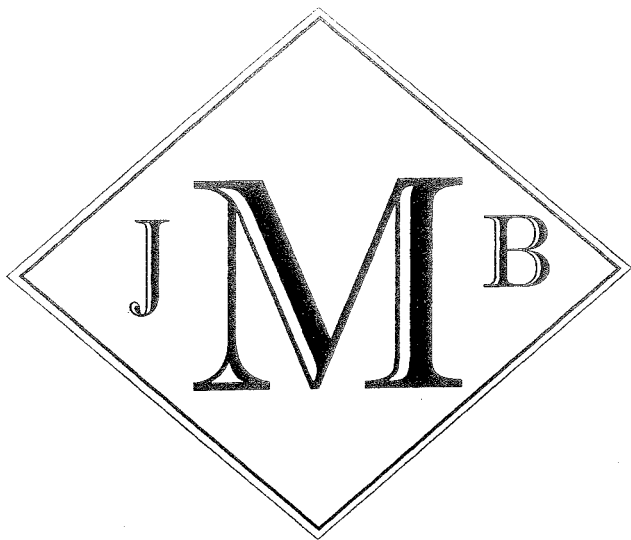
No Trespassing – In 1659 Italian caterpillars were asked to appear in court to face charges of trespassing and willful damage to property, thereby creating one of the strangest “animal” court cases in history. Nailed to a tree in each of the five districts where the caterpillars had caused damage was a copy of the summons.

Paul Chu, scientist, University of Houston: "My parents can take a lot of credit for what I've done right. They told me to keep my eyes open because there were many opportunities and phenomena in the world waiting to be discovered, and to make something out of everything, even when you've failed. My mother expressed it best when she said, 'If you fall, try to grab a handful of sand.' She felt that even the smallest opportunity was worth grabbing."

Candid Comment



Steve Allen, entertainer: "Among the causes of the diminution of our intelligence is some 40 years of television watching. I have described most commercial television as junk-food for the mind. The point is not that watching just 30 minutes of reruns will make a little piece of your brain fall out of your left ear. This will not happen any more than eating one piece of white bread will make a tooth fall out. But 40 years of eating mostly white bread, white sugar or the equivalent will cause you physical harm. And 40 years of watching television of the most mindless sort must have a destructive effect on the intelligence."



IN THE PRESENCE OF A WONDERFUL LADY

Ps. 37:18-19; v. 34; v. 39-40

- I. It was my fortunate lot to know Clara Jones.
 - A. Grave Ave. church October, 1942.
 1. Class 5 - Lenah Dillard
 2. Couples in that class--all kinds of parties, bean suppers, pictures.
 3. Regular in that class--Bill and Clara.
 - B. Friendship with a special two.
 1. Bill could skillfully do most anything.
 2. Painter--even with delicate touch on mantles.
 3. Betty loved Bill and he was one we both respected.
 4. He'd come to work with a great lunch that Clara fixed.
 5. Sometimes even for us a whole chocolate pie.
 6. Lived in our cabin at the lake and built a great deck.
 7. Stop by their home with KY garden.
 - C. Personality
 1. Loved Bill
 2. Kept a pretty home
 3. Visited with us
 4. Always faithful to the Lord.
 5. Niece "we know where she is."

II. Greater Assignment: How to Help Bill.

A. Without children, he kept Clara alive.

- 1. I can get her to eat.
- 2. Out often for meals--meet me at cafeteria.
- 3. No doubt about his love for his wife--"even as his own self."

B. Only natural to feel sorrow.

Matt. 26:38 "My soul is exceeding sorrowful even unto death, abide, watch with me"

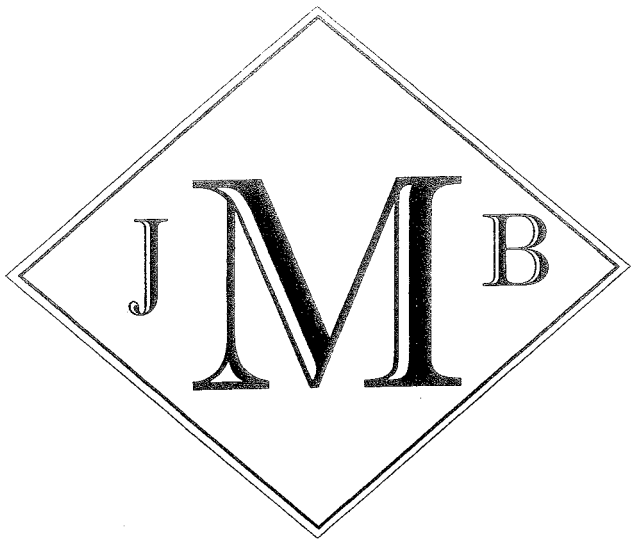
- 1. Many sorrows
- 2. This most intense one

C. Turn to the Scriptures (Ps. 37)

- 1. V-3 "Trust in the Lord"
 - a) He will pray
 - b) You will pray with him.
- 2. Do good
 - a) Pattern of their lives.
 - b) Never saw Clara act otherwise.
 - c) Promised dwelling and feeding.
- 3. V-5 "Commit thy way unto the Lord"
 - a) We make mistakes
 - b) He is always right
- 4. Trust in Him, he shall bring it to pass (V-5)
 - a) He controls the future
 - b) He sees our needs
 - c) Never saw Rt. forsaken or seed begging Bread (v-25)

- d) V-11 "The meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace"
- e) Ps. 37:23 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord and he delighteth in his way"
v-31 "The law of His God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide"

Funeral, Clara Jones - 5/15/07



WHILE I MUSED, THE FIRE BURNED

Ps. 39

- I. Why are we so curious about tomorrow?
- How many do I have?
 - How will it all end?
 - How capable am I to cope with it?
 - I'm just curious.

- Spurgeon said Impatience pries between the folded leaves.
- Man ever seeks to enlarge his scope of things.

II. Ps. 39 has the Pathos & Beauty of all this Searching.

- It's David's.
- It has 4 stanzas: 1-3, 4-6, 7-11, 12-13.
- It exposes handsomely the weakness of man.
- We want to study all of it--some parts in particular.

III. The 1st Part is the Effort to Silence.

A. Self imposed silence.

- Take heed.
- Sin not with tongue.
- Keep mouth with bridle
- Dumb with silence
- Hold peace.

I have resolved never to do anything which I should be obliged to do if it were the last hr. of my life

B. Yet all these restrictions went for naught--he spoke!

C. On Silence:

- There are hot moments in our lives when we do well not to speak.
- Yet all of us know we were determined to say nothing yet failed.
- It is good to have high resolves, register them, & keep them.

Edwards clip #1

4. Unguarded ways are often unholy ways. #2 *Cob too close*
5. Tongue is easy to use for sin.
6. Well to be silent in presence of enemies. Bad men misuse our words.
7. Yet total silence can hurt as we sail between Scylla & Charybdis.
8. Coolidge--what was sermon about? Sin. What did he say? Against it.
9. Must be careful my words do not give enemy of church a heyday.
10. Bridle is muzzle tongue.

D. Yet while he mused fire burned.

1. We must vent our feelings.
2. Best do it just to God.
3. Meditate = sigh, groan.
4. As he vents his soul it's Godward.

IV. Now He Asks (v. 4 & 6) to see his Frailty.

A. Mine end--measure of my days--that I may know how frail I am.

1. Impress on me my weakness as it points to humility & dependency.
2. Note he does recognize this without bitterness.
3. Recognize the fleeting measure of our days.
4. We are frail in our moods.
5. Life's so short.
 - a) Hand breath.
 - b) Width of 4 fingers.
 - c) 3 inches.
6. Nothing--vanity.

Directions you like 1 3

B. Selah

- 1. Music
- 2. Pause
- 3. Change of variation in music, volume.
- 4. The end.
- 5. Emphasis--Amen.
- 6. 74X in Bible, 71X in Ps.

C. Man's a vain show.

- 1. Shadow--phantom in a dream--passing pageant. *Imaginary, not real life.*
- 2. Eager efforts contrasted with the emptiness of results. *Pursuit of imaginary*
- 3. Gain riches but who gets them. *does not satisfy*
 - a) Do you have anything of your great-grandparents? *Family tree*
 - b) Gone with a puff of wind *WORM*

*Disquieted
make a
noise,
bustling,
the mult
NY street*

V. What's My Hope? (v 7-11)


A. If ~~not~~ men, me or material what's left-- God!

- 1. God is supreme.
- 2. He's our only hope.
- 3. He redeems life from nothingness.
- 4. Only God abides--fear not man.

B. Forgiveness the best achievement.

- 1. Quit harping on sorrow & ask forgiveness. *2) Avoid quit*

C. God does punish.

- 1. Foolish mock at trouble.
- 2. Stroke
- 3. Blow
- 4. Corrects (v-11)
- 5. Beauty & the moth. 
 - a) Ruins beauty of fabric.
 - b) Small yet destructive.

VI. My Prayer

A. Stranger & Sojourn

1. Child of God a guest.
2. We are pilgrims.
3. Passing guests.

*I'm only on my
journey to my
real home*

B. Look away

1. Spare me.
2. Avert thy frown.
3. Recover--brighten up.
4. Tears are more eloquent than tongues

C. Life's so short--let it be sunny.

D. Prayer has humility, frequency, faith.

Walnut Street, Dickson, TN (B.C.) - 12/31/89

First Colony, Sugar Land, TX (B.C.)--1/7/90

Chapel N.C.J.C. - Villanova, PA - 9/7/90

It Has Been Said . . .

I HAVE RESOLVED never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

— Johnathan Edwards (1703-1758)

DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH

BECAUSE HER CAR was in the shop, the woman decided to call a taxi to take her to the market. The taxi firm that she called had a fleet of radio-alert cabs. As luck would have it, one of the cabs was a half block from the woman's home. So, in less than a minute the cab driver was knocking at her door.

"Isn't this fast service?" the driver asked with a big grin on his face.

With a look of surprise she said, "I wouldn't dare ride with anybody who drives as fast as you do," and slammed the door in his face.

My job as a medical-equipment technician takes me to hospitals in unfamiliar places. On a trip to New York City, having forgotten the directions, I asked a street vendor how to get to a certain medical center. "You go another five blocks and make a right—then it's the first left," he told me.

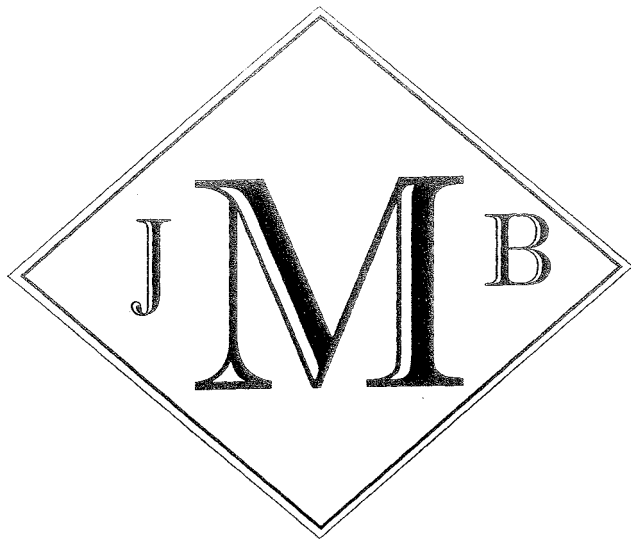
"No," I replied. "I think it's the opposite way."

"Okay," snapped the New Yorker. "Ask somebody who gives you directions you like."

—Contributed by Jerry Hampshire

My MOTHER loves crafts and took great pride in the family tree she had made. It was a green tree on which each family member had an apple with his or her name painted on it. When my sister got divorced, I wondered if my mother would remove the ex-husband's apple. She didn't. She just painted a worm where his name had been.

—SHANNON LIVINGSTON (*Carbon Hill, Ala.*)



THE SINNERS TRANSITION

Ps. 40:1-5

I. Often it's been said, "The ground at the foot of the cross is level."

- A. We all come to the Lord in the same way.
- B. We obey the same gospel.
- C. It may come at different ages in life-- from 13 to 63 but we duplicate steps.
- D. For some the way is more painful since sin was shared longer, but the route is identical.

II. In Ps. 40 David traces it.

- A. Some see all or some of this as Messianic.
- B. But surely it also tells my transition.
- C. If you are a Christian did you not walk this following route?

III. The Sinner's Transition.

- A. I waited patiently for the Lord.
 - 1. I saw I could not do it myself.
 - 2. I am not the author of my salvation.
 - 3. Barbara Dwyer of Pueblo told me how she cried, "Lord, are you out there--let me find you."
 - 4. Paul said we seek after Him.
 - 5. Ps. words "waited anxiously."
 - 6. Carries idea of "vehement solicitude."
 - 7. I wanted God! Jesus! The Holy Spirit!
 - 8. Jesus the perfect example of patient waiting.
 - 9. We need to instruct those who are searching.

B. He inclined unto me & heard my cry.

- He that wills to know*
1. We do not wait in vain on the Lord.
 2. Armstrong used to teach us every honest searcher will find the Savior.
 3. Our cry comes to his listening ears-- even in our misery we'll learn to praise God.

C. He brought me up out of a horrible pit-- out of the miry clay.

1. The pit
 - a) We feel dejection.
 - b) We know the anguish of Hell because we are lost. *God Sick - hope of dying*
 - c) Some pits were prisons like a buried jag--no openings except at top. *jug*
 - d) Pit of noise literally as we hear the cries of those in it. Like a rushing mighty wind.
 - e) Pits either prisons or traps for animals.
2. The miry clay.
 - a) Our efforts make us sink deeper & deeper
 - b) Bottom of pits revolting.
 - c) Lit. mire of mud.
 - d) Jeremiah in one.
 - e) Sin's sticky.

D. Set my Ft. upon a rock & established my goings.

1. Not only rescues but puts me on solid foundation.
2. He plants our feet on firmer ground.
3. He shows me how to live.

Wexner center report

E. I react with a new song in my mouth.

1. Old forms are not enough--I have a new song.
2. Jesus sang at Passover.
3. One day we'll hear the Heaven song.
4. Right now--keep singing your new song.
5. It's:
 - a) Praise God
 - b) Many see & fear
 - c) Led to trust in the Lord, as you lead others to Him.
 - d) We trust--we believe--He is our salvation.
 - e) Conviction follows illumination.

Barkley quote

F. Blessed is the Man

1. This is our new estate.
2. We receive promises.
3. Confidence in the sure mark of blessedness.
4. The longsuffering God has received me to Himself.
5. Respect not the proud.
 - a) They do not bow in worship.
 - b) Jesus never flattered--he gave no honor to dishonorable men.
6. Nor turn aside to lies.
 - a) Jesus is truth.
 - b) We walk no other way.

G. Many are the Lord's wonderful works to usward.

1. God has me in mind to bless here & hereafter.

2. So great can't be reckoned.
 - a) All things of God are in order.
 - b) Seems so great tho it defies innumeration.
 - c) Works are of His origin.
 - d) Even turns my actions to good for those that love Him.
 - e) List too long for writing.
3. No maze in which to lose oneself is like the labyrinth of love of God.
4. God, the object of our trust, shows when we display everything we have nothing compares with Him.
5. His blessings are wonderful and are extended for our benefit.

Walnut Street, Dickson, TN - 3/11/90

Ministers' Workshop, King of Prussia, PA - 9/6/90

THE CRUISE SHIP had hit some rough weather, and a number of the passengers had become seasick. One man in particular seemed worse than the others as he continued to moan and groan. A steward, trying to offer a word of comfort, approached him and said, "Sir, we'll be in calm waters before you know it. Just remember that nobody has ever died from seasickness."

"Oh, oh, oh," moaned the man. "Please don't tell me that. It's only the hope of dying that is keeping me alive."

Alben Barkley

The former Vice President was speaking at Washington and Lee University. "I would rather be a servant in the House of the Lord than sit in the seat of the mighty," he said—and fell over dead.

Elizabeth Bonaparte

As Napoleon's sister-in-law lay dying, someone in the room observed that nothing was as certain as death. "Except taxes," added Elizabeth—thus making her last words among the most widely quoted in history.

PART OF THIS MATERIAL ORIGINAL

Last words

Make Room for Dada

Ohio State University's new Wexner Center for the Visual Arts has attracted attention not only from the press, but from Christian critics who take issue with the building's apparent philosophical foundation. The structure is a \$43 million argument for deconstructionism, and not since a glass pyramid was added to the Louvre has an architectural controversy spilled over into mass culture with such ferocity. The building, by architect Peter Eisenman, was praised by *Newsweek* as a work of art and "America's first big deconstructivist building."

It defies architectural conventions. As Cathleen McGuigan writes in *Newsweek*, the Wexner Center "turns architectural convention on its head: There's no façade, no center, no stable ground plan. Windows are set along the floor; columns slam down from the ceiling and stop in midair."

Study in contrast

Meanwhile, at the University of Notre Dame, a believing Christian architect is working in the opposite direction. Thomas Gordon Smith, new head of Notre Dame's School of Architecture, practices classical architecture, which draws on over 2,000 years of tradition while working within modern constraints. It is based on the aesthetics of people—unlike modern architecture's aesthetics of engineering. Though deconstruction's methods and details are similar to modern architecture's, Smith said, it challenges the conventionality of modernism.

"Deconstructionism and classicism," said Smith, "represent diametrically opposed ends of the architectural spectrum." Classical architects "believe in continuity," he said. "We believe in the potential, over time periods, of ideas that have been an important part of Western culture." And though deconstruction may hold the current spotlight, he is not worried that it will become the dominant style. "Its approach to architecture is highly theoretical, extremely impractical, and extremely stylish," he said.

Smith and others suggest that by flouting architectural tradition, deconstruction creates inhospitable build-

ings. "I think that's a stated aim. The theme of alienation and nihilism is the root of deconstruction," Smith said.

A decadent idea

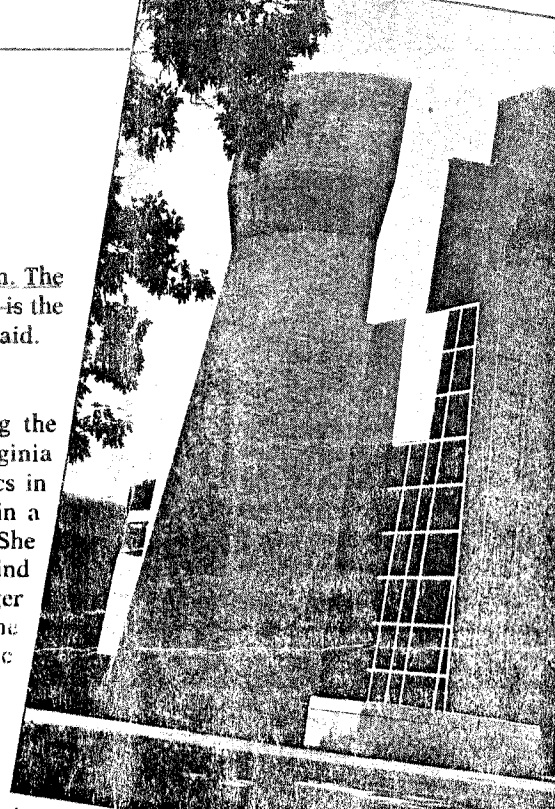
Smith is not alone in deploring the deconstruction approach. Virginia Stem Owens addresses aesthetics in her book *The Total Image* and in a recent *Reformed Journal* essay. She says, "I suspect that what is behind this style is a certain kind of anger directed at the audience and the patrons. It's almost a narcissistic kind of self-loathing."

James Mellick, a sculptor who teaches at Calvin College, compared deconstruction to Dada, the artistic movement that revealed in irrationality, chance, and intuition. "It's sort of Dada comes to architecture. When you confront the public and rub art in the stupid public's face, and do that on an architectural scale, it's a pretty expensive joke and a pretty expensive whim," he said. "When you turn architecture into sculpture—where you're only concerned about form—I think that is a decadent idea."

Charles Young, a Calvin College facility planner and art teacher, compares the Wexner Center to an elaborate puzzle or a funhouse mirror. "I enjoy puzzles. I would not like to spend all my time figuring them out, but I enjoy working on them," he said. "I think I would be very frustrated spending my life inside of one. Once you've figured it out, [the mystery] is gone." He believes the Wexner Center would be a fun place to visit. "But our lives, long-term, are not built on entertainment. At some point you become jaded, and nothing matters."

Young, Owens, and Smith all see deconstruction as part of a larger philosophical conflict. "In all the humanities, we face a crisis in history," says Young. "The model that history is going somewhere has been dismantled and abandoned." And Smith says he finds the battles "are being fought at every level. So many of the ethical values and world-view issues are at work."

Owens believes "American culture is getting the buildings its imagination is



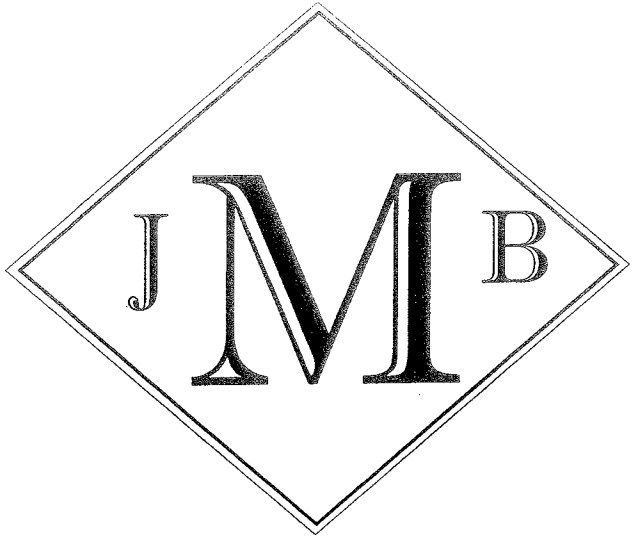
Architecture as sculpture: A fun place to visit, but few would wish to spend their lives inside a puzzle.

currently capable of"; she doesn't think people consciously plan these things, but that they come from the inside out. Says Owens, "There is a strained way in which people are building churches today so they can be identified as churches and not be confused with the savings and loan. I'm not sure how successfully that works out." Mellick, a sculptor in Columbus, Ohio, before he joined the Calvin faculty, called the building a reflection of "extravagant, self-centered arrogance."

For his part, Smith is at work on a residence for his family in South Bend that should give the Wexner Center some competition for architectural flair. He is basing the design on a formula for a temple front by Vitruvius, a Roman architect and engineer in the first century B.C. It will feature six Ionic columns adhering to Vitruvius's specifications for height, diameter, and spacing between columns.

"It's very common that a particular building is cited as a paradigm for a movement," Smith said, adding that he hopes his home will become such a paradigm for a resurgent classicism—just as the Wexner Center stands as a chaotic tribute to deconstruction.

By Doug LeBlanc, an editor with *Compassion International*.



THANKS - FOR WHAT?

Ps. 40:1-5

I. Why is it so hard to say?

A. Am I proud?

B. Or dumb?

C. Or thoughtless?

D. Magazine carried celebrities' wants:

1. Architect - a garden & a greenhouse.

2. Writer - give me health.

3. Society matron - little zebra.

4. Citizen - Vermont farm, creek orchard, house antiques.

5. Lawyer - 1 uninterrupted day c grandchildren at home.

6. Author - hear the language of animals.

7. Famous - greater ability to appreciate what I now have.

II. To give us all a dose of this, I want to study a Ps.

Ps. 40:1-5, 8 - These points.

A. Waiting, I waited - emphasis.

1. We await his good pleasure.

2. Our days in his hands.

B. Incline unto me.

1. Bend toward me.

2. Give me your attention.

C. Heard my cry.

D. Pit.

1. Hole c rushing water at bottom?

2. Trap for soldier on battlefield?

3. Destruction, misery.

4. Clay - miry, no solidarity, sticky.

5. Feet on rock = solid.
6. Goings = makes steps firm.
7. Been danger & we are delivered.

E. New song.

1. Trouble impoverishes man of world.
2. Enriches Christian.
3. We are forgiven!

F. Many see, fear, trust, turns from proud & lies, & turns to God.

G. Says Thanx - (V. 5).

1. Mercy & praise are cause & effect.
2. God's mercies are countless, numberless.
3. His providence causes me to say thank you.
4. Even then some blessings are secret & escape our notice.
5. Moved to obedience - V. 8.

III. Let's Count Some Blessings.

A. Material things.

1. Daily bread - dole - not whole loaf - fragment - grateful for a piece.
2. Cars; sliced bread that's wrapped; sacks (not newspapers in a cone); pasteurized & bottled milk; newspaper longer than 6 pages; soft drinks - baseball, hot dogs, apple pie & Chevrolet - all America.
3. Calamus to Gk. farmer was a kind of wheat - failure was calamitas - now any type of misfortune

Ps. 145:15 "Thou givest them their meat in due season"

Ps. 103:1-2 "Bless the Lord, O my soul"

B. Health - Protection - Work - Sleep -

Prov. 20:12 "The hearing ear & the seeing eye, the
C. Family.

Prov. 18:22 "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing
D. Spiritual Blessings.

1. In 11 of 13 Epistles Paul says Thanx.

1 Tim. 1:12 "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who hath er

Rom. 7:24 "O wretched man that I am! who shall deli

2. Growth.

Acts 28:15 "Brethren...whom when P. saw he th.

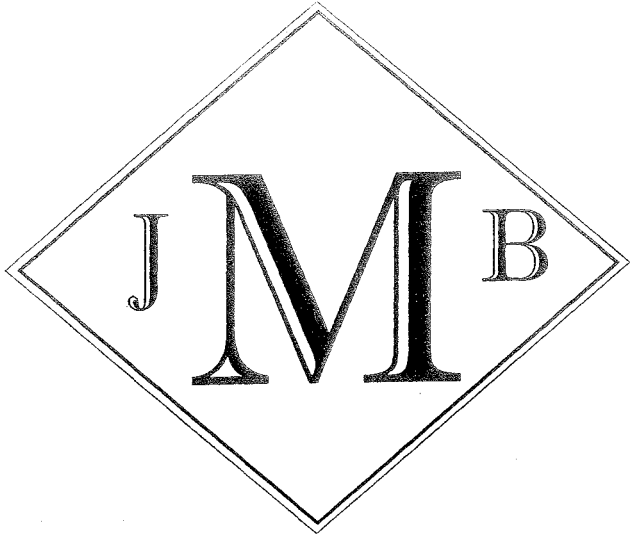
2 Thess. 1:3 "We are bound to thank God always

1 Cor. 15:57 "Thanx be to God which giveth

3. God.

2 Cor. 9:15 "Thanx be unto God for his unspeakable g

2nd End 8-31-75



A MOST ENVIABLE RECORD

Ps. 40:6-10

I. In all our political campaigns, candidates speak of "records".

A. On them we ride.

B. Of them we criticize or praise.

II. The Finest Record I know is Ps. 40:6-10.

A. Messianic?

B. David?

C. Irrespective it's a dream for us.

Let us see its features.

III. Nothing exclusively legalist or mechanical pleases God.

A. Sacrifice & Offering Not Desired.

1. Does not mean those required to be ignored.

2. Does mean at best ceremonial law is insufficient.

a) Blood of bulls not enough.

b) Only Jesus satisfies.

c) Sacrifices were multiple.

(1) Sacrifice

(2) Offering

(3) Burnt offering

(4) Sin Offering

d) Involved slain beast (sacrifice)

Offerings (bloodless, like flour)

Burnt (to obtain divine favor)

Sin (to make propitiation).

3. Today we need not symbols when substance is present.

4. Animal sacrifice cannot remedy man's ills.

5. Hecatombs of rams could not achieve.
 6. Neither today can works of human merit.
 7. Our relief not ceremony but Christ.
- B. Mine Ears Hast Thou Opened
1. Lit. mine ears hast thou digged or pierced through.

Exo. 21:6

2. Given rise to several views.
 - a) Bored at Jubilee if you as servant want to continue serving your master freely & perpetually.
 - b) This implies one ear.
 - c) Paul's reference.

Heb. 10:5

- (1) Equipollency between the two?
- (2) Writer alters it.
- d) Obviously:
 - (1) Ears made to hear.
 - (2) To act on being instructed shows prompt obedience to God's will.

IV. The Proper Attitude

A. "Then said I"

1. Then--shows a time.
2. Said--shows profession & determination.
3. Jesus perfect example of this.
4. Coming of Inferior to Superior.

B. Come

1. Prescribed to me--laid on me as a duty.
2. Jesus did not send a sub--nor will He at return time.

3. He came at right moment.
4. Come--prompt, no delay, no waiting.
5. Voluntariness of his coming.
6. Jesus: preexistent, predetermined, pre-operational.
7. Note this:
 - a) Firm obedience--Ear
 - b) Ready performance--I come
 - c) Careful with written word--volume--eternal decree.
 - d) Hearty delight.
 - e) Public communication to others.

1 Pet. 2:21

C. Delight to Do Thy Will, God, Within My Heart.

1. Joyously obeyed--not out of just duty.
 - a) Respected the covenant.
 - b) Joyously kept it.
 - c) Never default.
2. Do--(Humanist manifesto)
 - a) Obedience means more than ritualistic service.
 - b) Happy subscriber.

Prov. 8:31

- c) Know its teachings.
3. Heart--(Tozier card)
 - a) Not just outward--heart's in it.
 - b) No heart--no acceptance.
 - c) Law not kept in books but in the heart.
 - d) Lit. "midst of his bowels."
 - e) God hates professionalism.

V. His Platform--Outlines Goals

A. I have preached righteousness

1. Purest morality lived & preached--
(Churchill card)
2. Openly & courageously done.
3. Tender yet stern as he reveals the
mind of God.
4. Spoke with simplicity & faith.
5. Jesus a preacher.
6. Great congregation.
 - a) Essence of mind of God is genuine
concern for well being of others.
 - b) Poor & Prince hear same thing.
 - c) Some rejoice, some rage--but
preach it!
 - d) Great in number, in need.
7. Did not refrain.
8. Did not hide God's righteousness.
 - a) Always a temptation.
 - b) Always pressure--Fred Leath
said when taught on divorce he
felt it.
 - c) Addition of "Thy" puts it in
perspective and emphasis.

B. I have declared thy Faithfulness &
thy Salvation.C. I have not concealed thy loving
kindness & thy truth.

1. With heart he feels for others.
2. His aim must be helpfulness.

Lady Astor who recently died had a profound dislike for Winston Churchill. At one time, she made the statement, "if he were my husband, I would poison him!"

Mr. Churchill responded, "if she was my wife, I would take it."

In **THE PURSUIT OF GOD**, perhaps his finest book (my second copy is almost worn out). A.W. Tozier points out:

I want to deliberately encourage this mighty longing after God. The lack of it has brought us to our present low estate. The stiff and wooden quality about our religious lives is a result of our lack of holy desire. Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth. Acute desire must be present or there will be no manifestation of Christ to His people. He waits to be wanted. Too bad that with many of us He waits so long, so very long, in vain.

Every age has its own characteristics. Right now we are in an age of religious complexity. The simplicity

which is in Christ is rarely found among us. In its stead are programs, methods, organizations and a world of nervous activities which occupy time and attention but can never satisfy the longing of the heart. The shallowness of our inner experience, the hollowness of our worship, and that servile imitation of the world which marks our promotional methods all testify that we, in this day, know God only imperfectly, and the peace of God scarcely at all.

DAILY GRAND II - Swindoll - P. 248-249

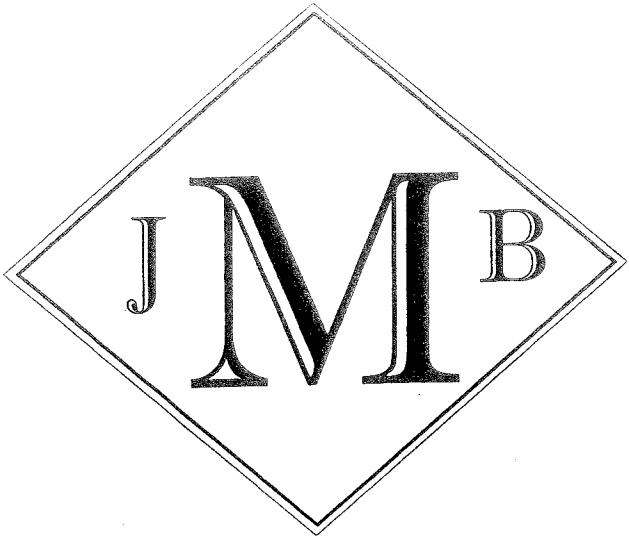
Humanist Manifesto of 1933:

"The universe (is) self-existing and not created."

"The time has passed for theism...Religion consists of those actions, purposes, and experiences which are humanly significant."

In 1973 humanists affirmed these beliefs and added that belief in God was still wrong and belief in salvation, they said, was "harmful, diverting people with false hopes of heaven hereafter. Reasonable minds look to other means for survival."

CHANGING THE WAY AMERICA THINKS - Slosser
p. 27



SO YOU THINK YOU'VE HAD TROUBLES!

Psalm 41:4-

- I. I guess all of us think we've had troubles superior.
 - A. We wind up with first yours then "it could have been worse" if we can still talk about it and not be dead.
 - B. David, an honored man, had his share.
 - C. The 41st Psalm is accredited to him- it's the final one as the Jews had five books of Psalms. This is the last one of the first book.

- II. Set the stage.
 - A. It's a beatitude Psalm.
 - B. God is loving to weak, poor, sick, and 1-3 promises of blessings.
 - C. We'll skip that and start with V-4.

- III. Psalm 41:4-
 - A. Verse 4 - Read
 1. In an hour of need it seems the promised help does not come.
 2. Our timetable is at variance with God's.
 3. I said:
 - a) An earnest prayer.
 - b) Some statements worth repeating as Chattanooga man said of his sermons.

4. I gave in my prosperity, now help me in my adversity. (Which of the two is easier to faithfully live with?)
5. Are we more interested in the body's healing than the soul's?
6. Note God promises to heal the backslider if he makes confession.

Psalm 103:3

7. Sinned--root of sorrow and separation.
8. Strange- "I have sinned," "heal me," there is no merit in me, only his grace.

B. Verse 5 - Read

1. Evil tongues are busy ones.
2. Some hate you so won't be content with man until he's dead--note the Iraq War.
3. They hated Jesus.
"Away with such a fellow--it's not fit his soul should live."
4. Good folks today are a threat to evil ones so they hate your exposing them.

Psalm 17:12 "False witnesses rise up against me."

C. Verse 6 - Read

1. Some visitors to the sick (weak), (poor), are a vexation and mockery.

2. Fox calls on sick lamb, said Spurgeon.
3. Patients in their weakness or aged times say things they no longer can restrain.
4. Wretched to have spies in the bedroom.
5. Evil folk pervert your words.

D. Verse 7 - Read

1. Random speaks of the ill is broadcasts.
2. They, the enemy, tries many ways to ruin the righteous.

E. Verse 8 - Read

1. It's base to strike a man when he is down.
2. Hint comes about a foul disease.

F. Verse 9 - Read

1. Jesus had to put up with this.

John 13:16

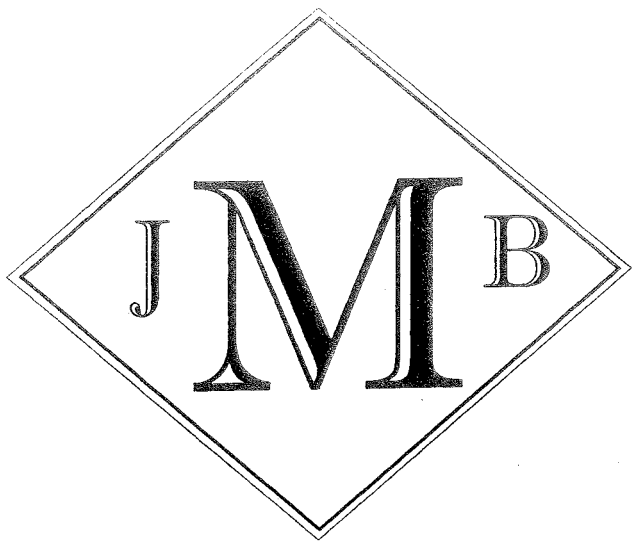
2. Spy meets with comrades.
3. Wicked are united.
4. They plot hurt.
5. Hope sickness is terminal, "when we come back hope you are gone."
6. Remember they watched Jesus' grave.
7. This lit. "man of my peace."
8. Kiss of the traitor.

9. Not only a guest but a dependent.
 10. Turned his back and gave a heel kick.
 11. Like Judas.
 12. Friends become foes.
 13. We are hurt by former Christians.
 14. Horses attack with heel--so do jackasses.
 15. Martin uses "magnify."
- G. Verse 10 - Read
1. Hurt soul turns to God.
 2. Hurt, "let me regain my position."
 3. David, but not Christians, can rightfully persecute traitors.
Ex-president Ford said, "I know my glf game is better, I hit fewer spectators."
- H. Verse 11 - Read
1. God has special regard for his own.
 2. My dad picked strawberries for me.
 3. God assures him of his love.
 4. As long as God loves little else matters: "Befateful to death."
- I. Verse 12 - Read
1. Feeblest saint wins the day.
 2. We can rise above the reach of slander.
 3. Our dependency humbles us.
 4. We live under divine surveillance.

5. To stand before the President
an honor.
To stand before God is magnifi-
cent.
6. We'd send Clinton to ask for
potatoes because he was grandpa's
favorite.
7. You know God loves you.
8. We don't have to tell God what to
do--he knows.
9. Martha "He you loved was sick" -
Jesus takes over.

Psalm 34:15

- J. 1. Start with Blessed- end with st-
God is complete.
2. Give glory to God--double zeal.
3. Double Amen (Psalm 41, 72, 89,
106).



WHO MAKES YOUR BED?

Ps. 41:1-3

I. I've searched high & low for a Murphy bed.

A. Reminds one of home.

B. Don't have to make it up--just shut it up & stick it in the wall.

II. But if we don't have one--who makes your bed?

A. Is it a family assignment?

B. Or is it God?

C. I see it as another arm of evangelism.

1. Doctrine to be taught.

2. Life of service to be led.

3. Where are we as a church stronger?

III. Study Ps. 41:1-3 as it completes the 1st book of the Psalter.

A. David begins with word "Blessed."

1. We must act as God desires us to.

2. Word here is most emphatic.

3. If we partake of divine grace we must have a tender heart.

4. Seven blessings found here:

a) Deliverance in time of trouble.

b) Perseverance

Preservance

c) Kept alive

d) Blessed upon the earth

e) Will not deliver to enemies

f) Strengthen him

g) Make all his bed

B. They hinge on our consideration of the poor.

1. "Consider"

Superficially we consider little like "study" 2.
Shouldn't miss the point.

- a) Not talking about just giving money, or leaving it in your will, or making social contributions.
- b) A blessing comes to those actively "considering the poor".
- c) We wisely deal with folk in adversity.
- d) We give more than money, we give attention to him.
- e) Man in Texas told me he was raised so poor he couldn't pay attention--yet he was kind & helpful to folk.
- f) Consider--examination--ball's in my court!
- g) Tenderly regard.

2. The Poor--

a) Who are they?

- (1) Poor in substance.
- (2) Weak in bodily strength.
- (3) Despised in repute.
- (4) Despondent in Spirit.
- (5) Anyone who is tottering inwardly or outwardly due to weakness.
- (6) RSV has "weak."
- (7) Ps. 40 David called himself poor & needy.
- (8) Miserable.
- (9) Suffering.
- (10) Not so much actual poverty as humiliation & weakness.

Mercyman "tell us you are sick!"
Our antennae is out!



- (11) Downcast
- (12) Insignificant
- (13) Unfortunate
- (14) Wretched
- (15) Seek out cases of sorrow & distress, suffering & sad.

- b) Poor we often avoid--like the Amalekite who left his dying servant (1 Sam. 30).
- c) Jesus example
 - (1) Rich became poor.
 - (2) Cites judgement Matt. 25:31-
 - (3) Uses "Inasmuch".
 - (4) Care for men as men because Christ died for them.
- d) Poverty & sickness wicked brothers.
- e) Have we given disproportionate attention to doctrine and paid little attention to service?
- f) We must have both!
- g) The Dr. Burches felt neglected; so does Inez Thomas.
- h) "There was a man & some did count him mad, the more he gave away the more he had."

C. Now Come the Promises

- 1. The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.
 - a) Lit. day of evil.
 - b) God's mercy is ever in the present tense.
 - c) God measures us with our own bushel.

- d) We can't avoid trouble but will be sheltered & brought out of it.
- e) You deliver the weak--God will deliver you.
2. Preserve You.
3. Keep you alive.
4. Blessed upon the earth.
- a) Prolong your life.
- b) Long life a happy one.
5. Not deliver you to your enemies.
- a) What would your enemies do to you if they had you at their disposal?
- b) Was this when Absalom was after David?
- c) Pain of this nature can bring on illness.
6. Strengthen upon bed of languishing
- a) God meets our needs.
- b) He sustains.
7. Makes All Our Bed
- a) Turn it, alter position to relieve pain.
- b) Smooth our pillows.
- c) Makes all--from head to toe.
- d) Only God does this--not an act of a heathen god.
- e) Rearranges it all.
- f) God nurses & attends to us personally, knows everything.
- g) Beds soon grow hard when we toss on them.
- h) Could mean no longer a sick bed--we are healed.

God understands every detail of our problem

i) Couch changed from sickness to convalescence.

D. You Can Be God's Almoner

Matt. 10:8 "Heal the sick, cleanse lepers"

Matt. 25:40 "As ye did it to one"

Rev. 22:12 Brings his reward

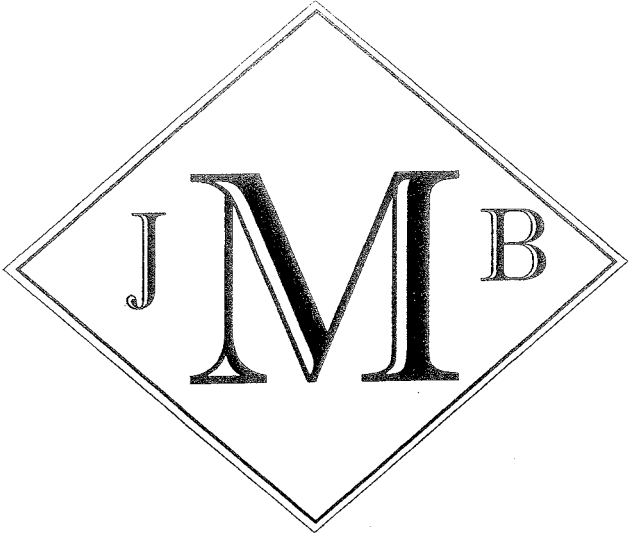
E. This is the mind of Christ.

(Dr. Church's daughter dating a blind, paraplegic strikeman. "Have you decided to elope?" "Well one - is pretty help - she came - went notes 'we are thinking' you! But no evidence of it to them.)
 (Sue Roberts - Party began leaving husband & living with another prior to divorce. He preached to her - nothing done to reverse. Just a feeling of admiration for her lovely moral. Fruit bit does spring on - did nothing to help.)

Walnut St., Dickson, TN - 4/1/90

Chapel, Harding Graduate School - 4/10/91

Heritage C/C - 8/6/06



As the Hart Panteth after Water Brooks
Ps 42:1-2

I. Picture this scene.

A. Across mt. trackless space; racing wildly thru the humid valley; the heat presses madly - the stag, the hind, the hart - if you please whatever he is - longs for the refreshment of water.

1. He pants - aw-rag' - to keenly long for!

2. So the soul of man thirst in these days of drought for the living God!

B. May we ever have this spirit.

II. So Panteth my Soul after Thee, O God.

A. Devout soul ever wants.

1. Augustine - man cannot rest til his soul rests in God.

2. Man is wise when he knows he's eternal.

3. God is eternal life

3. To long for God is highest capacity at man

No TV - what turned off when bad?

a) Such longings purity.

b) They mold & test character.

c) ugly down grades & hurts

d) like the plaintive sound of David's harp, deep pathos & feeling let us be

III. My soul thirsteth for living God.

A. One of shortest & most intense of desires is thirst. Read Clip

1.) In absence from God there's trouble

B. God's living - only here & Ps 84:2

1. God is eternal life - Source & Origin of all

2. Turn men from riches, honor, fame w/o its satisfaction Luther & Birds

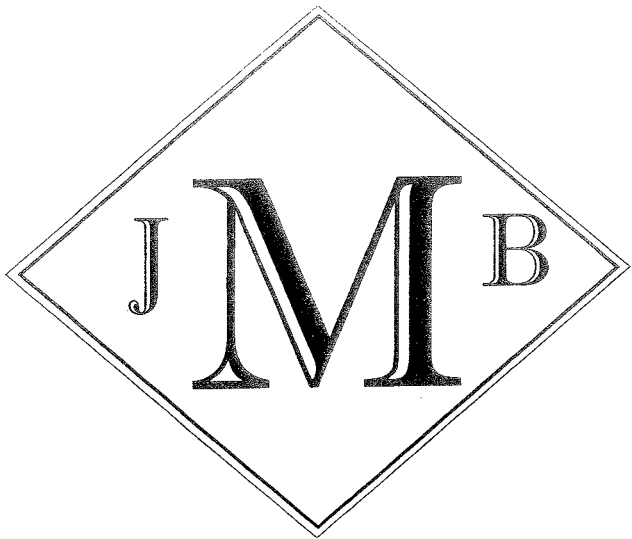
3. God gives life

I Jn 5: 20 " Him: true, even in His Son

I Jn 4: 10 God loved us & sent his Son

A. God pardons - is there now a

Cornelius who looks for Him?



PATTERN OF WORSHIP OF THE N. T. CHURCH

Ps. 42:1-2

I. Sincerity must & does attend the worshipper as he comes before God - but is anything else required?

A. Jesus said spirit & truth. Jn. 4:23

B. Our quest is to see what the early church did - surely such would still please God.

II. Worship Defined.

A. To give to a person of worth respect & honor.

H. McCord.

1. It is expression of praise.

2. It is an emotion, that of the mind.

3. What he feels in his heart he bodily expresses.

a.) Prostration.

b.) Worship = to bow down.

Gen. 22:5 "We will worship (bow down)

c.) ~~To kiss - bow & kiss hand or foot~~ (Jn. 4:23).

Mark 15:19 "And they smote him on the head with a ree

Matt. 26:48 "Now he that betrayed him gave them a

4. Worship is that. See McCord article.

5. J. D. Thomas article.

B. ~~Thus we need our thots guided by proper motives.~~

III. How did the early Chr. express his?

A. Everett Ferguson gives us many examples.

1. Pliny.

2. Justin.

3. Tertullian.

4. Clement.

5. John.

B. Explanation of above.

1. Pliny is reporting to Emperor.
 - a.) His story is about Christians who have gone back into world.
 - b.) Pliny was not basically interested in how they worshipped - his a political report.
2. Fixed day = Sunday.
 - a.) Predawn - because slaves had to work.
 - b.) Later taken at meal time.
3. Shocked by hymns - interrogation & response. A chant. Not so much antiphonally. Deity of Christ their central theme.
4. Pliny wanted to know about membership oath as tho a secret organization. What do you believe
5. Note the call for moral earnestness.

C. Conclusions.

1. They read Scrp.
2. They preached.
3. They sang.
4. They prayed.
5. They gave.
6. They ate Lord's Supper.
7. Lord's Supper only on Sundays.
8. Early Chr. preaching was expository.
9. Offerings could be in produce or money.
10. Tithing was not practiced.

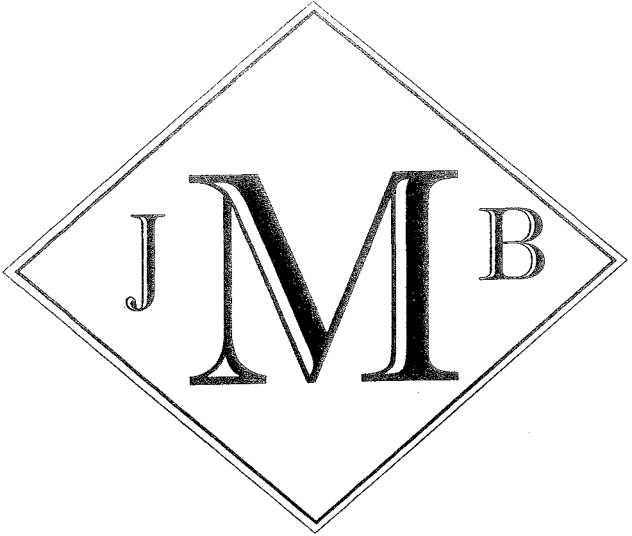
IV. Let's particularly look at Lord's Supper.

- A. Read various quotes.
- B. Common name of 2nd century was eucharist - thanksgiving.

1. Church's great moment of thanksgiving.
2. They remembered God's gifts.
3. Note Ignatius plea for unity - not schismatic assemblies.
4. No 2nd century evidence for daily observance.
5. It held a central place.
6. Age of free prayers - none bound - no liturgy.
7. Developed stereotyped phrases.
8. Cup stood for contents - because cup was held as prayer was said.
9. Sometimes reverse order - cup, then bread.
10. It may have had its setting in a social meal.
 - a.) Jesus did it this way.
 - b.) I Cor. 11:17 "Now in this that I declare unto
 - c.) It later became the love feast.
11. Prayers may have been punctuated by "To you be the glory forever."
12. Emphasis on fellowship & eschatology.
13. For the baptized alone.
14. Amens came - meant sing out the assent.
15. Elements were ordinary food.
16. Wine - ordinary table drink - wine & water mix
17. If you used wine, it automatically meant mix. To show it otherwise, they said unmixed wine.
18. Newly baptized given.
 - a.) Cup of mixed wine - the antitype of the blood
 - b.) Cup of milk & honey - sign of entering promised land & becoming spiritual children.
 - c.) Cup of water sign of washed from sins.
19. Worship was a corporate act - not something done for people.

20. Some prayers addressed to Christ.

West End 6-29-83



THE CHANGING MOODS OF MAN

Psalms 42:6-11

- I. Haven't you been there:
- A. On top of the world--whistling a happy tune--everything comes up roses.
 - B. Or so low you could walk under a snake--every happy person looks like he's crazy--I'm in the pits, blue as indigo.
 - C. Two different people? No, the same one at two different times!
(Clip on "One Day") - #1

II. Life Knows its:

- A. Fluctuations--its mood swings.
- B. When we are down what can we do?
(Sleeps with the dog) - #2
 - 1. You are not the only one.
 - 2. You are not vile--David is a man after God's own heart and he was despondent.
 - 3. You can talk to two folks: Your God and yourself.
 - 4. You can assess whether you want to come out of it or not.
 - 5. You can be honest about it.

Ps. 42:6 "O my God, my soul is cast down"

- a) Tell the Lord how you feel.
- b) Face the blues.

III. Object of this Lesson--Rise Again!

Just How Do We Do It?

A. Remember God

- 1. What do you spiritually remember?
 - a) God?
 - b) Any earlier rescues?

c) Any promises?

d) Any time God truly blessed you?

B. Remember your Jordan, etc.

1. Store up His blessings and acts.

2. Land

a) Trans Jordan.

b) Dried it up for Israel's entrance.

3. Hermonites

a) Extreme north.

b) Peaks of majesty.

4. Mizar

a) Little hill--where not known.

b) Means little or insignificant.

5. Rich in past experiences.

C. Sure, you've had your severe storms.

1. Deep calls to deep.

a) Creations enter into it.

b) Figure of depth? Some you've had are:

(1) Temptation

(2) Desertion

(3) Affliction

(4) Calamities

2. Noise of waterspouts

a) Strange phenomena of nature.

b) Cataracts--(also 1 other place)

2 Sam. 5:8

3. Waves

a) Deep trouble yet survived.

b) Whatever the waves are, they are God's. (Ash)

IV. Events Turn

A. Lord commands loving kindness.

1. As a Sovereign--commands, not just shows.
2. Loving Kindness grants us mercy.
3. Does it constantly.
 - a) In the daytime.
 - b) In the night his song shall be with me.
 - c) All divisions of time are illuminated with his special love.
 - d) We can pray--before & after deliverance.
4. The God of my life
 - a) Is He?
 - b) Your prayer demands it.
 - c) God of nature, grace, glory.
 - d) Only time Yahweh--rest it's El.

B. So Speak to Him

1. He's your Rock.
 - a) Shelter
 - b) Foundation
2. Ask him "why."
 - a) We may inquire as to the reason for His displeasure.
 - b) Many "whys."
 - c) 6 times in 11 verses.
 - d) Life is full of puzzles.
 - e) Easier to ask than answer.
 - f) Praying hands - #3
3. He feels:
 - a) Forgotten
 - b) His enemies
 - c) Persecution

d) Daily reproach--where is thy God?

- (1) Constantly--daily.
- (2) Cruel mockery.
- (3) Men are ignorant.
- (4) Most grievous of taunts.

Heb. 13:5 *Be content & such -- I will never leave thee*

~~Hosea 2:14~~

4. Why did David, especially Jesus have enemies?

Ps. 35

Acts 10:38 *Prophetic talents, power doing good, healing etc. that were bestowed. Devil - God's*

5. Then speak to your own soul.

- a) What causes your despair?
- b) Why am I cast down?

C. Hope in God!

- 1. Like the sun, journey toward hope and it casts its shadow behind you. (Spuregon)
- 2. Cure for Care--Hope in God.
- 3. When on top of the mast of the ship and fear besets you as you come down--look up, not down.
- 4. Faith closes the struggle a victor.
- 5. Countenance reflects it--even as Stephen's face shone like an angel.

FACE TO FACE

Walnut Street, Dickson, TN - 4/15/90

S.T. Thomas, Funder & Lewisburg, TN 4/20/90

Lindale church. Houston, TX - 6/4/90

Ministers' Workshop, King of Prussia, PA--9/6/90
 Tuscumbia, AL (AM service) - 9/20/90
 Palisades, Birmingham, AL (Ladies C.) - 10/29/91

America has 236 million people. We are a lively people. In 1984, Tom Parker wrote a book called, *One Day*. In it he traced many of the things that happen in our country in one day. For example:

- Americans print more than a quarter million dollars of counterfeit money (fortunately 90% of the funny money is seized before it reaches the public).
- 20 mail carriers will be bitten by a dog.
- 20,000 people will write letters to the President.
- 110 lucky golfers will shoot a hole in one.
- 100,000 Americans will move to a different home; 18,000 to a different state.
- We will buy 25,000 new automobiles and 2,500 new motorcycles.
- We will spend 2.5 million dollars washing our cars.
- 3 Americans will have a sex change operation.
- 3,000 will be confronted by a robber (500 discover that the robber is someone they know.)
- Americans will eat 5,000 tons of candy and dentists will fill half a million cavities.

TWO WOMEN were chatting. "I have trouble getting my 13-year-old boy up in the morning. Sometimes it's almost impossible to wake him up."

"Oh," said her friend. "I solved that a long time ago with my boy. When it's time to wake him up, I just toss the cat on his bed."

"How does that help?" the first woman asked.

"Because," her friend replied, "he sleeps with his dog."

X
43
I am intrigued by the story behind the artistic masterpiece, "Praying Hands," which depicts nothing but a pair of hands gently pressed together in an attitude of prayer. Behind it is a warm story of friendship and sacrifice.

Young Albrecht Durer, a struggling German artist, lived with a friend and fellow artist. So poor were they that both feared they might starve. In order to survive, the friends made a pact. It was decided that one would work elsewhere while the other painted.

Since Durer showed evidence of having more talent than his friend, they agreed that he would pursue his art. His friend, therefore, worked at every menial task he could find so both might eat.

Finally one day, Durer came home elated. He had sold a woodcut for a considerable sum of money. Now there was enough money for both men and his friend could quit his job and return to his paints and canvas. But when the man picked up his brush, he despaired. His hands had grown rough and course. His fingers, once agile, had become twisted and insensitive.

Durer felt badly for his friend. He knew there was nothing he

could do, though, to restore his companion's lost skill.

One day, the artist walked into his friend's room and found him deep in prayer. In a moment of inspiration, Durer sketched his friend's hands. It was those hands, with their enlarged joints and broken fingernails, that Durer gave to the world.

Who gave the greatest gift? The artist whose beloved work has been admired and cherished for hundreds of years? Or his friend, who literally gave his hands that Durer might paint?

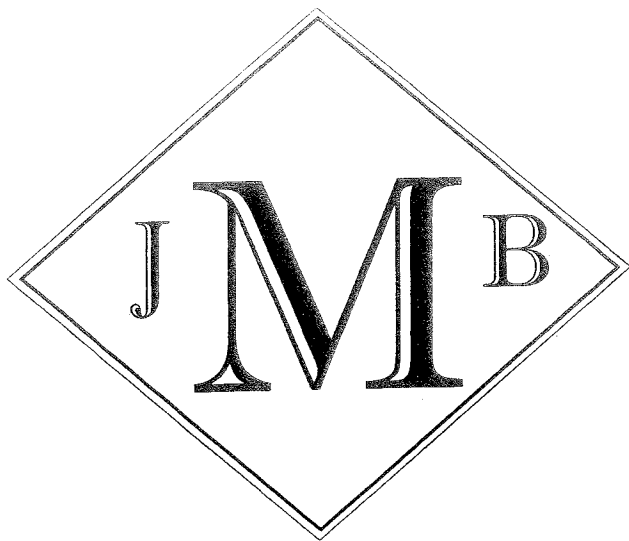
Who can say? One, less talented, gave a gift of time, while the other gave a gift of timeless art.

WOMEN

Woman's place is in the home, and she should get there from her job as quickly as she can.

Often the very people who could offer the clergywoman support are the people who undermine her ministry. The secretary, the director of Christian education, and the senior pastor are usually the first to find difficulty in accepting the authority of a woman in the ministry.

—Mary Hansen
The Christian Century



5 MY'S

Ps. 43

- I. Seldom do we like for one to parade their possession.
 - A. Memphis lady "I have 2 sons and both are millionaires".
 - B. "My" & "I" are distasteful.

- II. But I know where a man totalled his assets & I loved his calculations - Ps. 43.
 - A. Read Psalm.
 - B. Count the "My's" - v. 1, 2, 4, 5.
 - C. Count 4 why's.

- III. Do you have these 5?
 - A. Plead my cause.
 1. Appealed to God as Judge.
 - a) Others won't understand - He will know me perfectly.
 - b) If heart is clear God can gladly look at us.
 - c) Appeal to God's justice
Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan his work in vain
God is his own interpreter
And he will make it plain
 2. Plead my cause
 - a) Nations are ungodly.
 - b) Need an Advocate.
 - c) I definitely have a purpose.

3. Deliver me
 - a) Deceitful & unjust men.
 - b) Terrible two.

B. God of my Strength

1. He's our answer - not our own self.
2. Definite - thou art my strength.
3. Trust his Providence.
4. 3 strengths:
 - a) Natural
 - b) Providential
 - c) Spiritual
5. Pleads for thy light & thy truth to lead me - bring to holy hill & tabernacle.
6. Knowing what God wants a great joy.
7. Truth & light must lead us.
8. Well to ask why are we disquieted.

C. Altar - God My Exceeding Joy

1. Not ritualism but God.
2. Fellowship with the Lord.
3. Blessed rapture.
4. Sweeter than the harps of David.
5. What sweeter 4 words: O God, My God.
6. Implies submission & friendship in relationship to God.
7. I Pet. 1:8 joy unspeakable.

D. Cast Down - O My Soul

1. More terrible the storm, more necessary the anchor.

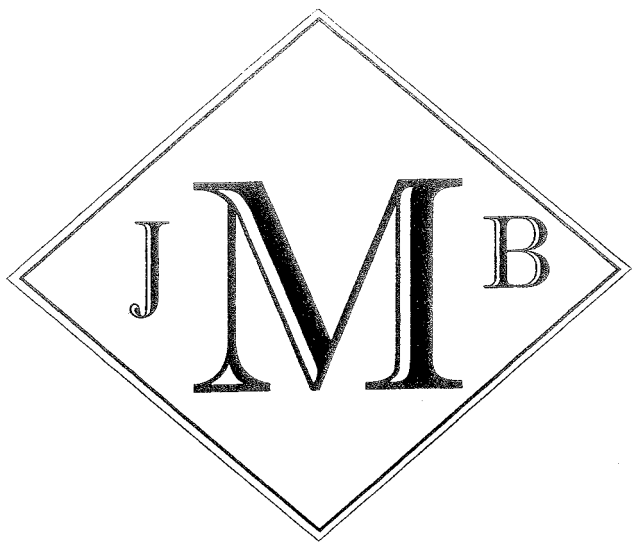
3.

2. Had Absalom just run David out of town?
3. Many have trouble - even God's finest.
4. Temporal afflictions get us.
5. Baseball - play the ball, don't let the ball play you.

E. My countenance & My God

1. Hope in God.
2. Exceeding great & precious promises.
3. Jesus cried it from the cross.

Senior Adult Dinner, West End - 5/13/85



GOD OUR REFUGE

Ps. 46:1-5

I. In our troubled world I need a glorious refuge. *Use 46:1-5 = order of service*

A. I've found it in God. *epide*

1. Our consolation.

2. I love the 46th Psalm--George DeHoff used it at every funeral.

B. Via Introduction. *From Every Storm*

1. A song upon Al'a moth. *Wills*

2. Means virgin.

3. Implies sung with high notes, soprano.

4. It still sings a great message to us today.

II. The Comfort It Gives.

A. God is our Refuge & Strength.

1. Stronghold.

2. God's protective care can shatter all enemy combinations.

3. Refuge = high places--a retreat beyond the reach of foes.

4. Here we can safely trust.

B. God is a very present help in trouble.

1. We often need aid.

2. Help in trouble to be found in plentitude.

3. Immediately accessible and fully able to meet all needs.

4. Mel Gardner robbed--phone off so 911 not available.

5. This is accessible help--easy to find.

6. Very present--not far to seek, at hand.

7. Intimate nearness.

8. Helps in exceeding trouble when care is heaviest.

III. Our Reaction.

A. I will not fear.

1. Rest in perfect peace.

2. Undismayed though threatened.

3. Fearlessness 1st blessing bequeathed
--gladness & joy follow as we obey
omnipotent God.

B. The Challenge.

1. Though the earth be removed.

a) Lit. at the changing of the earth.

b) Political change & revolution come.

2. Mountain carried into the midst of
the sea.

a) Mt. hurled there.

b) Volcano power.

c) Thought impregnable yet blown
away.

d) We've our "mountains".

(1) National disasters.

(2) Personal & family troubles.

(3) Shifting beliefs.

3. Though the sea roar--lit. roar and
foam.

4. Mt. shake with the swelling thereof.

IV. God's Further Provisions

A. There is a River.

1. Perennial stream--not a waddy.

2. Perennial fountain of grace.

3. Streams make glad--shall not barely
preserve but abundance--thus
Thanksgiving and gladness.

4. Rejoice in the worship and praise
of God.

B. The Holy Place.

1. God in the midst.

2. Shall not be moved.

3. God helps & that right early.

a) Lit. at the approach of morning.

b) Or at the turning of the morning.

c) Should storms of 7-fold thunder
Roll & shake the globe from
pole to pole,

No flaming bolt shall daunt my face

For Jesus is my hiding place.

4. The Lord of host is with us (v-7).

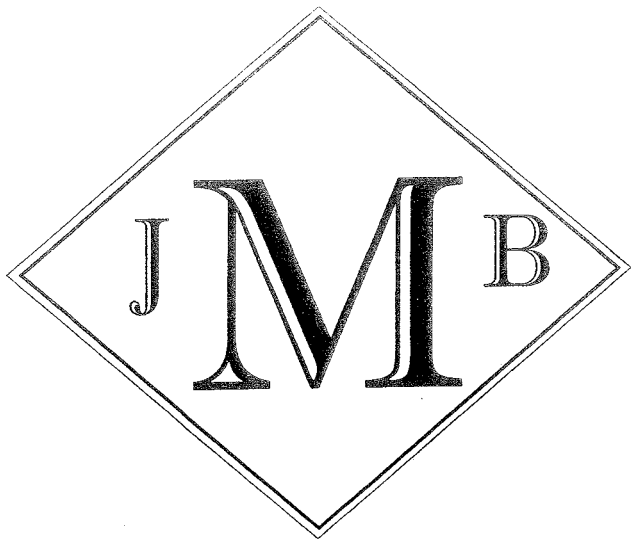
a) On our side.

b) Let us praise Him.

South Harpeth (B.C.) - 1/24/93

Isabel, KS - 1/27/93

Germantown, TN (Noon) - 2/17/93



THE UNIVERSAL CRY

Ps. 46:1-5

I. We are long impressed with what one says in last moments.

A. Hospital visits c Geneva Ormes.

1. 1st X in bed - she simply ans. with short ans. Pointed to neck to show surgery, & was agreeable & gracious as we prayed.

2. 2nd time she was sitting up. Tapped chair & motioned for me to come closer. Then whispered "Help me."

B. To me, this is the lifelong cry & emphasizes the essentiality of our love one for another. In her pillowed chair it was obvious she'd been helped & so was the floral evidence of her room.

II. That cry:

A. We raise our arms in birth & utter our audible "help me" w/o an ability to say a word.

B. Children must be helped:

1. Put on clothes, tie shoes.

2. Learn.

3. What's advantageous, what's dangerous.

C. Life calls for companionship - help me to live fuller & we marry.

D. Life brings its problems:

1. Legally.

2. Medicinally.

3. Financially - help me.

E. Age raises again the cry of help me--yet we all feel only temporary success.

III. One who is eternal help.

Ps. 38:22 "Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salv.

Ps. 33:20 "He is our help & our shield

Ps. 27:9 "Hide not thy face far from me.

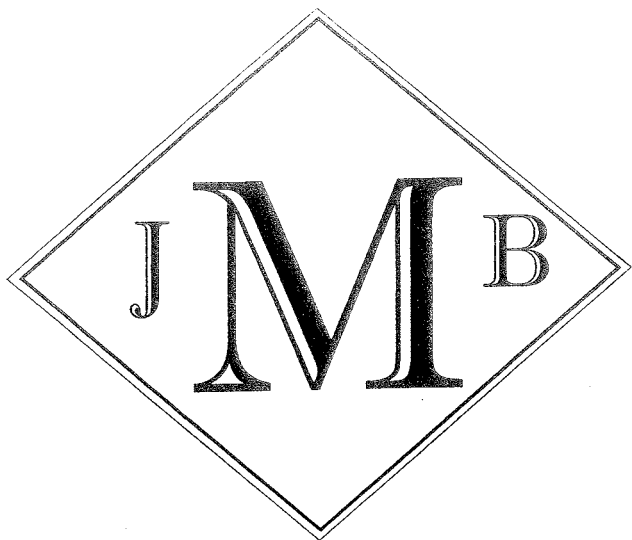
Ps. 79:9 "Help us, O God of our salv....deliver, pt

Isa. 41:10 "Fear not, be not dismayed

Heb. 13:6 "I will never leave them... so that we
may boldly say "the Lord is my helper -
fear

Heb. 4:15-16 "For we have not a hi priest which can

Mrs Geneva Armes funeral 9-24-83



THINGS BROKEN

Psalms 55:13-21

- I. All bright and shiny under the tree are gifts. No scratch - unless it's old - one guy wrapped a broken sugar bowl in each piece & sent it - but especially for the kids - all's new. You dread the breakage & the batteries that get drained.
- II. But now all things broken are bad - shall we look at some on both sides of the ledger?
 - A. Deborah's song of thanksgivings - Judges 5.
 1. Condition of Israel described (6-8).
 - a.) Hiways unoccupied.
 - b.) Travelers walked in by-ways.
 - c.) Villages ceased.
 - d.) Idolatry flourished.
 - e.) War in the gates.
 - f.) Yet governors arose "who offered themselves willingly among the people."
 2. Deliverance came.
 - a.) Ride white asses - highly prized.
 - b.) Wells outside walls places of danger in war - now places of pleasant meeting.
 - c.) Rehearsed righteous acts of God.
 3. Rehearsed what various tribes did.
 4. Recalled the battle.
 - a.) Took no gain of money - no spoils.
 - b.) Stars in their courses fought against Sisera.
 - c.) River washed enemies away.
 - d.) V. 22 Hoofs (unshod their practice) were broken in their hasty retreat.
 5. God's people eventually win.

1 Sam. 2:1-4 "And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart

a.) Hannah's great song of victory.

b.) Heart rejoices - exalteth - horn like an animal who tosses head in air.

c.) Mouth now open to praise God.

d.) We are unjust if we do not praise God for His gifts.

e.) Hannah overlooks the gift & praises the giver.

(1) God's holy.

(2) God's powerful - Rock.

(3) God's wise - Judges.

(4) God's unerring in Justice - actions are weighed

f.) God's providence is great - V. 4 breaks bows of mighty men.

g.) He makes the strong weak & weak strong.

B. There are the Covenant Breakers Ps. 55:16-23.

1. David resolved to call on God.

2. Pray 3X daily - pray as often as we eat.

3. God delivers.

4. He'll deal c enemies.

a.) Have no awe of God - V. 19.

b.) No interruption to their constant course of prosperity in their disobedience.

c.) have no fear of God (V. 20).

d.) Treacherous, deceitful folk.

e.) God will break them

V. 19 & 20

C. Broken spirits.

Ps. 51:17 "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit
a broken & a contrite heart

Ps. 31:12 "I am like a broken vessel

- 1. Sacrifice of beasts not enuf.
- 2. Broken by sin but not in despair.
- 3. Pliable heart - subdued - brot to way of God.

D. Broken Bread.

- 1. Of the supper.

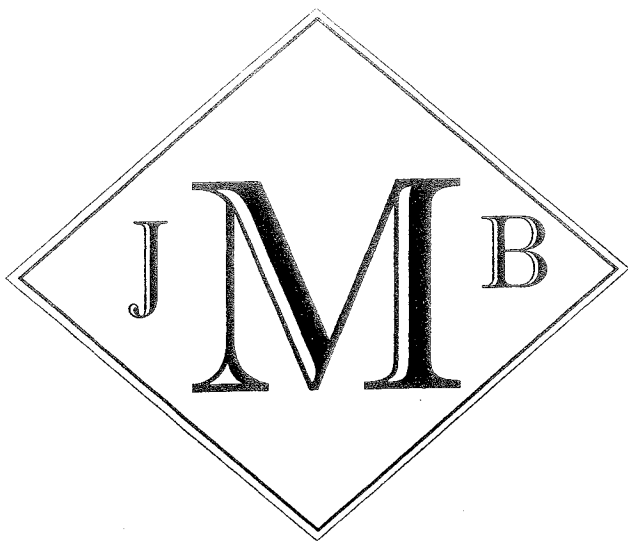
I Cor. 11:24 "And when he had given thanks, he brak

- a.) Great account.
- b.) Jesus author - when about to receive injury from betrayer, He thot of us.
- c.) Time of institution - betrayal nite.
- d.) Visible signs - bread & cup.
- e.) He was broken for us.
- f.) Supper keeps this memory fresh.
- g.) Also break to distribute!

2. Fellowship - Acts 20:7-12

- a.) Paul kept on preaching. Tense shows. Assembly necessary. Long sermon.
- b.) Did lights cause heat & guy got sleepy? Went to sleep even on Paul. Up too late nite before? Young men.
- c.) Restored to life & talked endlessly.
- d.) Don't sleep when you should listen.
- e.) Sermon & men talk about heavenly things.
- f.) Let us all be a matter of great rejoicing.

West End 12-18-77



I'M HERE TO PRAISE, TO PAY, TO PRAY

Psalm 56

1. What man who's lived long has not been hard pressed?
 - A. Count both blessings & bumps.
 - B. David had his, as Ps. 56 records.
 1. Man would swallow me up (V. 1).
 - (a) Lit. man pants after me, as wild beast after prey
 - (b) Contrast is sharp between God & man. Man is weak; Elohim is word for mighty one.
 - (c) Was this David's 1 Sam. 21:10-21:1 experience?
 2. It's a daily doing (V. 2).
 - (a) Relentless.
 - (b) Fight against me.
 - (c) Number of enemy is "they be many."
 - (d) Daily - great no. - ambush.
 - (e) It's a concerted attack.
 3. It brought fear (V. 3).
 - (a) Fear becomes sin when it paralyzes trust.
 - (b) Need God - for light changes ghostly hands to angel's wings.
 - (c) So formidable an enemy gives reason to fear.
 - (d) With God as ally it can be overcome.
 - (e) Fear brings snare.
Prov. 29:25 "The fear of man bringeth a snare:
 - (f) Fear of God causes no evil; of man leads to weakness & baseness.
 - (g) Fear of man leads to sacrifice of independence, justice & generosity.
 4. He's knowledgeable of the enemy's ways.
 - (a) "Every day they wrest my words" (V. 5).
 - (1) Seek to give them an evil meaning.

- (2) All day long they do it.
- (b) "All their thots are against me for evil" (V. 5).
 - (1) Entirely want to hurt.
 - (2) Want his life - until they get it bent on doing as much mischief as they can.
- (c) They gather - hide - mark - wait.
 - (1) Strong member.
 - (2) Spies.
 - (3) Ambush.
 - (4) Watch every move.
 - (5) Entirely want to hurt.

II. What's the Answer to this Dilemma?

- A. Shall they **escape** by Iniquity?
 - 1. Will God let them off?
 - 2. Does evil triumph?
- B. Is it right to ask God to cast them down? (V. 7)
- C. What can I do?
 - 1. I can praise God in His word.

V. 4 "In God I will praise his word

V. 10 "In God I will praise his word

In the Lord I will praise his word

(a) By word God enters relationship c us.

Jn. 5:39 "Search the Scrp. for in them ye think

Jn. 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father

(b) Put trust in God.

(c) He has a tender remembrance - puts tears in a bottle (V. 8).

(d) Of what use is God's lachrymatory?

(e) Result of trust can be absence of fear.

I Jn. 4:18 "There is no fear in love but perfect love cc

Eph. 6:16 "Above all, taking the shield of faith, when ye shall be able to withstand all the wiles of the devil, ye shall not be overcome of him."
Eph. 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against evil spirits of high degree, against the hosts of heaven."
John 10:28-30 "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man snatch them out of my hand."
John 10:30 "The Father that giveth life unto whomsoever he will, he giveth it unto whomsoever he will."

- (f) Victory will be to the right.
- (g) Rely on God's retributive justice.

2. I can pray.

V. 9 "When I cry unto thee, then shall mine answer come unto me."

- (a) God knows our trials.
- (b) He wants to hear our pleas.

3. I can pay - my vow.

V. 12 "Thy vows are upon me, O God."

- (a) Used under Moses.

Nu. 30:2-15

Isa. 29:21 "That make a man an offender for a word, that perverteth his speech, that shall be counted as a fool, because he hath said, I will not offend; for I will not offend myself, lest I should be a fool, and should be despised."
Nahum 1:15 "Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth tidings of peace, and he shall stand upon the high place of his land."
Prov. 20:25 "It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which he hath vowed, and that who covereth his eyes, lest he should see, and say, I have not sinned."

- (b) Solemn way to bind ourselves to do acknowledge duty.
- (c) Keep it.

Ecc. 5:4-5 "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he will not be slack of his promise: therefore pay that which thou hast vowed."
Rom. 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

I Cor. 6:19-20 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye shall be his temple, and ye shall abide in him, and he shall abide in you?"

- (d) 1st vow.

Gen. 28:20 "And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will, I will give thee tenfold for all that thou hast done unto me."

- (e) Vows show eye is grateful for the past.
- (f) And that God's help is needed for the future.
- (g) We had vow at baptism.

Gal. 3:27 "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Rom. 6:3-4 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?"
(h) At Table - Sacrament.

C. In Summation.

- 1. I must be ready to praise God whatever comes.
- 2. Whatever happens I'll never relinquish my trust.

Matt. 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, b

- 3 I need God for future.

Jude 24 "Now unto him that is able to keep you from fr

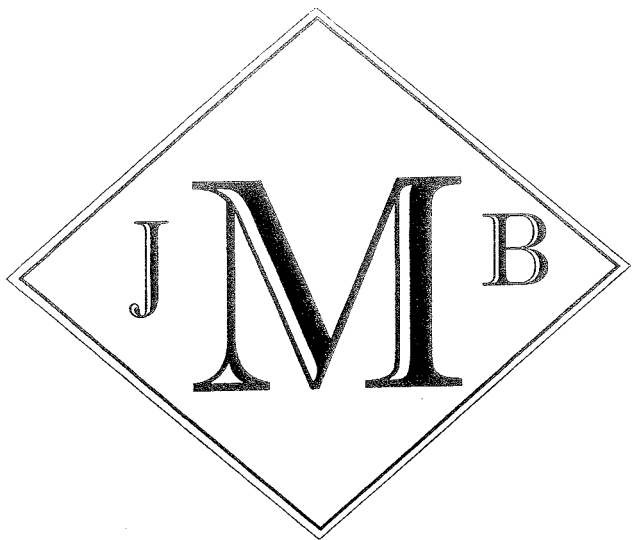
- 4. You may view your deliverance as accomplished.

V. 13 "For thou hast delivered my soul

- 5. Scripture & experience says this will happen--thus

I know!

Shesh. Ev. 9-29-74



LEAD ME TO THE ROCK THAT IS HIGHER THAN I

Psalms 61

I. What's the most amazing cry you've heard?

- A. Working 20th Century Christian bed, a black man asked if I needed help. No. Then give me 50¢ for a coke. Got a quarter you can have--but it costs 50¢!
- B. My preaching brethren have cries of despair.
- C. But the best one--to the Rock that is higher than I!

II. Study of Ps. 61

A. Outlined

- 1. Earnest prayer (v 1-2)
- 2. Expression of Trust (v 3-7)
- 3. Burst of Praise (v-8)

B. Let's study its parts.

III. The Prayer

A. Hear my Cry.

- 1. Word for cry is shrill, piercing, thought to be either of joy or lamentation.
- 2. It's a shout, an outcry.
- 3. It's personal--everyone has its own.
 - a) Moses felt the burden of his people.

Nu. 11:11 *lgest the burden of all these people on*
b) Paul the care of the churches.

2 Cor. 11:28 *That which cometh on me daily care of all*
4. It's a most earnest, lifted up voice.

B. Attend unto my Prayer.

- 1. Amazing--God can attend them all and sort out mine.

2. Only God can hear all everywhere.
His line is never busy.
 3. We don't just say prayers--we want Heaven's attention, "attend."
 4. We want consideration.
 5. God's heart is seen as tender toward us.
 6. We are really asking "Are you listening?" Surely He is.
 7. You can commit your cause to Him--
He can bring deliverance.
- C. From the Ends of the Earth will I cry unto thee.
1. We may be exiled from home but God is near.
 2. Know He's not deaf but it's a long way from Palmara.
 3. Anywhere--we can be with the Lord.
- D. Further I'll Cry When My Heart is Overwhelmed.
1. Overwhelmed
 - a) Faints
 2. Faith triumphs in heaviest trials.
 3. Troubles come in multiple forms.
 4. Seems like at times they cover us.
- E. Lead Me to the Rock That is Higher Than I.
1. Lead--show me the way.
 2. Rock
 - a) It's too high for me--can't get on it without help.
 - b) From the foot of the rock, half drown, we reach the Summit.
 - c) 1st of 3 images of Protection.

F. Been a Shelter for me.

IV. Further Statements of Trust

A. A strong tower from the enemy.

1. A fortress.
2. Enemy might have been Absalom, his son.
3. Remembrance thus an inspiration for the future.
4. Name of God a Tower.

Prov. 18:10

5. You trust friends who have helped in times past, so you go there again.

B. Abide in Thy Tabernacle Forever.

1. Wants to stay in the heavenly dwelling.
2. He saw the tabernacle as the center of his world.
3. If away from it, he is downcast.
4. Remember the protective nature of the tent host of the East.
5. There is no other God to seek. Gene Pavado told of going to India & preaching Paul's sermon from Mars Hill--there is 1 God--(baptized 500) had 1 Son--He saves.
6. We may enjoy God forever.

C. I will Trust in the Cover of Thy Wings.

1. Picture of shelter under the living, loving wings of a brooding bird.
2. Chicks are warm in mother's bosom.
3. There were wings over the mercy seat.
4. Card on thankful for hard places.

D. God Heard My Vows

1. You heard me often in the past and accepted what I said.
2. Thus emboldened to make further requests.
3. Past experiences warrant us to expect interposition of God.
4. What we vow to God is already due.
5. Vows mean something--don't make it shallow.
6. See card--Swisher on "I can do all."

E. I Have Heritage of Those That Fear Thy Name

1. We definitely have a heritage.

F. I am moved to think of others.

1. God will prolong the King's life.
2. Story of nurse who asked is "weight up of patient?" For some this has no meaning, to others it shows progress of patient. It's the difference between a nurse and anyone of the street "If you only fill in forms go to work in admitting!"
3. Wants days of true King to long continue.
4. William James card.

V. Let It End in a Burst of Praise.

V-8 "So will I sing praise unto"

- A. Let prayer end in praise.
- B. Answered prayer leads to perpetual song.
- C. Let there be no pause in sacred service.

LEAD ME TO THE ROCK THAT IS HIGHER THAN I 5.

Chuck Fleming wedding - 7/27/91

Silver Point, TN (BC) - 7/28/91

Funeral, Rebecca McCallum - 8/3/91

Funeral, Mrs. Clara Jenkins - 11/7/91

Dr. Howard Hendricks, a prominent Christian author, cites a questionnaire in which a group of young couples were asked to list their priorities. Most of the lists started with "a nice house" and other material possessions, with relationships listed toward the bottom. Twenty years later the same people were asked to rewrite their priorities, and almost all of them put relationships first—especially with their children. Some of these parents are now trying to pick up the broken pieces of their lives—the consequences of their previous shallow priorities.

I mourn for the women of my generation who will look back too late, and think, "Oh, if only I could live this part of my life over again." I hope that many mothers will change the direction of their family life and avoid unnecessary heartbreaks in the years to come.

Linda Burnett

"A Mother's Choice" - By Paul D. Meier and Linda Burnett

Page 18

#2

X
Twelve things to remember: The value of time, the success of perseverance, the pleasure of working, the dignity of simplicity, the worth of character, the power of kindness, the influence of example, the obligation of duty, the wisdom of economy, the virtue of patience, the improvement of talent and the joy of originating. - MARSHALL FIELD.

99

Inventor Thomas A. Edison set himself an ambitious goal. It was to come up with a major new invention every six months, a minor invention every ten days. When he died, he had 1,093 U.S. patents and over 2,000 foreign ones. #3

Edison knew that by setting such goals for himself, and striving to reach them, he was bound to increase his output. The same principle applies. No matter what goals you set for yourself...calls per day, week or month...dollars of business per month...or new customers per month...they are bound to help your results. Challenge yourself — then rise to meet the challenge.

Earl Nightingale Our Changing World



#5120—A LONG LIFE

#3 1/2

Have you ever watched an orchestra conductor at work during rehearsals? The ones I've watched were very similar: they rant, they rave, they pull their hair, if they have any left, until everything is perfect. And yet musical conductors, despite the hazards of their trade, manage to outlive the rest of us by an average of eight years.

How? By loving their work.

Albert Camus, the great French contemporary writer said, "Without work, all life goes rotten. But when work is without soul, life stifles and dies." Maestros have soul.

"It's not the amount of stress you have so much as how you handle it," says Doctor Hans Selye, Nobel Laureate and seventy-plus-year-old President of the International Institute of Stress, in Montreal. "Blocking the fulfillment of our natural drives for any great period of time can be a very dangerous thing."

Which could explain why high-level management people live longer than mid-level. And assembly line workers die before cigar-smoking comedians. *Frustration* is what kills. And the *bored* die sooner than the *busy*.

Stress is an inescapable part of life according to Doctor Selye. The idea is to get it to work *for* rather than *against* us. How? *By committing ourselves to*

than any measure of physical health, the use of tobacco or genetic inheritance," the report states, "the number one predictor of longevity in this country is work satisfaction." Something you might want to keep in mind the next time you want to kick the copy machine. So reports the *Executive Fitness Newsletter* published by Rodale Press, Inc.

The reason longevity as an indicator is important is because it also indicates happiness or well-being. And happy people, working at what they most enjoy, live longer and enjoy better health as a rule than frustrated people.

For millions, the arrival of the Industrial Revolution, meant mind- and soul-destroying toil in endless factories. We are now in the post-industrial age and with a bit of planning and education most of us can actually choose the kind of work we do and in the field in which we find the most interest. Social critics say "Not everyone, we still need the thousands to work in the factories." There are two answers to that, at least: The first is that factories have changed and improved as have working conditions and hours and the worker's control of his life and environment. The second is that a lot of those people like the work they're doing and those that don't are free to change. How about you?

* * *

"Without work, all life goes rotten. But when work is without soul, life stifles and dies." "Blocking the fulfillment of our natural drives for any great period of time can be a very dangerous thing."

The heart can teach us a lesson at this point. It beats an average of seventy-two times a minute from birth to death. And yet it rests eight hours every day. The entire heart never works at the same time. First the upper portion, then the lower portion, and then the whole heart rests. The rest period is about one third of its total time. Consequently the heart does not tire. And yet an adult heart, weighing just over eight ounces, will in a year's time pump 650,000 gallons of blood past a given point, enough to fill eighty-one tank cars holding 8,000 gallons each. In fifty years it will beat nearly two billion times. The heart is able to do this astounding work because it practices the rhythm of work and rest.

From: Our Search for Success, Rolla O. Swisher

Pg. 127

William James said, "One of the greatest drives of human nature is to be appreciated." Lord Chesterfield gave this advice to his son: "My son, here is the best way to get people to like you. Make every person like himself a little better, and I promise that he will like you very much indeed."

From: Our Search for Success, Rolla O. Swisher

Pg. 14

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me (Phil. 4:13).

If you think you are beatenm you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't;
If you want to win but think you can't,
It's almost a cinch you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you're lost;
For out in the world we find
Success begins with a fellow's mind.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger and faster man,
But sooner or later the man who wins
Is the man who thinks he can.

-- Author Unknown

From: Our Search for Success, Rolla O. Swisher
Pg. 27

Be thankful for the hard places. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth" (Heb. 12:6). I heard of one man who when difficulty comes his way says, "Thanks Lord, for the compliment!"

Eleven hundred unsuccessful experiments did not mean failure for Thomas A. Edison. He said rather: "I found eleven hundred ways how not to do it." A road paved with failures can lead to success!

From: Our Search for Success, Rolla O. Swisher
Pgs. 35, 36

15

Half-way down a steep, winding hill in the north of England, a man stopped his car to ask an old woman at her gate if the hill was dangerous. "Not 'ere, it isn't," she said. "It's down at the bottom where they all kills themselves."

It seems it's always possible to find one that has it tougher than we do.

Consider the just hatched turkey, for instance.

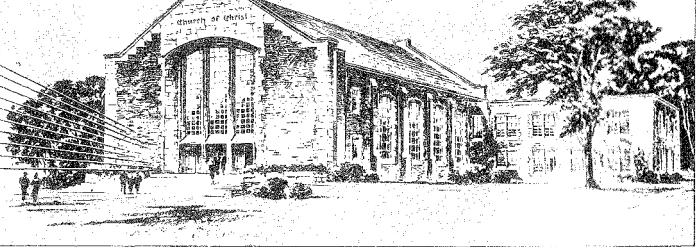
He is called a pault.

Immediately after he is hatched his sex is determined and segregation begins - the toms to one section and the hens to another.

The first act is to cut off all tones of all birds; if he is a tom next scrap off his snoot. Following this comes the electrical charge that debeaks him, then quickly inject with antibiotic and ship him - expecting him to live.

It's times like this that must make him wonder why he ever left the shell.

AIM



"We make it our aim . . . to be well-pleasing unto him" (2 Corinthians 5:9)

Vol. 51

APRIL 14, 1991

No. 15

FLIES, BEES, AND OPEN EYES

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A few days ago I attended a workshop where the speaker used the world of nature to make a most interesting point. He told us that if flies and bees were placed in an uncapped bottle laid on its side with its bottom facing the window, both kinds of insects would immediately seek to escape toward the light. But at that point differences would emerge. The bees would fly toward the bottom of the bottle, meet the obstruction, and continue to pound themselves against that surface until they died. The flies, on the other hand, would bounce once or twice off the glass bottom before flying all over the area until they found the open top and escaped through it. The irony of this result is that the bee is regarded as much more intelligent than the fly and yet does not understand the need or the opportunity to seek another outlet.

What is to be learned from this phenomenon of nature? Are we to conclude that intellect is not the final answer to all complex matters? Possibly so. After all, we are reminded in Scripture that "God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise" (I Corinthians 1:27).

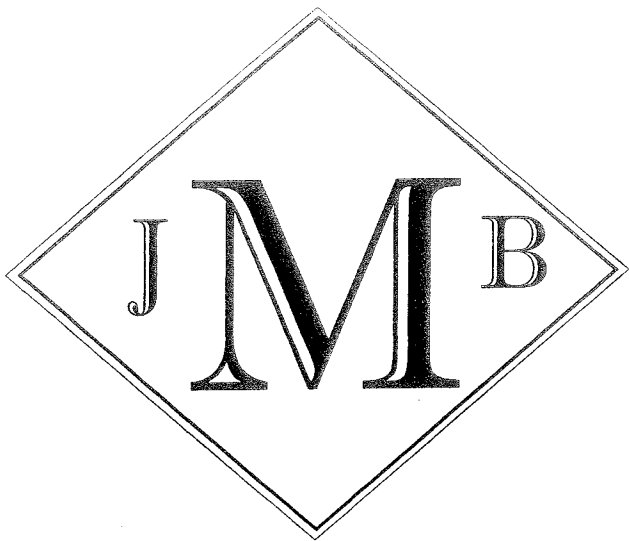
The more important lesson may be one about adaptability or adjustment. Such headstrong dogmatism in solving life's problems often proves to be fatal. It matters not at all for the bee to reason that he knows the light lies just beyond the end of the bottle and that with persistence he should reach it. In some areas persistence is meaningless. One can be persistently foolish, even persistently wrong.

On the other hand, the fly makes his charge for the light, bumps his head against the bottom, and begins to search for another outlet. When all evidence says my predetermined solutions will not work, it is time to adapt. That's really what problem solving is all about. It is a narrow and maybe even closed mind that sees no other approach. Perhaps we should recall that the term "mindset" really means a set mind.

In II Kings the servant of Elisha sees the advancing Syrian army and cries out, "What shall we do?" He sees no escape, no alternative. "Then Elisha prayed and said, 'O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.' And the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (II Kings 6:17).

Rather than banging our heads against the bottom of life's predicaments, let us pray that God will open our eyes and let us see other opportunities and other alternatives, especially those that He has provided for us.

Dennis Loyd



MAGNIFICENT TRUST IN THE LORD
PSALM 62

I. Everyone I know ascribes this Psalm to David.

A. As a preacher said when asked "Did you say ??", answered "I don't remember, but it sounds like me."

1. This fits David.

2. Fought Goliath with faith in God as his major weapon.

3. Sounds like the spirit of Ps. 39.

B. Peculiarity of the Ps.

1. Six fold use of Hebrew word "ac".

2. Word for "only".

3. Pictures perfect confidence in God, leading David to scorn his enemies.

4. One said, "True faith is always in season and ever under fire."

a) Never have I seen so much adverse thoughts against truth.

b) Never have I been asked so much for money.

c) Can't recall more assaults against the truth of God as in this "whatever" age.

C. We go to Ps. 62, hoping to bolster your faith and trust in God.

II. Psalm 62

A. We begin with "Truly".

1. Verily

2. Only are also meanings. One called it the "Only Ps."

3. We learn to wait upon God.
 - a) Habitual position of faith.
 - b) Spurgeon said the whole mind lies before the Lord like the sea beneath the wind ready to be moved by the breath of his mouth.
 - c) We must refuse to be moved by anything other than His will.
 - d) Be moved but not removed-- feel the sway but still anchored.
 - e) Faith is a perpetual privilege-- trust when you can see and when you cannot see.
4. Our trust must not be divided.
5. Look at our word "Truly" or only.
 - v-2 He only is my rock
 - v-4 They only consult to cast him down
 - v-5 My soul wait thou only upon God
 - v-6 He only is my rock
 - v-9 "Surely" men of low degree are vanity or vapor
6. This means without question we must be resigned to His will.
7. "Waiting is nothing else but hope and trust lengthened."
8. We ask: do you believe there is a heavenly ear that hears us?
9. Is there a divine heart that receives our sighs?

10. What assaults our trusting spirit?
 - a) Prosperity
 - b) Adversity
 - c) Sameness--always this way.
11. Jehoshaphat: "Our God, we know not what to do. Only our eyes are unto thee" (2 Chron. 20:12).
12. David: "What time I am afraid I will trust in thee" (Ps. 56:3).
13. Duration of Trust

"All the day long" (Ps. 44:8)
- B. Now note what He states God is:
 1. My Salvation
 - a) Salvation comes from no inferior source.
 - b) Most precious thing you can have--beyond all costs.
 2. My Rock
 - a) David often hid among them.
 - b) My salvation repeated.
 3. My Defense
 - a) Note no word of fear voiced.
 - b) God's big enough to do it.
 - c) He uses figure of bowing or leaning wall or a tottering fence is all that some have.
 4. He is my glory
 - a) God's providence gives glory.
 - b) We grow and glory in what He's done for us.
 - c) Note the personalness of it--
"my" is before salvation, rock, defense, glory.
 5. Lastly my strength, my refuge.

III. If God is not my trust what could I substitute for Him?

A. Men of high or low degree.

1. They are vanity.

2. They lie.

3. Put them on the scales and they weigh nothing.

B. What about trusting oppression, robbery, riches?--if riches increase set not your heart on them.

C. Ungodly persons are not the answer: gangs, perverts, lawless ones--keep your distance.

1. They hate the truth.

2. Though they try hard, they fail.

3. They are an unsound foundation.

IV. What is the rightful conclusion?

v-8 Trust him at all times, ye people,
pour out your heart before Him.

God is a refuge for us.

v-11 & 12 (Read)

God says it once and that's enough

Power and Mercy both are His

Mighty and Merciful

Now add:

1. My Expectation

2. My Strength

3. My Refuge

4. Coupled with

Salvation

Rock

Defense

Soul

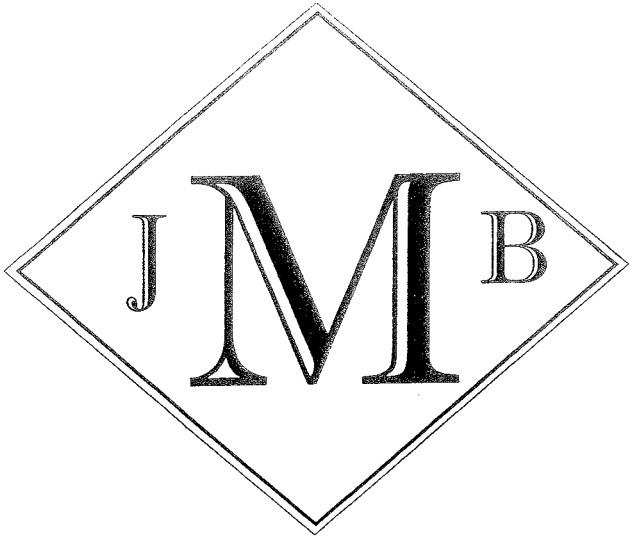
Rock

Defense

Glory

MAGNIFICENT TRUST IN THE LORD
Psalm 62

Neely's Bend C/C - 4/16/06



ARE YOU GOING TO CHURCH MORE AND
ENJOYING IT LESS?

Ps. 63

I. Does the subject question touch you as you present a sleepy body to the Lord?

A. If so, maybe we can help.

B. Read Ps. 63

1. History records "No day should pass w/o singing this Psalm."

2. David--when he was in the wilderness of Judah--is title.

3. Maybe that's where we are in this "dry & thirsty land."

C. Don't fire preacher, dehorn elders, move or quit.

II. Worship will take added meaning if:

A. Avow a personal, open, honest devotion to the Lord.

v-1 "O God, thou art my God"

1. Confess allegiance to God--it's good for you.

2. God is the God of the individual.

3. Elohim = awe, permanency.

4. Eli = might, strength of God.

5. "All life wrapped up in statement 'Thou art my God'." Spurgeon

6. "Thou art my mighty one" -- this does something to attitudes.

B. "Early will I seek thee" - (V-1)

1. Lit. dawn.

2. Early in the morning shows eagerness.

3. Up at cock crowing to meet God.

PRAYER QUOTES

4. Eager to confess Him--won't wait till noon.
5. How strong is our desire to worship --hard to "feed my sheep."
6. Let God be early in respect of:
 - a) Life
 - b) Diligence
 - c) Fervor
 - d) Time-- primacy of everything--
God first.

7. Flesh longs for thee.
 - a) Soul & Flesh in all of man.
 - b) Many hunger today for:
 - (1) Position
 - (2) Power
 - (3) Pleasure
 - (4) Acceptance
 - c) This does not satisfy.

Matt. 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger"
d) Seek Him!

John 7:37 "If any man thirst, let"
e) World of tingling intensity--Ash.

8. Dry & Thirst Land
 - a) Describes today
 - b) Thirst will be heard
 - c) Wilderness puts us in tune for spiritual songs.
 - d) Wilderness = not cultivated or inhabited.
9. We thirst so little for the real things.
10. Note life of soul; it thirsts, longs, satisfies, follows.

C. In worship truly see Him.

1. Not just a ritual.
2. See God in the sanctuary.
 - a) Thru veil of ceremony see God.
 - b) To have to do with ordinances and not God is barren.
3. Loving Kindness is better than life.
 - a) Already seen power.
 - b) And glory.
 - c) Nothing sweeter than His love for us.
 - d) Seek Divine favor.

D. Praise & then Bless the Lord

1. Can we love one and not commend?
2. Puts 7 members before the throne.
 - a) Lips
 - b) Tongue
 - c) Hands (Our purpose for living)
 - d) Will
 - e) Mouth
 - f) Memory
 - g) Intellect
3. Lift hands in praise--pull close.
4. Soul satisfied:
 - a) Marrow & fatness
 - b) Jew liked fat (clip on food)
 - c) God gives necessities--and dainties (Meyer).
5. Never be satisfied with plateau of phony piety - (Swindoll)

E. Meditate in the Night Watches

1. Plural of watches shows all night.

*CRONIN
CARD*

2. Song in the night.
3. Beds of piety better than beds of ivory.
4. Mr. Garrison, "I read Power & then lay there & "medicate" 30 minutes."
5. Recall times of help--review them.
6. His help is constant.
7. Muse, ponder.

Col. 3:2 "Set your mind on things above"

F. My Soul Follows Hard

1. Means glued to Thee.
2. Cleaves to God.
3. right hand upholds.

III. Thus what did he teach us?

- A. Avow in an open way a personal God.
- B. Seek him early.
- C. In worship see Him.
- D. Praise & Bless the Lord.
- E. Meditate in the Night.
- F. Be glued to Him.

IV. Mood Changes & perhaps it's well to see we have hindrances.

- A. Some seek to destroy.
 1. Want to take honor & life.
 2. Even brethren can.
- B. Destroyer will be destroyed.
 1. Unburied bodies for foxes or jackals.
 2. Beast are given to men for food, here it's reversed.
 3. Take oath of allegiance.

Chas. Allen

Him and then he knew the answer to that inner hunger and discontent. As a result of his own experience, Tolstoy gave us this great conclusion: "To know God is to live."

Some years ago four people who knew much about prayer joined together in forming a declaration. They were George Washington Carver, Glenn Frank, Rufus Jones, and Muriel Lester. They wrote:

"Sometime a bridge falls, but that does not mean that the law of gravity has failed. Sometimes lines are short-circuited, but that does not mean that the law of electricity has failed. And sometimes a disciple betrays his Lord, but that does not mean that the law of love has failed. Sometimes a prayer is not answered, but that does not mean that the power of prayer has failed. The scientist does not quit when the lights are short-circuited, nor when the bridge falls. Then why should we? Just think of what would happen if all church people united in prayer with as great faith in the laws of God as scientists have in the laws of nature.

"Science is showing us that the smaller and more invisible a thing is, the more powerful it is. Pasteur proved to an unbelieving world that

bacteria ten thousand times smaller than a flea could kill a man. Physicists are proving that the tiny cosmic ray is far more potent and penetrating than the visible sun ray. Radio operators are proving that the shortwave length carries a message farther than the long-wave length. And love is invisible, but all-powerful love is more potent and penetrating than cannons, submarines or airplanes ever can be. Prayer in the inner room, invisible to the eyes of men, is still as potent as in the days when Jesus said, 'Pray to thy Father who is in secret and thy Father who seeth in secret shall reward you openly.'"

DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH



THE LITTLE boy's mother had called him and four of his friends in from the backyard where they were playing. She seated them around the kitchen table and proceeded to open a large bottle of one-calorie diet cola.

One of the little fellows watched carefully as she filled each of the five glasses. Then he said, "I wonder which one of us got the calorie."

In the U.S. the average person devours in one day as many calories as most world citizens consume in a week. The United Nations latest edition of WORLD STATISTICS IN BRIEF says the world average caloric intake per day is 436.

A STUDY BY DR. Judith Brown of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health revealed that food cravings can be triggered by emotions. For example, hunger for salt can be caused by stress, anxiety and anger make us crave crunchy foods and a need for comfort makes us want starches and sweets. It's okay to indulge a little, but don't binge.

Swallow, Swallow - While eating a typical dinner, the average person swallows 295 times.

God gives us the ingredients for our daily bread, but He expects us to do the baking.

THE POPULARITY of microwave ovens in the United States has resulted in an increase in the popularity of frozen foods. Approximately 70 percent of the households in the United States have microwaves and by the year 2000, most offices, schools, kitchens and worksites are likely to have them. Some people in the food industry are predicting that mini-microwaves will be made to be installed in cars!

It has been beautifully said, "Between the humble and contrite heart and the majesty of heaven there are barriers; the only password is prayer." It bothers me that so few people seem to use that "password" and thereby deny unto themselves so many of the blessings of heaven which are available to them.

THE RICHES OF PRAYER - Chas. Allen - P. 34.

Victor Hugo said, "There are times in a man's life when, regardless of the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees in prayer."

THE RICHES OF PRAYER - Chas. Allen. p.11

A. J. Cronin, a wonderful physician and one whose writings have blessed mankind, says "nothing brightens life - our own and others'--so much as the spirit of thanksgiving"

Dr. Cronin tells about a doctor in Wales who prescribed for certain types of emotionally-disturbed people what he called his "thank-you cure." When a patient came to him discouraged, pessimistic, and full of his own troubles, but without symptoms of a serious ailment, the doctor would give this advice: "For six weeks I want you to say "Thank you' whenever anyone does you a favor; and to show you mean it, emphasize the words with a smile,"

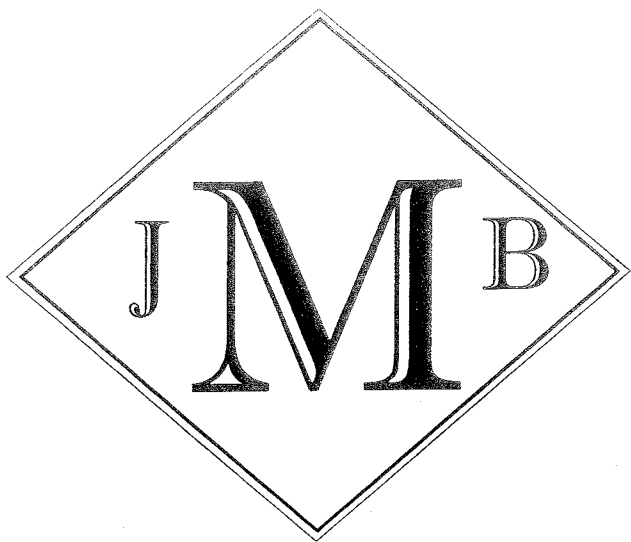
"But no one ever does me a favor, doctor," a patient sometimes complained.

(over)

Whereupon, borrowing from Scripture, the wise old doctor would reply, "Seek and you will find."

More often than not, the patient would return six weeks later with quite a new outlook, freed of his sense of grievance against life, and convinced that people had suddenly become more kindly and friendly.

THE RICHES OF PRAYER - Chas. Allen - P. 18



PRAISE AWAITS OUR GOD

Psalms 65

- I. Admittedly poems are hard to preach.
 - A. Yet the most beautiful language of the world is found in poetry.
 - B. The most elegant poetry is the sacred writing.
 - C. Nothing excels the Psalms even if English loses some of its Hebrew beauty.
- II. In the Psalms God is praised and His majesty extolled. The 65th is one of these.
 - A. Earlier God is praised for his moral qualities--now we see what he does in nature.
 1. Let's quietly see the praise given.
 2. Let's glory in what He's created.
 3. By "terrible (great) things in righteousness he answers us."(v-5)
 - a) His answers inspire.
 - b) His answers bring awe & reverence.
 - c) Nothing God grants us in his love can do us any harm.
 - d) He will do nothing that is not in accord with righteousness and truth.
 - e) Larry Bean often said of families at Paris, "they will do anything for you."
(But we don't have the wisdom to always be right!)
 - f) "God of Our Salvation."
 - g) Confidence of all the ends of the earth--afar upon the sea (v-5).
(See the Catholicity of the wish of God--even then)

h) He's the certain help of man whether they acknowledge him or not.

B. What Has He Done

1. By strength sets fast the mountain.
 - a) In the natural as well as political world God rules.
 - b) Mountains are emblems of God's strength, firmness, fixedness.
 - c) They stand in still & silent majesty.
 - d) It seems they can never be moved.
 - e) They were formed & pitched in their proper place by the hand of God.
 - f) He girds them and prevents splitting, falling down, mouldering away.
 - g) He puts a girdle on them.
 - h) We think of everlasting mountain.

Hab. 3:6

Isa. 54:10

- i) Firmly set on their base.
 - j) The strength that sets up mountains upholds the believer.
 - k) Firmness & stability are gifts of God.
2. Stills the noise of the sea, their waves.
 - a) Jesus controls the sea.
 - b) He lays the waves to sleep.
 - c) Word that stills the sea can quiet our hearts, our enemies.

- d) Turns away tumults of people.
- 3. His tokens bring fear worldwide.
 - a) Signs of God's presence are not confined to one region.
 - b) His tokens fill with awe.
 - c) What are they?

Deut. 4:19 Sun, moon, stars, host of heaven
 "God hath divided unto all nations
 under the whole heaven."

- d) Ordinary things manifest His presence.
- e) God diffuses His blessings world-wide--do we?
- f) Are we thankful for what we've got?
- 4. Outgoings of morning and evening.
 - a) Portals, gates of morn and eve to pass through.
 - b) Gateway through which sun comes each day and passes each night.
 - c) Morning dawns, Eve fades.
 - d) Rising has brightness of hope. Evening--mellow with blessings & thanks.
 - e) Both light & darkness necessary to our world.
- 5. Visits earth with water.
 - a) With design & for an end that the Lord moves.
 - b) Rich friends bring us presents-- God fills us with good things.
 - c) River of God--rain falls.
 - d) Inexhaustible.

- e) Water Ridges
- (1) Bless its germination.
 - (2) God around the earth like a gardner with his watering can.
 - (3) Drink to the full.
 - (4) Water's essential.
 - (5) Seems water slides off ridges abundantly.
- f) Settles furrows.
- (1) Press down--same word to bend bow.
 - (2) Rain has a mollifying nature--dry earth like iron.
 - (3) Fructifies and recreates.
 - (4) Soft showers hasten young sprouts,
 - (5) Food rises out of the dust--taken from the skies.
 - (6) Every spring is like a divine visit.
6. Crowns the year with goodness.
- a) Full & plentiful harvest.
 - b) Paths--to roll, revolves track made by wheel as it rolls on year after year.
 - c) Conqueror leaves path of blood
God leaves path of fatness.
7. Wilderness Pastures Grow--deserts of which man takes little care, God blesses.
8. Little Hills rejoice.
- a) God sees the little ones.
 - b) Little hills have a mantle of vegetation thrown round their shoulders,

9. Flocks--Corn--Shout.

- a) Spreads gladness to mankind over the earth.
- b) Springs from the unmerited goodness of God.
- c) Comes as reward of God's goodness.
- d) We sing as God gives all.
- e) Corn unlike other plants--never in a wild state--always useful.

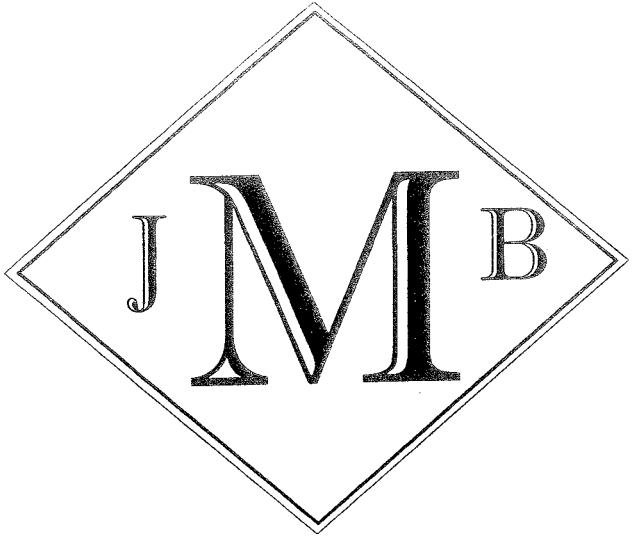
III. Now go back to a still greater creation--the first of the Psalm--He makes you clean!

- A. We'll praise Him.
- B. We'll keep our Vow.
- C. He's heard our prayers.
- D. Sin overwhelmed but he purged it away.
- E. Chosen of God.
- F. Approach His courts.
- G. Satisfied with thy goodness.

When we were overwhelmed by sins you forgave our transgressions. Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts.

(NIV)

Dardanelle, AR - 3/11/92



Reverse The Situation

Psalm 72:15-19

I. It is no new thing nor initial introduce of thought to say Christians praise the Lord. See these Scriptures:

- Ps. 67:3 Let all people praise thee.
- Ps. 72:15 Daily shall He be praised.
- Ps. 119:164 Seven times per day.
- Ps. 145:4 One generation to another.

A. Daltons taught kids.

B. Fruit is seen today.

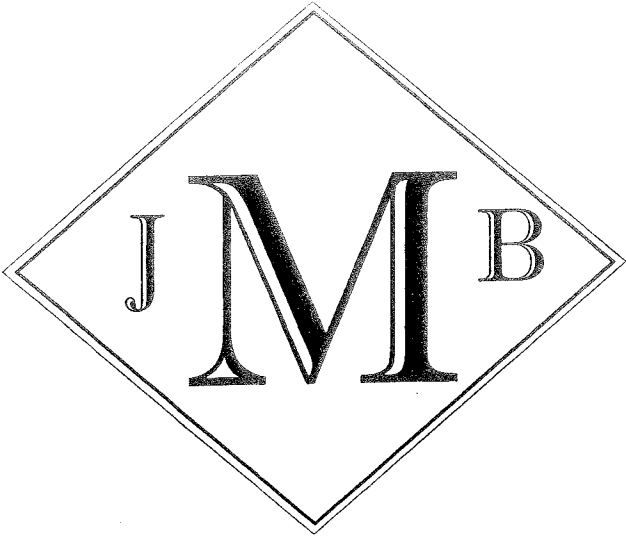
Luke 24:53 Be continually in temple.

II. But reverse it--God praises us (I. Cor. 4:5).

A. What will God say about Margie Dalton?

1. Good mother- all the way.
2. Hilda's care extraordinary.
3. Faithful.
4. Maintains a friendship.

B. Live so God can praise us.



HOW ABOUT A HISTORY LESSON?

Psalm 78

I. Why History?

- A. Those who ignore it are bound to repeat its mistakes.
- B. We have a great occasion to gain knowledge via another's experience.
- C. Given aforetime, given for our learning.
- D. So we study Psalm 78 to see how much you remember. As I read it you jump right in.

II. Significant verses.

- A. v-1 Torah--hear it.
- v-2 Parable--inner meaning for the intelligent to grasp.
- v-3 Facts of history passed down by fathers to children.
- v-4 We will still do it as the precious generations did. We will give honor to God and lead in deeper appreciation of Him.
- v-5 Truly God has spoken.
- v-6 Generations to come is the very next one.
We learn from books if we have a teacher.
- v-7 It's profitable--hope
Forget not to keep commands
Keep--obey God.
- v-8 Some generations fail--did not prepare their hearts.
Were fickle--not steadfast.

B. Starts historical part.

Ephraim most prominent from Joshua to Samuel.

C. Ephraim (v9-12)

1. Armed.
2. Turned back--poor leadership.
3. Forgot miracles in Egypt--some of greatest in their history.
4. Zoan--plain in Egypt.

D. Some historic events.

v-13 divided sea -- Exo. 15:8

v-14 cloud & fire

v-15-16 Exo. 17:6 Nu. 20:8-11

v-17 Provocation--Bread

Exo. 16:3 & flesh Nu. 11:4

Not chronological--he's a poet.

v-18 Lust--literally for their souls, gratification.

v-21 God heard unspoken thoughts
Fire means his displeasure.

v-22 Neither trusted nor believed.

v-25 Angel food=lit. bread of mighty ones.

Angel food--food angels ate.

Angel food--food supplied by angels.

Do angels eat?

Contrasts with Egypt where they ate "bread to the full."

v-28 Quails covered the camp.

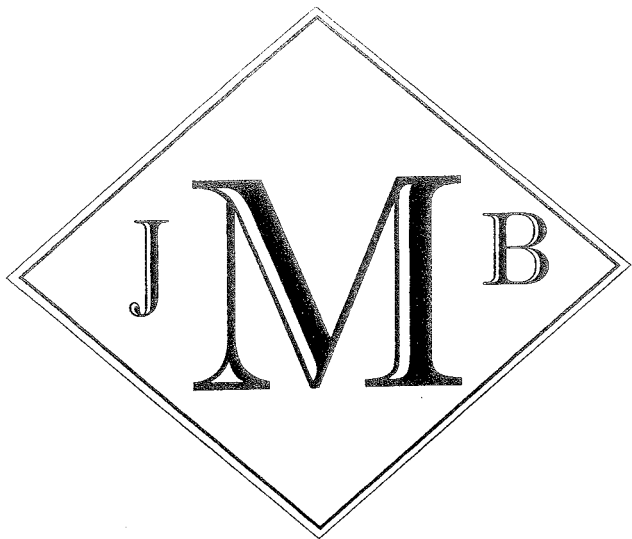
Exo. 16:13

v-30 Lust continued with them.

v-31 Fattest = strongest & healthiest.

v-32 Sinned in spite of the need for gratitude & appearance of punishment--nothing stopped them.

- v-33 Punished 40 years.
- v-34 Repentance short lived.
- v-35 God is rock--strength & stay.
- v-37 Heart not right--heart wrong--
worship false.
- v-39 Man but flesh--weak, erring--
pass like a breath--James 4:14.
- v-40 God grieved.
- v-41 They set limits on God's power.
- v-42 Forgot His power.
- v-43-48 Adds events we were not
earlier told.
- v-49 Note reaction of God.
- v-54 Sanctuary--perhaps holy land.
- v-55 God gave the victories
(Ps. 44:3)
- v-56-57 Shows the vicious cycle--
unbelief--punish--repent.
- v-61 Glory--is ark of covenant.
- v-63 Fire of war
Lit. not praised in song--
unmarried.
- v-66 Hinder parts--backward--fled
before Him.
- v-68 Judah chosen.
- v-69 David chosen.
- v-71 Ewes giving suck.
- v-72 David praised.



HOME DEVOTIONALS

Ps. 78:1-7

- I. In discussing this, the obvious answers to questions need to be formulated.
 - A. When you say "Home Devotional" what do you see?
 1. Family group?
 2. Individual participation privately done?
 3. Single family--how is it done? Is it any less a "devotional" when just one person does it--or must everything be seen through my eyes?
 4. What material will we use?
 5. When will it be held?
 6. How often will it be?
 7. Is any procedure prescribed?
 8. What are hindrances faced?
 - B. We face the fact church assembly alone will not sufficiently ground us--we need more than Sunday school--we need personal daily pursuit of the presence of God.

II. In the absence of a Scripture given pattern, let's look at opportunities of Spiritual growth.

A. Truly I want to grow stronger in the Lord.

"That I may know you!"

Phil. 3:10

John 17:3

Ps. 78:1-7

B. He speaks in his word.

Deut. 6:6-9

1. Basic Facts.
 2. Obedience stressed.
 3. Maintain religious atmosphere by meditation, training, discourse, conversation, persistent study. Meyer
 4. "Thou shall sharpen them to thy children." Lit.
 5. Sharpen as a craftsman would his sword with repeated honing.
 6. Make word visible--bind on wrist.
- C. If you have a Family Devo.
1. Someone responsible to keep it going--Dad, are you?
 2. Bible with different translations.
 - a) 28 translations.
 - b) Honored as word of God--Betty put no book on top of it.
 3. Call on various family members to read.
 - a) Let them comment.
 - b) Let them analyze.
 - c) Let them participate.
 - d) You will battle short attention little ones, disinterested teenagers.
 - e) What if mate is not a Christian?
 - f) Object gain knowledge.

Ps. 119:89

119:11

4. Will you sing?
5. Certainly you will pray.
6. Any memory work?
(Tell A.J. Rollins quoting poetry with his Dad)

7. Prov. 22:6 "Train--dedicate".

D. Are these any less a Devotional?

1. Power for Today is widely used.

a) Breakfast

b) Bible

c) Walk for exercise.

2. Betty met our children at 3 PM.

a) Every mother can't do that--she's at work away.

b) No desire to put you on a guilt trip.

c) At Flat Rock, MI one elder's wife worked 10-10 in doctor's office.

3. Singles read alone but regularly--is not this a devotion?

4. Prayer with vacationing family.

5. Bedtime prayer & reading with individual children.

E. Suggested Themes

1. Bible characters.

2. Names of God.

a) Elo him (him is plural).

Deut. 10:17

Isa. 43:1-7

b) Glory - to give correct opinion or estimate of.

c) El Shaddai--all sufficient "Power Forth" "Breasted".

3. One chapter books.

4. Psalms.

5. We did contest--like a spelling bee.

Eph. 6: obey=hear under, get under the authority of.

F. Face Hindrances

1. Prosperity
 2. Pressure of Time
 3. Daily changes of children
 4. Inflexibility--you teach your own by your methods. (Snell family one "command performance hour")
 5. Rote prayers.
 6. Forget to praise--WEBE report.
- G. Know it's worth your divising your own.
1. Lord left you with great liberty to organize.
 2. Family chair bottom with many a filtered prayer.
 3. Walk--alone with God.

III. Let's Look at Ps. 20:5-7.

A. Rejoice in thy Salvation.

1. It belongs to God.
2. It's ours to receive and rejoice in it.
3. Rejoice even before the battle so sure to win.
4. Salvation and Victory from same Hebrew root.

B. We will set up our banner.

1. Lift standard in defiance of foe--Spurgeon.
2. Banners instruct and encourage.
3. Lord is our banner.

Exo. 17:15

4. Lord answers our prayers--
"fulfill all thy petitions."

C. Now I Know The Lord Saves His Anointed.

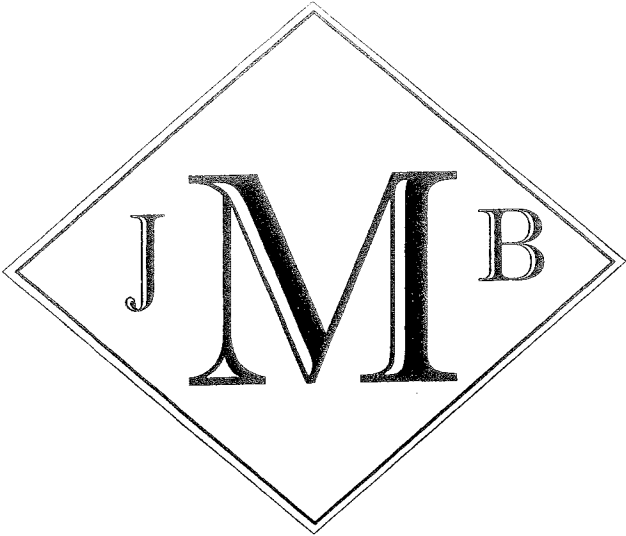
1. Now--ever learning--experiences enrich.
2. New thoughts are added.
3. He hears and saves.
4. Our prayers scale Heaven's heights.
5. Lord will keep the King He has established.
6. Now--hope changes to certainty.
7. Earth's prayer Heaven heard.
8. In Jesus' name not a formula but attitude.
9. Hears with saving strength.
 - a) Same as powers.
 - b) Plural thus the infinitude of God's resources.

D. Chariots vs Name of the Lord.

1. Chariots & horses make an imposing show but that's all.
2. War chariots armed with scythes mowed down men.
3. But the arm of flesh fails.
4. Vain is the confidence of the wicked.
5. Not medals or insons but rely on the Lord.
6. Have to know the name before you can remember it.
7. Gideon cried Sword of the Lord and Gideon.

Judges 7:20

Minerva Drive church, Murfreesboro, TN - 7/1/92



THE FAMILY

Ps. 78:5-7

- I. Can one name anything more precious than his home, or more shattering than its destruction?
 - A. Would you like to have been the Conn. family that reclaimed the derelict's naked body from the subway NYC electrocution - just reading it in the paper.
 - B. Isn't there a joy being c your own that surpasses any other earthly ties.
 - C. Then is anything too good or expensive that will guarantee the blessing of our family?

II. Our Family Has Been Assaulted.

- A. 1 million US divorces ea. year since 1975.
- B. In many major cities 1 out of 2 marriages end in divorce.
 1. We have headlines on cost figures in Tenn.
 2. Fees went up today - \$50.00 per clerk vs. \$8.00 for a marriage license.

III. Family Assigned. *(Netsy fill next page)*

- A. 1 out of 40 marriages end in divorce if church is regularly attended.
- B. 1 out of 400 divorce when couples read Bible regularly & prayers are said.
 1. Reasonable as this teaches
 - a.) Self worth.
 - b.) Intimacy c others.
 - c.) Intimacy c God.

Mk. 12:29-31 "And Jesus answered him, The first of c
Phil. 4:13 "I can do all things thru Christ which stren

2. Carl Jung, "The least of things with a meaning is worth more in life than the greatest of things w/o it. *Skills - work well he does - riches not know*

Prov. 27:23 "Be thou diligent to know the state of thy

Prov. 14:26 "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence

C. Do we understand our family? *children place of things* **Assigned**

1. Prenatal care is important - good care physically, emotionally & spiritually help.
2. Toddler - perception of God the Father depends on his dad! - watch his TV, music, pictures on wall, voice tone!
3. Pre-schooler - adds 1000 words to vocabulary - cannot grasp abstracts - "the grandpas we watched were so gallantly screaming." They reason quite literally & believe all parents say. Spankings help, so does parental praise.
 - a.) Michelangelo, "The more the marble wastes, the more the sculpture grows."
 - b.) 85% adult personality formed by 6th birthday.
4. Elementary age.
 - a.) Criticize wife tears down self confidence of daughters & vice versa.
 - b.) Seeks a model.
 - c.) Family devos help.
 - d.) Church.
 - e.) Camp.
 - f.) Children in SS have a far better conduct in honesty, cooperation, patience.
 - g.) Need correction.

Prov. 22:15 "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child"

- h.) 12 to 13 greatly influenced by peers - if properly trained, will not be led away.

5. Teen-agers. - *C2nd #1*

- a.) US lowest % of atheist - less than 1%. 10% in France, 12% Sweden.
- b.) 12% American youth say no int. in religion - 32% Britain, 41% Sweden, 74% Japan (Japan & Sweden highest suicide rate).
- c.) American youth have higher premium on love & sincerity, less on money & position. *#2*

6. Helomates. *Miscellaneous #2*

Eph. 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ"

1 Jn. 3:23 "And this is his commandment, that we should love"

- a.) Love quote - Page 31. *#3* *Balivore Love*

- b.) No dating Biblical procedure parents picked helpmate.

c.) Basic needs.

1.) Acceptance & appreciation.

2.) Purpose.

3.) Security & provision.

4.) Loving authority.

5.) Individuality.

(Ave. couple spends 3 min. per day sharing personally c each other).

6.) Communication - needs:

(a) Truth.

(b) Handled anger (Eph. 4:26).

(c) Proper attitude - Card Pg. 41. *#4*

(edify, kind, tenderhearted)

(d) Time.

Prov. 27:17 "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth

7.) Fight fair. *countenance of his friend*

IV. Family Assimilated.

A. Discipline necessary.

B. Greatest needs: (compiled by many).

- 1. Love - spend time.
- 2. Discipline.
 - a.) Memorize Scrp.
 - b.) Guidelines on co. they keep.
 - c.) Prepare ahead for pressures that come.
 - d.) Consistently discipline when need.
- 3. Self worth - via devotion, culture & athletics, compliment character.

C. Discipline. *left to himself bring mother down*

Prov. 29:15 "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a

Prov. 23:14 "Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt

- 1. Don't accept defiance of authority. *Deliver soul from hell*
- 2. Don't delay spanking.

Ecc. 8:11 "Because sentence against an evil work is not

- 3. Do it privately. *not exc. speedily... heart set to devil*
- 4. Involve confession of guilt - "why did you do it"
- 5. Parental grief felt.
- 6. Reassure w/o apology.
- 7. Don't break spirit.
- 8. Don't start too early.
- 9. Don't nag.
- 10. Watch teen-agers.

Prov. 23:15 "My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart

shall rejoice, even mine

f despise not thy mother when old

Prov. 23:22 "Hearken unto thy father that begat thee,

Prov. 23:26 "My son, give me thine heart, and let th

a.) Family conference on - phone, care, issue, ^{These days observe my words} dates, bodily situations (see card Pg. 83)
(Also Pg. 90).

b.) Have solid family front. "All women & some great men change their minds." Mark Twain.

c.) Set example (Pg. 98).

II Tim. 3:4-5 "Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of ("Rule" - V. 4, to stand before, to lead, attend to).

(Most of this material from "Family Foundations" by Paul and Richard Meier).

West End 7-1-81

Acton Church, Michie, TN, Bible Class 7-26-81

Bardonsville V.B.S. 7-31-81

Childwood Valley Church, Hurricane Mills, Sunday School

Kerrykn TX. Oct 28, 1984

8-23-81

Atheists are made, not born. Many atheists come from #1 families where the father is gone most of the time, or if he is present, he is negativistic. Many agnostics believe that there is some kind of "god" or "life-force" or "something" out there in the distance, but not a loving, caring, personal God. In our counseling experience, most agnostics come from homes with a cold, passive father who is usually not home. The religious liberal tends to come from a home where the father is mushy, overly sweet, and gives no restrictions on behavior. The children do whatever they like to do, and they can have anything they want if the parents can afford it. They grow up expecting God to spoil them, too. They want something for nothing. So proper attitudes are important and should be a point of communication.

"Family Foundations" - By Paul and Richard Meier - Page 83

lessons. Children should be expected to make their beds, wash the dishes, take out the garbage or assume other household chores because, as members of a family, they have certain everyday responsibilities — not because they're going to get paid. You can always give your child a chance to earn extra money for performing chores beyond his usual household duties, but be consistent: Don't pay him for mowing the lawn one week and then expect it to be done gratis the next.

The most appropriate reward for getting good grades is self-satisfaction on your child's part and approval on yours. Paying for good marks or for any kind of good behavior counts as merely a bribe.

The trouble with taking away an allowance is that this form of punishment rarely fits the crime. Docking your daughter \$2 for talking back doesn't tell her what's wrong with that behavior and defeats the purpose of the allowance. When money is used as punishment, bribe or reward, it's given an emotional and moral significance it doesn't deserve. — *Changing Times*, 6-81.

CHILDRENS' ALLOWANCES

Although many parents prefer the pay-as-you-go approach and give their children money as the need arises, most child-development professionals believe that allowances teach children to make their own decisions — and teach them that once their decisions are made and their money is spent, there isn't any more.

Tying the allowance to chores or grades defeats its purpose by teaching other, less desirable

Patience is a necessary ingredient of genius. — BENJAMIN DISRAELI (1804-1881).

B

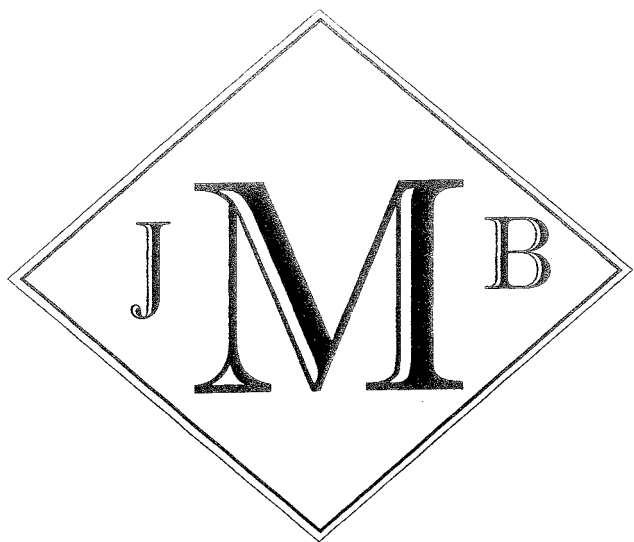
We must emphasize that lapses in the feeling of love for a mate are not the result of "fate." Love is not like smog, floating in and then finally floating out of its own accord. Love, according to the Bible, is an act of the will. It is the act of deliberately giving oneself to meeting the needs of another person. When married partners find their love weakening, they need to get back to the honeymoon, remembering how they acted when they were first married. This may involve the wife dressing up when her husband comes home from work, or cooking a special recipe for him. Or the husband may bring his wife flowers, or take her out on a date, or compliment her.

"Family Foundations" - By Paul and Richard Meier - pp. 31-32

The word corrupt means "rotten." It is an attitude that shows a person just doesn't care. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth. . . ." There are other wrong attitudes listed in verse 31. Bitterness means "pricking, hatred, displaying hatred, sharpness." The word wrath indicates another attitude problem. That means "passion," or losing one's temper. The word anger means "displeasure," and clamor means "the tumult or controversy." It comes from a Greek word which means the "cry of a raven."

Another bad attitude is described by the phrase evil speaking. These words mean defamatory speech; one is speaking evil when he puts people down.

"Family Foundations" - By Paul and Richard Meier - Page 41



A COMMANDED RESPONSIBILITY

Ps. 78:1-8

I. How extensive is my obligation to teach?

A. Just to peers?

B. Maybe to grandchildren?

C. Would you believe 5 generations?

1. Father (v-3)

2. Their children (v-4)

3. Generation to come (v-4)

4. And their children (v-5)

5. And their children (v-6)

II. One of the most sobering responsibilities is our need to propagate the faith in the continuation of the knowledge of God on this earth.

III. Perhaps the dropouts are exposing our failures.

A. Are we making serious efforts?

B. Have we honestly faced our responsibilities?

C. Surely the 78th Psalm will set us on the right course again.

1. Called the 1st historic Psalm.

2. By some appraised as the greatest of all the historic Psalms.

3. May we study the 1st 8 verses.

Ps. 78:1-8 (Read)

IV. Attention!

A. Give ear.

1. Of all folk surely the people of God should hear with the keenest of attention.

2. This is either the word of God or a King.

3. We must learn to be good listeners.

4. Illustrate with boy for surgery - #1.

B. Incline Ear

1. Bow your head, cock it, bend neck, listen.

2. God cries "attention" and his soldiers snap to it.

3. We should hear with reverence and submission.

4. Listen to preachers & teachers today.

5. Think through what is taught.

C. It's: My Law, Words of My Mouth, Parables, Dark Sayings

1. My law

a) His teachings have the force of law.

b) God's word above everything.

2. My mouth

a) Men rise in importance & think they are too high to speak directly to people--they are so above them.

b) God doesn't so think--He is as close as His mouth.

3. Parables

a) Defined

(1) Authorative sentence.

(2) Weighty statement.

(3) To rule, to have authority.

(4) Statement by comparison.

b) There could be an inner sense in the meaning of the words.

- c) Inner meaning for the intelligent to grasp.
 - d) Excite thought on part of hearer.
 - e) Not fables but what were or might have been.
4. Utter Dark Sayings
- a) Utter
 - (1) Fountain that pours forth water abundantly.
 - (2) Gush forth
 - (3) Bubble up
 - (4) Heart of teacher should be full--ready to pour forth that which waters the church.
 - (5) Don't let the spring be exhausted.
 - b) Dark sayings = riddles.
 - c) Mother--Perlman-Heifitz #2.

IV. A Review of Our Condition

A. We have heard & known

- 1. Facts of past history handed down orally father to son.
- 2. Tradition is important.
- 3. We personally know what our fathers taught us.
 - a) 2 pieces of cake - #3 & #4
 - b) Coal - 1492

B. Our Fathers Told Us

- 1. They passed on truth to us.
- 2. Lord complimented Abraham

Gen. 18:19

Ps. 102:18

Isa. 38:19

3. Television time - #5

C. Hide - Show - Our Duty

1. Our silence must not deprive our children of truth.
2. We must continue this process.
3. We must be faithful in handing down truths.
4. Maintain every agency for religious education of the young.
 - a) Harvard clip - #6
 - b) Humanistic manifesto - #7
 - c) Story of Jesus - #8
5. The foundation of hope is the righteousness & faithfulness of this generation.
 - a) Survey shows church leaders (everywhere) spend 90 minutes per week with Bible.
 - b) Milk to babes, Bread to youth, meat to man - H. Miers.

D. Show Praises, Strength, Wonderful Works of God

1. Praises

- a) Children should be taught to magnify God.
- b) The best education is education in the best things. - (Spurgeon)
- c) Every satchel should have a Bible. (Spurgeon)
- d) Look well to every Timothy & see that he knows the Scriptures.
- e) Why should God be praised?
How do you answer this to your children?

2. Strength
 - a) Record of his power.
 - b) What has He done for me?
3. Wonderful works
 - a) Tell of God's providence & grace as you've experienced it.

Deut. 4:9

Ps. 111:4 "He has made his W.W. to be remembered"

- b) The other fellow's extravagant testimony has silenced us.
- c) Works here not His original creative genius but what He does today.
- d) You will see his laws are reasonable & best.

V. Contrast His Reliability vs Ours

A. Testimony & Law

1. Testimony is the whole series of God's commands.
2. Laws are not of human origin but divine.
3. Allegiance to God must be maintained.

B. Fathers Are to Make Known His Will and Way

1. Parents' mouths are large books in which children read of God.

Exo. 12:26-27

2. A frequent mention of things is the best art of memory.
3. Not much is learned from books w/o a teacher--my children & Latin.
4. Oral transmission is commanded.

5. Children obliged to listen.
 6. Surely a parent above anyone has an interest in his child. (B. Friend said 5 parents out of 25 came).
 7. God does not want His truth to perish.
 8. Teach so our influence will repeat itself.
 9. How well do we transmit & propagate our faith?
 - a) Children & books - #9
 - b) Rockefeller clip - #10
 - c) Education in Homes - #11
 10. Religious truth is not abstract but relative to individual needs.
 - a) Child to trade seats - #12
- C. Essential to Our Hope & Obedience
1. Tied together.
 2. We see a purpose.
 3. We rest in God & His promise.
 4. Our peril if we neglect.
 5. Hear with the purpose of obeying.
 6. Holiness toward God not just knowledge & facts our aim.
- D. Our track record.
1. Father Failure
 - a) Surely room for improvement.
 - b) Ashamed of some fathers--surely we can do better.
 2. Stubborn
 - a) Stephen so spoke
 - b) Domestic examples of vice are much more pernicious than the foreign ones.

3. Rebellious
 - a) Shook off yoke as an untamed bullock.
 - b) Tribes in the wilderness were consistent only in their inconsistency.
 - c) Some inclined to revolt.
4. Set not heart aright.
 - a) Prepared not their hearts.
 - b) Took no pains to prepare.
 - c) Weak - therefore fell
 - d) Billy Sunday, "One reason sin flourishes is that it is treated like a cream puff instead of a rattlesnake."
5. Not Steadfast
 - a) Couldn't depend on them.
 - b) Some feelings for it but still fickle.
 - c) Could not depend on them.
 - d) Can't yield to every impulse.
6. Warn Their Dependents
 - a) Let each generation improve.
 - b) We want all allegiance to God maintained.
 - c) Staton article - #13

#1
#2

ONE morning, when I was an operating-room nurse in ear, nose and throat surgery, a five-year-old boy was scheduled for a tonsillectomy. A young anesthesiologist was to administer the anesthetic, and, as was his policy, he began to talk to the small patient to relax him. He asked whether the boy had any brothers or sisters; what their names were; did he go to school; did he have a dog, and so on.

Then the doctor said quietly, "Now, keep your eyes closed. Take some deep breaths of this gas, and you will soon go off to sleep."

To the delight of all in the room, the boy replied, "I could, if you'd only stop talking." —Contributed by Evon J. Laing

The stage mother cornered concert violinist Itzhak Perlman in his dressing room and insisted he listen to a tape of her talented son, the violinist.

Perlman, resentful of the intrusion on his time, nevertheless agreed to listen, since the mother was so insistent.

The mother switched on the portable player, and it began.

Such music, Perlman thought. A difficult piece, but played with such insight and genius that it brought tears to his eyes. He listened spellbound to the entire recording, and composed himself before he could speak.

"Madam," he whispered, "is that your son?"

"No," said the stage mother. "that's Jasha Heifitz, but my son sounds just like him."

The Jokesmith

#394

X

"Jimmy, there were two pieces of cake on the table last night when we went to bed, and this morning there is only one. How do you explain that?"

"I don't know, Mom. I guess it was so dark that I just didn't see the other piece sitting there."

X

The student was stumped by the difficult question on the natural resources test, which asked that he state the "number of tons of coal shipped out of the U.S. in any given year."

Finally, though, he got a bright idea and wrote: "1492: None."

No one can measure the differences between television families and television-free families now, because there aren't enough television-free families to provide a random sampling. Only one home out of one hundred lacks television, and the other ninety-nine approach three sets per home.

In one survey, 82 percent of all parents believed that television was good for their children: they felt it was relaxing or educational. Preschool children spend more than a third of their waking hours watching T.V.—instead of talking and playing—and some researchers extend this to over half their waking time. A preposterous fifty-four hours a week is the figure usually quoted.

That means children spend more time watching T.V. before kindergarten than they will spend in four years of college classes. Ten-year-olds may spend more hours per week watching television than attending school. And an ordinary twenty-year-old I read about figures that she has already spent 20,000 hours of her life watching television. That is conservative.

HARVARD—Religion #6

Our educational institutions were founded on a religious concept and faith in God. Look at Harvard University: In his bequest, Mr. Harvard left several rules and precepts that were to be observed by the college. The second rule reads as follows: "Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main ends of his life and studies. To know God in Jesus Christ, which is eternal life, and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom of the only foundation of all knowledge and learning; and, seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, let everyone seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seek it of him.—BILLY GRAHAM.



What we really are matters more than what other people think of us.—
JAWAHARIAL NEHRU

As in 1933 (the date of the Humanise Manifesto I) humanists still believe that traditional theism, especially faith in the prayer-hearing God, assumed to love and care for persons, to hear and understand their prayers, and to be able to do something about them, is an unproved and outmoded faith. Salvationism, based on mere affirmation, still appears as harmful, diverting people with false hopes of heaven hereafter. Reasonable minds look to other means for survival.

The HumanistManifestoo II

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS -Sweeting
P. 145

EDITORIALIZING

#18

In Denver, Colo. an elementary school principal unilaterally decided to order a 5th grade teacher to remove from his 200-volume classroom library The Story of Jesus and The Bible In Pictures because of their religious content. She also told him to keep hidden the Bible he sometimes had on his desk. She claimed that having a Bible in a public school classroom is a violation of the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.

This incident illustrates the absurd extremes to which people will go in this current fad. In the first place, as wise as it may be to avoid entangling alliances between church and state, that "separation of church and state" is a constitutional principle is a hotly disputed issue. And even if it is, that a Bible's presence in a classroom violates it is ludicrous.

Apparently the principal was backed by the administration, because "Concerned Women of America" has filed a lawsuit against the school district over the matter.

The irrational fear of religion among many school officials is difficult to understand. But the results are seen in various off-the-wall guidelines and policy statements drafted by them. And as prayer, Bible reading, and absolute moral values disappear from our classroom, profanity, amoral literature, disrespect for authority, drugs, and guns move into the void. And I'm not referring to New York, or even Hartford, but to suburbia where we live. Eternal vigilance, prayerful concern, and the courage to speak are our effective weapons. (EB)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

BIBLE CLASSES
MORNING WORSHIP

9:00 A.M.
10:00 A.M.

EVENING WORSHIP
MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS

6:00 P.M.
7:00 P.M.

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49
It is estimated that children between seven and fourteen will read an absolute maximum of seventy books per year. That means a total of five hundred books in their seven prime years of childhood reading. When we think of the inner growth that comes from rich childhood reading—the gains in security, insight, achievement, reverence, zest, delight, understanding, sympathy, affirmation, sensitivity, adventure, and moral courage—five hundred books doesn't seem like many.

'How to Grow A Young Reader", pg.2-3 John & Kathryn Lindskoog

President for Foreign Affairs, he was responsible for President Eisenhower's "open skies" plan to guard against secret preparations for atomic warfare. Nelson did not conceive the plan himself; what he did was bring together a seminar of experts on international affairs, from colleges, foundations and government. He outlined the problem: What could the President do to convince the world that the United States wanted to end the cold war?

One man in the group volunteered a practical, pragmatic plan. He was an obscure Harvard professor with a thick German accent—Henry Kissinger. Nelson took that plan, worked on it and persuaded the President to present it as the policy of the United States. It was the start of a close and enduring friendship. For a decade, Rockefeller retained the Harvard professor to advise him on foreign policy and international security. Then, in 1968, he recommended him to the newly elected President Nixon.

The Rockefeller-Kissinger relationship is not surprising. Nelson Rockefeller is not an intellectual or a scholar himself. He is first and foremost an activist—an administrator, a problem-solver. His method is to gather together experts on a given subject, define the problem, analyze alternative solutions, then pick the quickest and shortest route to get from here to there.

"There is no problem on God's earth that cannot be solved by man so long as he works at it hard enough

and long enough," Rockefeller has said more than once—and he believes it.

As a boy, Nelson would not apply himself to his studies. His puritanical father, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., despaired over him. Nelson was forever getting into mischief: flicking food across the stately Rockefeller dinner table, hiding a baby rabbit in his mother's muff in church, flunking subjects in high school. He was sent to Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, because he could not qualify for Princeton, which was attended by his older brother John. At Dartmouth, his competitive spirit more than anything else made him work hard. He earned a Phi Beta Kappa key.

Nelson Rockefeller grew up in splendor and the rarefied atmosphere of enormous wealth. Home was a 3000-acre estate in Westchester County, 30 miles north of New York City, and a nine-story town house where the Museum of Modern Art now stands. The muckrakers of Theodore Roosevelt's time lambasted his grandfather John D. Rockefeller as a "Robber Baron" in oil, but Nelson remembers him as a wonderful old man, kindly, patient and humorous. He recalls his grandfather balancing dinner plates on the bridge of his nose and telling long, shaggy-dog stories that the boys thought were hilarious.

Nelson's father drummed into all his children a deep sense of responsibility. "I can think of nothing less pleasurable than a life devoted to

EDITORIALIZING

#11

The most important education does not occur in our schools but in our home. Researchers in recent decades have identified a clear pattern of learning within the intact nuclear family. Families reflecting traditional roles produce cognitively superior children, while passing on by example the logic of traditional family arrangements.

Studies have shown that middle-class children who are first in their parents' time and attention show superior academic skills. While still a disputed issue, facts are that sons of working mothers scored lower on language and mathematics achievement tests than those of full-time mothers. Also, sons of employed mothers complete less schooling and earn less money.

Studies also have shown that father-absent boys were consistently handicapped academically. Father's absence is reflected especially in a decline of mathematical and spatial skills.

More tragically still are the social effects of family disintegration. Divorce is now the one greatest cause of childhood depression. Adolescent children of divorced parents are far more likely to experiment with premature sexual activity, alcohol and drugs. In the population of penal institutions children of divorced parents are vastly out of proportion to the general population. Indeed, family structure seems to be significantly more impactive upon today's children and tomorrow's adults than race and economic status. Little wonder God hates divorce, Malachi 2:16. (Source: Article in THE FAMILY IN AMERICA by Alan C. Carlson and Bruce J. Christensen, via A.F.A. Journal) EB

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

BIBLE CLASSES
MORNING WORSHIP

9:00 A.M.
10:00 A.M.

EVENING WORSHIP
MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS

6:00 P.M.
7:00 P.M.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
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MANCHESTER, CT. 06040

MR. JIM BILL MCINTEER
20th Century Christian
2809 Granny White Pike
Nashville, TN 37204


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Little Rascal. During a trial in which the defendant was accused of pointing a gun at a family over a traffic dispute, the plaintiff's ten-year-old daughter was called to the stand. She had been in the back seat of her father's car on the same side as the man pointing the gun. Her younger sister had been sitting across from her.

The judge was gentle but thorough while questioning the ten-year-old. "What did you do when you saw the man point the gun, sweetheart?" he asked.

"Oh," the child responded, "I asked my sister if she wanted to trade seats with me."

—Contributed by Michael E. McMahon



Our children
need nothing
from us as much
as they need
us ourselves.

By Knofel Staton

S-U-C-C-E-S-S. That's how you spell it. But when do you have it? How do you measure it?

Success is measured largely by what we leave behind. I am not talking about property, because all our assets are temporary; we cannot take any of them with us. We can't take our cash to Heaven, but we can take our children with us.

When we get very busy, it is easier for our kids to go bad and for society to start a downward spiral. That happened among God's people in the Old Testament.

For example, Solomon was at one time the wisest man alive, but his son split the kingdom established by God. At one time Eli sat and counseled at the gate of the temple—a very significant and beneficial role. But we read that all of his sons were worthless. These two great men left a mark in society, but left a mar in their kids' lives.

So the people began to look for a new day. The promise and priority of that new day came in the closing words of the Old Testament: "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse" (Malachi 4:5, 6, *New International Version*).

God's people began to wait for that day when the hearts of the fathers and children would turn toward each other. They waited four hundred years, until the time of John the Baptist and Jesus.

One of the marks of Christianity is the revival of love in the home, modeled by the father's relationship with his children. We fathers need to be reminded of that from time to time.

Dr. Ken Chafin tells about the time

that his little daughter asked him the question, "Daddy, will you be home tonight?"

He said he was embarrassed because that night he had to be gone and speak to a group on the topic "What a Good Father Ought to Be." To soften her disappointment, he asked her to think about what a good father ought to be, and while they were eating their evening meal, she could whisper her answers into his ear. When she whispered into his ear, he jotted down what she said on a piece of paper.

Later that evening, in front of an auditorium filled with people, he pulled out the piece of paper and said, "Here are some activities for a good father: catch a fish, build a fire, fly a kite, catch a butterfly, plant a flower, get a kitty-cat out of the mud."

Dr. Chafin put this illustration in a section called, "Give the Costly Gift." What's that? It is the gift of yourself. Macy's, Broadway, Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, and all of the other stores cannot offer it at any price. It costs time, interest, attention, and energy.

A few years ago I read a paragraph titled, "Tomorrow I Will Be Big." It made a difference in my life, and went something like this:

If only he would say once, OK, Randy, let's do it together now. But it's always tomorrow. Let's do it tomorrow; I'm awfully busy today. But tomorrow I will be big. Now is when I'm little. Now is when I need you, Daddy. I think I will try something else. I could go away and become a stranger, for my father always has time for strangers. No, that would take too long. I will make an appointment; he always keeps his appointments. Oh, why go to all of that bother? I think I'll try again. Daddy, can we do something together today? Tomorrow I'll be big. I'm only little now. And now is when I need you. Gee, Daddy, I really love you.

What are the positive things you re-

member about your father? I was not yet six years old, but I remember it as if it had just happened. We lived in Henning, Illinois, and my dad took me to the cattle auction in Danville one Saturday. I don't remember a thing about the cattle auction, but I remember us sitting in a nearby restaurant, surrounded by other men. My dad and I were sitting at the counter drinking a nickel root beer. Here were all of those men, and my dad had time for a little guy like me. He gave me the costly gift.

One man told me, "What I remember about growing up were those times when my father would come in from doing the chores, sit at the kitchen table, and slap his knee—meaning for me to come to him. I would sit on his knee, and we would spend a few moments talking together."

Moments like those are part of the costly gift.

A few years ago my wife showed me a cartoon that really hit home. Frame 1: A father was working at his desk at home. Frame 2: His son came in and said, "Dad, can we shoot the BB gun together?" Dad replied, "No, Son, I'm too busy." Frame 3: "Dad, when you're finished, could we play catch or something?" Dad replied, "No, I have to take your mother shopping." Frame 4: "Dad, when you and Mom get home, could you and I do something together?" Dad replied, "No, I have to mow the yard then." Frame 5: The father was sitting at his desk alone and said to himself, "That boy has got to learn there is more to growing up than playing." Frame 6: The boy was walking down the hall, hands in his pocket and head down, and said to himself, "Gee, I wish Dad could learn that there is more to being a dad than making excuses."

That was given to me when I could have earned an honorary doctorate degree in the skill of making excuses, because I was always importantly busy.

I remember the day well. Our son was about five years old. He and I had spent all morning getting our car ready for a trip: washing the car, changing the oil, those sort of things. At noon we quit. I took a shower and had a light lunch. I then went to my study to prepare for a speaking assignment.

Randy, my son, came into the study and asked, "Could we play catch for awhile?" I answered, "Randy, we have been doing things together all morning. I need to do some work now." Then he said something that surpasses the insight of many parenting books: "But Dad, this morning I was doing things with you. Now I would like for you to do something with me."

I thought I was doing things with him, but he saw our morning spent up in my world, doing my kinds of things. His words helped me understand what went on in his mind!

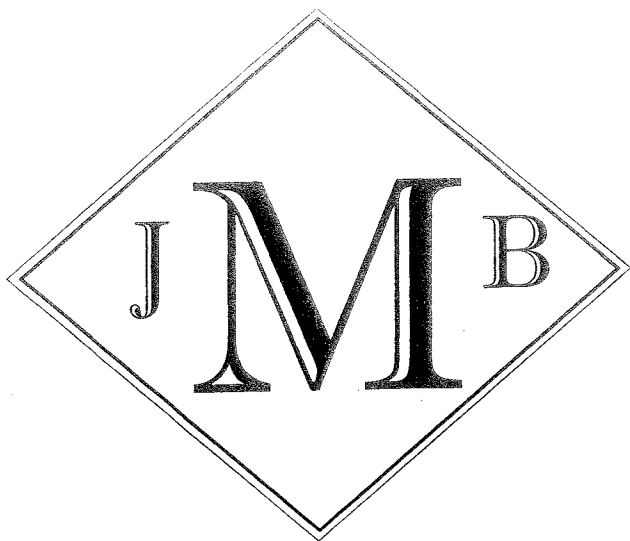
Yes, it's tough. But it is worth it. The trade-off has paybacks, like the law of the echo. You know how that works: You stand on one side of a mountain and yell, "Hello." Then soon the word comes back, "Hello," in an echo. To our kids we say in various ways "I love you," and it echoes back to us in various ways.

So you have goofed? We all have. I certainly have. But we can still be million-dollar fathers. Most baseball players with a lifetime batting average over .300 are million-dollar players. This means they have failed 70 percent of the time, but they kept going back to the plate.

Keep at it, fathers. Don't let disappointments, setbacks, or temporary failures cause you to give up. Keep swinging! You have the costly gift to give away: the gift of yourself that will leave behind precious, million-dollar memories. ■

Knofel Staton, a father of four, is president of Pacific Christian College, Fullerton, California.

The Costly Gift



WHAT DO YOU WANT MOST IN LIFE?

| Psalms 80:1-3

- I. We've all heard the fairy stories about 3 wishes.
 - A. We fantasize about our own keen desires.
 - B. We cite life's goals -- and what are mine?
 - C. Opening words of Ps. 80 establish great ones -- and we do well to compare.
- II. But first see the setting of the Psalm.
 - A. "According to the Lilies" -- maybe the time of year it was sung.
 - B. Ash says its public lamentation at time of National crisis.
 - C. Pererone said we do not know the period of writing -- might be when Asseyna was on attack against northern Israel.
- III. The Cited Aim
 - A. Give Ear O Shepherd of Israel.
 1. There is no dread on earth for a believer more severe than the "deafness" of God.
 2. Man is utterly helpless if God turns from him.
 3. Strange, in view of God's desire that we come to him that we pray so little.
 4. Plead for God to hear the bleating of his suffering sheep.
 5. This Psalm comes when Israel was severely suffering -- what do you do in a similar situation?

6. Shepherd of Israel

- a) Spurgeon "The name is full of tenderness".
- b) Jacob's dying expression "From thence is the Shepherd--the stone of Israel".
- c) First of three motifs
 - 1) Shepherd - Israel the flock.
 - 2) God is King - Israel his province.
 - 3) God is husbandman - Israel his vine.
- d) Shepherd who leads - he went before them in the wilderness.
- e) Lead Joseph
 - 1) Mention of his name this implies Northern Kingdom.
 - 2) Seldom is name of Joseph so used.

B. God and Cherubims.

- 1. God sits on a throne surrounded by ministers.
- 2. Dwells above - not between as KJV has it.
- 3. Cherubims are often in Bible.

Gen. 3:24 "He placed at the east of the garden of Ed."

Exo. 25:18 "Thou shalt make two cherubims of gold"

Ezek. 1:10 "For the likeness of their faces, they four"

- a) Some have said they represent perfect man.
- b) Man redeemed stands boldly in the presence of God - there always abiding.

- c) Amid such God loves to dwell.
- d) God is ever present with his people.
- e. He has the power to help us.

C. Shine Forth!

- 1. Lord's doings of the past strong reason to accept good of the future.
- 2. First sentence by God was relative to light.

Gen. 1:3 "Let there be light, and there was light"

- 3. His last has to do with light.

Rev. 22:4-5 *There shall be no rite, candle, sun - Lord's light*

- 4. Light of the Lord's countenance - theirs in the wilderness - let it be again.

- 5. Literally "show thyself--manifest thy light".

- 6. Don't we want to see God?

D. Witness self before 3 tribes.

- 1. Names of the Lord's people are precious to Him -- call them in his presence - cite in your prayers.

- 2. Jesus has names of his folks on his breastplate.

- 3. These 3 names came through Rachel.

Gen. 35:24 "The sons of Rachel; Joseph & Benjamin"

Gen. 48:1 *Joseph took Man. & Ephraim to Jacob*

~~Nu. 2:18-24~~

- 4. Three mentioned went immediately behind ark in marching.

4.

5. Stir up Strength to Save,

a) Note the three S words.

b) Let "raise thyself from thine in action" - come forward and make thy might appear.

c) Strength to save is God's greatest power.

"Twas great to speak a word from nought;
Twas greater to redeem"

E. Sublime Goal - Turn Us - Cause Face to shine - Save us.

1. Turn us and things will come out right.

2. Best turn is not that of circumstances but of character.

Gen. 29:24

Num 10:32-34

3. Man can turn - does this imply God must do it independent of man's mind?

4. Turning is important.

a) Said 3 times. 3, 7, 19

b) Turn "us" - not circumstances.

c) Repent - can't be faith only.

d) Turn again - may backslide.

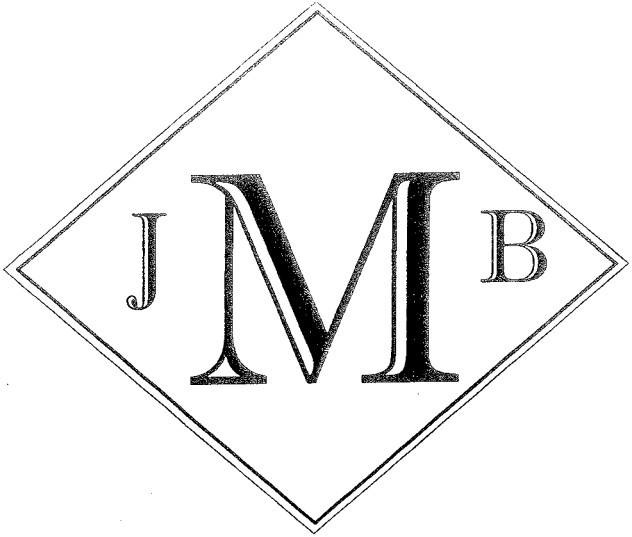
e) When we see duty - respond to it.

f) Turn to God - He's the fountain - not means, methods, institutions.

Christian Singles, Vultee 1/7/85

College Class, W.E. 1/9/85

Mid-America Evangelism Workshop, Indianapolis, 6/28/85



THE CRY OF A TROUBLED PEOPLE

Ps. 80:4-7

- I. Not unlike today the folk of this song felt a sure bewilderment and forsaking.
 - A. We'll see how keenly they felt their burdens.
 - B. They will introduce the figure of the vine.
 - C. They'll call to be the "man of thy right hand"

II. First see their loneliness. Ps. 80:4-7

A. Angry against Prayers?

1. Strange that the Lord would so react.
2. Obviously some prayers never make it to Heaven.
3. Word for anger is "smoke".

Deut. 29:20 "Smoke against that man"

Ps. 74:1 "Why doth thine anger smoke against"

4. Lit. asked "how long hast thou smoked?"

Exo. 16:28 "How long refuse ye to keep my comm.

5. This expression is without parallel in the Bible.
6. God is light, love, a consuming fire.
7. Smoke of anger vs prayers spoken of as incense.

Ps. 141:2 "Let my prayer be set forth before thee"

Rev. 5:8 "Golden vials full of odors, which are"

8. God's smoking hot, prayers not withstanding
9. At times there is no remedy.

2 Chron. 36:16 "But they mocked - despised-til there"

10. Evil persists too long for any remedy.

B. Fed with the Bread of Tears.

1. Spurgeon "Brine of our tears is the seasoning of our meat".
2. Feasts become a bitter experience.
3. Tears are both their food and drink.
4. They cry because God refused to interfere.
5. Tears come and it's not possible to sing Zion's song.

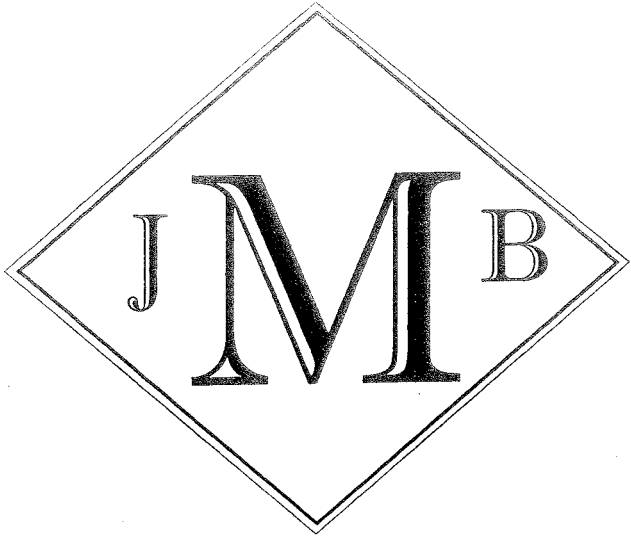
Ps. 42:3 "My tears have been my meat"

6. Tears to drink in great measure.
 - a) Contains 3rd part of greatest measure.
 - b) 4 times as big as usual cup to drink from.
 - c) Actually is 3 parts of an uncertain measure.
 - d) P.C. says its word of capacity--all you can get.
7. Tears again.
 - a) Eastern people most expressive in their grief.
 - b) Tears are nature's relief.
 - c) Tears have a ministry.
 - (1) Call out sympathy.
 - (2) Satisfy feelings.
 - (3) Honor departed friends.
 - (4) Silent prayers for God to heed.

(All from P.C.)
8. Jesus wept 3 times.
 - a) Lazarus grave.
 - b) Non receptive Jerusalem.
 - c) Gethsemene

- C. Strife unto neighbors - Laughing stock.
1. Others rejoice at our discomfort.
 2. Neighbors jeer and hurt us.
 3. It's devilish to sport another man's grief.
 4. But there are those who exult at every misfortune.
 5. It's a pleasure to them to behold misery.
 6. Strangely - when one jumps on you, here comes another attacked - dogs in a pack at prey.
- D. Call for Salvation
1. Refrain repeated 2 times.
 2. God is not capricious.
 3. Harder for parent to refuse a request than grant one.
 4. Via his name see love (salvation) power (host).

West End, College Class - 1/16/85
Mid-Amer. Evangelism Workshop, Indianapolis-6/28/85



THE PICTURE OF THE VINE

Ps. 80:7-19

I. Oftentime God used a figure of speech to tell of His people; i.e. flock, children & here Vine.

A. In the main as a vine, we'll see:(next 9 vers)

1. Transplanted from unfruitful place.
2. Planted and cared for in a new area.
3. Incredibly fruitful.
4. Then allowed destruction.

B. About vines, we know they are:

1. Intended for fruit.
2. Highly esteemed, pruned, guarded.
3. Reality a foreign plant - not really belonging to Canaan.
4. Vine is worthless, it's the fruit that's valuable.
5. Fruitful vines demand much care.

C. Now about this Psalm remember:

1. 3 tribes named had better chance to see what God did rather than other tribes - by virtue of their position in the march - did they bring up the rear?
2. This Psalm is for one in deep distress.
3. We are to go to God in time of trouble.

Matt. 28:18 "All power is given unto me in heaven &

Eph. 1:22 "Hath put all things under his feet, & gave"

Col. 1:19 "It pleased the Father that in him should"

Eph. 4:10 "He that descended is the same also that"

II. As we go to our text, these facts are stated about the Vine of Israel.

A. Brought it out of Egypt - (transplanted)

B. Cast out Heathen.

1. God got rid of 7 Palestine nations to plant his vine.

2. History of Israel as a nation begins in Egypt.

C. Transplanted in Israel.

1. Brought out.

Job 19:10 "He hath destroyed me on ever side & I am Ps.

2. Literally made to depart.

3. Each of us like a vine transplanted from darkness to light.

D. Prepared Room For It - Took Deep Root.

1. Appeared weak - crawling on the ground but He made it strong.

2. It became settled and established.

3. We need to grow downward with well established root system.

E. Filled The Land.

1. Hills covered with its shadow. They were most commodious place for vine.

2. Joseph a fruitful vine.

Gen. 49:22 "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful

3. We've got to keep growing.

4. Climbed the cedars - great power of the vine to exceed the cedars & top them - the picture of prosperity.

F. Spread to Sea & River.

1. Other lands felt its influence.
2. From Mediterranean Sea to Euphrates River.
3. When we please the Lord our influence is great. When we don't we are worthless.
4. This would describe the Kingdom in Solomon's time.

I Kings 4:24

Deut. 11:24 - Read Note borders

Josh. 1:4 - Read

III. But Hurt Has Come to the Vine!

A. Broken Down Her Hedges.

1. Lord took away the protection.
2. Vineyards oftentimes were walled.
3. It's not God who breaks the hedges - it's our sins.
4. Key to withering was Israel's disobedience.
5. What are some of the hedges of the Lord today?
6. What are the greatest enemies of the church?
7. Where today is the faithful guard? Preachers, elders, etc.
8. "Today in the theatre - tomorrow in the Bishop's chair - they gather for themselves". This quote from Savanarola.

B. Anybody plucks her fruit.

1. Fierce people came to destroy.
2. Foe after foe comes & ruins it.
3. God left because of their sin.
4. Pluck is used only here & Songs of Solomon
5. Righteousness has its enemies also - and always.

C. Boar uproots.

1. Most destructive of animals in a vineyard.
2. Ash says only place wild boar mentioned.
3. Was it Assyria.
4. "Woods" really the marsh where animals hid, as plants flourished.

IV. Called for the Lord to Return.A. Look - See - Visit

1. Look, God, & pity.
2. Shall all thy care be lost?
3. True art of prayer - God first.
4. Vine still has roots - visit it.

B. Remember the Branch.

1. Is that Jesus?

Isa. 14:19 *Abominable Branch*

60:21 *Branch of my planting*

11:1 *Root out of stem of Jesse, Branch out of*

Zech. 3:8 *Bring forth my servant, The "*

6:12 *Man whose name is Branch*

C. Vine of Rt. Hand - (Jesus? John 15:5)

1. Made strong - whom thou doest rear carefully til he reach maturity.
2. Made strong for God.

D. It's burned.

1. God's rebuke is what fire would be to the vine.
2. No longer a vine - only fuel for a fire.

E. Man of Your Rt. Hand.

1. Prayer for God to select good men & use them.
2. One man is powerful & effective.
3. One man can help keep a people faithful.
4. Right hand most dear.

Matt. 5:29-30 *Rt hand attend*

Gen. 35:18 *Benjamin born*

5. Honored place.

I Kings 2:19 *Set on rt. hand*

Ps. 45:10 *on rt. hand the Queen*

6. Place of honor.

John 21:20 - *lean on lord's breast*

7. Benjamin - son of rt. hand

8. One whom rt. hand protects, or

9. One won by power of thy rt. hand, or

10. God's rt. hand planted.

F. Son of Man.

1. Jesus - son of rt. hand.

Heb. 1:5 - *set down rt. hand*

2. 71X Jesus Son of Man.

67X of above Jesus said it.

3. Honor Jesus.

John 5:23 "All men should honour the Son, even as"

4. Never rest til you know you are His.

5. Our security is in Christ.

6. Gratitude for our deliverence will build us up fast in his service.

7. See appeal to God with increased intensity.

G. Revive or Quicken Us.

1. No extremity is too great for the hand of God.

2. We promise faithfulness henceforth.

3. Israel needed to make a confession - so do we.

4. Backsliders are miserable - they know they have forsaken a better way.

H. He will Call.

1. Ratify covenant.

~~2 Kings 10:15~~

Gal. 2:9 *at hand of fellowship*

2. Some run well only for a season.

3. Now feels he's done all he can and thus desists.

4. No desolation so sad as to be left to our own devices.

5. It's not in man that walks to direct his steps.

6. Bitter experiences should bring us closer to the Lord.

I. Ask for Face of God to Shine.

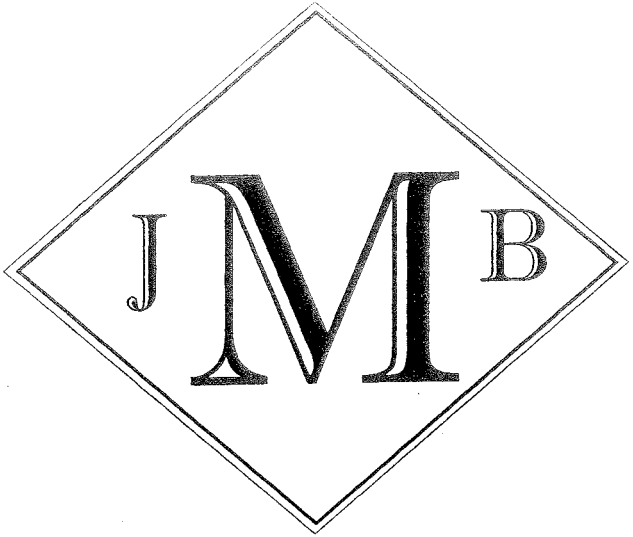
1. Man can do little with an arm.
God can do much with a glance.
(Spurgeon)
2. There is little reason for any man to despair.
3. Also little ground for anyone to glory;
God alone deserves it.

I Cor. 15:10 *By the grace of God I am what I am*
~~Zech. 4:7~~

4. 3X "Turn"
5. Thank God for picturing a recovery.
6. Does the watering of our baptism suffice
that we need not keep coming to the
living fountain?
7. God makes us from the inside out.

West End College Class 2/13/85

Mid-Amer. Evangelism Workshop, Indianapolis, 6/28/85



THE CALL OF GOD

Ps. 81:1-7

I. We come to a moving Psalm.

A. Title from Gath.

1. Vineyard

2. Maybe a vineyard song.

B. Strong order of verbs.

1. Relieved

2. Freed

3. Delivered

4. Answered

5. Tested

C. Let us see emotion involved in adoration.

II. Call to Adore God (Ps. 81:1-4)

A. It was two kinds of music that He asks for.

1. Sing aloud.

a) Worship needs to come from the heart.

b) All invited to do it.

c) Spurgeon "The gentility which lisps the tune in well bred whispers, or leaves the singing altogether to the choir is very like a mockery of the worship.

d) Praise should be sincere and come only from the people of God.

e) Bingo operators for a church? Said they had no idea what it was all about.

1. Vineyard & Case #1
2. SAFE Age #2

2. Sing aloud - indicates earnestness, sincerity. *Thom. Carlyle wise #3*
- Our God is worthy of hearty praise.
 - Let no dullness enter.
 - Festivals to be kept with loudest expressions of joy and thanksgiving.

3. It is to the honor of God.

- Perowne said "But stop all music & listen to God. If you praise Him aright it must be with honesty and gratitude."
- Do you feel you have been in His presence - what makes it so?

Acts 7:25 "For he supposed his brethren "

- Is God our strength?
- The noise refrain is a kindred repeat.
East likes noise, West harmony.

B. Now he asks for Instruments.

1. Timbrel with Psalm. *Jepew - Cat out of bag #4*

- God is not served with misery but with mirthful music.
- Tambourine.

2. Harp.

3. Psaltery - perhaps a stringed instrument like guitar or one played with bow.

4. Trumpet

- a) Clear & shrill summons that calls folks to worship.
- b) Symbol of voice of God.
- c) Cornet - shophar - only Hebrew instrument preserved to the present. Rams horn.

Gen. 22:12-13

C. If it was once used is it to be ever used?
 "Why not employ them today?" - can you answer this.

1. Could they use any other instruments or only ones cited?

III. Call to the Feast.

A. New Moon

1. Any new moon.
2. Jewish tradition says this was New Year's Day.
3. Full moon - Feast of Tabernacles.
4. Rabbis used to say if you haven't seen this feast you don't know what joy is.

B. Feast Day.

1. Is Sunday a delight & honorable to us?
2. Keep the Feasts the Lord appoints - not ones of Rome or Canterbury.
3. "When it can be proven that the observance of Christmas & other popish festivals was ever instituted by divine statutes we also will attend to them but not till then". Spurgeon

Duke Survey #5

4. It is as much our duty to reject the traditions of men as to observe the ordinances of the Lord - Spurgeon.

C. Authorization.

1. Obedience & truth are to direct our worship.
2. "We ask concerning every rite & rubric 'Is this a law of the God of Jacob?' And if it is not clearly so, it is of no authority with us who walk in Christian liberty".
Spurgeon
3. Ordinances = custom or judgement.
4. Need law & statute to prove anything.

D. Joseph notation.

1. Foster father of the people since he saved them in Egypt.
2. At one time owed it all to Joseph.

Gen. 49:26

3. Israel marched out before the very eyes of the Egyptians.

Nu. 33:3

4. We do well to remember our victories & celebrate. *Mud-steps #6*
5. To mention Joseph shows God's laws pertain to both ends of Israel - North & South.

6. Obligation to predecessors.

E. Unknown Language

1. That of the Lord.
2. God's never been adored in the Egyptian tongue.
3. Other views:
 - a) Language of Egyptians.
 - b) Voice of God.
 - c) Idolaters tongue thus didn't understand it.
 - d) Language of the world - unintelligent to Sons of God.

IV. Remember Your Blessings.

A. Removed his Shoulder from the Burden.

1. Were quit - left with toiling.
2. Literally passed.

Even if you are on the right trail you will get red

B. Hands delivered from Pots.

1. Bricklayers' baskets hanging one at each end of yoke over shoulders.
2. Baskets not found in Exodus.

C. Called in Trouble.

1. Israel owes liberty to the Lord.
2. No limit to our petitions.
3. Do we ever live without prayer?
4. What was your prayer life today?
5. God extends a great invitation to it.

D. Secret Places of Thunder.

1. Pillar of cloud perhaps.
2. Lit. the hiding place of thunder.
3. Was it Sinai?

Exo. 20:21

Heb. 12:18-24

4. Thunder totally beyond man's control.

E. Proved at Meribah.

1. Precious things are tested.
2. Life provides testing times.
3. Two places called Meribah - means strife, contention.

*S.S. Kresge clip
on goat*

Exo. 17:1-7

Nu. 20:13

F. Sebah

1. Hurried reading is of little benefit.
2. Sit down & meditate awhile.
3. Pause.
4. Stop & reflect on what God has done for you.

West End College Class, Wed. even. 2/27/85
Mid-Amer. Evangelism Workshop, Indianapolis, 6/28/85

Expressing Appreciation

#3

Thomas Carlyle's wife was a highly gifted person, one of the most clever women in England in her time. She loved her husband dearly and, to the extent that he was capable of loving any woman other than his mother, he loved her too. After her death, he read this entry in her diary: "Carlyle never praises me. If he says nothing, I have to be content that things are all right."

She had hungered for appreciation which this man of letter never brought himself to express.

Wise Guise

A PESSIMISTIC MAN was asked to interpret this wording of a poem:

Two men looked out from the prison bars,
One saw mud—
The other saw stars.

He replied: "Two prisoners were looking out the window. While one of them was looking at all the mud—the other one got hit in the head."

—Contributed by Juanita D. Fletcher

#6

EXEMPLI GRATIA


Get Your Goat

S.S. Kresge, the brilliant founder of stores, was never granted the opportunity to have a college education. However, he worked hard, put his faith in God, ultimately became a multi-millionaire and gave millions away for good causes.

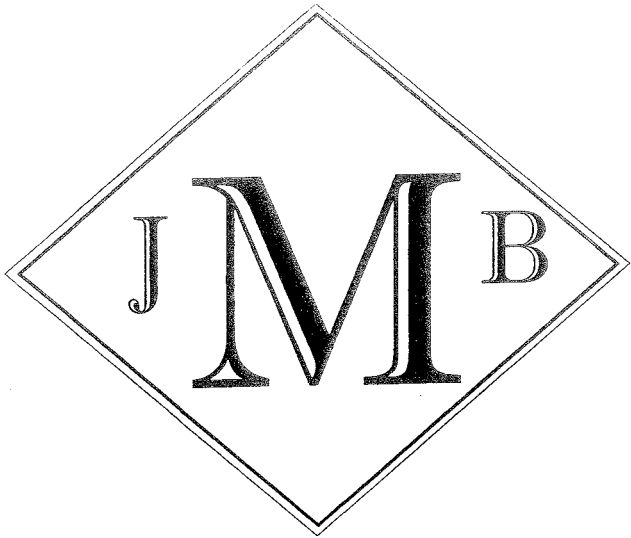
He was asked the secret to his success. His reply is interesting: "I worked hard, I put my trust in God, and I never let anything get my goat."

Do you know how that phrase started — "Don't let anything get your goat?" Years ago when folks owned racing horses, they wanted their horse to win a race. They knew that the only way the horse could win the race was for it to be very well rested the night before. One way to get the horse to rest and be completely relaxed was to put a goat beside it. The goat would lie down so relaxed and comfortable that the horse would do likewise. Other competitors would run in and steal the goat. That would get the horse so agitated that it couldn't win the race the next day.

So don't let anybody get your goat! —*The Carnegian Report*



The Sociology Department at Duke University has conducted research on the concept, *peace of mind*. The study came to the conclusion that much unhappiness stems from an unwholesome preoccupation with past mistakes and failures.



GOD AND THE JUDGES

Psalms 82.

- I. In recent days judges have strongly been in the news.
 - A. Judge Everett and his conference at the condo.
 - B. Supreme Court will hear case on residence for retarded.
 - C. Grand jury indictment of Jake Butcher.
- II. It might be well to ask if God is concerned with this?
 - A. We answer by turning to Psalms 82.
 - B. It has traditionally one of three interpretations.
 1. God's judgement against heathen dieties, or
 2. Portrayal of disorders in earth caused by Satan, or
 3. Polemic against human rule~~ed~~? We take this view.
- III. God states.
 - A. He stands in the midst of the congregation and judges the gods;
 1. God's an intense onlooker who sees all the great ones of the earth do.
 2. God allows men to judge, lends his name but he is in session with them.
 3. They rule over men not objects--treat accordingly.

4. He who acts unjustly is to act against God himself.

5. But are men gods?

Ps. 46:6-7 "The heathen raged, the kingdoms were"

Exo. 22:28 "Thou shalt not revile"

Exo. 22:8 "If the thief be not found"

Exo. 21:6 "Then his master shall bring him unto"

Exo. 7:1-2 "See I have made Thee a"

I Chron. 29:23 "Then Solomon sat on the throne of"

6. Note God stands

a) Power and presence and promptness to act.

b) Formal act of definite purpose.

7. Obviously God is the judge of the judges.

8. Earth is responsible to him. (Turnbull)

B. Some were unjust and prejudiced.

1. Some suitors got to confer with rulers and face to face arrange a bribe.

2. They catered to the powerful.

C. God cries for the defenseless: Poor, Faithless, Afflicted, Needy.

1. Protect the unfortunate.

2. Some have no friends or money to help.

3. Some hold the poor in bondage.

4. God the champion of the defenseless.

Deut. 27:18-19 "Cursed be he that maketh the blind"

Lev. 19:9-10 "And when ye reap the harvest of"

D. Some judges--know not, neither do they understand, walk in darkness.

- 1. Infatuated by their positions and blinded by their pride.
- 2. They are failures.

E. The Fd. of the Earth Are Out of Course

- 1. God gave them appointments and they are responsible to Him.
- 2. God is both Savior and Judge.

Prov. 29:4 "The Kingdom by judgement

Micah 3:9-11 "Hear this, I pray you"

Rom. 13:1 "Let every soul be subject unto"

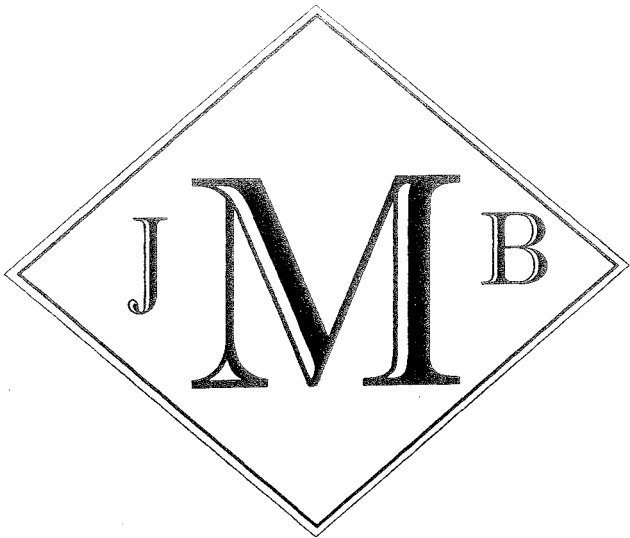
- 3. Society becomes unhinged in face of bribery and lawlessness.
- 4. When justice is omitted the world's in trouble.
- 5. Judges must know and do their duty.

F. Rulers will die like commoners.

- 1. Quickly death unrobes the great.
- 2. Death: the great leveler.
- 3. Spurgeon "No place too high for death's arrows".
- 4. He gives men their honor and their lot.
- 5. We pray for quiet life.

I Tim. 2:1-2 "I exhort therefore; that, first of all"

West End - Wed. night serv. 11/21/84



WE HAVE HEARD THE JOYFUL SOUND

Ps. 89:15-18

I. Whoever fostered the lie that Chr. folk aren't happy folk did Jesus an injustice & helped the Devil.

A. God's always been a blessing to His folk.

B. And "blessed" has always meant "happiness."

II. In the O.T. Psalm God described this blessedness. May we study it?

Ps. 89:15-18 "Blessed is the people that know the joy"

A. Blessed is the People That Know the Joyful Sound.

1. Praise is a peculiarly joyful sound.

2. It's different from shrieks of heathen.

3. We hear the sweet sound of His Word, & know it (not superficially, but in a practical way).

a.) Brent Adams said he knew of no fellow preacher who had a Youth Minister he was proud of.

b.) Dee Martin said he was ashamed of their preaching - "Caterpillars" & "Birds" their sermons.

4. I know the word - not just intonations, but sense & substance.

5. Sound is salvation

"Bring you glad tidings of great joy

6. Sound of victorious army or sound sacrifices at feast days - knew "sound" of religion. Could be jubilee trumpet.

7. God's folks exceptionally blessed.

B. They shall walk O Lord in the Light of Thy Countenance.

1. Give God our ear, hear the joyful sound & He

will show us His face.

- 2. Not lie, sit, but walk - progressive movement.
- 3. Gospel makes us both holy & happy.
- 4. Live in the favor of God.
- 5. Governed by God's directions.

C. In thy name Rejoice All the Day.

- 1. No day in life in which we may not rejoice in our God.
- 2. Habitual confidence in His care is felt.
- 3. Never want for joy - all our grievances are counter balanced.

D. In thy righteousness shall they be exalted.

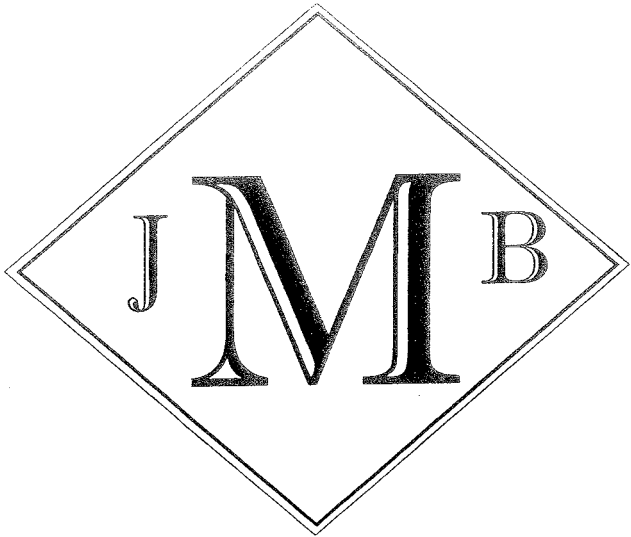
- 1. However great our oppression we shall be exalted
- 2. Our weakness leads us to rejoice in His strength.
- 3. We **triumph** when favor of God is c us.
- 4. Holy one won't **break** a promise or act unjustly.
- 5. Exalted - get promoted.
- 6. Not our righteousness, but in God's we stand.
- 7. God sees not our iniquities but the righteousness of His Son in us.

Rev. 7:11 "And all the angels stood round about the th

E. God is:

- 1.) Glory of their strength.
- 2.) Exaltation of any horn.
- 3.) Our defense.
- 4.) Our King.

West End 2-4-79



THINGS THAT ARE SHORT

Ps. 89:47

I. What are the fireside chats?

A. B. C. Goodpasture did them.

B. Sue Dewberry - last, tired, short.

C. Marvin Powell - after busy day - short.

D. Jim Mankin - just before bed - short.

1. Who stole your pig?

2. D. Dean - all a scoop.

3. New ending clip.

II. Thus my subject: A Lesson on Shorts!

A. Time is a precious commodity.

Job 17:12 "The light is short because of darkness

1. Pay amount - paying date.

Ps. 89:47 "Remember how short my time is: wherefore

1. Operator - speak to wife.

I Cor. 7:29 "This I say, br., the time is short: it remaineth

Rev. 12:12 "The Devil knoweth...short time.

B. "Short" is failure, not to make it.

Rom. 3:23 "All have sinned & come short of the glory of God"

Heb. 4:1 "Promised land is near, but ye will not enter it because ye have not believed"

2 Kings 10:32 "Cut Israel short"

1. Golf - church - 17 tosses.

2. Your little son - phone - extinguisher.

C. Short is a blessing.

Nu. 11:23 "Is the Lord's hand waxed short? See - word.

Job 20:4-5 "Know thou not this of old

That the triumphing of the wicked is short

Joy of the hypocrite but for a moment

1. Child eating.

Prov. 10:27 "Fear of Lord prolongeth days - yrs. of
wicked be shortened.

Isa. 50:2 "Is my hand shortened that it cannot redeem
D. Attitudes to embrace.

Isa. 28:20 "The bed is shorter than that a man can
stretch

1. 1st day at school - cried.

Rom. 16:20 "God of peace shall bruise (tread)
Satan under ft. shortly.

1 Cor. 4:19 "I will come shortly if the Lord wills

2 Pet. 1:14 "Shortly put off this tabernacle

Blue Ridge Encampment, Black Mountain, N.C. 6-20-83

The little girl refused to eat dinner despite her mother's pleas. "Watch me," said the young father. "I will use psychology."

Turning to the child, he said, "Let's pretend you are a guest. Put on your coat and go outside and ring the bell."

She did as she was told. He answered the door. "How do you do?" he exclaimed. "You're just in time for dinner!" He led the child into the dining room.

"See," he whispered to his wife, "I told you a little psychology would work. Now comes the payoff."

"Darling," he said to the child, "you are our guest, remember, so you must be polite and eat what we have."

"No, thank you," she answered politely, "I ate before I came."

Fire escape

● Meeting chairman: "Are Mr.

and Mrs. Miller in the audience?"

Mr. Miller: "Yes, here we are."

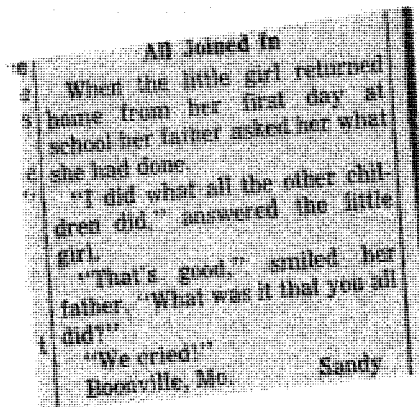
MC: "Your little son's on the phone—he wants to know where your fire extinguisher is."

● When the Athenians finally

Time

GOOD STORIES

A lady in California was having a terrible time with her gas bill. Every month after she mailed her check she received word that she had sent either too much money or not enough and it began to seem as if she and the gas company would never agree on how much she owed. Finally, a kind soul in the gas company's office sent her a little handwritten note. It said: "Please pay the amount. You have been paying the date."



When the telephone company began employing male switchboard operators, most callers were initially startled but immediately adjusted to the idea. Not so, nine-year-old Jimmy. The first time he heard a man's voice saying, "Operator," he asked dubiously, "Are you the operator?" The voice on the telephone assured him that he was. Jimmy was still suspicious. He hesitated a moment, then asked politely, "May I please speak to your wife?"

d

1st golfer: How come you're so late?

2nd golfer: I had to toss a coin between church and golf.

1st golfer: Then why are you so late?

2nd golfer: I had to toss seventeen times.

e

Truth
Dizzy Dean was popular with the members of the press, not only because his colorful personality made for such good copy, but because he was eager to please them.

One day, in the St. Louis Cardinals clubhouse, he gave three separate interviews. He told the first sportswriter that he had been born in Arkansas, told the second that Texas was his birthplace, and the third that he had come into the world in Oklahoma.

Later, his brother Paul, who had been present at the interviews, said to him: "What made you do a thing like that?"

"They're such nice fellas," Dizzy explained, "I thought I'd give them each a scoop."

Funny Funny World

Out of the Bag

The farmer killed a pig and hung it up for the night, intending to butcher it in the morning, but the next day it was gone. He didn't tell a soul about it, and nothing happened for more than two months.

One day another farmer who lived down the road came by and asked, "By the way, Bill, did you ever find out who stole your pig?"

"Nope," said Bill, "not 'til just now."

Quote

New Twists on Old Sayings
Kids say the darnedest things, and to prove it, a California schoolteacher has spent 20 years collecting the wacky proverbs created by her first graders.

Judith Stark, a retired teacher from Belvedere, Calif., encouraged her pupils to learn English by letting them complete in their own words proverbs that she began.

Here are some examples of the hilarious ways the six-year-olds changed some old proverbs around.

Don't cross your bridges before you . . . pay the toll.

As you make your bed, so shall you . . . mess it up.

'Tis better to be safe than . . . punch a sixth grader.

When the blind leadeth the blind . . . get out of their way!

You can't teach an old dog new . . . math.

Sticks and stones will break your bones, but . . . not if you hide.

He who marries for money . . . better be nice to his wife.

Never underestimate the power of . . . spinach.

A penny saved is . . . not much.

Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and . . . you have to blow your nose.

Children should be seen and not . . . spanked or grounded.

If at first you don't succeed . . . get new batteries.

The pen is mightier than . . . the pigs.

Love all, trust . . . me.

*Priceless Proverbs...From
the Tongue of the Young, 1982*

Quips from Down Under

Maureen Murphy, a frequent guest on Johnny Carson's Tonight Show, said, "I don't trust psychologists, because one told me that being a woman was just a phase I was going through."

Ms. Murphy, who was born and raised in Australia, writes all her own material. "You know, the Australians' idea of a perfect wife is Nancy Reagan," she said. "I met her in person once, I was so impressed. She was so lifelike..."

"My father, John Patrick Murphy, is as Irish as his name," she said. "He often told me, 'if you're good, you go to heaven, and if you're bad, you go to the other place. And if you are really, really good, you go to heaven and get to go to the other place on weekends.'"

Anonymous Donation

The politician had flooded his district with letters asking for campaign contributions and addressed each letter to "Occupant."

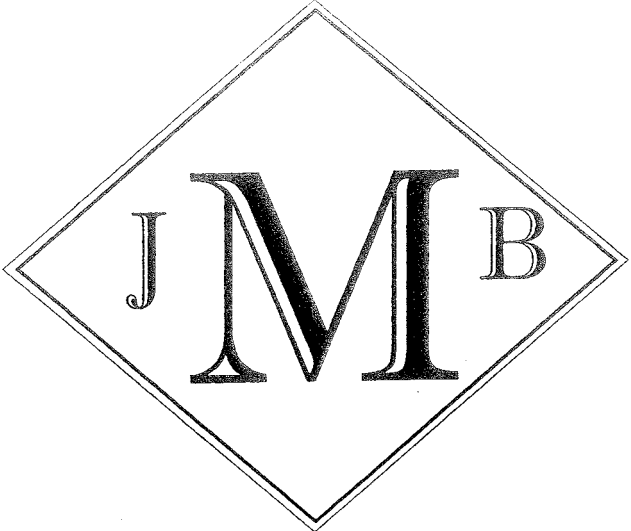
When a check for \$5,000 arrived, he was understandably overjoyed and immediately looked for the signature to see who had sent it. The check, of course, was signed "Occupant."

Matrimonially Inclined

Doris: "When is your sister thinking of getting married?"

Tom: "Constantly!"





I'LL FLY AWAY

Selfish Health Care Ps. 90:9-10

- I. In just one day of Dr. Tim's effectiveness.
 - A. Joseph Gibson, one of two young people, led songs as beat time with Dr. Tim.
 - B. Mr. Comer--saw boys grow up as I took printing to Dr. Ira on Belmong.
 - C. Deacon's wife--in military attended my friend who lost a twin--so comforted by Christian doctor.

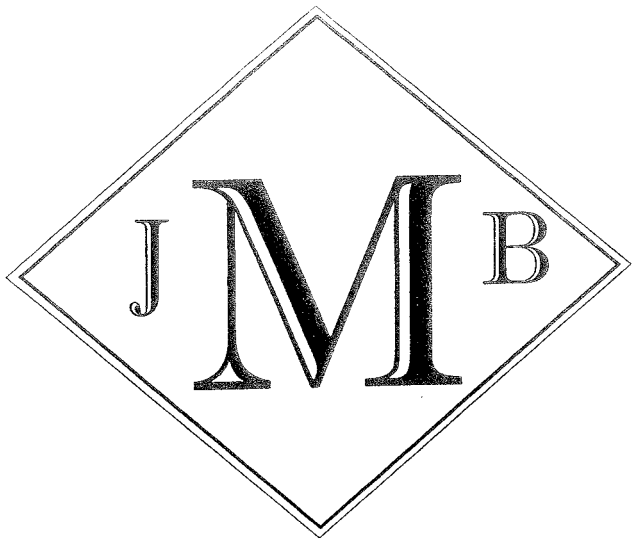
- II. Prayers raised at 21st Century Christian. Legacy of great family as Ira came to me to ask "shall I become a full-time preacher or keep teaching?"

- III. Dr. Tim and Shirley
 - A. Home for church picnic.
 - B. Cancelled luncheon--"Little boy needed me."
 - C. Help us to number our days.
 1. As a tale told me.
 2. How long cancer--since a baby.
 3. "Strength--labor and sorrow."
 4. Telescope to listen.
 5. V-12 "Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

D. As he listened to hearts beat more than blood I think he had one word--
FUTURE.

1. He had a great one with God.
2. He could extend it to little ones from Korea, Cambodia, the Kingdom everywhere.
3. Then with the suddenness of his movements-- "I'll fly away."

Funeral - Dr. Tim North - 7/30/07



THE ULTIMATE RESULT IN TEACHING
IRS - Flu - Needle Psalms 90:16-17 Punish for things I ~~data~~ haven't done?

- I. Every teacher dreams of ideals.
- A. New building. Ben Franklin essay
 - B. New eqpt.
 - C. Promotion time. - 5 words - "Purely irrelevant Meyer & Marie words"
 - D. New course of study

II. But I'd like to tell you the ultimate for teachers' desires. Write c eyes shut / Desire Bonquet
Ps. 90:16-17 "Let thy work appear unto thy servants"

- A. There are three wishes, followed by a prayer.
1. Let thy work appear unto thy servants.
 - a.) Man thinks of transitoriness. Fridy clip
 - b.) Life has a purpose - but only realized in God.
Matt. 28:19-20 "Go ye therefore & teach all nations"
Acts 17:27 "That they should seek the Lord, if haply t
 - c.) I want it made plain that I might know the work of God & His plan for my life.
 - d.) I can see it in Jesus as He is the image of God.
Col. 1:15 "Who is the image of the invisible God, the
I Tim. 6:16 "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in t
Heb. 1:3 "Who being the brightness of his glory, and
 - e.) Always, we want to know what is God doing with us - what is the purpose of our life at any particular time.
 - f.) Good folk are engaged in a good work.
 - g.) Good men are anxious for the success of good works. Who are those 2 women?
 2. Let thy glory appear unto their children.
 - a.) Good men think of the future of their work.
 - b.) Our duty - work.

Sent to bed - she's wore out & I take nap! 2.

Our children's portion - glory.

- c.) Good men plead for their children. - 50 boys
- d.) We must perform our work in truth. - at camp 49
- e.) Let our children be inspired by what they see in us. 50' cord - phone - outside weather's nice

3. Let the Beauty of the Lord our God be upon us.

- a.) Beauty = grace, favor. - What difference to b
- b.) Means either divine favor or divine presence. f. Shower
- c.) We must look at our work in relation to God's beauty. - Napkin, neck - shave or haircut bustle

Church Hill & Astor - Poison
d.) Jewelry stores display silver in dazzling light - so does divine light complement our souls.

- e.) Ungodly lives neutralize Christianity. - TV take 2
- f.) Beauty of the Lord is upon us when we realize the loveliness of His character.
- g.) Note correlation: "Thy work....the work of our hands." - Dude - shape of a tire?

B. The Prayer: Establish thou the work of our hands upon us."

1. Let work be firm, meaningful, worthwhile in a purpose larger than our own. Howell poem
2. We can live & die as pilgrims if God is everlasting.
3. To establish is to be blessed. Redwood Sink - a log
4. Life need not be a perpetual disappointment.
5. Pray that work not be lost nor remain incomplete.
6. Good men feel the success of their work depends upon the blessings of God. Moody - Ship - Prayer
7. God makes prayer necessary to the success of our work. Prezobets Prayer Co.
8. Work and prayer are co-joined.

Life is a leaf of paper white
Whereon each of us may write
His word or two; and then comes night.

Though thou have time
But for a line, be that sublime;
Not failure, but low aim is crime.

LIFE by James Russell Lowell

The man walked into one of the finer restaurants in town, picked up the napkin and tied it around his neck. The manager, horrified at the sight, told his head waiter to try to get the man to remove the napkin without offending him.

So, the waiter walked up to the diner and asked: "Shave or a hair cut, buster?"

Quote

_____ July 18,

Psychologist W^m Moulton
Moulton asked 3000 persons

"What have you to live for?"
The answer he received revealed that 94 percent were simply enduring the present, waiting for the future. They were waiting for "something" to happen: waiting for children to grow up, waiting for next yr, waiting until they could afford a trip, waiting for someone to die. Most of them were waiting for tomorrow, forgetting that all one ever has is today, because yesterday is gone and tomorrow never comes. — WALLACE FRIDY, *A Lamp Unto My Feet* (Abingdon).

Goals

PRACTICAL PRAYER

► The evangelist, Dwight L. Moody, was on a transatlantic cruise when the ship caught fire and all on board were summoned to form a bucket brigade. An acquaintance, eyeing Moody in the long line passing buckets of water along the deck, said, "Mr. Moody, let us go to the other end of the ship and engage in prayer."

Moody replied, "No, sir. Instead, let us stand here in line and pass the buckets. We can pray hard here all the time we are doing it."

The **WAR CRY** for December 5, 1959

Oftentimes in cutting the redwood of northern California they float the logs down the rivers to the mills. Now and then will come a "sink-a-log"--it has difficulty staying afloat. The men take that log and with chains bind it to a log on either side. The timber in the sink-a-log is excellent--and chained to others it can ride safely to its destination. Christians are in danger of sinking--prayer can hold them aloft.



YOUNG JIM spent his first week away from home at a summer camp. He was not much of a letter writer, but one day his mother got a card from him: "Dear Mom: There are 50 boys here this week, but I sure wish there were only 49. Jim."



WE CANNOT all play the same instrument, but we can all be in the same key.



THE WORLD seemed to be a better place when folks opened their meals with a prayer instead of a can opener.

POLITICAL INSULT

In Britain. . . political insult is almost an art form. For one thing, members of Parliament tend to be better educated than their American counterparts; subtle, allusive repartee is thus easier. Churchill was the practitioner *par excellence*. When Lady Astor was a member of Parliament, she and he were on opposite sides. On one occasion she told him, "Mr Churchill, if you were my husband I would poison your coffee." He retorted, "If I were your husband I would drink it!" It was also Churchill who said of Sir Stafford Cripps, evidently a pompous fellow, "There, but for the grace of God, goes God." —SARAH MONTOYA, CPS, "Word Wise," *The Secretary*, June-July, '70.

POLITICIANS

Future President

"Pardon my curiosity, sir," said the office boy to the boss, "but who were those two girls who just left your office?"

"Well," answered the boss, "one was my wife and the other was Miss America."

"Which was Miss America?" asked the office boy and, as the boss took a dollar bill from his pocket and gave it to him, he questioned, "What's that for?"

"It's a loan," explained the boss. "When you succeed me as president, I want you to remember that I once loaned you money."

Introductions
Amarillo, Texas

Pat

• • •

The IRS is going to be in charge of administering Swine Flu shots. They're good at needling people.

• • •

ical campaign contribu-

The class was asked to write an essay on the life of Benjamin Franklin. After much pencil-chewing a little fifth-grader briefed the great man's life down to its most basic details and turned in the following report to her teacher: "Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, traveled to Philadelphia, met a lady on the street, she laughed at him, he married her and discovered electricity."

A black preacher, in a Ga turpentine camp, opened his prayer meeting with the following invocation: "Oh Lawd, give Thy servant dis mawnin' de eyes ob de eagle, and de wisdom ob de owl; connect this soul wid de gospel telephone in de central skies; 'luminate his brow wid de sun ob heaven; turpentine his imagination; grease his lips wid possum oil; loosen his tongue wid de sledge hammer ob Thy power; 'lectrify his brain wid de lighting ob Thy word; put 'petual motion in his arms; fill him plum full ob dynamite of Thy glory; 'noint him all over wid kerosene ob Thy salvation and den, deah Lawd—set him on fire!"—Selected. **h**

Quote Prayer

GOOD STORIES

A purchasing agent was offered a color TV set as a Christmas present from a salesman.

"Oh, my conscience wouldn't let me accept that!" the purchasing agent said primly.

"Tell you what I'll do then," the salesman said. "I'll sell it to you for five."

"In that case, I'll take two." —
Supervision, 6-71. **a**

The young mother wanted to enter her 5-yr-old daughter in a kindergarten, but the entrance age was 6 yrs. The teacher was discouraging. "But," the mother protested, "Anne can easily pass the 6-yr-old test." The Teacher turned skeptically to the little girl: "Say some words," she told her. The little girl gave the teacher a dignified look. Then, turning to her mother, she inquired: "Purely irrelevant words?" —*Parent-Teacher Ass'n Mag, 5-71* **b**

A hotel desk clerk received a long distance call about an overnight reservation.

"Do you want a room with a tub or a shower?" the clerk asked.

"What's the difference?" the caller replied.

"Well," came the patient response, "with a tub, you sit down." — *Christopher News Notes*, 4-69.

DON'T FORGET

DR. ADOLF MEYER, the one-time famed Johns Hopkins psychiatrist, was sought out by many of the world's great figures. Many years ago, when the noted Queen Marie visited America, she asked to meet him. One of her friends brought her to Dr. Meyer and said: "I want you to meet the Queen of Romania."

The psychiatrist quickly asked, professionally, "How long does she think she's been queen?"

Quote

Introduction

Prove It!

Jimmie: "Father, can you write your name with your eyes shut?"

Father: "I think so."

Jimmie: "All right then, let's see you shut them and sign this report card."

Terry

Shelbyville, Mo.

Banquet

That American institution, the banquet, has been described by a well-known after-dinner speaker as: "An affair where a speaker first eats a lot of food he doesn't want and then talks about something he doesn't understand to a lot of people who don't want to hear him."

Sedalia, Mo.

John

VISITOR: You don't mean to tell me that you have lived in this out-of-the-way place for more than thirty-five years?"

Brushville Citizen: "I have."

Visitor: "But really, I cannot see what you can find to keep you busy" » »

Brushville Citizen: "Neither can I—that's why I like it."

JOHNNY: "Do you think it's right to punish folks for things they haven't done?"

Teacher: "Why, of course not, Johnny."

Johnny: "Well, I didn't do my homework."

BUMPER STICKER to end all bumper stickers: "DON'T YOU FEEL STUPID READING A BUMPER STICKER THAT CARRIES NO MESSAGE?"

When a city dude entered a general store in a country town, he asked haughtily, "I don't suppose you'd have anything in the shape of an automobile tire, would you?" The unimpressed storekeeper answered, "Doughnuts, rubber bands, and funeral wreaths."

The father of the household called the telephone company and ordered a 50-foot extension cord put on the phone. He explained, "I want my daughter to stay outside more now that the weather is nice."

1. Every Speakers Mouth
2. Stomach Ache - Empty - Head
2 1/2 Ton, Ride in funeral czi e Mem -
3. Time to a Pig Ruin ^{whole day}
4. Ate heart - Break tooth pinned
4 1/2 Aed head - flap - Don't like her ~~finger~~
5. Racial superiority - Pigment 5 top
5 1/2 Jolly men at gym - Bog
6. Archie Moore - Know you?
7. 100 yr. - Breakfast & Mattress Co
8. Lightning - His'n in't it?
9. Liver - Bee, Moo, Cluck
10. Broken Vase - Ea. Separately
11. Paul is calm, Paul is bright
12. Fishing - Waited on
13. Equal rights - Pregnant book exc.
14. Circle - DR. marks rounds

Presidents

1. Lincoln - Hdg't saddle
2. Coolidge - Fair horse (1)
Sawyer (2)
3. R.F.D. Out of work (5)
4. DeBakey - 1 elected
5. Wise '76 - Belle cracked
6. 7yr. old tie - hitched
7. Shoeless Joe Jackson
8. Minev - what shift
9. Daddy - why'd other s.
10. Przyer - Mentioned
Latoré

How to Handle a Hard Day

Despite the hustle and bustle of a hectic world, our family has found a new way to make prayer part of our daily lives.

In our designated places at the dining table, each person prays for the person on his right every day for a week. The next week we switch to the person on our left and then the one directly across the table. Each shares particular needs of the day with the one praying for him. We also ask each family member to pick out his or her hardest day of the week. That day becomes the one when everyone prays especially for that person and his or her name is posted on the refrigerator as a reminder to all of us.

Kay, a senior in high school, chose Monday as her day because it's packed full with piano-practicing beginning at 5:30 a.m., then classes, homework and teaching piano students after dinner. Her day ends with youth choir rehearsals. She needs patience and concentration to get through it all.

On Tuesday, surprise solos are regularly on the agenda of sixth-grade band so Roger chose that day to let prayers bolster his courage.

Wednesday is Julia Beth's day because ninth-graders have all their major subjects on that day and she comes home weighted down with homework.

David, an 11th grader, needs special understanding and patience on Thursdays when he makes his paper-route collections—whatever the weather.

Friday is mother's day because after

substitute-teaching all week, fulfilling the duties of a minister's wife and trying to keep straight a house that's becoming increasingly more cluttered, I need help to keep calm and organized.

Dad's day falls on Saturday when he needs special wisdom as he makes final sermon preparations and personal visits. Since there are only six members in our family, we award daddy the extra day on Sunday because he needs special insight for his work at church that day.

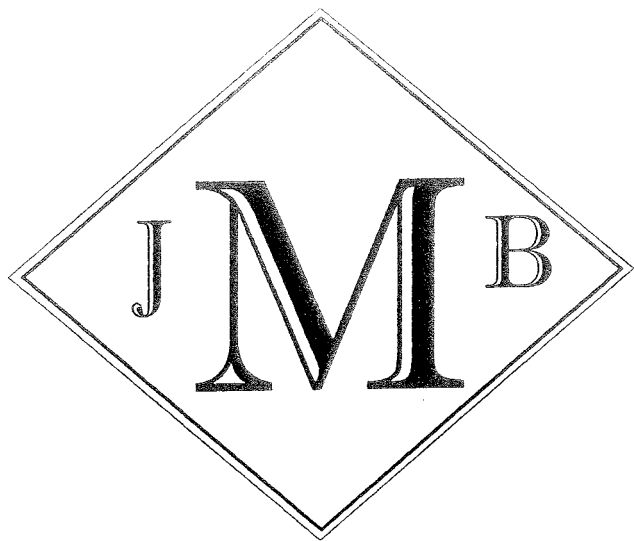
One Friday, when the flu caused me to miss preparing breakfast and seeing the children off to school, I was gratified to find my name posted on the refrigerator as I was getting juice. If I fail to post a name, someone else usually does it.

But even the smoothest systems sometimes break down. At the end of one Wednesday, Julia Beth asked dejectedly, "Did anyone pray for me today? I didn't feel like anyone did."

Sure enough, her suspicions were confirmed—we all had failed her. We had forgotten to post her name and overlooked her in our special prayers.

Since then we have become more aware than ever of one another's needs and more concerned for each individual's problems. But most important, we are learning as a family the true power of prayer, believing in it now even more as it helps each one of us cope with whatever each new day brings.

*Ruth Ward
York, Pennsylvania*



THE ANGELIC PROMISE

Ps. 91:9-11

I. Because I don't know every detail shall I use none of the project?

A. Electricity? Refuse to use lights.

B. Digestion? Won't eat.

C. Angelic ministry - deny use.

II. From our text I know I know some great things.

A. The Lord is the most glorious possession anyone can have.

Ps. 91:9 "Thou hast made the Lord:"

1. God himself--reality.

2. Dwelling.

v-1 "Dwell in the secret places of"

a) Remain

b) Sit

c) Abide

d) Originally cove, covert, secret hide away.

e) Place of nearness.

3. Refuge-Habitation-Fortress.

B. God is interested in me.

1. He will intervene for His own.

2. Doesn't say how he does it.

C. There are angels. (v-11)

1. Means messengers.

Ps. 34:7 "The angel of the Lord encampeth"

Heb. 1:14 "Are they not all min. spirits, sent"

2. They are near to God.

3. Our fellow servants.

1 Pet. 3:22 "Gone to heaven, rt. hand, angels subject"

4. Helped Jesus.

Matt. 4:11 "Devil leaveth him & behold angels"

Lu. 22:43 "And there appeared an angel unto"

5. Have great power.

a) Destroy Sodom.

b) Firstborn

c) Led Lot out

6. First met with Hagar.

7. They are holy. (Matt. 25)

8. They are not to be worshipped but worship with us.

Lu.20:36 "For they are equal unto the angels"

Heb. 12:22 "Innumerable co. of angels"

9. Strong

Ps. 103:20 "Excel in st., do comm., harken voice"

10. Know secrets except time of Christ's return.

11. Obedient.

12. Applies to every agency God uses in His work.

13. 3-H's-M, N, O, P-W

D. They Have a Charge From God.

1. When we have charge we are doubly careful.

2. It is a strict command.

3. Plural--not a guardian one.

4. Appointed to us to:

a) Watch over us.

b) Preserve us.

c) Guard

d) Support

e) Sustain

f) Keep watch

g) Observe

h) Preserve

i) Take care of

5. Oversee God's folk.

6. Silent sentries that guard over us.
(Swindoll)

7. Our body guards - (Spurgeon).

8. How they keep us we are not told.

9. Keep Balaam out of more trouble.

F. There is a Way

1. Devil used to tempt Jesus.

Matt. 4:6 Pinnacle, If thou be-cast-angels ch.

Luke 4:10-11 (Same)

2. Misquotes as he usually does.

3. Not just any way!

a) Way of obedience & duty.

b) Not presumption and self-seeking.

Matt. 26:53-54 12 legions of angels

c) It is not the way of the believer to go out of the way of the Lord.

d) When you leave the right way you lose your guard.

e) Don't lose your way--it's sin that exposes to misery.

f) "As a bird from the nest so is a man out of his place"--Solomon.

4. Biggest qt.? Am I in the way?

5. God is with you when you are with Him.

Prov. 3:23 "Keep sound wisdom...then shalt thou

Isa. 63:9 Angel of his presence saved

G. I am Tenderly Born

1. Bear = lift, carry, take up, support, sustain.
2. Lifts you over difficulties.
3. Carry in hands a tender metaphor.
4. Sure to keep what's in our hands.
5. Clip Feb. '89 R.D. - Hands

H. Little Things Can Demolish.

v-12 "Lest thou dash thy foot"

1. Dash
 - a) Stumble
 - b) Trip over pebble--turn an ankle.
 - c) When children first learn to walk they stumble over little things.
(How Far Away Stand)
2. Stone
 - a) Charge over minute details--hairs numbered.
 - b) Little things are important--splinters infect.
 - c) They watch for even minor ills.
 - d) Worst diseases tracted to inconsiderate beginning.
 - e) Daily--not occasionally, we are exposed, so watch little things.

Cox Blvd., Sheffield, AL - 3/28/89 (Noon)

STUDENTS in my third-grade class were bombarding me with questions about my newly pierced ears.

"Does the hole go all the way through?"

"Yes."

"Did it hurt?"

"Just a little."

"Did they stick a needle through your ears?"

"No, they used a special gun."

Silence followed, and then one solemn voice called out, "How far away did they stand?"

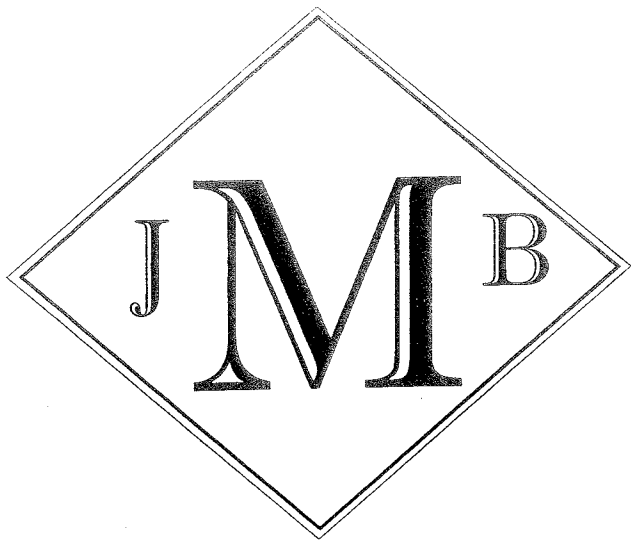
R.D. 4/89
—Contributed by Merv F. Beal

LIKE MANY PIANO TUNERS, I am a semi-retired professional pianist. One day after tuning a customer's concert grand, I played a few scales in the same manner that a racing driver might open up a car on the track—to see what it can do. After I made a few



R.D.
2/89
runs up and down the keyboard, my customer's eight-year-old daughter, who apparently had been struggling along with her lessons, looked at me and asked, "Mister, do you have more fingers than I do?"

—Contributed by John Aaron



A DAY GOD SPOKE

Ps. 91:14-16

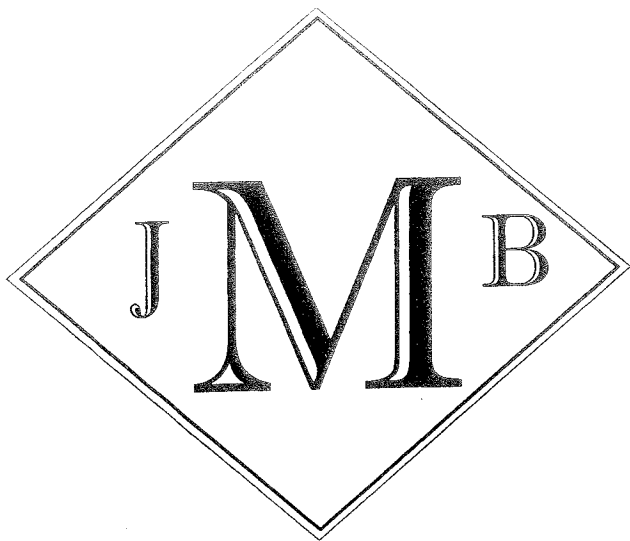
- I. Juanita had a lot going for her here on earth.
 - A. First, her parents--godly people that loved the Lord and gave her a Christian rearing.
 - B. Jimmy--a husband of power, determination, ability.
 - C. Children that blessed her life and mine.

- II. Life not always easy.
 - A. Kept her talents.
 - B. Kept her composure.
 - C. Kept her attractiveness.

- III. But she had things beyond the earth to bless her.
 - A. At end of Psalm 91 God becomes the spokesman in a transition in that Psalm.
 - B. Just what did He say?
 - C. Words of God.
 1. He has set his love upon me,
 - a) Exalt Him above his fellows.
 - b) We turn from sin to righteousness.
 - c) First of six times "I will" in three verses.

2. All this because he has known my name.
 - a) Constantly acquainted with God.
 - b) He answers prayer--maybe not in way we expect.
 - c) Try in every way to please God.
3. He shall call upon man I will answer him.
 - a) I'll grant his prayers.
 - b) God answers prayer, a part of his government.
 - c) Fact of experience--constantly tested and proven true.
 - d) Divine favor comes because we have chosen him.
 - e) He loves our dependence on Him.
4. I will be with Him in trouble. I will deliver Him and honor Him.
 - a) What greater consolation than knowing God with us.
 - b) We have troubles, they are God's jewels to polish.
 - c) We especially need God when we are in trouble.
 - d) Could be disappointments, loneliness, defeat.
 - e) Can't escape troubles, but can conquer them.

5. With long life I will satisfy Him
and show Him my salvation.
 - a) Length of days viewed as a
blessing.
 - b) Salvation an act and a state.



HOW LONG, O LORD

Ps. 94:1-7

- I. Who has not felt the hurt of God's delay as the triumph of the wicked is allowed?
 - A. Is it wrong to question God?
 - B. Has He asked me never to say "Why, Lord?"
 - C. Is He insulted when I appear agitated and impatient?
 - D. Can I freely state my piece to the Holy God of the Ages?
 1. The Psalmist did.
 2. It's imperative we have a little rope.
 3. It's also imperative to trust him for a holy end that is inevitable as the wicked are dealt with.
 4. Then as now I must trust Him.
- II. We turn to Ps. 94 to see this very thing put in focus.
 - A. The Introduction.
 1. V-1 "O Lord God".
 - a) Address bespeaks His willingness to hear.
 - b) It also shows our need to recognize his sovereignty.
 - c) Above all that distresses us is the blessed fact of
 2. The Two Titles.
 - a) Vengeance belongs--God of avengements.
 - (1) Twice stated.
 - (2) Wicked men are in power but he knows a higher authority to whom he may report their misdeeds & request their removal.

Rom. 12:19
Deut. 32:35
Jer. 51:56

3. Man can't do this; some reasons why. (from P.C.)
 - a) Those who hurt us are often beyond our reach, control, or power.
 - b) We don't have at our command requisite forces.
 - c) We are not self-mastered enough to temper justice and mercy.
 - d) We can't be strictly judicial and fair because of personal feelings. (Jap. man said he'd kill the Americans who raped his 12-year-old daughter)
 - e) Because we are in grave peril of injuring ourselves in the avengement.
4. Show thyself = shine forth.
 - a) Age old problem--reconcil what happens in the world with the goodness and power of God.
 - b) Challenge of harsh realism to the confidence of heartfelt trust.
 - c) The anomaly of man's deviltry within the moral order established by God.
 - d) Hear the cry for recompence.
 - e) Show your power and bring to the arrogant the consequences of his deeds.

5. Lift up--Judge of the earth.
 - a) Enemies thought God was conquered because His people were.
 - b) Was God indifferent, powerless?
 - c) Lift = rouse self from inaction.
6. Second title--Judge of the Earth.
 - a) These titles should encourage our faith.
 - b) Israelites thought judging--a majesty of his most important function--earthly Kings did it daily.
 - c) He gives laws and sentences.
 - d) God is always right in his judgments.
7. Render a reward to the Proud.
 - a) Let evil recoil on the perpetrators.
 - b) Give them their desert.
 - c) God always rewards the righteous and judges the evil so don't be impatient.

III. So we cry How Long.

- A. How long (what causes you greatest distress today?)
 1. When God could make such short work of evil why does He wait?
 2. We ask "how long" when we cannot see rope that holds the ungodly in limitation.
 3. Bunyan represents his pilgrim as alarmed at the lions at the entrance of the palace Beautiful, and reassured

when told they are chained, and the chains did not permit their reaching the middle of the pathway; he would be quite safe if he kept to the middle.

B. Wicked triumph.

1. Wicked yet are strong enough to defy justice and crafty enough to evade it.

2. Illustrations:

Joseph in dungeon, slave--bro. feed flocks peacefully.

Save throne--David a cave.

Herod worshipped--James slain with sword.

Nero Judge--Paul prison.

Pope on throne--church ignored.

(Think how it was in reverse!)

3. Satan god of this world.

4. Wicked triumph in high places.

C. Wicked's ways.

1. Speak hard things.

a) Pour forth words that spring from self-esteem.

b) Hard--arrogant, pompous ranter.

c) Pour forth lit.

d) God made us capable of loving, also sinning.

2. Boast themselves.

a) Insolent take pleasure in magnifying themselves.

b) Those that speak highly of themselves speak hardly of others.

3. Break in pieces thy people.
 - a) Crush & harass the devout.
 - b) Wicked would wax worse and worse if sin always triumphed.
 - c) Earth would become hell and faith in God vanish if we saw evil always win.
4. Affect thine heritage.
 - a) It's short compared to eternity.
 - b) Heritage--people.
 - c) Slay widow, stranger, fatherless--describes misdeeds of oppressors.
 - (1) Crush not by heathen but his backsliding people.

Isa. 10:2

Ezek. 22:6-9

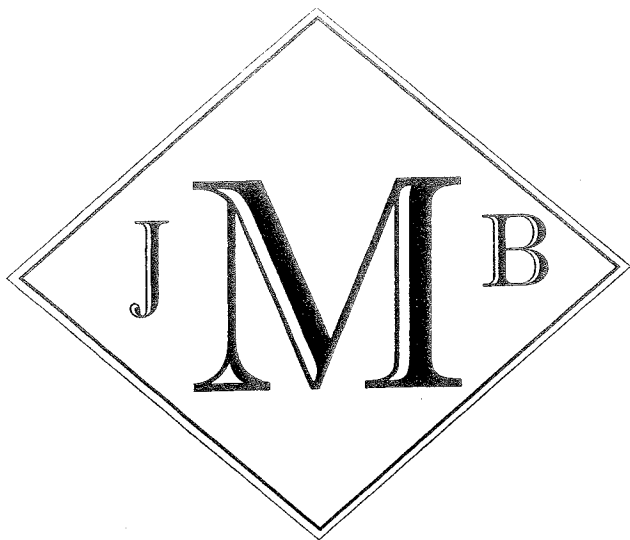
Mal. 3:5

Ps. 10:8-10

(2) Resident alien.

5. Say Lord does not see and God of Jacob does not regard.
 - a) Not only injure God's people but despise God himself.
 - b) They act as little gods themselves.
 - c) Say God won't notice.
- C. But Remember.
1. Saints ever perplexed at triumph of sin.
 2. Yet nothing shakes the promises--All things work together for good.
 3. Because God is and must be supreme every man is under limitations.

4. Mercy puts limits on wicked--in hopes he can be redeemed and saint unhurt.



You Just Don't Get It, Do You?

Ps 94:8-15

I. Other times you explain a matter repeatedly and the party to whom you speak is unmoved. Finally as you repeatedly warn him, in exasperation you respond, "you just don't get it, do you?"

- A. Some are that way with God.
- B. He hammers home his truth only to see parties unmoved.
- C. Mind you, this does not change the eventual outcome, it's their stubborn loss

II. Ps. 94:8-15 A case in point

- A. They have just said "The Lord shall not see-nor regard it" as they slay widow and stranger plus murder the fatherless
- B. Understand brutish (men of animal experiences) and fools - when will you be wise? (V-8)
 - 1. Thy conclude God's a puff of wind
 - 2. Better understand-don't give up your faith - consider!
 - 3. Ignorance and folly render men like beasts.

A. Calls them "fools"

- a). Lack wisdom based on reverence for God

Ps. 10:11

10:13

- b). They adopt heathen point of view
- c). Foolish to think God is disinterested
- d). Raises question, "When will you be wise?" - wonder you ever learn?
- e). Wisdom is always crying - when will you listen?

C. Then comes 4 questions

1. He that planted the ear shall not hear

- a). Like a root ear planted deep in the head
- b). From outside we do not see the intricate workings and mechanisms
- c). Obvious lessons:
 - 1) Creator greater than the created
 - 2) If God has given man certain powers surely these powers exist in Him
 - 3) Whatever powers are found in man, surely are found in Him who made man
 - 4) A machine is the embodiment of a thought altogether higher than the machine

- 5) If you hear the cry of the fatherless, surely He does
 - 6) Wicked underestimate the God who made the ear
 - 7) He who made the ear hears us-don't give up your trust in Him
 - 8) Ear is the argument for a real, personal, intelligent God
 - 9) As you hear outrages, God does
- d). However do not humanize God-
He hears, does not say He has an ear

2. Question 2 - He that formed the eye shall he not see?

- a) "Formed" - word used for potter's work
- b) Obviously if you see, He saw first
- c) He watches the sparrow fall - He sees you
- d) One who made the intricate eye sees today's problems
- e) 3 things to keep us from sinning:
 - 1) Has an ear that hears everything
 - 2) Has an eye that sees all

3) Has a hand - we'll see shortly - that writes in a book that tells us how to live and a book that will be opened in Judgement

3. Question 3 - He that chastens the heathen shall He not comest?
- a) He exercises His authority over every man
 - b) He gives all nations a responsible awareness of his moral will
 - c) If He punishes the heathen, surely He will his own people
 - d) The heathen mistakenly thought God liked what they liked, and all.
 - e) They did not imagine a pure and Holy God
 - f) Yet we have a conscience that accuses and excuses - thus perfect morality must exist with God.

4. Question 4 - He that teaches man knowledge shall he not know?
- a) What knowledge have we that does not come from His word.

1 Cor. 3:20

- b) He even understands the thoughts of man
 - 1) Not only sees action, but reads their thoughts
 - 2) Knows fully the nature and number of your thoughts
 - 3) Vanity - like a breath

Psalms 39:6

III. A conclusion to be reached

Verse 12 "Blessed is the man whom

Job 28:23

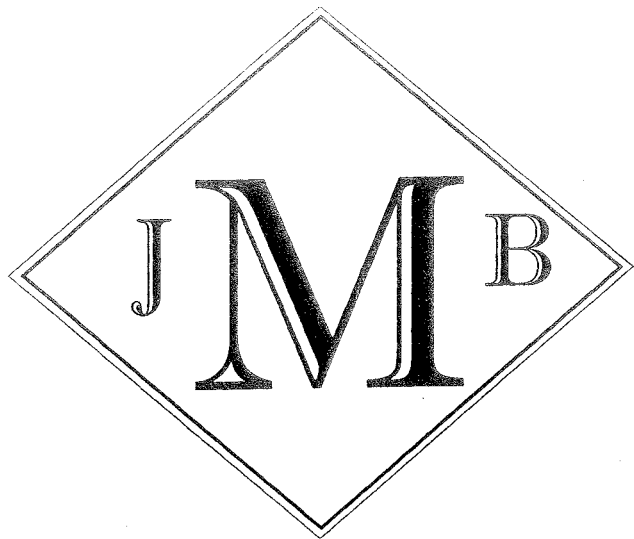
Job 28:28

- A. He corrects and he teaches out of His law
 - 1. Man is blessed when instructed in ways of the Lord
 - 2. Those of whom God favors He chastens
 - 3. Law comes from mind of God
- B. Gets rest from days of Adversity
 - 1. Affection has converted sinners
 - 2. It brings us to prayer
 - 3. It makes us humble
- C. A pit is being dug for the wicked.
 - 1. Hold on til God topples the world
 - 2. True judgement will come
 - 3. "Pit" underscores fact that retribution will surely come
 - 4. Pit shows the dark horrors that await sin
 - 5. Gradually dug - gets wider each day

- D. Lord will not cast off His people
nor foresake His inheritance
1. He has peace of mind and inward
rest who trusts God
 2. The inevitable is the faithful-
ness of the Lord to His chosen
people
 3. The upright must follow
righteousness without pause
 4. Days of adversity will not
always last
 5. Cast down - but not cast off
 6. As bad as things are, there is a
mending.

Romans 11:2

Psalms 94:15 "But judgment will return to
righteousness"



We Wrestle with Wickedness

Ps. 94:16-23

- I. Man must be totally oblivious to existence if he thinks good faces no battle, righteousness has no foes.
 - A. Not only are we aware of this, but painfully wonder if we can win.
 - B. How can evil seem so settled in the land and goodness at such a pitiful minority.

- II. Ps. 94:16-23 deals with the problem.
 - A. Watch the very personal pronouns - they have to do with both sides of the battle.
 - B. Maintain your trust in God - in spite of the flow of the battle the ultimate victorious end is assured.

- III. Facts of this Paragraph
 - A. The battle is pitched
 - 1. "Who will rise up for me against the evildoers?"
 - a. Need a confederate - for me.

- b. Need personal help - for me.
- 2. "Who will stand up for me?"
 - a. Question is repeated for need is urgent.
 - b. Evil is highly organized - bigger than I am
 - c. Evil has abandoned itself to all manner of impiety
 - d. Enemy works at iniquity
- 3. The Lord is your confederate
 - a. Unless the Lord acts the *righteous* ~~right~~ are prey to evil-doers
 - b. Unless God acts, men are at the mercy of evil without a champion to defend
 - c. God is my help else I am stricken dumb
 - 1. Avert the grave by the providence of God
 - 2. Silenced - at wit's end
 - d. Held up my slipping foot
 - 1. Belief in the ultimate vindication but live questionable with this
 - 2. Danger of slipping into unbelief - "does God care?"
 - 3. We slip because the going is difficult -

but the Lord sustains
and scotches for us

- e. In multitude of thoughts
find comfort
 - 1. My various thoughts,
anxious, distracting,
divided, breaking -
like looking down on a
tree - they go every
direction
 - 2. Like looking down on a
busy street, people
work like ants, never
still, incessant
traffic - so are my
thoughts
 - 3. God will not support
tyrants in their
wickedness
 - 4. In our clash with
authorities, God
sustains

B. Evil clashes with God

- 1. "Shall the throne of
iniquity have fellowship
with God."
 - a. Negative answer expected
 - b. Throne shows they are in
high places
- 2. They frame mischief by law,
*even the word of God used to
support their evil plans*

- a. Any divine truth behind fact wicked are in place of authority?
 - b. Did they use legal statute to make wrong appear right (O.J. Simpson - or right to commit a person as insane - or death of abused child as to "keep a family together")
 - c. How can wicked be so long in power?
 - d. Will the wicked continue to use the law to crush?
 - e. Horrible to think that the law which is holy and the commandments which are just and good are being used by tyrants of wickedness who claim they are guided by the law - the racial complections of juries.
 - f. Sentence to death men who are free from guilt.
3. The Lord is my Defense
- a. Believe in the ultimate retribution
 - b. Without a doubt our God can be trusted to turn the flow of the battle and stem the tide of wickedness

Ps 13:2
 How long
 shall my
 enemies be
 exalted over
 me?

c. Rock of Refuge

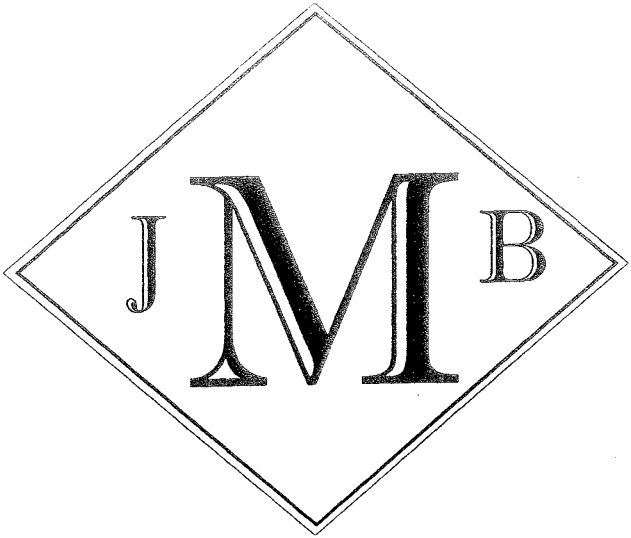
Ps. 9:9 *The Lord will be a refuge for the oppressed,* ^{time of trouble}

~~Ps. 13:2~~

Rom. 8:31 "If God be for us who can be against us?"

- d. End comes and evil "cut off" - destroyed by their own wickedness

4. God sustains His own



COUNT ON YOUR FINGERS

Psalm 103

I. How good are you at math?

A. Did you ever count on your fingers?

B. Will you do it again and maybe use your toes?

C. To be fair you'll need an adding machine, then a calculator, finally your imagination as to the largest number of which you have any conception--the reason for this is our superficial study of the 103rd Psalm.

1. I could imitate David going crazy as he sought refuge with Achish (I Sam. 21:10-15).

2. But how that same person could write Psalm 103 bewilders me--only by the guidance of the Holy Spirit could this be produced.

3. Let's look at the Psalm.

a) It's very personal with God.

b) Note present tense.

II. How he could do so much from a human element, relative to the volume of Spurgeon's work is amazing.

A. He begins with a class for us to be grateful. He writes "the name ingrate is one of the most shameful that a man can wear."

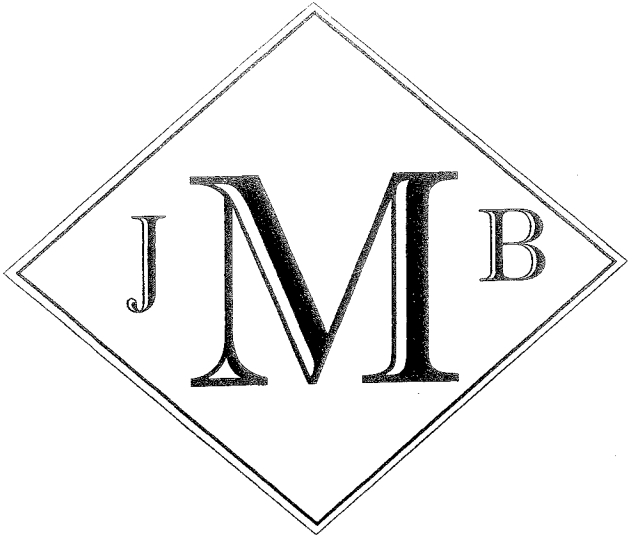
- B. He added "David begins the list of blessings received and he selects the choicest pearls from the casket of divine love, threads them on a string of memory and hangs them above the neck of gratitude."
- C. Let's read and count as we begin with verse 2.
1. Sin brought sickness of body and soul.
 2. Nothing equals the blessing of forgiveness.
 3. All wrongs shall be righted and all oppression avenged.
 4. David knew he was a child of Providence with many hairbreath escapes:
 - a) Jaw of lion
 - b) Paw of bear
 - c) Sword of Goliath
 - d) Javelin of Saul
 - e) Men of Keliah
 - f) Spying of Doeg
 - g) What about yourself?
 5. Mouth in verse 5 translated ornament.
 6. How does the Lord satisfy?
Good things--not riches, not many but everything! Nothing satisfies but God!

7. Three periods in Moses' life used by God to show him how he deals with men: court, retirement, head of tribes--Sinai 40 days.
8. Note how prominent is the personality of God - HE made known.
9. Count the gracious properties of our Lord: mercy, grace, slow to anger, full of compassion.
10. He wants nothing to lie in the way of Him showing mercy.
11. Don't you know how we often provoke Him, yet plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sins.
12. Turn from sin--stops chiding. He bears no grudge--acts not as a judge, but a father.
13. Doesn't deal with us after our sins else lowest hell is where we'd be.
14. Praise Him for what He has not done as well as what He wrought for us.
15. His love and mercy beyond calculation--impossible for guilt to return.
16. We do not love a god of stone, but a living one of love and mercy.
17. He knows how we are made--He did it! And gives us strength equal to our day.

18. Man lives on the grass and lives like the grass.
19. No need for a scythe as a little wind gets the frailest flower that's in the field.
20. Our day so short.
21. Blossoms have successors, but they are no more themselves.
22. Field flowers are shorter than protected garden ones.
23. Angels obey Him--this is our duty also.

Heritage C/C - 11/12/06

Vultee C/C - 11/19/06



FORGIVE US OUR SINS; AS --

Ps. 103:17-19

I. Sin -- the curse of man.

A. It's a word we glibly use yet skillfully avoid in any personal way.

B. The Scriptures needed 6 words to define it.

1. Hamartia (ham-ar-tee-ah) (60x)

a) The shooting word - miss the mark.

b) Fail to do what we ought.

Rom. 5:12 "Wherefore as by one man sin & death"

2. Parabasis (par-ah-as-is)

a) To step across a line.

James 2:11 "If thou kill thou art become a tran."

3. Anomia (an-om-ee-ah)

a) Lawlessness

b) Knows what's right but does wrong anyhow.

James 4:17 "Therefore to him that knoweth to do"

4. Paraptoma (par-ap-to-mah)

a) Slipping across

b) Word slips out

c) Swept away by impulse

Gal. 6:1 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken"

5. Opheilema (of-i-lay-mah)

a) Debt

b) Failure to pay

Matt. 6:12 "And forgive us our debts"

6. Adikia (ad-ee-kee-ah)

a) Unrighteousness

b) Distaste for truth

1 John 5:17 "All unrighteousness is sin & there is"

C. Saphir said of sin

1. Card on "myriad shaped"

2. Hindu clip

II. It's from this evil that the Lord sets us free.

A. We've just moved from the material.

1. Taught to pray for our material needs;
not our material wants. Note "and"

2. Now moves to our spiritual needs.

3. It's the first petition to which Jesus
adds a word of comment.

B. Sin & Salvation are the two great subjects
of revelation.

1. More we feel our sins the more grateful
we are for Jesus.

2. Augustine paradox "O blessed guilt which
procured me such a Savior".

3. God's aim for me:

a) Have a sense of sin.

b) Know the joyous assurance I can be
freed of it.

c) Have the resolute desire to depart.

d) Lead a life showing an entire departure
from it.

"These things are written that ye sin not"

4. Sin and death root of all sorrow.

a) We doubt it:

Thievery - way of life

Alcoholism - disease

Adultery - romance

Murder (abortion) - liberty

Obsenity - art

b) Let's face our needs!

III. Forgive us our Sins

A. "But mine are already death with - why do I need to ask forgiveness" some say.

B. I'm perfect - never sin (Woody said be perfect and see if I care!)

C. We all need this prayer.

1. As bread shows humility and dependence; this shows repentance and contrition.

2. Bread says we are creatures; forgiveness says we are sinners.

3. The melonchony note comes.

D. Forgiveness!

1. God is not just a giver but a forgiver.

2. Life's highest blessing.

Ps. 103:1-14 (Read)

3. We hear prayer often in worship.

Ezek. 11:16 "I will be to them a little sanctuary"

4. But do we personally?

a) Come boldly - keep back nothing - say all - pour our heart.

4.

- b) If we say we have no sin we lie.
- c) Imperative we know ourselves.

Ps. 51:2-3 "Wash me thoroughly from mine "

5. What's sin to us?

- a) Debt? Trespass? Offense?
- b) Does God feel the wrong?

IV. "As"

A. Really raises questions.

1. Do I press fully the "as" and its to the exact degree Father forgives?
2. Degree? Measure? Porportion?
3. Are we forgiven because we forgave others?
4. Remember human forgiveness-divine forgiveness are intertwined.

B. It conveys:

1. We cultivate the forgiving spirit.
2. It means "since".
3. Without a loving spirit none can worship God.
4. If we don't forgive others it questions whether we have ever known forgiveness.
5. I can't think of anything you've done against me!

V. Forgive Others

A. Do I have to forget?

1. Might be impossible.
2. Might be unwise.
3. Might be the best thing to do.

- B. Do I act toward the offender as though the act was never committed? It would be best.
- C. Do I see revenge or reconciliation?
- D. Am I motivated by good will toward the offender?
- E. Do we seek to understand, forget, love?

West End 12/2/84

seen in horror; and when the Lord shall appear in judgment it will cry in despair to the hills and rocks to fall upon it and cover it.

Sin has a hundred eyes. Quicksighted as an eagle in discovering its prey, no opportunity escapes its watchful gaze, no opening, however minute, evades its piercing glance; but like an owl in the midday sun, it sees not the light of a merciful and loving God; and like the ostrich, with its head buried in the sand, perceives not the awful death of eternity which is pursuing it.

Look at sin in the individual. Where does it dwell? It has poisoned every faculty, polluted the imagination, darkened the understanding, enslaved the will, estranged the affections, blunted the conscience; it has taken possession of speech and of action; it has entrenched itself in the very members of the body, and established itself as a law and habit. Work and rest, toil and pleasure, solitude and the world, are alike the spheres of its activity; yet the strength of sin is not in its breadth, but in its depth—out of the *heart* come the issues of life. Sin is in man, he carries it

and feel least its tyranny; Sin is myriad-shaped. It wears a thousand masks, speaks with a thousand voices, and pursues a thousand methods. It can be childish and ambitious; now it is heroic and laborious, now frivolous and effeminate; now it is gross and revolting, now polished and beautiful; yet it is ever the same: life without God, enmity against the Most High.

Sin has a wide dominion and many servants. On the broad road there are so many paths which never intersect and interfere with each other. Men of lofty intellect, of noble purpose, of philanthropic activity, never dream that they are ruled by the same despot who leads the vicious and degraded; captive at his will. Yet sin connects them all; it is one way, and it leadeth to destruction.

Sin is courageous and dares Heaven; it rebels against the will of Omnipotence; it attacks the insurmountable pillars of God's throne: yet sin is a coward; when the voice of the Lord is heard at even-time it

are changed. Status and success are seen as poor seconds to servanthood and discipleship. In short, we have a new Master—Jesus Christ.

IV. THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE

Told by the teacher she should learn a new word every day, the little girl perked up when she heard the word "extinct" on TV. She asked her mother what it meant.

"Well, it's like this," the mother replied. "If all the people in the world disappeared, you could say the human race is extinct."

The daughter thought a moment and then asked, "But who would I say it to?"

100

A Calcutta paper relates that recently a young Brahmin came to the house of a missionary for an interview. In the course of the conversation he said, "Many things which Christianity contains I find in Hinduism; but there is one thing which Christianity has that Hinduism has not." "What is that?" the missionary asked. His reply was striking—"A Saviour."

—From **Best Modern Illustrations.**

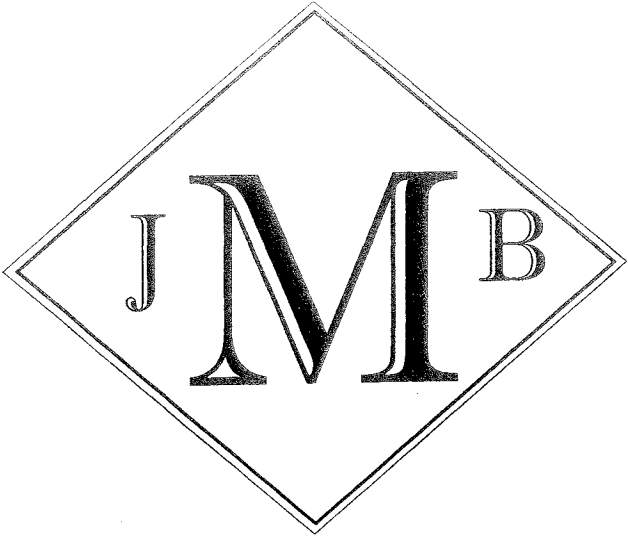
For this reason the "Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us," that we might behold the *glory of God* which

THE PERFECT CHURCH

I think that I shall never see
A church that's all it ought to be;
A church whose members never stray
Beyond the strait and narrow way;
A church that has no empty pews
Whose preacher never has the blues;
A church whose deacons always "deak"
And none is proud, and all are meek;
Where gossips never peddle lies,
Or make complaints or criticize;
Where all are always sweet and kind,
And to all others' faults are blind,
Such perfect churches there may be,
But none of them is known to me.
But still, we'll work and pray and plan
To make this one the best we can.

Sin does not purpose to remember or to be remembered, and yet it registers itself with perfect and unflinching regularity and faithfulness in two books—the book of God, which shall be opened on that day, and on our own character, mind, and imagination. Only the blood of Christ can blot out sin from the one book, only the Spirit of God from the other.

Sin aims to depart from God into a far country, and to break every tie that binds man to his Creator; yet every step it takes is but another link in that heavy chain of debt by which the transgressor is bound to the throne of Divine Justice.



THE SCHEDULE GOD MAKES

Ps. 104:19-23

I. We are a programmed people.

- A. We carry our time management books.
- B. We arrange our calendars.
- C. We talk about busy schedules.

II. Have you ever thought about how God carefully planned this world and our part in it?

Ps. 104:19-24

#0

III. Let's look at some of God's arrangements.

A. Moon for Seasons. #1 #2 #3

- 1. In Jewish day night leads the way so moon is mentioned before sun.
- 2. (We break up the darkness on each side of daylight.)
- 3. Moon fixes our regular spread of days.
- 4. "God so appointed the moon -- it's not the result of inanimate impersonal law". - Spurgeon
- 5. Moon governed their time of ordinary feasts.
- 6. Helps our gardening today.
- 7. What signs do I give -- what do I proclaim?

B. Sun Knows His Going Down. #4

- 1. Sun knows when to retire.
 - a) Timing is so important.
 - b) How long to stay, when to leave.
 - c) Luke speaks of day taking its couch.
- 2. Sun never pauses as if undecided - can we make decisions?

3. Sun is punctual - never tardy.
Exact to the seconds - so was
Dabney Phillips.
4. Similarly he comes back at the right
time.
5. God made the sun to rule the day
and well it does.
6. We should have Jesus rule us.
7. We should be grateful for what God
has made.

C. Made Darkness & Night

1. We'll shortly see night has its busy
time too.
2. Whereas it's rest for some it is
activity for others -- we are not all
alike.
3. Darkness breaks men's lives into
small pieces -- we take it step at a
time.
4. We spend 1/3 of our time unconscious.
Bro. Thomas slept 30 years out of
90.
5. Darkness wipes slate clean -- we
start over tomorrow and perhaps
will do better.

D. Beast Creep Forth

1. Wild beast has a service to perform -
he has his day and hour.
2. Value of light keeps beast in his
place. Roam all he wants to after
I go to bed.
3. God feeds both the wolf & the sheep.
4. Animals need God to stay alive.

5. We see wisdom and goodness of God in things that occur.
6. Animals are richly taken care of - so are we!

E. Young Lions

1. Wild beast appeals to his maker for his food.
2. God even hears his roar - surely our prayers.
3. We must practically seek answers.

~~Ps. 22:10~~

4. If God can interpret a lion's roar, He surely can grasp our prayers.
5. Is existence so much misfortune or does life have a purpose?
6. Remember all provided for but the Incarnate Provider and he had not where to lay his head.
7. Note how God manages -- use light to keep some animals confined -- "never see one" we say of possums.

F. Now Finally Man

1. Sun a great shepherd that gathers us together -- even to man himself.
2. God has made things ready for him.
3. Man happiest at work. We are made for it and ought to do it.
4. Not too long tho -- at evening he quits.
5. Man has a definite part to play in role of life.
6. The goodness of God is obvious.

7. As man labors til evening he needs rest and change.
8. Does God's greater Son rule our lives?
9. Do we rejoice in true light?

Dalebrook Church - 11/29/87

Moon

#10

- ✓ 1. Nearest neighbor
- ✓ 2. Only ball of rock, gas around
earth only comp. no.
- ✓ 3. 238,855 mile away
- ✓ 4. Silica, basalt, no air, no water,
no food.
- ✓ 5. 1/4 way as earth, 2160 miles diameter.
If set in western US - go from
San Francisco to Cleveland.
- ✓ 6. WT 81 quintillion tons
Earth 82X as much
Round ball - Terminal ball comp. part
- ✓ 7. We see 30,000 craters - one
146 miles wide & 2000 deep
- ✓ 8. Mt. rise 26000 - measured by
length, shadows
- ✓ 9. Snow no light, dark brown
- ✓ 10. Light gravity - 1/6 of wt. on earth

$$210 \times \frac{5}{6} = \frac{1050}{175} = \frac{735}{35} = 21 \frac{1}{2}$$

MOON

Americans say they see a "Man in the Moon," but the Japanese see a "Lady in the Moon," and the Chinese a rabbit sitting on its haunches, pounding rice. The Swedish people see a boy and girl carrying a bucket — from which comes our nursery rhyme, Jack and Jill. The Iroquois saw a woman, with a cat, knitting and waiting for the earth to come to an end. — MARIANNA ZIMMERMAN, "The Inconstant Moon," *Science & Children*, 4-70.

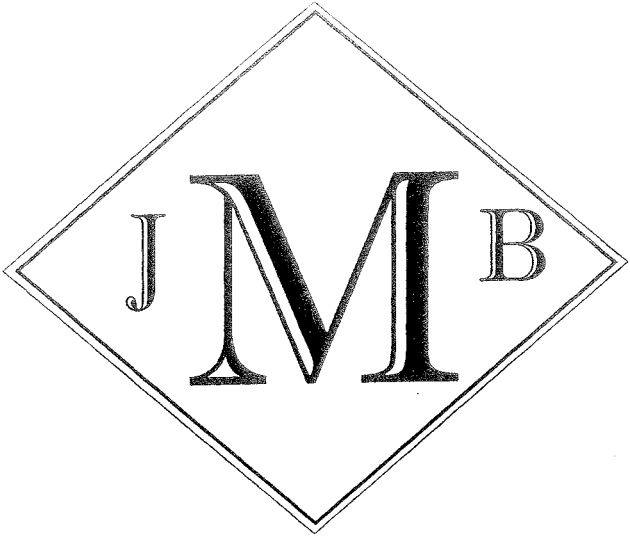
MOON EXPLORATION

The moon is far more treacherous than the ocean. If you bent over on the moon, and fell, you could not get up without being pulled up. If the tiniest tack punctured your space suit, you'd be dead. If the intense heat of the sun became more intense during one of those "sunspot" times, you would burn. The moon's days are fiery hot, the nights icy cold. ~~That's why it is awesome to think of those explorers on the moon.~~ — Dr HAROLD CLAYTON UREY, interviewed by MARY HARRINGTON HALL, *Forbes*, 7-15-69.

MOON

#3
The most impressive thing to all of us on the first lunar-orbit day was the large scale of the relief features on the moon. Many craters had tremendous boulder fields around them. Some of those boulders must have been 300 feet high because you could see them with the naked eye from sixty miles away. . . The moon also surprised us because it was colorful. Not just shades of gray, or black and white. It has light tans in it, brilliant whites, and the blackest blacks you ever saw. — JOHN YOUNG, Astronaut, *Life*, 6-20-69.

#4
The power of the sun is so immense that it staggers the imagination. In one second, it emits more energy than man has used since civilization began, according to the National Geographic Society. If we could somehow collect and continually use the power in sunlight that falls on just one city — Los Angeles — it would provide enough energy for all the homes on earth.



WHAT CLOTHES SHALL I WEAR FOR THE DAY?

Ps. 109:16-18

I. All of us know Easter.

A. Tho accurate in time appraisal for Jesus' resurrection, yet w/o uthority to celebrate one day.

B. Abused by many as preacher says "Merry Xmas" since I won't see some of you till then.

C. Wear something new for Easter.

"In your Easter bonnet
With all the frills upon it
I'll be the proudest fellow
In the Easter Parade"

II. Since oftentimes the mind is more receptive to a current thot & thus willing to add more, let's think about clothes.

III. The Bible is Clothes Conscious.

A. Jesus often noticed.

1. John the Baptist.

Lu. 7:25 "But what went ye out for to see? A man

Mk. 1:6 "And John was clothed with camel's hair

2. His teachings.

Lu. 16:19 "There was a certain rich man, which v

Matt. 25:36 "Naked, and ye clothed me: I was si

3. His person.

Lu. 24:49 "And, behold, I send the promise of my

Mk. 15:17 "And they clothed him with purple, an

4. Other N.T. references.

James 2:3 "And ye have respect to him that wear

Col. 3:12-17 "Put on therefore, as the elect of C

Gal 3:26-27

2.

2 Cor. 5:2 "For in this we groan, earnestly desiring

B. Old Testament Noticed.

1. Worthy woman.

Prov. 31:21 "She is not afraid of the snow for her house

(~~Note chapter from book~~)

2. Attitudes.

Isa. 59:17 "For he put on righteousness as a breastplate

IV. But What's fashionable today (Man in San Leandro said he ran clothing store - did not buy 1 suit for fall w/o vest).

A. Be clothed in Salvation & Righteousness.

Isa. 61:10-11 "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul

1. God's people should be happy because they have something to be happy about - salvation!

Phil. 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say,

a.) Continuous jubilation. *of br. at bread. - end did*

Acts 2:46-47 "And they, continuing daily with one accord

b.) Scheme of redemption includes atonement, forgiveness, revelation, preservation of word.

c.) Great hope for future.

I Pet. 1:4 "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled

d.) Your joy can attract others.

2. Why have clothes?

a.) Protection.

b.) Ornamentation.

3. You are clothed in Salvation & Righteousness.

a.) God's made promises.

b.) Men see benefits that come via salvation.

c.) Thus great emotional abilities are yours.

B. Opposite is Pictured.

Psa. 109:16-18 "Because that he remembered not to shew

1. Portrait of a wicked man.

a.) Merciless.

b.) Persecutes poor.

c.) Given to cursing - habitually.

d.) Spoke evil of innocent.

2. Unforgiving - if ever my enemy always are!

3. Punishment comes.

(a) As oil & water penetrate, so does evil & punishment cling. - *Oil in spray for bugs -*(b) Retributive justice. *so poison clings.*

(c) Girl went to Mayo Clinic for abortion because she was in trouble "Come back in 4 mo. & we'll take hatchet & cut it to pieces."

C. Petersays "Humility" is "in".

1 Pet. 5:5 "Likewise, ye younger, **submit** yourselves un

1. Used only here, from knot, band.

2. Noun shows apron worn by slaves, tied on securely to keep dress clean.

3. Slaves apron - we do the most humble & meanest of task. (Jesus & towel)

4. Mark of servitude.

5. Stooping love.

6. N.T. needed a new word to add new dimension to its teachings.

7. If we are Christ's wear the dress that proclaims us as slaves.

8. It's the outer garment that keeps the others in place.

9. Obvious lessons.

- a.) Humility must be firmly fastened on & bound to us.
 - b.) Lowliness of Jesus must be seen in us.
 - c.) Young submit to elder - they are not antiquated or despised - not more trust in youth's impetuousness than age's wisdom.
 - d.) It must lead to service.
 - e.) End result must be our brother's cleansing.
 - f.) How are you toward an inferior.
- Prov. 3:34 "Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giv
- g.) Do you have the:
 - Pride of self righteousness
 - Pride of self reliance
 - Pride of self glorification
 - Pride of self will.

D. Put on Righteousness.

- 1. Ps. 132:9 "Let thy priests be clothed with righteous"
 - a.) We have right to choose color & fashion.
 - b.) Bible talks of best robe, white robe, filthiness-- which for me? *white & zionist.. be clothed*
- 2. Rev. 3:18 "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried"
 - a.) Laodicia had famous black wool.
 - b.) We get white from God.
 - c.) It's Pure - Best.
- 3. Rev. 19:13 "And he was clothed with a vesture di"
 - a.) Let it be blood dyed.
 - b.) Blood shows sacrifice & **earnestness** (Gethsemane)
 - c.) God speaks by Nature.
 - God speaks by word.

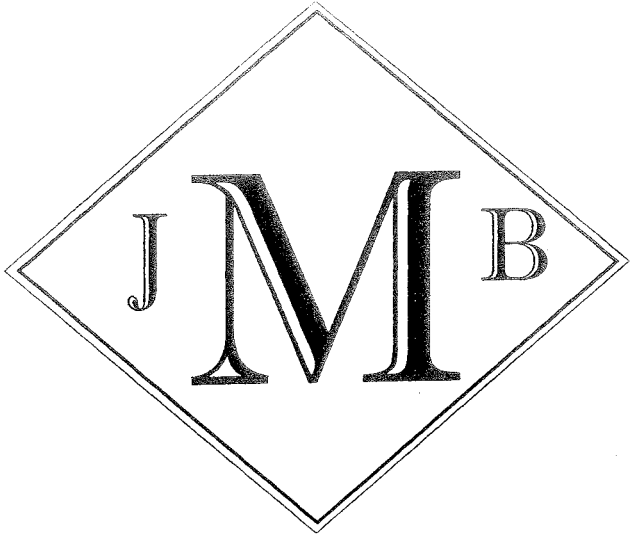
d.) Jesus the revealed expression of the mind of the Father.

Isa. 63:3 "I have trodden the winepress alone; and of t

West End 4-10-77

Newport, Ark. 7-17-77

Manchester, Ct. Young Peoples Bible class 9-11-77



OUR GLORIOUS GOD

Psalm 111

I. Via introduction:

- A. Ask the average member of the church what he knows about this Psalm--if anything--"it's the reason we don't call our preachers Reverend--holy & reverend is God's name."
- B. He may not realize it's a grand description of God.
 - 1. "It's knowledge that should turn to practical piety and cause lasting adoration." (Spurgeon)
 - 2. Its intent is to arouse us to greater love of God.
 - 3. It's an abbreviated alphabet Psalm--unlike the complete 119th.
- C. We all must publicly and privately praise God--this Psalm puts words in our mouths.

II. As we study this Psalm, our first command is to everybody to Praise God, and 2nd personally do it.

- A. Praise Ye the Lord.
 - 1. All saints unite in praising God.
 - 2. Do it now, do it always.
 - 3. Do it heartily, unanimously, eternally.
 - 4. Put away all doubt, questions, murmuring, unbelief.
 - 5. Praise with lips and life.
 - 6. It's everybody's duty.

B. It's my responsibility--I will praise the Lord.

1. Set the example.
2. Act on my own advice.
3. Back my preaching by my own example.
4. A vow--I will.
5. See where I love to be and what I love to do.
6. Whole heart.
 - a) Fear not man.
 - b) Best of men will join you in this.

C. In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.

1. Assembly = private meetings.
2. Congregation -- public meetings.
3. But I do it devoid of the appeal of the public.
4. It is not exclusively a private matter--no secret disciple.

III. Note the works of God.

A. Works & Work--note plural & singular.

B. Works

1. Immense and varied.
2. To flowers--its blossom.
To animals--faculty & function.
To man--understanding, affection,
and will.
3. God makes no inferior article.
4. We begin our praise here but it is not the end.
5. Works named 6X in short Psalm.
6. It's from the genius of God.

C. Work -- v. 3

1. Shows emphasis on things done.
2. Magnificent summation.

D. Works described.

1. Great

- a) As compared to anything man does--sprinkler system vs rain.
- b) In Hebrew most extensive word for greatness and augmentation.
- c) Immeasurable compared to man's.

2. Sought Out.

- a) Worthy of research.
- b) Sought = rub, beat, bray.
- c) Investigate thoroughly and be rewarded.
- d) You will see his graciousness and compassion plus ability.
- e) Bring pleasure--one wrote:
"The history of the Lord's dealings with his people is especially a fit subject for the mediation of reverent minds who find there is a sweet solace and a never failing source of delight."
- f) More you know, more you will love Him.

3. Honorable

- a) Nothing amiss--worthy of praise.
- b) No reason for embarrassment.

4. Glorious and Righteous

- a) We can ever cite & praise them.
- b) He ever does us good.
- c) They are everlasting & always appropriate.

5. They are to be remembered.
 - a) Lord's supper helps us recall.
 - b) Horrible to think we'd ever forget what God does for us.
 - c) Man may forget--but God will not.
6. The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.
 - a) We get a glimpse of the personality of God.
 - b) Later statements show the fulfillment of this.

D. God demonstrated the fulfillment of these words.

1. Gives meat to those that fear Him.
 - a) Meat = booty, spoil.
 - b) Gives us all we need--our portion.
 - c) Fear--reverence.
2. Ever mindful of his covenant.
 - a) Note past tense remember & meat.
 - b) Future -- his covenant.
 - c) Ever faithful to his word.
 - d) Pledged to the eternal quality of his word and promises.
 - e) Encouragement from the past with confidence for future.
3. Showed his people the power of his works.
 - a) Puts it before our eyes.
 - b) Lets His own people see it.
 - c) They are special--far above the heathen.

4. They are verity and judgement.
 - a) Truth & equity, justice.
 - b) Teeth in what He says.
 - c) Harmony between what's spoken and what's done.
 - d) All--not part.
 - e) Everything he does is done in faithfulness & justice.
5. Commandments are sure, stand forever and done in truth and uprighteousness.
 - a) His word is buttressed, propped up, never falls.
 - b) He threatens before He smites.
 - c) Commanded covenant forever.
 - d) They are reliable & trustworthy.
6. Sent Redemption
 - a) Does it speak of His Son who does away with the penalty of sin?
 - b) This is the finest thing he has done for us.
 - c) It is conceived, arranged, executed, applied.
 - d) At the cost of price & power.
 - e) It's free and to God's glory.
 - f) Makes us free.
7. No wonder holy & reverend is His name.
 - a) Rev. or terrible.
 - b) Must not think lightly of God, undue familiarities.
 - c) Profanity outlawed.

- d) He is worthy of reverence.
- e) To take God lightly shows in our manner of living.
- f) Name used to express the attributes of a person.

Exo. 20:7

E. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Job 28:28

Prov. 1:7

Prov. 9:10

1. It's deep respect culminating in obedience to commands.
2. Response: inquiry, reverence, obedience, praise.
3. Fear is piety, not dread but loving reverence expressed in ready and hearty obedience.

Preachers' school, Mayfair C/C, Huntsville, AL -
1/19/99

We go to sleep at night aware that our very pillows are home to thousands of dust mites-- which, as it happens, help keep our homes clean by busily consuming the tens of millions of skin cells we shed each day.

National Geographic--12/98
"Body Beasts"--Richard Conniff
Page 108

(This goes with my study of Psalms 100)

This quotation from pulpit commentary:

"It was told that when the New England colonies were first planted that settlers endured many privations and difficulties. Being piously disposed they lay their distress before God in frequent days of fasting and prayer. Constant meditation on such topics kept their minds gloomy and discontented and made them disposed even to return to their fatherlands with all its persecutions. At length when it was proposed to appoint their fasting and prayer, a plain, common sense, old colonist

was in their meeting and remarked that he thought they had brooded long enough over their misfortunes and it seemed high time that they should consider some of their mercies, that the colony was growing, the fields increasing in harvest, the rivers full of fish, and the woods of game, the air sweet, the climate salubrious, and their homes happy; above all, that they possessed what they came for, civil and religious liberty. And therefore, on the whole he would amend the resolution for a fast and propose its a day of thanksgiving. His advice was taken and from that day to this the festival has been an annual one."

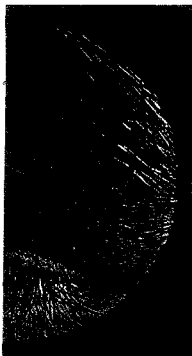
But the beasts that live on our bodies are by no means all bad. A normal population of bacteria on the skin, for example, may actually benefit us by preventing infectious bacteria from gaining a beachhead. But if you tell people that a normal population can mean a hundred bacteria per square inch in the barren habitat of the shoulder blades (or millions in the sweltering armpit), they are liable to scrub themselves raw. In the extreme disorder called delusory parasitosis, victims can imagine they are under assault by invisible bugs that spill out of electric sockets, crawl from holes in concrete, and drop down from ceiling tiles. To stop the constant itching, they scratch themselves bloody. They bathe in gasoline and inundate their homes with pesticides. But the bugs keep coming. Such cases have sometimes ended in suicide and once in the murder of a doctor who tried to get his patient to see a psychiatrist.

When real infestations occur, even sensible people often behave irrationally. In the course of their recent evolution, for instance, head lice seem to have developed resistance to most conventional treatments. Distraught families of infested schoolchildren frequently resort to home remedies. Last year in Oklahoma a man applied a highly toxic cleaning solution to a six-year-old's scalp, causing cardiac arrest and permanent brain damage.

National Geographic--12/98

"Body Beasts" - Richard Conniff
Page 113

Well, no man is an island. He is an ecosystem, though we studiously pretend otherwise. Our skin—two square yards of it on the average human body—is a habitat for roughly as many bacteria as there are people in the United States, for fungi and viruses, and on occasion for mosquitoes, fleas, bedbugs and kissing bugs, blackflies and botflies, lice, leeches, ticks, and scabies mites, which tunnel across the

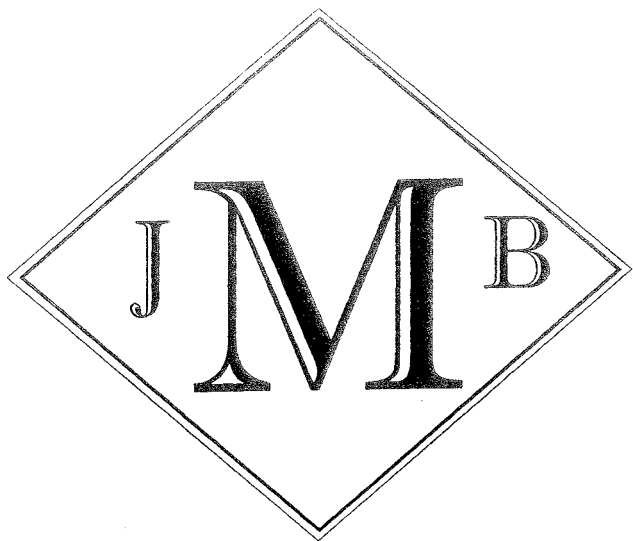


backs of an afflicted person's hands like moles burrowing in the front lawn.

In the developed world we like to think we have tubbed and scrubbed ourselves free of any overly personal connection to the natural world. Even mosquitoes stay mainly on the other side of our window screens. But this is a delusion, as follicle mites, which live on almost everyone,

abundantly demonstrate.

I stepped up to the microscope, and they came into focus, lying crisscross like sticks of wood. The adult mites were about a hundredth of an inch long. Their stumpy little legs wriggled and twitched as in a dream. They had tiny claws and needlelike mouthparts for consuming skin cells. Here and there were eggs shaped like arrowheads and juveniles with angled-back scutes on their underbellies, like fish scales, the better to anchor themselves in my skin. Desch eyed my forehead as if it were the Grand Banks in high season and said, "I think it's great." I smiled wanly.



THIS DOES GOD!

Ps. 113:7-9

I. We have many questions:

A. Why doesn't God do this or that?

B. Do you feel He is responsible for certain things in the world--storms, air crashes, etc.

II. We may never successfully answer--but I want to tell you some things I know He does--and you thus should love Him all the more.

A. But first an intro to this Psalm.

1. This & the 5 following Psalms constitute the Hallel or Praise songs sung at festivals such as Passover & Tabernacles.
2. It may have been the one sung when the Supper was instituted.

Matt. 26:30

3. It majors on 3's--three strophes of three verses each; even "Praise" 3X in verse 1.

I Sam. 2:8

4. Good one to study. In Talmud a young nephew asked his uncle, a Rabbi, "Since I already know the Torah may I study Greek wisdom?" He answered, "Joshua 1:8, you shall meditate on the law day & night--Go then and find a time that is neither day nor night and learn then Greek wisdom."

B. Now we study a portion of it.

II. The Name of the Lord, w/o is like Him?

A. Greater than all other powers.

B. Unique in glory & grace.

C. His greatness contrasts this globe and a grain of sand.

Isa. 40:12

Isa. 40:15

Isa. 40:17-18

III. What Does He Do?

A. Important that I learn this for I must be like Him.

B. "He raiseth up the Poor"

1. He chose the weak

1 Cor. 1:26-29

2. Poor = unfortunate, distressed

3. Lifts them out of the dust.

a) Dust & ash of city dump.

b) Found the miserable ones.

c) Dwells on high & looks below.

d) He condescends to see us.

e) Proof the world not governed by nature but by God.

C. He lifteth the needy out of the dunghill.

1. God loves those scavenging in the garbage dumps.

2. Those we cast out as worthless are not so to Him.

3. God stoops from throne to dunghill.

4. "We accumulate a heap of loathsomeness by our sinful lives." - Spurgeon

5. "Dunghill" an expression for life that's really rough.

6. Emblem of deep poverty & real desertion.
7. It is one totally insignificant.
8. They laid up cow dung for fuel, out West our buffalo chips.
9. He reaches down to our heap of rubbish.

D. He sets him with the Princes of His people.

1. Note the contrast.
2. He lifts the lowest of mankind & puts him in a place of honor.
3. From Poverty to Prince
Dishonor to Rank
4. We are made Kings & priests today.
5. God gives the disgraced everlasting joy.

E. Makes the Barren Woman Keep House.

1. Removes the stigma of childlessness.

Gen. 30:1-3

2. God did not cause the barrenness--
He removes it.
3. Lit. "makes her who is the barren
of the house to dwell!"
4. In the Orient women were not
suppose to have a house til they
had children.
5. Motherhood assures a dignified
position.

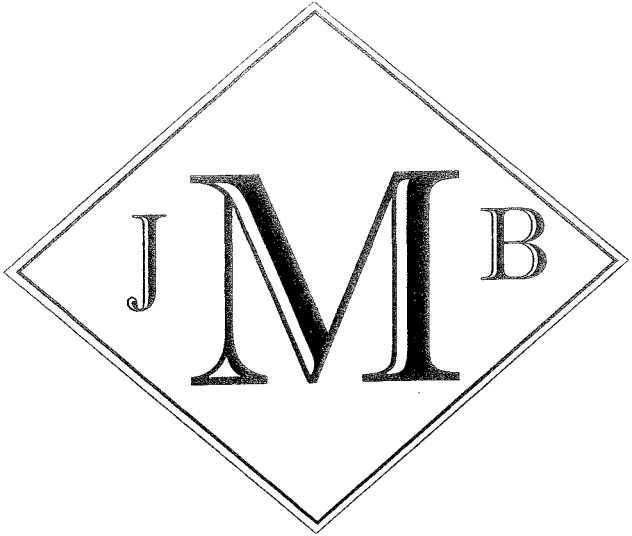
F. She allows barren to be a joyful mother of children.

1. He providentially enters into life of individual--not like a gentle rain on everybody.

2. He focuses on both nation and individual.
3. Motherhood placed at the pinnacle of His blessings.
4. God supports the family!

IV. It closes: Praise ye the Lord

- A. Psalm is a circle, ending as it began.
- B. Never let his praise depart our lives from youth to ageness.
- C. Let's exhort one another to so do.
- D. To be thankful is to be thoughtful.
 1. Count your blessings.
 2. Do you praise Him adequately?
 3. Are his characteristics reflected in the lives of His people?



THE NAME WE TRUST

Ps. 115

- I. We freely use names - mine you have reviewed.
Others wear it as fully as I do.
 - A. Grateful for Betty.
 - B. For parents that brought me to Potter.
 - C. For the Board & Supt. with whom I serve.
W. Rogers - learn by 2 things - reading & assn.
with smarter folk.
 - D. Thankful for all who have come.
- II. But I remind you this is just one fleeting, perishing
hour - on a building that will crumble.
- III. Think with me about the name everlasting.
 - A. May I read Ps. 115.
 - B. Name of God exalted.
 1. Give glory - mercy & truth's sake.
 2. Sad when men no longer fear or dread God.
- V. 2 "Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is not
a.) Why should nations be allowed to sneer or qt.
His existence, faithfulness, or mercy?
b.) Accused God of leaving field of action.
3. You know better - He is in Heaven - done
whatever He pleases.
4. Foolishly - some trust idols of silver & gold,
work of men's hands.
 - a.) Mouths - speak not.
 - b.) Eyes - see not.
 - c.) Ears - hear not.
 - d.) Noses have they - smell not.
 - e.) Hands - handle not.
 - f.) Feet - walk not.

g.) Neither speak they thru their throat.

h.) They that make them are like them. Stupid to worship them.

C. Our Task - Trust & Fear God.

1. Our help & our shield - 3X.

2. Here is satisfaction & happiness.

D. He's been mindful of us.

V. 12 "The Lord hath been mindful of us

"He will bless us

1. His eye is fixed on us for all eternity.

2. He's help & shield.

3. Before earth formed, He had in mind a plan for our happiness.

4. He has one aim - bless us.

5. His past mercy shows us his heart.

6. He'll chasten, but He won't forget us.

7. He blesses those that fear Him - great & small.

8. Be loud in our acclaim as skeptic is in his doubts.

9. Keep trusting - we will bless the Lord from this time forth & forevermore. Praise the Lord.

10. His blessings:

a.) More & more.

b.) You and your children.

c.) You - peculiar people.

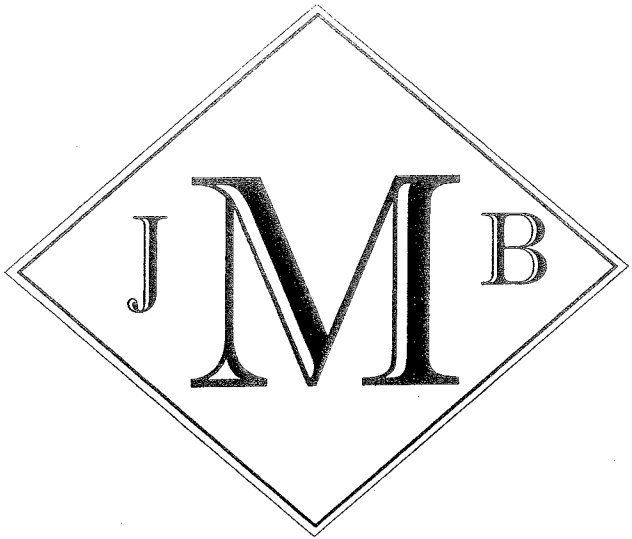
d.) From the Lord - the quarter.

e.) Date - "are."

f.) Certainty - "are."

g.) Duty - bless the Lord.

Potter Home & School, Bowling Green, Ky., Dinner and Dedication of new Physical Education Facility 4-15-83



THROATS: SILENT AND SLIT

Ps. 115:3-8

- I. We've talked of throats.
- II. Today we see on silent & slit.
- III. The silent throat.

Ps. 115:3-8 (Read)

A. Our God's in Heaven.

1. Hi & lifted up.
2. Everywhere & above all - does not mean he's withdrawn.
3. Not asleep nor frivolous.
4. Whole universe under God's control.

B. Does what he pleases.

1. Idols can't do anything.
2. He does all things.

C. Their idols.

1. They are inert matter.
2. Folly to waste substance on it.
3. Don't "represent" - they are gods.
4. Use silver & gold - Matthew Henry said make money not gods out of this.

D. Tells of all their features.

- 1.) Mouth - speak not.
 - a.) Can't communicate.
 - b.) No promise, threat, command, consolation or explanation ever offered.
- 2.) Eyes that see not.
 - a.) Tragic to see a blind diety.
 - b.) Pitiful to see an eye (or life) w/o sight & aim.

Ps. 5:3 "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O I

3.) Ears that hear not.

a.) Some idols disfigured c monstrous ears - yet heard not.

b.) No prayer ans.

4.) Nose - smell not.

a.) Why burn incense.

b.) Impervious to your devotion.

5.) Hands that handle not.

a.) Can't hold spectre of power.

b.) Can't hold sword of vengeance.

6.) Ft. that walk not.

a.) Can't get in his own shrine - have to carry him there.

b.) If he falls, pack him back.

7.) Throats that speak not.

a.) Can't even grunt like a pig.

b.) Can't whisper 1 sybal of response.

c.) Speak = breathe .

E. We become like what we worship.

V. 8 "They that make them are like unto them; so is e

1. Maker greater than things made but they turn it around.

2. We adore that which is less than ourselves.

3. We are as dumb as they are if we worship them.

4. To seek our own glory is not glory (Prov. 25:27).

5. Serve God - become like Him

Serve idols - become like them.

6. "Every man's temper is as his god is" T. Manton

7. True God must be his own revealer.

IV. The Knifed Throat.

Prov. 23:2 "Put a knife to thy throat

A. Scene - invited to eat c King.

- 1.) All delicacies are there.
- 2.) If I fall - not cook's fault, it's mine.
- 3.) Yet another's kindness can be my downfall.

B. Lesson.

1. Temperance always necessary.
2. If we run in excess in one matter, we likely will another.
3. Gluttony is a sin.
4. Don't be betrayed by sensual indulgence.
5. Better to choose affliction rather than to choose sin.
6. Throat's killed more than has the sword.

V. The Thirsty Throat.

Jer. 2:24-25 "A wild ass used to the wilderness, that

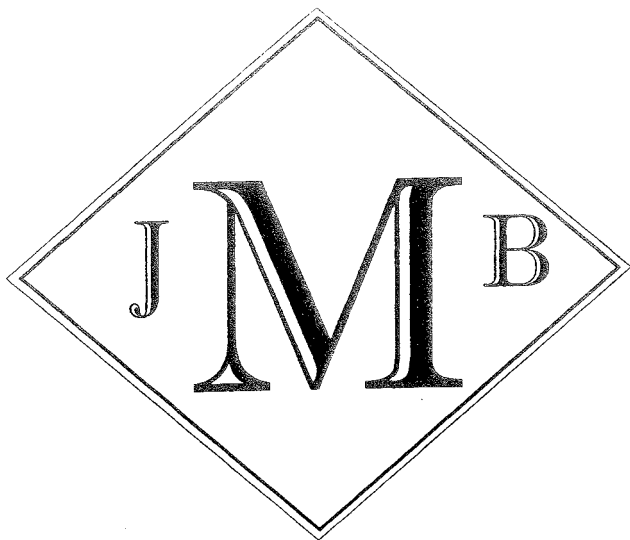
A. He deals with backsliding Israel.

1. Like an ass in heat, coming to nearest male & is easily captured.
2. Sniffs for scent of him.
3. Baals need not go searching - Israel comes to them driven by consuming lusts.
4. Won't listen to reason - runs headlong into trouble.

5. Hopeless.

- a.) It's useless for you to talk.
- b.) Loved strangers & the harlotry of false gods.
- c.) No hope for anyone who lives w/o God.

West End 12-6-81



A STATEMENT OF CONVICTION AND
PROMISE OF REWARD
Ps. 116:1-2;&12-15

- I. It's great when statements of conviction are bravely made and the inspiration of holy results are promised.
 - A. Such is found in Ps. 116:1-2 & 12-15.
 - B. Psalm of great deliverance but tied with it are my obligations.
 - C. Was writer close to death, did he escape, have we not all been there?
- II. Marvelous Affirmation--I Love the Lord!
 - A. Facts of it.
 - 1. Personal--undisturbed by what you think or do?
 - 2. Made for all time.
 - B. 1st "because".
 - 1. I know why I love the Lord--no guess or uncertainty.
 2. God hears therefore I love Him.
 3. No uncertainty on my part.
 - C. Because He Hears
 1. Go often to God & He receives us.
 2. We go where we are welcome.
 3. We go often and we do not wear Him out as we do frequent requests of our fellowman.
 4. Voice--we pray aloud.
 5. Supplication--well formed and ordered words.
 - D. Inclines His Ear
 1. So weak can't stand and speak--He bends down--his ear to my mouth and hears me.

2. Inclination a sign of personal feeling and regard.

→ 3. He acts on what He hears.

→ 4. God's alive and responsive to the cries of His children.

E. Call as long as I live.

1. Literally--in my days.

2. We frequently are ill and thus we frequently need to pray.

→ 3. Do we allow the trivial to keep us from praying?

4. He hears our prayers, He also hears our praise and we hear His word--then we will tell others.

5. It's the forever pattern for me.

6. His answering imposes obligations on us.

III. My Reception of His Grace--v. 12.

A. What shall I render unto the Lord?

1. Thanks is demanded.

2. God rightfully expects a return from us.

3. He expects us to be moved by his graciousness.

4. Piety suggests a return for favors received.

5. Gratitude is necessary.

→ 6. Many spirits and attitudes come into the worship of God: faith, penitence, reverence, hope--but gratitude top of the list--even as thanks in the Lord's supper.

7. Evaluate anew all your blessings and say thanks to Him.
8. Accept His gifts with grateful acknowledgement.
9. But what can I give Him?
 - a) Cattle on 1000 hills are his.
 - b) We can't profit the Lord--He has everything!
10. I can give:
 - a) Thanks
 - b) Myself
 - c) Repeated prayers.
 - d) Only "return" is that we ask for more and come again to Him.
 - e) We wear out our fellow mortals with frequent requests--not God!
 - f) Render nothing proportionable but render something acceptable--namely, come again.

B. This I can do:

1. Take the cup of salvation.
 - a) Metaphor as cup of blessing-- Isa. 51:17-22.
 - b) Lord designed salvation for each of us.
 - c) Cup denotes plenty, abundance.
 - d) Salvation plural.
2. Pay vow in presence of all his people.
 - a) Make a vow and keep it.
 - b) Vows repeated verses 18, 19.
 - c) Open--before all his people.
 - d) Inspires others.

IV. The Reward--"Precious!"--v.15.

A. Rather odd to call death precious.

B. It shows our death is not a matter of
→ indifference to God.1. He knows when and how each saint
→ dies. (Note there are saints in all ages.)

2. He is there with them, being a matter of deep concern.

Ps. 68:20 -- issue of life and death.

3. Appoints each man the day and attendant circumstances of his demise.

→ 4. Death comes only as He permits.

5. Shows His attitude--He attends our
→ beginning, our progress, and our end.

C. At time of death our deep response to God.

1. In rush of life we forget God--not so in death.

2. We seriously consider.

3. Time of our witness to others.

4. Magnifies the blood of Christ for us.

→ 5. In death, He's all we want.

D. It's time of our ingathering.*Ferguson*
→ Not an end but an open door to other side.

2. It's departing and being with Christ.

"Corn's planted"
3. We can die anytime, any place, any manner, but all precious to God.

4. Death knits us together.

5. We feel it deeply--so does our Heavenly Father.

6. He's our relief to our survivors.
7. By death God brings his children home to ever be alive with Him.
8. Our lives are a complicated mosaic each day with new shapes, but God makes the pattern complete.

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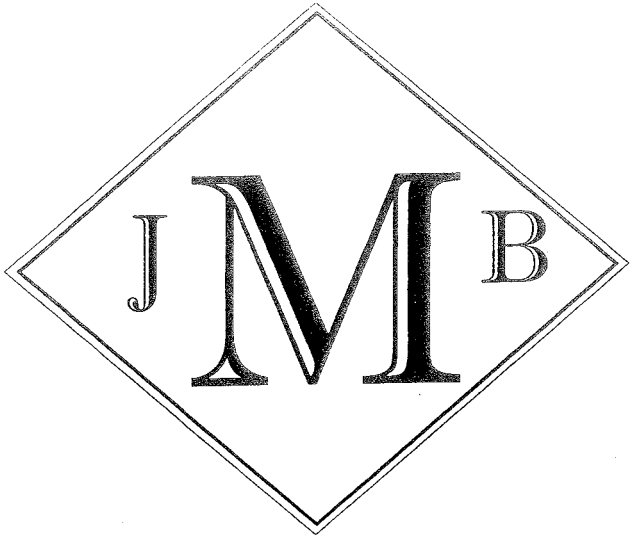
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HINDRANCES TO TEACHING

Ps. 119:33-39

I. Men burn with desire for various possessions.

- A. Fame.
- B. Wealthy.
- C. Ease.

II. This man wants the Word of God & said it repeatedly
Let's see how he said it.

A. Teach me, O Lord. (V. 33)

1. Main prayer of Ps.

- (a) 12
- (b) 26
- (c) 33
- (d) 64
- (e) 68
- (f) 108
- (g) 124
- (h) 135

2. Wants to be taught to the end of life or else to the uttermost - at any rate its saturation!

3. How does the Lord teach a man?

4. What hinders teaching?

- (a) Lack of perseverance.
- (b) Half-heartedness - not trying.
- (c) Inability.
- (d) Covetousness.
- (e) Love of vanity.
- (f) Instability.
- (g) Fear of reproach.
- (h) Lack of spiritual energy.

B. I shall keep thy law (V. 34).

1. If I understand it, surely I'll keep it.
2. God wants wholehearted obedience.
3. What is the heart?
4. Can the heart be "inclined"?

Ps. 119:112 "I have inclined mine heart to perform thy

5. Whatever God reveals we'll do!

C. Path of Commandment (V. 35).

1. Could stray into wrong path.
2. Prays won't get distracted.

D. Testimonies vs. Covetousness (V. 36).

1. Covetousness is getting for self.
2. If God gives instruction, it must reflect in our lives.

James 3:13-17

E. Quicken way - turn from vanity (V. 37).

1. World can distract.
2. Obedience is conducive to our best int.
3. Lit. make my eyes to pass not noticing evil.
4. Vanity = falsehood, idols, etc.

F. Stablish thy word (V. 38).

1. God wants steadfastness.

Job. 28:28 "And unto man he said, Behold, the fear o

Ps. 111:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wi

2. No command is grievous.

G. My only fear - failing to keep thy law (V. 39).

1. What is disobedience but preferring the creature to the mind of God.

Rom. 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the

2. World could count you well off when God doesn't

3.
Ps. 49:18 "Though while he lived he blessed his soul:

3. Thy judgments are good!

H. Longed after Precepts (V. 40).

1. Hungers & thirsts after them.

Matt. 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst

2. Make me c living energy to pursue.

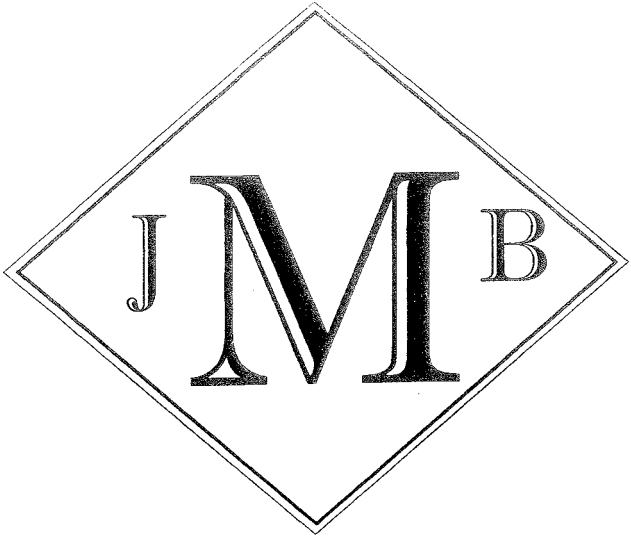
3. Man never more honest than when he is before
God's throne.

Lu. 21:34 "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any t

Gal. 6:14 "But God forbid that I should glory, save i

2 Pet. 3:14 "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look

West End Psalm a Day 1-11-74



SPIRITUAL CHOLESTEROL

Ps. 119: ~~73-80~~ 65-72

I. The 119th Psalm is interesting.

- A. Twenty-two 8-line sonnets.
- B. Each line begins with the same letter.
- C. Each line mentions God's name.
- D. God's self-revelation mentioned in every verse--modern paraphrase obscure.
 1. Intense love of God in every line.
 2. Indignant toward compromise. (Elwell)

II. We study Teth--9th letter.

- A. Means serpent (tate today).
- B. Reminds one of anti-god, beguiler, accuser of brethren, god of evil age, deceiver.
- C. Every verse begins with "T".
- D. Verses 65, 66, 68, 69, 70, 72 even in English do. Keeble--Greek say?

III. Shall we study these 8 lines.

- A. (v-65) Dealt Well With Servant...acc. Word.
 1. Makes a beautiful confession--irrespective of what he has suffered God dealt justly with him.
 2. Spurgeon calls it the summation of his life (David's).
 3. Feels constrained to express his gratitude.
 4. Can't we all say the same thing--from God nothing but good.
 5. Do we freely express our feelings?
 6. God alone gratifies--man disappoints.
- B. According unto they Word.
 1. God made this promise to do man good.

*Kids close
in pick up
I haven't read*

- 2. We rest in the promised word.
- 3. Whatever God promises He will fulfill.
- 4. "We read these pages and we meet them again in the leaves of life."
- 5. "Book of Providence tallys with the Book of Promise."
- 6. God is faithful to his Word.

IV. Now #2 vs. 66.

A. Teach me Good Judgement & Knowledge.

1. Judgement

- a) ~~Word for Taste~~ (we are to relish divine truth).
- b) ~~Taste in literature, style, dress, deportment~~ and you quickly decide on these matters--graceful or ~~bourish~~.
- c) Bees choose bright flowers and clean things; flies choose filth.

2. Knowledge

- a) Good judgement to ~~judge right from wrong~~.
- b) ~~Wants to be taught~~ so can see God more clearly.
- c) Know the importance of ~~divine things~~.
- d) Yet many have knowledge but little judgement.
- e) ~~Delicate tact is necessary~~.

Not via Culture but via Word

B. Believed thy Commandments.

- 1. Trusted ~~commandments~~ as his guide.
- 2. See faith in commands as well as promises.
- 3. Faith in them must be as lively as in the promises.

V. Now #3 vs. 67

A. Before I was afflicted, I went astray.

1. Prosperity is dangerous.

- a) When we had no trouble were we strong?
- b) We've all known temptations of prosperity.
- c) We are more apt to wander when days are easy.
- d) Henry "calls prosperity the unhappy occasion of much inequity."
- e) We indulge flesh & forget God.
- f) Prosperity tests our character more than adversity.
- g) "One hour of summer sun produces more corruption than winter's longest day."

2. Enter Adversity.

- a) Made him less likely to stray.
- b) "Trials are a thorn hedge to keep us in the pasture--our prosperity is the gap where we go astray."
- c) It brought the prodigal home.
- d) Clip ravens so can't fly at Tower of London--always be an England.
- e) However God has dealt with us better than we deserve.

B. Now I Kept Thy Word.

- 1. Can't rest without rusting.
- 2. Affliction stops the rush--we meditate.
We have chance to think.

3. Nothing stops our loyalty to God

VI. Now #4 vs. 68

A. Thou Art Good

1. God is essential goodness in himself.
2. Every attribute of his nature is good to the fullest extent.
3. He has a monopoly on goodness--none good but God.
4. Nothing is wanting or defective in His goodness.
5. Nothing can make it better.
6. He is an ocean of goodness without banks or bottom.
7. His goodness can never be more or less than it is nor will it allow any addition or subtraction.

Acts 14:17"Nevertheless he left not himself w/o"

8. He does good.
 - a) Good God does Good.
 - b) He is not latent nor inactive.
 - c) He displays his good by doing.

B. Teach me thy statutes

1. From verb to engrave or inscribe.
2. Thus a definite prescribed, written law.

VII. Now #5 vs. 69

A. Proud Forged a Lie Against Me

1. Lit. patched up a lie against me.
2. 1st divided (v-51), then defrauded (v-61), now defame (v-69).
3. Some stop at nothing to hurt us because of our faith.

B. But I Kept Precepts With Whole Heart.

1. Goes on with his duty regardless of what others say about him.

*Thus be
Imitators of
God*

(Girl asked, "What will you do when eyebrows grow together? Just keep on going to Sunday school.") (Lyles)

- 2. Nothing phased his devotion.
- 3. Craft of man leads me to devotion to God.

VIII. Now #6 vs. 70

A. Their heart is as fat as grease.

- 1. Spiritual cholesterol.
- 2. Grease.
 - a) Only here in Bible.
 - b) Means they have no relish for spiritual matters.
 - c) Emblem of insensibility.
 - d) Closed heart. *Clogged Arteries*
 - e) Want of feeling, dull.
 - f) Theirs a fixed resolve to do evil and are almost insensitive.
- 3. Wicked are proud, liars, inventors of evil, hearts stupid.

B. Unlike them I delight in thy law.

- 1. Better to be joyous in the Lord than sensual in indulgences.
- 2. How much do we read it?

IX. Now #7 vs. 71

A. Good that I was afflicted.

- 1. Repeats this.
- 2. Chastening is good.

Heb. 12:10-11 (READ)

- 3. Some lessons cannot be learned in light, only in darkness.
- 4. 2 Chron. 33 on Manasseh.
- 5. Afflictions intent is to keep us near to God.

6. We deal with afflictions daily in spiritual life.

7. Shows we can't be self-sufficient.

8. View as a fatherly correction.

Isa. 28:21 calls in his "Strange work"

9. "To get close to the rod is to feel less the blow."

10. Our worse is better than the sinners best.

Job 5:17 "Happy is the man whom God corrects"

11. If the way of the transgressor were not so hard we might readily go there.

B. Learned Thy Statutes

1. God's message.

2. Scriptures are our:

Credenda--what we believe.

Agenda--what we practice.

3. Must not go beyond.

X. Lastly #8 vs. 72

A. Law of thy mouth.

1. Does this not show source.

2. Also shows inspired word.

B. Better for me than 1000's of gold and silver.

1. But Judas sold for 30 pieces.

2. How intense is our love of the Lord?

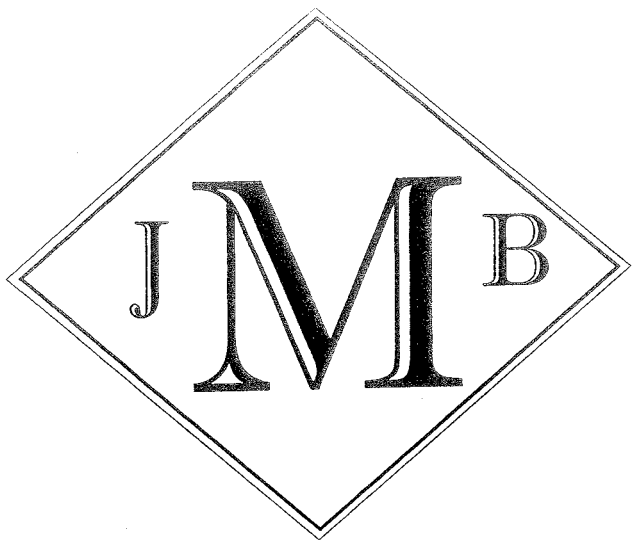
Bellevue (BC) - 7/24/94

Bethany church, Franklin, KY - 8/7/94

Yellowstone Bible Encampment, Pray, MT - 8/18/94

Ashland Citv. TN - 8/28/94

Holden Ave., Newport, AK (AM) - 11/28/94



LETTER MEM

Ps. 119:97-104

I. We come to letter MEM in the Bible's longest chapter.

A. It means water.

1. 13th Division.

2. 22 8-line sonnets--each line begins with the same letter & mentions God's word.

3. 27 prayers asking to be kept upright.

4. 24 requests to be taught, given knowledge & judgement.

5. God's self revelation is mentioned in every verse.

6. Intense love for God in every utterance is evidenced throughout.

B. Due to the Hebrew style it strains us to fully grasp.

II. It begins with the familiar verse 97

O How Love I Thy Law.

A. How is a comparison--nothing exceeds this love. *And Water - Ice Cream or Dead*

1. We say and sing it.

2. Do we mean it?

B. Love

1. States his love for the law then tells why.

2. 5 reasons are pointed out that we'll fill in more later.

a) It gives happy thoughts.

b) It gives practical wisdom.

c) It holds him back from sin.

d) It becomes his delight.

e) It gives a holy hatred for sin.

3. What we love we think about.
4. Reasons to love God's word:
 - a) It's true.
 - b) It's inspired.
 - c) It's holy.
 - d) It's wisdom personified.
 - e) It's currently practical.
 - f) It's perfect.
5. More we meditate the more we love the word.

C. Meditation statement.

1. Meditate means to think in view of doing it.

1 Pet. 2:2 *As new born babes, desire the*
 James 1:22 *But be ye doers of the word*
 1 Tim. 4:15 *Meditate upon these things, give thyself*
 Ps. 104:34 *My med. of him shall be sweet*

2. By meditation we preach to ourselves.
3. By it we come to understand more than our teachers.
4. Meditation takes time & privacy.
5. Note "all the day."
 - a) Easy to think at night--alone.
 - b) He does it in day--the time of business.
 - c) His Bible is ever with him so to speak.

III. v-98 Through Commandments made wiser than enemies.

A. Commands are to be obeyed.

1. Three ways to obey.
 - a) Because we must--fear not to.

b) Because we ought--power above us--I'm not independent--above me are greater folk.

c) Because we wish to--we love!

2. Spiritual knowledge increases as we walk path of obedience.

B. Wiser than enemies.

1. 1st of 3 kinds of men in MEM.

a) Enemies

b) Treachers

c) Ancients

2. Knowledge of law gives wisdom & understanding infinitely above the cunning and craft of worldly men.

3. Outwit enemies--tell story of man who opposed jewelry, Double Springs, Alabama--I asked about gold tooth. He said "It didn't do as much for me as I thought it would."(I Pet. 3)

4. When we add obedience you have wisdom that can be reached no other way.

5. Enemies always there.

6. Remember--happiness comes to those who obey.

IV. v-99 More Understanding Than Teachers.

A. How do we approach without egotism-- I was even surprised they were paid-- just thought they loved me!

B. Practicing religion best way to wisdom.

C. About Teachers

1. Wise to secular knowledge but not wise to way of salvation.

2. A man taught by God knows more than human teacher can impart.
3. Man deals with surface things--God with the intermost.
4. Necessary limits to human knowledge.
5. What about a 10-year-old computer? Medical book?
6. David learned on farm; camp and court; God.
7. Keep meditating on the testimonies.

V. v-100 Understand More Than Ancients

- A. Lit. the aged.
- B. They can teach much but "antiquity is no help against stupidity." (Luther)
- C. Ancients--either current old folk or former ages.
- D. Keep the precepts in loving obedience, the best way.
 1. It's above men.
 2. It's above traditions.
- E. At beginning of religious life we rest on assurance of others--then we move to our personal convictions.

VI. v-101 Refrain Feet From Evil

- A. We have hindrances to obedience.
- B. Constantly invited to step out of line.
 - a) Rich folks think they are special.
 - b) Work keeps us too busy.
 - c) We need to grieve for every thought of sin that would trouble Jesus.
 - d) Find it easy to compromise.
- C. More a man resists the stronger he will be.

D. We've compromised what is evil--Gore says God made homos that way!

E. We are weakened when we fail to know the word. Use Scripture to answer temptations.

VII. v-102 Not Departed from Judgements

A. Constant in his religion--refuses to depart true way.

B. Gladly embraces the exactness of the word.

C. Seeks to stay with word constantly.

Deut. 5:32

D. He chose no other rule than word--he has not deviated from it.

VIII. v-103 Words Sweeter Than Honey

A. Word his delight.

B. Jesus said they are his meat and drink--as he does the will of Him that sent Him.

C. Sweet--another encomium;
Taste--that in which I take great pleasure.

IX. v-104 Understand--Hate Every Evil Way

A. Empty pleasures and all that does not prepare for eternity cheats us.

B. Distaste for sin is the result of Bible study.

C. Fear of the Lord is to hate evil--
Prov. 8:13.

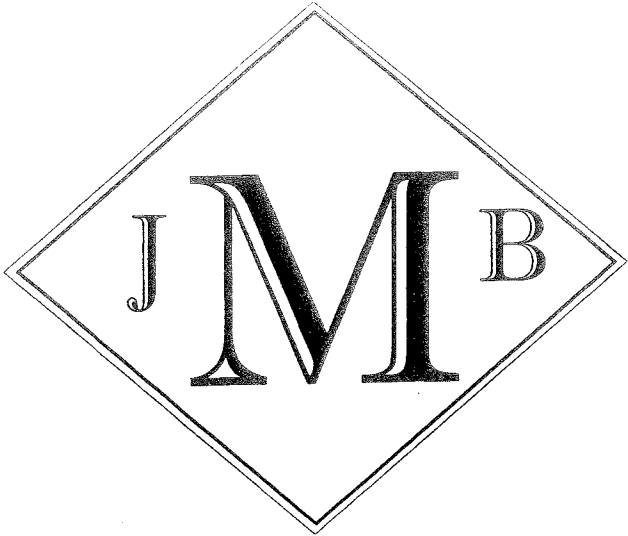
Ps. 97:10"Ye that love the Lord, hate evil"

Ps. 101:3"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes; I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me."

- D. He chooses no other rule than the word--does not plan to deviate from it.
- E. Way of sin is a false way--it ruins all who walk in it.

Locust Grove, KY (BC) - 11/23/97

Smithville, TN (BC) - 1/4/98



I BELIEVE IN A BETTER TOMORROW

Ps. 126

- I. What would we have if we had no hope?
 - A. Story of lupus Joyce Smith--286 days last year in hospital but told of church trips, home she expected to do.
 - B. Greatest hope--in God!
 - C. Psalms 126 declares it.
- II. Reaction to a Fact.
 - A. The Lord turned again the captivity of Zion.
 1. 400 years Egypt.
 - 20 years Canaanites via Deborah.
 - 7 years Midianites via Gideon.
 - 18 years Philistines via Jephthah.Victories of David.
 2. What about Babylon to come?
 3. Who but the Jews ever returned from exile to rebuild their cities.
 4. Great reversal of fortune.
 - B. So thrilled it seemed like a Dream.
 1. They saw the deliverance & were elated.
 2. Too good to be true--is it a dream?
 3. Mouth filled with laughter.
 - a) 38X Bible mentions laughter of some kind.
 - b) So full of joy no way to adequately express it.
 - c) Those that were laughed at now laugh.
 - d) There is great joy in restoration.
 4. God loves the singing of his saints.

Job. 8:21 *God will not cast away a perfect man*
James 5:13 *Is any among you afflicted*

2.

C. ~~Heathen Reaction--~~The Lord Hath Done Great Things for Them.

1. The heathen sensed the source of their joy.
2. Not participants but on-lookers, they saw the reason for it all.
3. Great when sinners talk of loving-kindness of the Lord.
4. Note "Great."
 - a) Not common or ordinary.
 - b) Not by chance but by God.
 - c) He still does Great Things.

Joel 2:21

Jer. 31:9

:12

Be glad & rej. for the Lord will do great

D. ~~We are not to be out praised--~~He has done great things for us.

1. Saints admitted the evaluation was right.
2. We must not rob God--give the praise that is due Him.
3. Note it purposefully was done "for us."
4. You are right--it's Great things.

III. Now Comes Hope

A. You did it before--do it again God & turn captivity to liberty.

1. We praise you for earlier activities in our behalf.
2. Fortunes were reversed earlier--we believe you can do it again.
3. ~~When in trouble we recall earlier~~ deliverances.

Jobs anything

4. Past as sure prognostic of the future.
5. So we ask Him to repeat his blessings.
6. Beginning of mercy an encouragement to pray for their continuance.
7. Surely He will intervene again in our behalf.
8. Present distress no argument for the denial of God's power or grace.
9. God can overcome any captivity of man.

B. Be like Streams in the South.

1. Our wasted spirits can flood with delight.
2. Like torrents shall flow the blessings of God.
3. Normally no water in the Negeb.
4. Streams = channels, water course.
5. Return as welcome as springs rains.

IV. Our Part Comes

A. Sow in Tears.

1. Present distress not forever.
2. Sorrow in sowing.
3. No spiritual harvest w/o tillage.
4. (Do we cry over the lost?)
5. Sowing takes a chance--we even plant potato peelings times so hard-- hate to give up the real thing.
6. But must not eat our seed corn.
7. Accept the hazard and possible loss in sowing.
8. No harvest as long as seed's in storehouse.
9. Sower is drawer of seed from the storehouse.

B. Reap in Joy--Harvest will come.

1. Great joy in the crop.
2. Takes patience, work, God.

C. So Go Forth Even Weeping.

1. Go is singular one--He.
2. Have to go else no harvest.

2 Cor. 9:6

3. Weep

- a) Because of past failures, sterile ground, severe opposition, plentiful enemies.
- b) Yet weeping must not hinder the sowing.

Lu. 19:41

4. Carry Precious Seed.

a) Won't falter.

Matt. 10:42

Isa. 56

55:11

b) It's God's precious power.

5. What sheaves do we bring?

Cedar Grove, Fairburn, GA (luncheon) - 6/27/90

Walnut St., Dickson, TN - 7/1/90

Gordonsville, TN - 7/4/90

Hilton Head, SC - 7/15/90

King of Prussia, PA (Student Devo) - 9/6/90

Franklin, Ky (Radio) - 7/9/91

Germantown, TN (Noon) - 2/15/93

WHEN Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Jr., was a student at Bennington College, she was required to get a job in the communications industry in order to earn certain credits. Her father, Paul Felix Warburg, got her an interview with his friend, Gen. David Sarnoff, then chairman of RCA.

"The general asked me what kind of job I wanted," Mrs. Roosevelt recalls. "I told him I'd take anything. But the general, bless his heart, told me he didn't have a job classification called 'Anything.'"

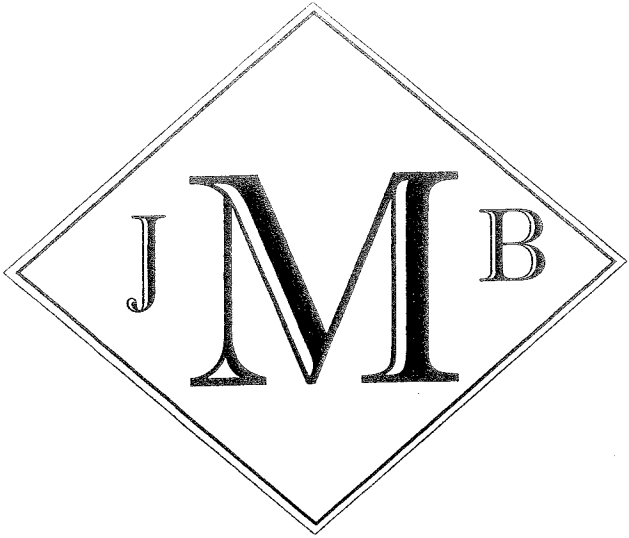
"He looked me straight in the eye and reminded me that the route to success is paved in goals."

—Marian Christy, United Feature Syndicate



I wish everybody could have the attitude of a certain twelve-year-old in Yazoo City, Mississippi. He wanted to play baseball the other day but didn't have anybody to play with him. That boy kept pestering his mother to play with him but she said, "Son, I'm busy. Just get out in the yard and play by yourself." He went out in the backyard with his baseball and bat, threw the ball up in the air, drew back his bat, swung at it and missed. He threw the ball up a second time, drew back, took careful aim, swung at it, and missed again. He threw the ball up for a third time, drew back, swung at it, and missed a third time. And that spunky fellow threw his head back, smiled, and hollered, "Gosh, what a pitcher!"





THE CALL FOR HELP

Psalm 127

I. Suddenly a quick call--my parents desperately need you--Susan for the Motts. I'll do all I can--one of life's great friendships.

A. I cleared Tuesday & Wednesday.

B. I was deeply troubled for the Motts and for the family of Judy Anne Hill.

II. What they did is something all of us have done--please help me. Go to this 127th Psalm.

III. What lessons do we learn?

A. We all have reason to cry for help.

1. With eyes we intelligently look for the Hills--the best we can get.

a) Anne younger in life did the same and became a Christian.

b) Her children came--I met Chad at his granddad's home--help offered.

2. The valleys hurt so we reach for Hills.

B. We want help because we can do better.

1. Satan says keep your eyes on sorrow, discouragement, disappointments.

2. Stay down--not up.

C. Get the best--God.

1. He made heaven--so He's able to meet my needs

2. I need help that's powerful, efficient, kind.

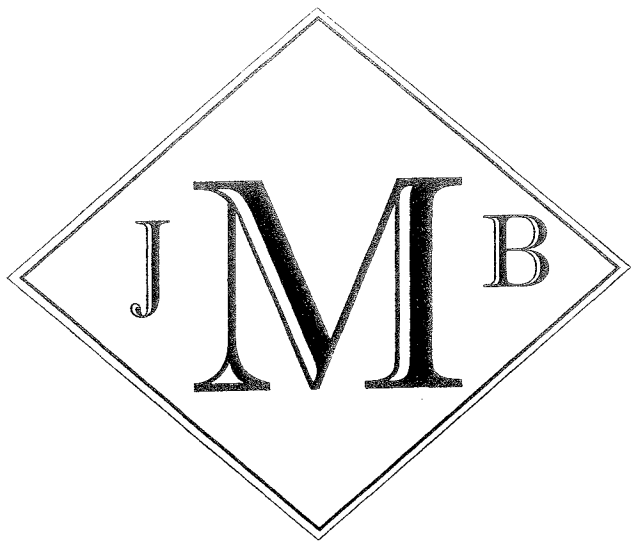
3. I need help that's "very present."
4. I need help equal to every task, never late.
5. Heaven is at the disposal of Him who made it.
6. Our path is dangerous--His sun protects--I see peril.
7. Need it day and night--never asleep.
8. Truths repeated.

D. God can keep--royal garrison.

1. He's as near as our shadow.
2. Day and night--all the time.
3. Not by agent but by himself.
4. Pressure--He is greater.
5. Overcome sin, sorrow, error.
6. Alex Great as how do you sleep so soundly? He answered, "Parmenie watches."

E. I need help that's complete.

1. Thee
2. Soul
3. Going in and out.
4. Now, forever more.



GOD'S DESCRIPTION OF CHILDREN

Ps. 127:3-5

- I. Some things I'm late hearing.
 - A. Children as drug pushers.
 - B. Children as illegitimate mothers.
 - C. Children as an abused society.
 - D. Children as runaways.
 - E. Children as unwanted.
- II. Long I've Known & Given Love as a child and parent.
- III. I've been taught by the Heavenly Father the value of a child.

A. First of 3 terms - Heritage

Ps. 127:3 "Lo, children are a heritage"

1. Recall he is speaking of God fearing homes.

a) The Lord is the centre.

b) He's first in verse 1.

c) He's the foundation.

2. He tells of vanity of efforts w/o the Lord.

a) Emptiness

b) Long hours & "painful labor" fruitless.

c) Reward you even when you sleep.

d) "You will break the bow if you keep it always bent." GK proverb

e) Imperative you have a children partner in your home.

3. Heritage (Michael & computer) #1

a) They are a gift.

b) Word from property, possession, that which is assigned, shared.

*King David
gro! (Pave)
Not my
overshoes
had snow
on them*

- c) Children are God's property assigned to us. (Swindoll)
- d) No accidental births from God's view.
- e) Do we treat them like assigned property?
- f) Prodigal son--hurt himself - #2
- g) Kelley the saint - #3. Ps 128

hard's not
deaf
But Grand
to M?
13

B. Second of 3 words--Reward *see children*

v-3 "The fruit of the womb is his reward" *children*

1. It is the idea of pleasure. *Some CS*
2. It is tangible proof of God's appreciation. *Some*
3. They are thus not an encumbrance. *Some*
4. He designs them as a blessing. (Dodson-Toddler) #4 *what they do*
5. Reward is a sign of divine favor. *to us*
6. How often children reward us in what they do for us. *Geo. 4th*
7. Story of 3 children - #5. *Plumber*

locked
self in
both - e
with our
phones

Prayer
say what
mom said
why
so many
to
dinner

C. Finally, they are Arrows.

1. Picture of warrior with arrow in his hand.
2. Don't make them in battle nor do you ignore them, rather use them.
3. Parents are responsible for direction of children since arrows need to be well aimed.

Planes Have Mothers - #6

Prov. 22:6 "Train up a child"

- a) Train from palate, roof of mouth, gums (Tern article) #7

"Ran c in crowd" - trouble, debt, doubt

- Bay returned to
 take turn in
 barber shop -
 hiding from Dad -
 never look for
 me here
- As protect
 Do not give
 As a profane
 As a sin
 send forth in
 power
- b) Newborn--midwife dips finger in
 juice of crushed grapes, dates,
 olive, then rubs baby's gums.
 Baby sucks as flavor tasted --
 thirst created then put on
 mother's breast & he eats.
- c) Also from training horse as you
 break a rebellious will.
 (Dobson card) - #8
- d) It's all in keeping with his
 individual gift or bent.
- e) Each child is unique--know
 each one's bent. Your children
 are not the same.
- f) Catholic grade school quote - #9
 Crowley's Ridge Academy, Paragould, AR - 4/7/89
 Benton, AR - 4/10/89
 Richmond, KY - 4/19/89
 Homewood church, Birmingham, AL - 7/9/89
 Ministers' Workshop, King of Prussia, PA - 9/6/90
 Franklin, Ky (Radio) - 7/10/91
 Potter Children's Home - 10/04/03

AFTER A VISIT HOME to Denver, my sister and nine-year-old niece were seeing me off at the airport. As is often the case in the winter, my flight was delayed because of the weather.

While we were waiting, the child asked her mother why I was not able to leave. My sister answered that the plane had been grounded.

"Really?" questioned my niece. "I didn't know planes had mothers."

—Contributed by Linnea Roberts

ONE MORNING, a Sunday-school teacher asked her group if they knew who had defeated the Philistines. After a few moments one youngster asked, "They're not in the NBA, are they?"

—James Dent in Charleston, W.Va., *Gazette*

IN ONE OF MY KINDERGARTEN CLASSES, the children were learning to use computers and had progressed to the point of typing in answers to the questions. Noticing that one boy looked confused, I approached his desk and said, "The computer wants to know your name."

As I walked away I heard him whisper to the computer, "My name is Michael."

—Contributed by Lori Fisher

48
Feb 89 R.D.

AT SUNDAY school Harry and his class read the parable of the Prodigal Son, and had a lesson about it.

"And what happened when the prodigal son returned home?" the teacher asked.

"His father ran to meet him and hurt himself," Harry replied.

"Hurt himself?" the teacher queried. "Where did you learn that?"

"From the Bible," Harry replied. "It says his father ran to meet him and fell on his neck."

^{Tuggle #3}
Kelly & Paname
city was 6th grader
& invited to her 1st
prom.
She told her friend
"I cannot go"
"Why?"
"Because my mother
is a saint and I
guess I'll have to be
one also!"
Never doubt the
power of parents

#4

Tell me why it is that a toddler never throws up in the bathroom? Never! To do so would violate some great unwritten law in the universe. It is even more difficult to understand why he will gag violently at the sight of a perfectly wonderful breakfast of oatmeal, eggs, bacon an orange juice...and then go out and dring the dog's water. I have no idea what makes him do that. I only know that it drives his mother crazy!

PARENTING ISN'T FOR COWARDS - JamesDobson
p.12

~~19~~
~~15~~
TWO FRIENDS who hadn't seen each other in years met in a supermarket one afternoon and brought each other up to date on the successes of their families.

One lady said, "And tell me, Ruth, how is your son, George?"

"He's getting along fine," she said.

"He's a poet. He just received his master's degree in literature from the university."

X
"And what about Mary?" the first lady asked.

"She's just as smart as George," her friend said. "She graduated last year from college with a degree in modern art."

"Oh, yes," the first lady said, "and how is little Willy? What is he doing?"

"Well," Ruth said, "Willy is still Willy. He wouldn't go to college. He said he likes to work with his hands. He became a plumber. And I want to tell you this. If it weren't for Willy, we'd all be starving."

#8

They have no intention of growing up. Why should they? The nest is too comfortable at home. Food is prepared, temperature is regulated, clothes are laundered and all bills paid. There is no incentive to face the cold world of reality, and they are determined not to budge. Some even refuse to work. They keep hours like hamsters, staying up (and out) all night and then sleeping half the day. They sit around the house listening to electronic music and waiting for a dish to rattle in the kitchen. Three months worth of dirty underwear and who knows that else are stuffed under the bed. Life is a lark, albeit a boring one. Even when they do move away for a time they inevitably run out of money and come dragging home at mealtime. Their parents remind me of a man with a new boomer-

rang. He would have made it fine except he went crazy trying to throw the old one away.

PARENTING ISN'T FOR COWARDS - James Dobson
p. 218

CENTURY

²⁹
These may or may not be true, but kids in a Catholic grade school are supposed to have concocted the following "definitions."

Adultery - The sin of saying you're older than you really are.

Conversion - The point after a touchdown.

Fast days - The days you have to eat in a hurry.

Joan of Arc - Noah's wife.

Absolution - Making sure you're right.

Epistle - The wife of an apostle.

Catholic Digest
Quoting *Milwaukee Journal*

Bless This Food

THELMA HOUSTON of Okmulgee, Oklahoma relates this story about a family who had asked several friends to join them for dinner.

Once everyone was seated at the table, the mother turned to her young daughter and asked, "Dear, would you

like to say the blessing today?"

The little girl replied, "I wouldn't know what to say."

Her mother comforted her by saying, "Just say what you hear Mommy say, Sweetie."

The girl took a deep breath, bowed her head and solemnly said, "Dear Lord, please tell me: Why did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Falling on Deaf Ears

A WEEK before his birthday, Johnny was shouting out his bedtime prayers, which included requests for various presents, states Lewis McNeely of Lewisburg, West Virginia.

"Johnny, you don't need to pray so loudly. The Lord isn't deaf," said Johnny's mother.

"Maybe the Lord isn't," Johnny replied, "but Grandma is."

Would You Hire Them?

Young people lacking the education and skills for today's jobs pose a major national problem. Here is how businesses of all sizes can take a lead role in corrective action.

By Nancy Craft Baker

ILLUSTRATION: SAM WARD

Sam Williams, owner of a McDonald's franchise, is one of the many business people in Baton Rouge, La., participating in a program designed to show high-school students the critical link between their education and their job prospects.

One of the students who heard him was Lynda Stansell, a 15-year-old sophomore who was failing and about to drop out. But what she heard from Williams about employer expectations and the opportunities available to young people with the education and skills needed in today's marketplace changed her mind.

Today, she has a B average, will soon be working part time under the business program for the schools, and is getting ready to take college-entrance exams. "Business people come in to talk to us, and I'm learning a lot more because of it," Stansell says.

The Baton Rouge program's business participants represent a variety of industries. John Everett, a Holiday Inn manager, discusses careers in hotel management. Bobby Smith, owner of a building company, describes the construction industry and the skills needed to enter it. Michael Gramelspacher, manager of a Woolworth store, and Mickey Weaver, who owns a seafood restaurant, explain what they expect new employees to bring to their firms.

Maxine Crump, a local television correspondent, conducts workshops to show the young women students how to improve their self-images.

That program represents just one of the many ways in which business people throughout the country are taking on one of the most serious problems facing the nation today—an educational system unable to produce students equipped for challenges ranging from entry-level jobs to maintaining the U.S. position in an increasingly competitive world.

Meeting those challenges, the experts point out, must begin with the realization that an "educational system" consists of not only schools and teachers but also students, parents, and the entire community that depends on a well-educated population for its economic and social health.

The Business-Higher Education Forum, which brings together the chief executives of major U. S. corporations, colleges, and universities, says a key goal of education at all levels should be equipping "all of our young people to enter adult life with the basic education and skills essential in the modern world."

The organization, based in Washington, D.C., says that success in achieving that and other education goals "ultimately depends on the sustained indi-

vidual and joint efforts of teachers, students, and parents, of managers and workers, of business executives and labor leaders, and on the encouragement of the private sector."

The role of parents is particularly important. The Educational Testing Service of Princeton, N.J., which analyzes trends in educational achievement, has found "consistent relationships between home support and academic achievement."

The education organization says in its latest report, *Crossroads in American Education*, "The more encouragement and resources provided at home, the more likely students are to do well in school."

It adds: "Children are more likely to be successful learners if their parents or care-givers display an interest in what they are learning, provide access to learning materials, and serve as role models."

At the same time, there is much that business can do to help achieve educational goals, and activities include local volunteer programs like that in Baton Rouge, as well as undertakings such as the Business-Higher Education Forum.

However individualistic or highly organized the approach, the stimulus for the business initiatives is the realization that American education is seriously in need of help. There have been



tests upon tests, surveys upon surveys, and they all have produced the same findings.

“The frightening truth is that even though our nation spends \$185 billion annually on public education, we’re turning out a bumper crop of functional illiterates,” says John L. Clendenin, chairman of BellSouth Corp. and a leader in the business drive to improve American education. Some other findings of various analyses of the U.S. school system:

- Three out of four U.S. students leaving school are not ready for the basic problem-solving demands of work or college, according to the National Academy of Sciences.

- The dropout rate in public high schools averages 25 percent across the country and ranges to 50 percent in some inner-city areas.

- In a recent test of the mathematics and science proficiency of 13-year-olds in this country, the United Kingdom, Ireland, South Korea, Spain, and four Canadian provinces, American students finished last in math and near the bottom in science. South Korea was first in math and second to British Columbia—by a razor-thin margin—in science.

The American students did rank highest in one category: the amount of time spent watching television.

- The Business-Higher Education Forum says that earning a high-school diploma today “no longer guarantees literacy, numeracy, or competence in the basic skills required to contribute as a citizen, family member, or worker. Too often it is little more than a certificate of attendance.”

- The Educational Testing Service says the nation’s youth have reached “a minimum standard of literacy—they generally have mastered rudimentary reading and writing skills and some fundamental knowledge of mathematics and science. [But] very few of our young people can use their knowledge and skills for thoughtful or problem-solving purposes, and not many can reason at higher levels.”

Two other key factors must be considered for a proper appreciation of the state of American education: One is the shrinkage of the pool of young workers as the baby-boom generation heads into middle age. The other is the changing nature of the workplace, which has less demand for unskilled workers and more demand for employees with technological skills and knowledge.

Says John Clendenin of BellSouth on today’s job market: “Things have changed. Jobs have changed. Sweat and good hands aren’t enough any more.”

In addition to the tragic impact on individuals lacking the skills for employment, Clendenin says, educational failure exacts a heavy price from society at large: “Each year’s crop of American dropouts costs this country an estimated \$240 billion of lost earnings and taxes over their lifetimes. . . . At an economic level, educational failure hurts our collective wallet. It drains money from us as individuals and as citizens of collective enterprises. And perhaps most disturbing for the long term, at a dangerously deep social level, educational failure threatens to polarize our nation and to tear apart our society’s whole cloth.”

Those and other penalties of nationwide shortcomings in education are stimulating extensive business activity to improve the nation’s schools. Linus Wright, a former undersecretary of education and now with a Dallas executive-recruiting firm specializing in the education field, says that business is especially qualified to help improve education: “Business people have had to get involved in education out of necessity. They are the best-qualified observers and evaluators, and they have the best-trained staffs for problem solving. They must [help] structure a system that’s built on performance results.”

Investments that improve the educa-

Would You Hire Them?

tional system could be among the most rewarding ever made by American businesses. Business is now spending \$30 billion a year to teach workers skills that they failed to acquire in their school years, and it costs about four times more to provide that education in remedial programs than it would have cost originally.

The Business-Higher Education Forum declares: "We can no longer afford to educate so many people twice because we fail to 'do it right the first time.'"

The Baton Rouge experience spotlights just one way that business is responding to that challenge. The busi-

ness community there recognized the extent to which high drop-out rates and low educational achievement were hampering economic growth. "You can't do any legitimate economic development until the education arena is more competitive," says Harold Suire, who heads an education task force for the Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce.

With guidance from the local school board, the chamber formed Northdale Magnet Academy, using donations from businesses, a foundation grant, and federal funds.

"We were no longer willing to be observers and critics," says Suire. "We were going to be participants and help

with the solution." Students at Northdale not only must fulfill traditional course requirements in English, mathematics, science, and social studies but also must hold part-time jobs and attend a series of career-development seminars before they can graduate.

Businesses participating in the program provide entry-level jobs for Northdale's juniors and seniors, evaluate their work, and meet with their academic teachers to suggest ways to improve students' skills in areas such as writing, work habits, handling money, paperwork, and interpersonal skills.

While Baton Rouge's actions evolved from recognition of the close tie between economic growth and educational quality, the stimulus for improvement can take different forms. In Clay County, Tenn., for example, leaders in business and other fields were jolted when their third-graders finished last in competency tests for that grade level in a 14-county region.

Aroused county residents rallied behind teachers with a program to assure that all third-grade students would meet academic proficiency standards set for their level. This was an ambitious goal for an area with extensive, chronic poverty and a high adult-illiteracy rate.

The community's answer was a summer teaching program. Business people pitched in, providing money for books and teachers' salaries and for extras such as an air conditioner. Clay County third-graders finished third in regional competition last year.

While local action is essential for dealing with education's problems, many corrective efforts begin at the state level. One of the early debates took place in South Carolina, where a bipartisan business coalition provided crucial support in 1983 for Gov. Richard W. Riley's ambitious \$210-million program to raise the quality of instruction and learning in that state's public schools.

The plan, described at the time as "a bold leap forward in public education," called for tougher standards for students and teachers, a pay raise for teachers, and a commitment to build more schools.

Although controversial because of its inclusion of a 1-cent increase in the sales tax, the plan ultimately gained wide public acceptance and was passed by the legislature.

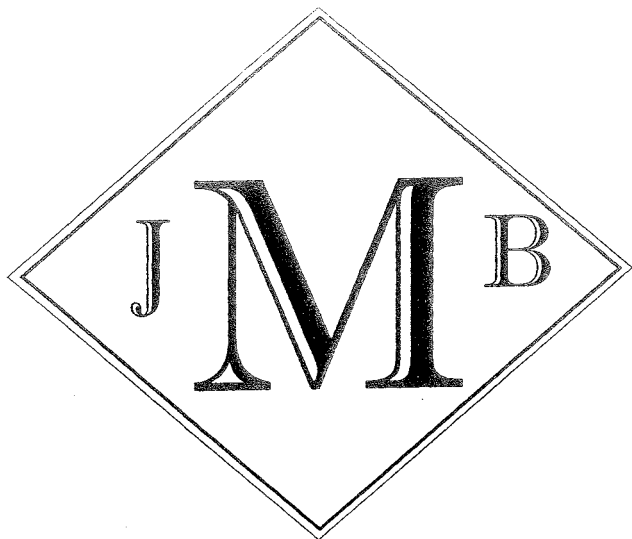
Today, even critics of the plan's tax feature recognize its success. Since

Nanette Noland of Baton Rouge, La., is surrounded by appreciative students at Audubon Elementary School, which her firm, Mundus Travel, and some other small

businesses "adopted." She has donated vacations to teachers and equipment to the school, and she has been a guest teacher herself.



PHOTO: ©CHUCK KNEYSE—BLACK STAR



GOD'S METHOD OF SUCCESS

Ps. 128

I. Multiple are the plans for success.

- A. Education
- B. Clothes
- C. Personality
- D. Breaks

*What's new - spell
everything*

II. Let me give you God's.

Ps. 128

A. Blessed is Everyone

1. Enumerates 5 points of blessedness.
 - a) Eat labors of own hands.
 - b) Be happy & well with thee.
 - c) Happy marriage & children.
 - d) Blessed religiously & civically.
 - e) Enjoy old age & grandchildren.
2. Reward from God is certain:
 - a) Future or
 - b) Spiritual or
 - c) Here
3. Ps. similar to 127 & 112.
4. No date, occasion or author assigned.

B. Note it is for Everyone

1. Jew or Gentile
2. Fear of God cornerstone of blessedness.
 - a) Clip on Boat trip #1.
 - b) Pearl Buck #2.

*Check
C122405*

III. God's Success Route

A. Fear Him

1. Essential to successful life.
2. It's reverence.

- 3. It's linked to obedience & righteousness.
- 4. Fear is not fright.
- 5. Other references.

Deut. 7:12-14 *(Read)*

Job 1:10 *"Does I fear God for naught - hedge"*

Ps. 33:12 *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord*

- 6. Fear of God & good life go together.
- 7. Fear God dismisses other fears.

Ps. 33:18 *"Behold the eye of the Lord is upon"* *fear*

B. Walk in His Ways *who hope in his*

- 1. Obedience inspired by fear. *to obey*
- 2. Habitually do what God wants done.
- 3. Consistent
- 4. Idle to talk of fear if not walking in His ways.
- 5. If heart is joined ft. will follow.
- 6. It is a blessed union: fear & walk.
- 7. *JB* Johnson & Truth #3
- 8. Huxley - Ladder #4

"The rung of the ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man's foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher." - Thomas Huxley

IV. Promised You

A. Eat the Labor of Your Hand

- 1. Enjoy the fruits of your own efforts.
- 2. Blessed in your business.
- 3. Labor not a part of the curse, only the condition of doing it.
- 4. Reward an incentive to labor.

5. This world is God's as much as the next so He can bless here.
6. Sense of independency comes to you.
7. Fertility of material & physical-- thus successful labors & good family.
8. Great pledge--well with thee.

Deut. 4:40

5:16

6:8-22

Eph. 6:2-3 *Honor thy Father - 1st Com. - that it may be well*

- Read*
9. Though we are in God's hands we are supported by our own industry.
 10. Office machine - #5
 11. Drummons quote - #6
 "Half the world is on the wrong scent in the pursuit of happiness. They think it consists of having & getting, and in being served by others. It consists in giving & in serving others." -Henry Drummons

B. Wife a Fruitful Vine

1. Part of happiness God gives.
2. General promises have exceptions.
3. "There is no law w/o exceptions."
4. Wife
 - a) Godly heritage.
 - b) Excellency through marriage.
 - c) Takes courtesy, kindness & self-sacrifice on both parts.
 - d) 1 man 1 wife--God balances in births of boys & girls--polygamy hurts.

e) Wife finds happiness in the home.

5. Man is not alone--had a help mate in Paradise.

6. Home via Louis Harris survey is top material aspiration of college education--61% put it first.

6. Vine, *not a whine!*

a) Inner chamber--woman's quarters
inner part of house.

b) Adorns

c) Gives comfort

d) Fruitful

e) Depends on that to which it clings.

f) Grace

g) Symbol of fruitfulness,
dependence, needs support.

h) By side=not roof or floor nor on (private apartment in inner part is meant).

7. Fruitful in = children, thrift, helpfulness, affection.

8. Our families are gardens of God.

C. Children like Olive Plants

1. World opposes Christ centered home.

2. Children should be treated as our most sacred charge from the Lord.

3. Olive plant

a) Each child independent.

b) Unique

*at/in your
house
NIV*

*in the very heart of
your house
NIV*

- c) Children are not clones but suckers from the tree.
- d) Need training--hands off policy a mistake.
- e) Train, raise, launch from nest.
- f) Shoots--spring up around tree to take its place.
- g) Cluster around your table.
- h) Jesus grew as tender plant.

Isa. 53:2 *Grow up By him as a tender plant, root out of dry*

4. Children around our table are

- a) Expense
- b) Anxiety
- c) Responsibility
- d) Pleasure
- e) Hope of tomorrow

5. Domestic happiness is the peculiar blessing of piety.

6. Kushner quote - #7

"The Talmud tells us that a person should do three things in the course of his lifetime: have a child, plant a tree and write a book. They are all ways of seeing to it that our creative impulses will outlast us & still be around when we no longer are." -Harold S. Kushner

7. Margaret Hall quote - #8

D. Blessing to Church & State

1. Zion

- a) God's earthly dwelling place.
- b) Credit to Him.
- c) "Conflict" card - #9

d) Catherine's Where's the Sun #10
 In driving home from Huntsville in the dark, Catherine grew tired of the blackness. Her parents tried to explain "It was night." Her quote, "Well, where is the sun?"

We need to tell others who know not "where is the Son."

2. State--good of Jerusalem.

a) We make a dent in society for good.

b) Blessing to the nation.

c) Good relations to church & state.

d) Gary Brown quote - #11.

e) Pinson card - #12

"An increasing number of persons believe that only God can make a perfect world but that Christians are called to work to make a better one."

William Pinson, Jr.

E. See His Grandchildren

Job 42:16

1. "Children's children are the crown of old men." - Solomon

2. Ripe old age implied.

3. Grandchildren a joy.

Ps. 103:17 *Mercy of the Lord from ev. to ev. - fear*

Prov. 13:22 *leaves inherit. Rt. to child. child*

Isa. 59:2

Zech. 8:4-5

500 Private colleges - \$11,312 1988 Feb 4R

7.

4. Long life & future family--the consolation of unbroken human chain.
5. No wonder he asks for place.
6. Clip - stands mute - #13.

MY GRANDCHILD gaily chats to me in language far beyond her ken. Though the tot is only three, she reasons like a child of ten. "A personality, you won't believe," I tell my friends. "So smart, so cute!" I bring her out to prove my point. She only stares and stands there mute.

- Hollis Smith

Jebiles

Ministers' Workshop-King of Prussia, PA-9/6/90
Riverwood church - 11/28/90

#0

THE LITTLE GIRL was four years old. She had reached the point where her mother and father were very careful about what they said around her for fear she would go about the neighborhood repeating things she shouldn't.

One afternoon, her grandmother came to visit. As her grandmother was removing her coat she said to the little girl, "Well, it's good to see you again. What's new around here since I visited last time?"

"How should I know?" the little girl said. "They spell everything."

"... all things are yours ..." (1 Corinthians 3:21).

TAKE INVENTORY

A young man made a boat trip across the ocean. After buying his ticket he had very little money left. He lived off cheese and crackers for several days. With longing eyes he gazed into the luxurious dining room where passengers were dining sumptuously. Finally, he approached a steward and asked the cost of a meal. "Your ticket entitles you to three meals a day," said the steward. "Go right in and order what you want."

Are you missing that to which Christianity entitles you? Don't go through life existing on "cheese and crackers" when a delightful spiritual feast belongs to you.

#3

President Lyndon Johnson often told Texas tales to make a point, says Ohio University journalism professor Melvin Helitzer. He used to say that all of his stories were true, it's just that some of them haven't happened yet. After a while, the press could never tell when he was telling the truth, and when he was lying.

According to Helitzer, when he brushed his hair with his hand, he was telling the truth. And when he took off his glasses, he was telling the truth. And when he straightened his tie, he was telling the truth. But when he opened his mouth . . .

Herm Albright; Perry Township Weekly

I AM COMFORTED by life's stability, by Earth's unchangeableness. What has seemed new and frightening assumes its place in the unfolding knowledge. It is good to know our universe. What is new is only new to us.

- Pearl Buck

20
X
#2

There's a new office machine that takes the place of three clerk-typists. It goes to the washroom 26 times; takes 5 coffee breaks; makes 48 personal phone calls, and takes up a collection every other day.

#5

C. Margaret Hall, *associate professor, chair of sociology department at Georgetown University*: "Dinner is one of the few times during the day for real communication. Parents learn what is going on in the lives of their children and they get to hear it from the children's perspective. In turn, children learn what is going on in the lives of their siblings and parents. Being in the know makes children feel secure."

#8
X

29

Current conflict among churchmen over social problems will likely continue.

Social gospel

The reasons given for opposition to church action on social problems are many and varied. "Such action is divisive." It takes away from the main mission of the church. "It has no Biblical authority." "It should be left to secular organizations." "It violates church-state separation." "It is being conducted by clergymen who are not trained experts in politics and economics." "It leads to disrespect for the law and general chaos in society."

*Wm Pinson
S. Western Bapt The Sem.*

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN TRENDS - Pinson and Fant P.64

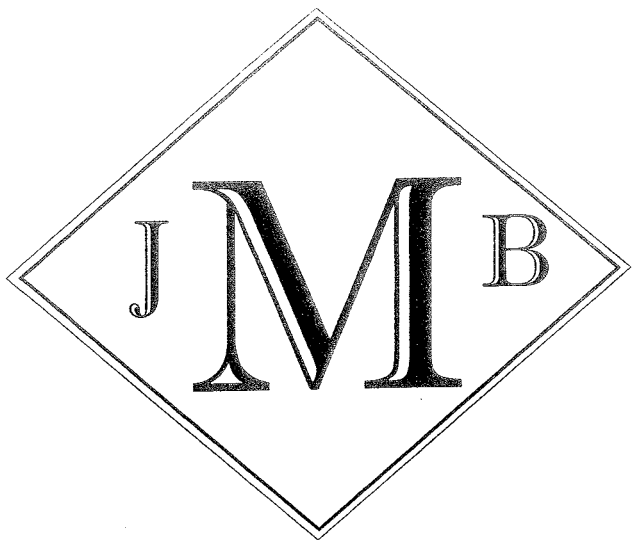
Gary Brown, writer: "One of the best forces we have in combatting delinquency is the adult mode. We are being watched and emulated and followed. Kids listen to what we *do!* Our influence is so great, physically, mentally, socially, morally and spiritually. Many times we don't realize our impact - for better or worse."

#11 X

Higher Education – In 500 private colleges throughout the United States, the average cost of tuition, including room and board, fees, etc., averaged \$11,312 during the 1987-88 academic year.

today believe they could be described as pretty.

Cooling the Outdoors – Tennis courts can now be cooled by up to 30 degrees with an ultrafine mist of purified water sprayed in the air over the court – and an average installation cost of \$8,000.



MUSIC AND ITS MOTIVE

Ps. 137

- I. Visitors are often amazed that in our worship no mechanical instruments are used.
 - A. Basically we want nothing mechanical.
 - B. We want no rote or ritualism.
 - C. We want nothing unfeeling from organ to heart.
 - D. Any "organ" we use must be in tune with God and atune to what is transpiring.
 - E. Oddly a Psalm which used an instrument demonstrates this.
 1. This was called David's instrument whether you view it pleasing or not.
 2. Certainly it was O.T. & not new.
 - a) "What pleased God once does always" so use it, vs.
 - b) Dash babies heads against stones.
 - c) If code of revenge gives way to code of love so does manner of worship as we grow in a better covenant.

II. Studies of Ps. 137

A. Intro

1. One of the most touching of all the Psalms.
2. So personal--9 fold "we" & "our" in 1st 3 verses.
3. Mixture of melanchony & patriotism--both intense.

B. Scene One--Sit by the Rivers.

V-1"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down"

1. In captivity.

2. Rivers

- a) Euphrates & canals.
- b) Series that surround city.
- c) Glad to be away from the noise of the city--quiet repose.
- d) Also symbol of flood of tears.

Dan. 8:2 Daniel, "I saw that I was at Shushan"

Dan. 10:4 Daniel tells of being beside great R.

3. Sat

- a) Had some leisure hours in captivity.
- b) Comfort to be away from work & crowd, sit down to rest & meditate.

4. Here they "wept".

- a) Grief is more than homesickness.
- b) Everything reminded them of their banishment from Jerusalem.
 - (1) Servitude
 - (2) Temple of Baal
 - (3) Enemies own us
 - (4) Helplessness to change
 - (5) Undesired company shortly to come and make demands while we rest.
 - (6) See clip *Stalin #1*
- c) "The curse does not causeless come."
- d) Wickedness is followed by weeping--they had been unfaithful to God, disdain the prophets.

3) Do we weep over Babylon today when 500,000 march in support of abortion, lottery to support schools, and gambling a way of Bingo life sponsored by a church.

5. Here we "Remembered Zion."

a) Here the presence of God.

b) We recall what we lost--even too late.

C. Valley of Willows (Isa.)

1. Hanged our Harps.

a) Do we have this right?

b) This the symbol of grief.

c) Lyres are smaller.

2. Willows weep with us.

Isa. 15:7 "Brook of the willows"

D. Intrusion of Captors

1. Broke into rest and demanded a song.

2. Many singers captive.

Ezra 2:41 "The singers - 128"

3. Song of Mirth

a) Can I be happy when temple in ruins?

Neh. 2:2-3 "Why should not my c.-sepulchres-gates

b) Not a song but funny one.

c) Oppression drives us mad not to comedy.

d) Cruel to make people sigh then make them sing!

e) Do we sincerely mean what we sing? Truth? Experiences?

4. Why sing, because:

- a) Heard you could.
- b) Best way to adapt to new land & feel at home.
- c) Sarcasm = make fun of your religion.

E. Can't Sing of Zion in a Strange Land

- 1. It's God's song & it's sincere.
- 2. Genuine singing is spontaneous-- not forced. We are not a performing choir.
- 3. Some animals can't reproduce in captivity. (Swindoll)
- 4. Worship of God is noblest employment of man.
- 5. One element--praise God in song. (Maclaren)
- 6. Lose God - lose joy.
- 7. Lord's song--one of heart & truth.
- 8. We sing at grave, dungeon, departures, jail, death bed, but not in mockery or w/o feeling & meaning.

F. Strange Land

- 1. You cannot grasp our spiritual language.
- 2. Sin & absence from worship makes a land strange. (Allen Herndon ever in his truck).
- 3. World today strange--Clip Plaid #2
- 4. Babylon embodied
 - a) Splendor
 - b) Pride
 - c) Magnificence

- d) Earthly joy
 - e) Force
 - f) Cruelty
 - g) Godlessness
 - h) Sin - 17's at movie vs audience
5. Servants of God find themselves in an unsympathetic world.

G. ~~Can't Sing~~ *Keller card #3*

1. Forget Jerusalem? We count failure if God is not the crown of our thoughts. (Meyer)
 2. Better to be paralyzed--forget cunning.
 - a) Forget power of motion.
 - b) Better a physical handicap--may I never play again rather than forget.
 - c) Never able to stroke another note.
 - d) ~~We & Our changes to I & My.~~
 - e) ~~How indebted do we feel to our religion?~~
3. Tongue cleave.
 - a) Best be deprived of power of of speech.
 - b) ~~Best be dumb than dishonor.~~
4. Jerusalem above my chief joy.
 - a) What gives greater joy than God? Your top joy? Sum.
 - b) ~~Jerusalem represented:~~
 - (1) Temple
 - (2) Centre of ~~worship~~
 - (3) To be separated from it is to be separated from God.

(4) Preeminence--above everything.

c) N.T. has no place but One Person--Christ.

III. Element of Revenge

A. Unlike N.T.--as contrasting as instrumental & vocal.

Matt. 5:43-48 LOve, enemy, bless, pray

B. Cry of Vengeance

C. Remember Edom

1. Stood in pass to intercept the escaping.
2. Herod of these folk.
3. Took malicious pleasure in Jerusalem destruction.

Lam. 4:21-22 (Read)

Ezek. 25:12-14 (Read) Know my vengeance

Obad. 10:14 Stood in crossway (Read)

4. Cried Raze It

a) Completely destroy

b) Shame for men to cite to wicked deeds that which they cannot perform themselves. (Spurgeon)

5. God notices what we do & when.

D. Revenge against Babylon

1. She had been brutal.

Isa. 13:14-16 (Trust thru)

2. Happy will be the one who destroys her.

3. Cyrus took her

Jer. 51:56 Bows broken--God of recompences req.

4. Where are the great nations of antiquity & their sinful ways?

5. Babylon an everlasting desolation.
 Jer. 25:12 Punish--perpetual desolation.
 6. Every unrighteous power is doomed to destruction.
 7. Evil men drink their own brewing.
 8. Stalin clip.

E. Destruction of Enemy

1. Prays for their punishment.
2. They believed in retribution here & now.
3. Little ones = sucklings
 - a) War has barbarous cruelties.
 - b) It had been done to them--return it.
4. But today--
 - a) Christ teaches a new way & worship--Love.
 - b) Last verse not written by a Christian.
 - c) We admit people of God today have bad moods.
 - d) Sow evil--reap it.

Job. 4:8 They that plow iniq. & sow wick. reap same

- e) Leave things in the hands of God--he'll repay.

No. Jackson - Jackson, TN - 4/4/89

Skyline - Jackson, TN (video) - 4/5/89

Homewood, - Birmingham, AL - 7/10/89

Ministers' Workshop, King of Prussia, PA - 9/6/90

Tuscumbia, AL (AM service) - 9/18/90

Riverwood - 12/12/90

DURING the many conferences that U.S. diplomat Charles E. Bohlen attended with Josef Stalin, the Soviet dictator frequently doodled on a pad with a pencil or crayon. Later, Bohlen recalled that the doodle was always the same—heads of wolves.

—C. L. Sulzberger, *An Age of Mediocrity: Memoirs and Diaries 1963-1972* (Macmillan)

As THE mayor's press conference wore on, newsmen became more and more frustrated by his deft refusal to be pinned down on any issue. Finally, one disgusted reporter addressed the podium: "Mr. Mayor, we seem to be having difficulty getting straight answers from you. Perhaps if you gave us just one, it would set a precedent. Now, then, sir, what is your favorite color?"

The politician's reply: "Plaid."

—Jackie Mill in *True*

But if I can get so much pleasure in mere touch, how much more beauty must be revealed by sight? Yet, those who have eyes apparently see little. The panorama of color and action which fill the world are taken for granted. It is a great pity that in the world of light the gift of sight is used only as a mere convenience, rather than as a means of adding fullness.

Helen Keller

YOU GOTTA KEEP DANCIN' In the Midst of Life's Hurts, You Can Choose Joy! - Hansel - P.76-77

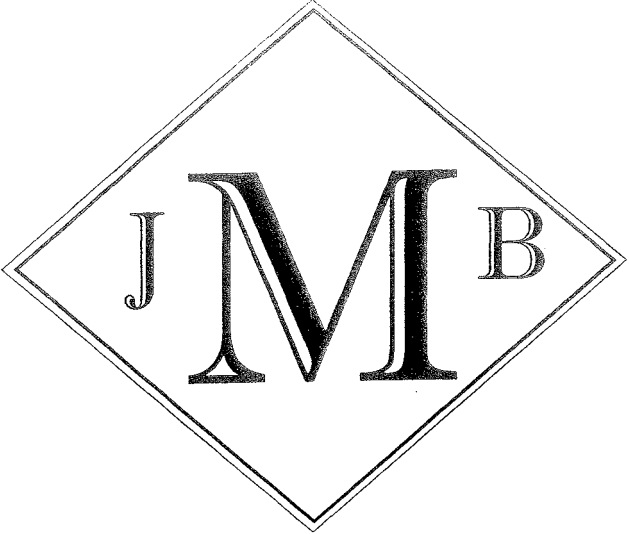
Helen Keller is one of my great heroines. Though struck deaf and blind at the age of two, she later said: "Life is either a daring adventure...or nothing at all."

I, who cannot see, find hundreds of things to interest me through mere touch. I feel the delicate symmetry of a leaf. I pass my hands lovingly about the smooth skin of a silver birch or the rough shaggy bark of a pine. I feel the delightful, velvety texture of a flower and discover its remarkable convolutions and something of the miracle of nature as revealed to me. Occasionally, if I'm very fortunate, I can place my hand gently on a small tree and feel the happy quiver of a bird in full song. At times my heart cries out, longing to see these things.

Looking Back

WHEN I explained to my grandmother that an X-rated movie meant that those under 17 were not admitted, she said, "Well, I must say that's different. When I was young they put restrictions on what was in the movies, not what was in the audience."

—Contributed by Todd Thompson



And
THE MASTER OF YOUR MIND

Ps. 137:1-6

I. There is no doubt: God's interested in your mind and your memory

I Tim. 4:6 *It's there put the bc. in remembrance*

A. Hasn't your life been touched by recalling what you are to do?

1. Reminded by a momma--wipe your feet, wash neck and ears, say thank you.

2. By a minister of some duty?

B. It follows God's way IIPet. 1:12-

13 *Wherefore I will not be negh. to put you*

II. What's memory? *Always in remembrance*

A. Defined

1. A tablet on which we ~~write~~ ^{WRITE} again and again. *from Latin Tower Mexico City*

2. The teeth with which we chew on what we're experienced *Saw 9 million*

B. Two kinds--long term and short ~~term~~

1. Short is like a phone no. you look up and forget in dialing

a. Is it chemical?

b. Is it electrical?

c. cram for exam--then forget

d. Did experiment on rats. When light came on as they touch a wire they were shocked. Rats learned this. Killed thoes rats and feed their brains to other rats. Those that are the smart brains learned this lesson twice as fast as those that hadn't

eaten--only explanation was
it was chemical.

2. Long term

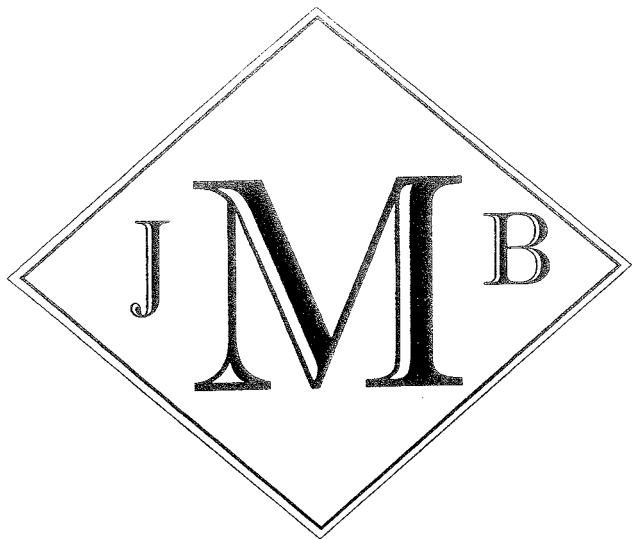
- Housewife I eat
shredded & stained to
single
right down*
- If can help or harm
 - Battle field memory
 - Girl who left home and became prostitute.
 - Remembrance of Joseph

*Gen 42:9 "And I remember
come"*
Gen. 42:21 "Therefore is this
distress case" Matt. 11:5,
~~II Pet. 2:22~~

B. Memory can be used in a great way

- Prodigal asked self questions in Lk. 15:17 "And when he came to himself he
- Rich man, hell, Lk. 16:25 son remember
- We can recall whom we would
- We are caused to repent Ps. 137:1 "By the rivers of Babylon
- Put good memories in kids minds.
- Lord's supper--do in remembrance of me

West End 11-11-73



Psalm 138

I. I cite a formula 138-8-3.

A. What does it give? Most wonderful blessings imaginable. Estee Lauder said her new perfume was "Beautiful." That's what everybody said when they smelled it. "It's beautiful" - thus name. (She was in Dallas to sell it-- don't put it on, spray room and walk through it--that will sell it by the barrel!)

B. What is it?

1. Psalm 138
2. Has eight verses.
3. I want to major on three words.
4. Burma Shave Jingle #1

II. Three words of Wonderful Formula

A. Worship

1. Always occasions to praise God, but some arise above others.
2. "Thee"
 - a) Mind so absorbed with God does not mention name-Spurgeon
 - b) Obviously for David there is no other God.
 - c) He's so moved he'll worship whether anyone else does or not.

(Hurry Sickness Clip #2)

- d) No name mentioned until v.4.
3. Whole heart - deep convictions.
- Excogitated
 - In presence of angels, kings, false gods he'll praise God!
 - No bitterness but singing.
 - Bow, bend knees-worship him.
 - Jussive
4. Temple
- Prescribed way
 - Accept what God's ordained
 - Name and character of God our reason for praise
 - Grace and truth are his

B. Word

- v.2 "For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."
- The tip-top thing is God's word.
 - He can create a world and bind up a wound, but word is it!
 - Above name of God is word of God.
 - His truth at highest level.
 - Jesus? Bible?
 - Greater regard for word of his mouth than work of his hands.
 - Tremble at his word more than lightning and thunder.
 - Reverence the honored word: clear, sure, sovereign, unique, everlasting. (Spurgeon)

9. Be grateful we've heard word.
(Ash)
10. Think: God puts honor on his word above his name!
- a) Mirror to reflect his glory.
 - b) Standard to which everything is referred.
 - c) Of his we'll know nothing except by word, this informative.
 - d) Skies can't tell what's required of us; how God deals with us; what's next world complete.
 - e) Leaves nothing to conjecture.
 - f) No other rule of faith and practice - authoritative.
 - g) Whatever it speaks receive with confidence.
 - h) Do not lower commands to our attainments, but endeavor to elevate our attainments to it.

Rom.6:17 "But God be thanked ye were.."

- i) Circulate it.
- j) Translate and preach it.

Rev. 14:6 - "And I saw another angel .."

(Expose error - Willis Card #3)

C. Works - "Forsake not the works of thine own hands." v-8

1. David committed his needs to God
1 Samuel 30:6 -- Distress - stone - grieved

"But David encouraged himself in the Lord."

2. Cried - answered.
(Hard pencil - Clip #4)
- Proof of experience
 - Knew God's care
 - Prayer answered speedily and effectually.
 - "The prayer of the upright is his delight."

Isa. 65:24 - "And it shall come to pass that before they call I will answer; and while they are yet speaking I will hear."

- We ought to acknowledge answered prayer.
3. If answered "No" then he gives strength--what's best our desire or his strength?
(Boy and pie fork - Clip #5)
4. Carry his message to kings.
Read verse 4.
(Emperor & electric chair - #6)
- Heavenly majesty aligned with grace.
 - Kings have reason for songs.
 - God's glory overshadows their power.

5. Respect for lowly.

2 Cor. 8:9

- 6. Doesn't need to come close to see vanity of proud.
- 7. Rescues me.

Ps. 50:15 "Call upon me in the day of trouble."

- 8. Perfect that which concerns:
 - a) God's concerned with what concerns me.
(Geo. Oliver, Fergie Jenkins, Leo Durocher - Clip #7)
 - b) He sees it through to completeness.
 - c) What's freely promised is faithfull performed.
 - d) Doesn't leave off until he's finished.

Phil. 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing!"

- e) Our confidence does not cause us to live without prayer.
- f) God cares for our life.
- g) Continue his presence among us.
- h) The hand that laid the foundation will also bring the capstone. -
(Simeon)

Preston Rd. School of Preaching - 9/17/85

#1

FLASHBACK

QUOTE, July 12, 1941

You've noticed those roadside signs bearing jingles advertising Burma Shave. Maybe you've wondered who writes them. Fifty thousand persons submit jingles to the Burma-Vita Company of Minneapolis each year. Twenty-five or thirty are accepted, and the lucky writers each receive \$100. Lately the company has been using safety jingles. Here are a few:

*They missed
The Turn. ✓
Car was whizz'n.
Fault was her'n;
Funeral his'n.*

*At intersections ✓
Look each way.
A harp sounds nice,
But it's
Hard to play.*

*Trains don't wander ✓
All over the map,
'Cause nobody
Sits in the
Engineer's lap.*

*At crossroads ✓
Don't just
Trust to luck.
The other car
May be a truck.*

#2

Hurry Sickness

People who worry about time constantly—about wasting it, losing it or fretting that “time is running out” are suffering from a life-threatening ailment called “hurry sickness.”

“It’s a major underlying cause of the entire range of chronic and degenerative diseases—including heart disease, ulcers, high blood pressure and possibly even cancer,” said Dr. William Appleton, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. “People with ‘hurry sickness’, as a group, get sick earlier and die earlier. They’re susceptible to every type of stress-related ailment, because all illness is affected in some way by a person’s sense of time.”

Dr. Appleton gave these tips for people who suspect they’re suffering from ‘hurry sickness’:

Well, think we must, for while the Bible contains a fine ^{#3} collection of ethical teachings some of its instructions are morally incorrect. For example, if a man lived rigidly by the Bible, he would abuse his child by beating him with a rod (Proverbs 23:13), view his wife as created expressly for him and expect her to be subservient to him (Ephesians 5:22), and approve of heavy restraints upon young widows (First Timothy 5:11-13). He would also expect servants to be obedient to their masters "with fear and trembling" (Ephesians 6:5). Such a man would hardly be considered a paradigm of morality in today's world. Society should always be searching for new and better ways to improve its functioning. Ancient standards that have worked well should obviously be retained, but to accept such teachings on blind faith and without critical examination is an immoral act in itself.

Our next concern is with the threat words of Category 3, which present a dark, unpleasant side of religion. The belief that a man who does not trust in the divinity of Jesus Christ will be tortured after death in eternal fire is senseless, unmerciful and unjust--the ultimate in intolerant, bigoted thinking. After all, such a man may have lived an exemplary life filled with good deeds.

Shirley Hale Willis

BOBBY: "Mom, when we have company for dinner today do I have to eat my pie with a fork?"

Mom: "Yes, indeed you do." #5 X

Bobby: "Well, have you got enough pie so I could practice with a fork for a while before the company comes, then?"

40 Emperor On Electric Chair

The Emperor Menelek II of Ethiopia used an electric chair as his royal throne for many years. How come? During the late 1890s, the Emperor was told of the new method of executing criminals in the United States by electrocution. So he ordered three electric chairs from the States. But alas, he forgot that electricity had not yet been introduced into his country. To save his investment, he appropriate the same as his royal chair.

No Chance to Judge

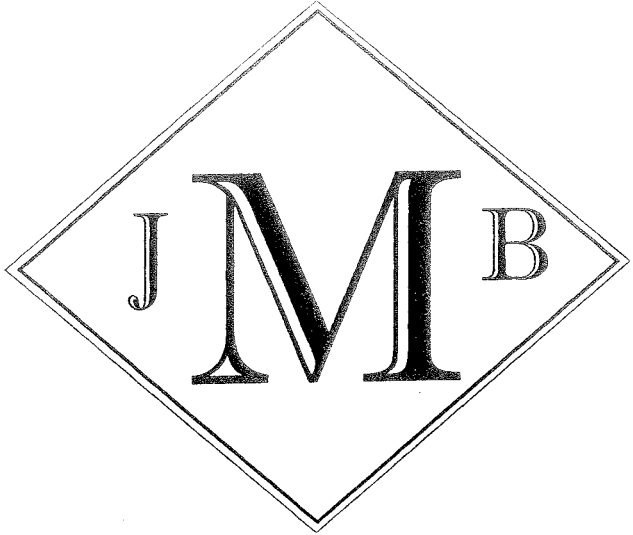
"I remember the first game I caught for the Chicago Cubs," Gene Oliver, (a former Cub) said.

"Fergie Jenkins was on the mound against the Pirates. First Pirate, first pitch, single. Second guy, first pitch, single. Third guy, same thing. Next guy, home run! Four pitches, four runs.

"Finally Leo Durocher comes bolting out of the dugout. He asks me, 'Gene, doesn't Fergie's ball have anything on it?'

"I told him, 'Leo, I don't really know. I haven't caught one yet.'"

Bob Berdi



STEPS TO COMPLETION

Ps. 138

- I. Every life, whether individual or corporate, needs 3 things for survival: Platform, Dreams, Hope. *Problems are the price of progress*
(Babe Ruth card) #1 Kettering #1½
- II. The Psalmist captures the 3. *Don't Bring me anything but trouble. Good news wezkens me*
 - A. Platform--I will
 1. Praise thee with my whole heart.
 - a) God is first & foremost.
 - b) Character of God makes him have great respect.
 - c) Can't praise a God we do not know--see statistics. #174
 - d) David feels what God is and must express it.
 - e) Our praise will motivate others to do it.
 - f) This is not the expression of a divided heart.
 - g) Nothing half-hearted by him.
 - h) Give praise without reservation.
 - i) Praise is a public affirmation.
 2. Before the gods I will sing praise unto thee.
 - a) May mean princes & potentates.
 - b) Boldly he stands for God.
 - c) Wherever man is let him be a spokesman for God.
 - d) Regardless of who is around I'll sing his praise.
 - e) Spirit of praise is irrepressible.
 - f) Card "It is not surprising"--#2.

(old news) skip

3. I will worship toward thy holy temple.
- Worship is public.
 - Worship is prescribed.
 - Card "many young"--#3.
4. Praise thy name for thy loving-kindness. *Faithfulness - depreciable*
- Lovingkindness & faithful His.
 - Praise for something vs. everything.
 - Praise formally but not of heart.
 - Some also praise in duty but keep doubts.
5. And for thy truth
- Mercy & truth 2 of God's highest attributes.
 - His truth is absolute.
 - Bloesch card--#4.
6. Magnified thy word above all thy name. *For you have exalted above all things your name & your word - MI VI*
- Name means all the manifestation of God through his works.
 - Word = Scripture, Communication of God to man, Jesus.
 - Spreading of word highest duty.
 - Word = promise.
 - God's name the basis for all our expectations--He even goes beyond.
 - God's word is greater than his material work as he spoke the earth into existence. "Command and it stood fast."
 - Word of promise greatest thing He's done.

7. Day I cried thou answered. 3. PRAYS
- Answer as soon as he spoke.
 - Saw answer come at once.
 - Answer is always immediate--we have the attention of God.

8. Strengthened me with strength in my soul. 3 PARTS OF MAN Recognized
- God's power imparts courage to man. (Rehearing here)
 - God can do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
 - He can deliver us from temptation --even raise the dead.
 - The soul that trusts develops sinews of strength.
 - His answer strengthens.

~~#10~~
 Not seen
 1. whole heart
 2. Emphatic
 3. Faithful
 4. Truth
 5. Pray
 6. Strength

Lu. 22:43 An angel appeared from Heaven, strengthen

B. Dreams--All Kings Praise Thee (D. H. R. H.)

- Heathen Kings will sing no longer in their misguided ways but rather in the ways of God.
- Word will win the most powerful as it is superb.
- God's glory above all.
- God though high has respect to the lowly.

clip on
 Growth
 #42

(Card--Elkin--Brown) - #5

- He keeps the proud at distance.
 - "I can detect a phony a mile away," we say.
 - God leaves the proud away til they are ripe for punishment.
 - Pride blocks fellowship.

Matt. 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit

d) ~~Divine justice is never circumvented.~~

C. My Hope (*dreams may not come true, hope can.*)

1. ~~Walk in midst of trouble yet God revives.~~

a) ~~Common lot of us all to have trouble.~~

b) ~~Blessed when God is with us.~~

c) ~~Trouble has a way of taking the heart out of us unless we have a companion in God.~~

d) ~~Right hand saves me.~~

e) ~~Roosevelt card - #6.~~

2. ~~The Lord will perfect that which concerns me.~~

a) ~~We may expect God to complete his work among us.~~

b) ~~Whatever really concerns me God will see after--whether it is outward circumstances or whether it is my standing with Him.~~

c) ~~Sins I once embraced I now hate-- God at work in me.~~

d) ~~He completes what he undertakes.~~

Phil. 1:6 "The Lord will carry to an end"

e) ~~We are surrounded by unfinished things of our doing; God the opposite.~~

2 Sam. 7:25-29 (*Recd of David*)

f) ~~God always has a purpose and never drifts into things.~~

g) ~~Unlike us he does not wait for something to turn up.~~

*"He outspared
The shadows
of our
night"*

- h) There are no accidents with God.
- i) We forget our purpose--He does not.
 - (1) Augustine, "Convert me but not yet."
 - (2) Jack Wilhelm - lady pushed up sawdust aisle, "Pray for me but don't make it effective til next Friday--have things I need to do."
- j) No unfinished pictures on walls of God's studio.

3. Does it with his everlasting mercy.

- a) We rest on this.
- b) God's our answer.
- c) He delights to save & show mercy.

Funeral, Mrs. Newman Brandon - 5/24/90

Schochoh, KY - 5/27/90

Funeral, Mrs. Annie Fagan - 5/28/90

Visitation Mtg., West Nash. Heights - 5/29/90

Bells, TN - 4/3/91

Riverchase (Dedication) - Birmingham,AL - 4/7/91

In a world series game several years ago the inimitable Babe Ruth came to bat with the bases loaded. He pointed his bat toward the right-field bleachers to indicate where he intended to hit the ball. When the count was three balls and two strikes, the pitcher grooved one - then came the rewarding sound of wood meeting horsehide! The ball sailed over the point Babe had indicated. Three men scored. Then the "king of swat" crossed the home plate. #1

After the game was over, a teammate asked, "Babe, suppose you had missed that last one?"

"I never did intend to miss it," replied the Bambino.

From: Our Search for Success, Rolla O. Swisher

Pg. 28

General Motors' "Boss" Kettering, that grand old man with a young man's heart and wisdom, was a great inventor and philosopher. He would say, "Problems are the price of progress. Don't bring me anything but trouble. Good news weakens me." #1 1/2

.....

A man told Charles Kettering, "I have a formula to prove that you cannot build a diesel locomotive like you have."

"Please," said Mr. Kettering, "don't tell the locomotive."

A man wrote a book to prove that a steamship could never cross the Atlantic Ocean. The first steamship carried a copy of the book on its maiden voyage.

From: Our Search for Success, Rolla O. Swisher

Pg. 41

The Fruitful Life

Bible Thought: *"All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV).

THROUGHOUT the New Testament we are told a person can only be known by the fruits of his life. No one can claim to be a follower of Jesus Christ and remain entirely unlike the Master he claims to love. A disappointing study just released by the Barna Research Group reveals only eighteen percent of all Christians read the Bible every day. Ninety-three percent of all Americans own a Bible, but only half have ever read it. Two-hundred million Americans have never read through the entire Bible, and one-half of the world's population has never seen a Bible! Does that shock you? Sometimes, like the fig tree in today's scripture, we get too comfortable. We ignore opportunities to do good. The story is told of a man's life in which there were three stages. When he was young people said "He will do something." As he grew older and did nothing, they said of him, "he could do something if he tried." Towards the end they said of him, "He might have done something if he tried."

Every day our actions reflect our walk with the Lord. Our fairness with people, our acts of service, our moral character are all true pictures of ourselves. Let's encourage each other to be strong and firm for our Lord.

Hymn: "How Great Thou Art"

Dear Father, thank You for never leaving us, for always being near and for never moving away from us. Give us strength to reflect Your love and stand firm in Your word every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—JOHN YOUNG, Atlanta, Georgia

It is not surprising that many of the problems ^{#2} confronting families today could be traced in some measure to the decline in the proportion of Americans who say that religion is "very important" in their lives - from 75 percent in 1952, to 70 percent in 1965, and then another drop to 53 percent as of this writing. These downtrends parallel the proportion of Americans who say they received religious training in their youth --94 percent in 1952, 91 percent in 1965, and 83 percent in 1979.

From: The Search for America's Faith, George Gallup,
David Poling

Pg. 47

1979-08-14 10:43:13 AM

Many young people seem quite comfortable with a solitary, personal approach to matters of faith - so much so that three out of four state that they believe a person can be a good Christian even if he or she does not attend church. Should that attitude prevail for long, it means an absolute goodbye to the present religious arrangement in North America. ^{#3}

From: The Search for America's Faith, George Gallup,
David Poling

Pg. 17

If you will not believe that the Word is worth more than all you see or feel, then reason has blinded faith. So the resurrection of the dead is something that one must believe. I do not feel that Christ is risen, but the Word affirms it. I feel sin but the Word says that it is forgiven to those who believe. I see that Christians die like other men, but the Word tells me that they shall rise again. So one must not be guided by his own feelings but by the Word.

#4

From: The Crisis of Piety, Donald G. Bloesch,

Pg. 143

Martin Luther's "Sermon on I Cor. 15:1."

pray and use with these into program to teach many with the gospel.

Why Churches Grow

The following nine principles for church growth come to us from a study made by Dr. Paul Benjamin, Director of the National Church Growth Research of Washington, D.C., via Bill Thrasher of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Methods change, but principles do not. That's why the recent study fits the reasons for the growth of the 1st Century church.

#4/2

1. Churches that grow genuinely want to grow (Acts 2:42).
2. The members are not timid about telling others what they believe (Acts 8:4).
3. They constantly, in one way or another, say to the community, "We want you" (Acts 5:14).
4. They teach and preach Bible facts to change lives (Acts 3:6).
5. They are Biblically conservative (Acts 4:19-20).
6. They constantly start new congregations (Acts 8:5; 10:18; 10:21; et.al.).
7. They have a clear, distinctive message (II John 9-10).
8. They want the preacher to teach them how to minister to others (Acts 4:34-35).
9. They consider evangelism as an all-important thrust (Acts 5:42).

Robert Taylor

It is interesting that while dynamic worship, buildings, and contributions are important, neither the recent study nor the book of Acts emphasize these things in growth.

... build ...

#5

Scripture contains a call to decision. James illustrated this function of Scripture by describing two persons who see themselves in a mirror (Jas. 1:23-25) One "observes himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like." The other "perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer who acts." Working with the challenges communicated through Scripture is difficult because we are responsible both for interpreting Scripture and responding to Scripture. Obviously, we can be tempted to so interpret Scripture that the call for any verdict is absent. Even with purer motives, we can still miss the verdict demanded.

From: Faith for Troubled Times, Thomas Elkins,
Douglas E. Brown
Pg. 22

On the modest monument that marks the last resting place in France of President Roosevelt's son, who fell in the Great War, is inscribed this death-defying sentence: "He has outsoared the shadows of our night." The human heart refuses to be hushed in its cry for immortality.

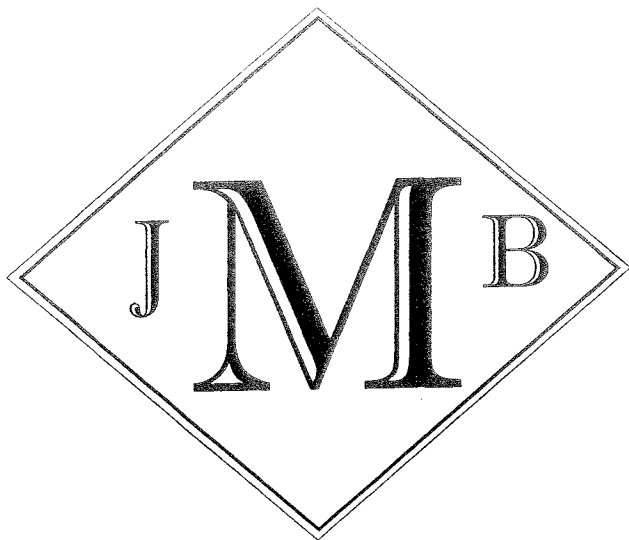
#6

(Hope)

From: 25 of The Greatest Sermons, Jerry Falwell,
Compiler and Editor

Sermon: The Conquest of Fear
By George W. Truett

Pg. 200



GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

Ps. 139:1-12

- I. How much do people know about you or you them?
 - A. What about officials? Obama, Bredesen?
 - B. What about banks? I don't need insurance vs. security and insurance to protect it.
 - C. Secretaries--need their confidence and we no longer call them secretaries.
 - D. What about God? He in finality is the one that matters.
 1. Psalm 139 tells us much about His knowledge.
 2. Let's study it, knowing that divinity alone is the one before whom we stand--not preacher, elders, spouse, but God!

- II. Reading Psalm 139 we find in the order the Spirit reveals it:
 - A. God searches and knows me and we'll He does.
 1. Casually we say, "I know Him" as lightly we speak of an associate.
 2. Both Testaments declare God's intense knowledge of us.

Romans 11:33-36

John 2:23-25

3. (V-2) "He knows my downsitteing and mine uprising."
 - a) Not much revealed in where you sit and where you stand, yet another Psalm tells that completely.
 - b) We are ever in the eye of God.
 - c) Knows my thoughts when scarcely formulated.
4. (V-2) Note singulars--understands my thoughts afar off.
 - a) Knows as thoughts are formed.
 - b) Understands the beginning of such.
 - c) This leads to deeds and actions.
 - d) We keep no thought hidden from Him.
 - e) Thought becomes action.

Ps. 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth..."

5. (V-3) "Searches out my path and lying down and art acquainted with all my ways."

Job 31:4 "Jehovah knows where we walk."

- a) Not a word on my tongue.
- b) Hear our road rage?
- c) He knows our words before we form them.
- d) You have analyzed my habits of business and realization of them.

6. (V-5) "Thou hast beset me behind and before."

a) One translation "behind and before."

b) Thus knows past and future.

c) Fortunately "laid His hand on me."

d) He rewards, He spans.

Isa. 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not..."

e) He knows everything.

f) (V-4) "For there is not a word on my tongue..."

B. Can one get away from God?

1. Read V-7-10

2. Read Jeremiah 23:24

3. Also I Kings 8:30, 39-40

4. Jesus words - Matt. 7:21--not everyone, John 20:17

5. "No place is distant" to God.

C. Can darkness hide me?

Ps. 139:11-12

1. We have some light.

2. We have some ignorance (darkness)

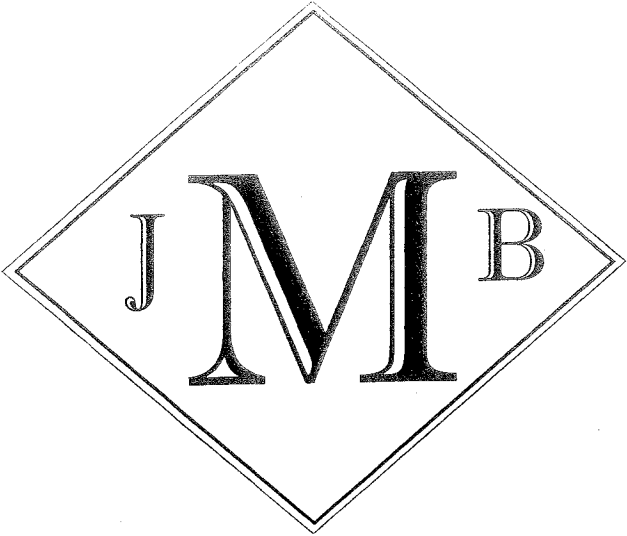
3. We can't even see God!

4. God knows all.

Ps. 139:23-24

Acts 1:24 "Knows hearts of all men.

Rev. 20:11-15 Great white throne.



TAKE A SPIRITUAL PHYSICAL

Ps. 139:19-24

I. Repeatedly we hear "get an annual physical."

A. Have a competent physician.

B. Do not rely on yourself.

II. I cite for you a most intense spiritual one.

A. It's David's 139th Psalm.

B. It is so honest & open, let's apply.

III. First he speaks of godless men.

A. It comes with very strong expression.

1. Are we too soft?

2. Have we covered our words?

B. Slay the wicked--bloody men.

1. He wants God to get rid of them.

2. He wants them out of his life.

C. He identifies their crime--"they speak evil of God." (Ottinger card)

1. They do it wickedly.

2. They take his name in vain.

a) Either take name in vain or maliciously defy God. (Ash)

b) Why bear their company when their task sickens me.

D. Hate them that hate Thee.

1. Not personal vengeance or malice, rather means one hates evil.

2. Hate with a pure hatred (P.C.)

3. Spurgeon calls it a perfect hatred--form of hatred consistent with all virtues.

4. Repudiates association with enemies of God--(even to movies & TV huh?)

5. Professes unswearving loyalty.

6. Do we?

I Thess. 2:4

2 Cor. 11:11

Gal. 1:20

2 Cor. 11:31

D. Grieved with those that rise against Thee. (Webster clip)

E. Count them mine enemies.

1. Wants to be removed from every enemy of God.

2. With whom do we spend most of our time? God's enemies or His friends?

3. "Godless men are not the stuff out of which true friends can ever be made." (Spurgeon)

4. Cannot be popular at any cost.

5. Loyal subjects cannot be friendly to the traitor.

6. "In any action look for 3 things: agent, the work, the end." (Spurgeon)

7. Do we moan over public sins today?

8. How does this fit with loving enemies?

Matt. 5:44

IV. Now comes that most intense Exam!

A. Search me, O God

1. Personal search is not enough--need Divine.

2. He realizes God knows everything about him. (John Powell card)

3. Search

a) Find anything

- b) Wants an open relationship--nothing held back.
- c) Has complete confidence in God's righteous judgement.
- d) Action--keep on searching me.
- e) Our search insufficient--we need the CAT scan of God.
- f) He searches heart, thoughts, ways. (Suitable movie)
- g) David's willing to know the worst about himself.
- h) Truly wants to be acquainted with himself. (True Condition article)
- i) He felt God could see through all disguises.

Ps. 66:18

- 4. Are we willing to have such an exam?
- B. Try me--know thoughts (Gold story)
 - 1. David truly wants to be a godly man.
 - 2. He wants to imitate God always.
 - 3. He looks within & without.
 - 4. If we seek such answers we must be prepared to accept them when they come.
 - 5. Crimes committed before the face of the judge are not likely to go unpunished. (Spurgeon)
 - 6. He desires to discover what was wrong that with divine help he might correct what's wrong in his conduct. (Cruise Control)
 - 7. Too often we want to remain ignorant of certain points.

8. We desire not to be proven wrong.

C. See if there is any Wicked Way.

1. He wants to be God's man at any cost. (Teenage check)
2. Are we that sincere?
3. Wicked means hurtful, that which causes pain.
4. "That man must have a rare confidence who offers himself so boldly to the scrutiny of God's righteous judgement" from Pereonone's book.

5. Genuinely wants to be free of all sin.

V. Wants a Special End--"Lead me in the way everlasting."

A. See progression--Search, Know, Try, See--now Lead.

1. Some things are previous necessities.
2. Prerequisites of leading seen. (B. T. Washington clip)

B. Way Everlasting.

1. Is life centered around the temporal or the eternal?
2. What's our objective?
3. Do you not want a way that lasts?
(Review our poitical parties--where are the Whigs?)
4. That which has no end purpose or is done to no end, may be said to be done in vain.
5. Stake out the dream everlasting.

I BELIEVE that any man's life will be filled with constant and unexpected encouragement, if he makes up his mind to do his level best each day and as nearly as possible reaching the high-water mark of pure and useful living.

- Booker T. Washington

... meeting, the women were discussing movies and the difficulty of finding any suitable for their children to see. "What's more," said one woman, "I can't find one suitable for my mother to see!"

- Contributed by Virginia Vandever

Readers' contributions are solicited for this department. See page 8.

In the book of Job it says that God will test us and try us until we "come forth as gold" (Job 23:10). Someone once asked a goldsmith how long he kept the gold in the fire. His reply "Until I can see my face in it."

YOU GOTTA KEEP DANCIN' - Hansel - P.142

"Political and professional fame cannot last forever, but a conscience void of offense before God and man is an inheritance for eternity. Religion, therefore, is a necessary, an indispensable element in any great human character. There is no living without it. Religion is the tie that connects man with his Creator, and holds him to his throne. If that tie is sundered or broken, he floats away a worthless atom in the universe, its proper attractions all gone, its destiny thwarted, and its whole future nothing but darkness, desolation and death. A man with no sense of religious duty is he whom the Scriptures describes in so terse but terrific a manner, as "living without hope and without God in the world." Such a man is out of his proper being, out of the circle of all his duties, out of the circle of all his happiness, and away, far, far away from the purposes of his creation.

Daniel Webster

We have all been created in the express image and likeness of

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Cruise Control. A service-station attendant pumped gas for a couple who looked as though they hadn't spoken for the last hundred miles. Then he busied himself with the windshield.

"Don't wipe my side!" roared the driver. "Wipe hers. All the driving's done over there."

—Oliver Slick, quoted by Neil Morgan in *San Diego Tribune*

16

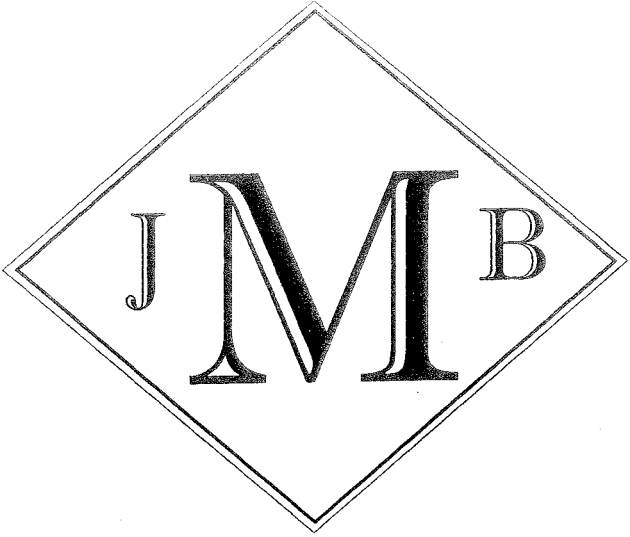
"There is nothing more essential to the union of the disciples of Christ than purity of speech. So long as the earth was of one speech, the human family was united. Had they been then of a pure speech, as well as of one seech, they would not have been separated. God, in his just indignation, dispersed them; and before he scattered them he divided (confused) their language. One of his prophets, who lived in a degenerate age, who prophesied against the corruptions of his day, when he spoke of better times, of an age of union and communion, was commanded to say, in the name of the Lord, "Then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent." (Sephaniah 3:9.) Purity of speech is here declared

to be prerequisite to serving the Lord with one consent." Campbell, Alexander, THE CHRISTIAN SYSTEM . Gospel Advocate reprint, 1964, pages X, XIII, 10 4

CREEDS UNDER FIRE - OTTINGER - P.4

Everyday life has its own hidden comedy. As John Powell said "Blessed is he who has learned to laugh at him self, for he shall never cease to be entertained." When we can laugh at our own situations and the life around us, it literally produces physiological and chemical changes in our bodies that bring about a greater sense of vitality, health and even healing.

YOU GOTTA KEEP DANCIN' In the Midst of Life's Hurts, You Can Choose Joy! - Hansel P.83



ONE OF THE TOUGHEST PSALMS

Psalms 140

- I. We are startled sometime by the language of the Old Testament.
 - A. It is tough.
 - B. At times seems harsh.
 - C. But ever truthful.
- II. Ps. 140 is one of these and never have I had a greater respect for "Selah."
 - A. 1st time used since Ps. 89.
 - B. Absent in Ps. 90 to 140.
 - C. 40 times used in Psalms.
 - D. Though I may not know all it means, here I see clear divisions.
 1. My opponent - V. 1-5
 2. My Confederate - V. 6-8
 3. My Wish - V. 9-11
 4. My Security - V. 12-13.
- III. In pursuit of these 4 divisions we see 1st "My Opponent."
 - A. Evil Men
 1. See the nature of our adversary.
 2. I must intensely hate evil else I give quarter to the opposition to God.
 3. They are many.
 4. All unregenerated men have evil in them--only Jesus exorcises this devil.
 - B. Violent men
 1. Move into heavy action as violence and deceit his trademark.
 2. Evil becomes a raging thing.
 3. V-4 they are called wicked & violent again; also V-8, V-11--it is an unholy pattern.

- C. Imagine mischief--continually war.
1. They have an unrelenting desire to hurt.
 2. Waking hours employed to devise schemes to hurt the righteous-- Satan never our friend.
 3. Note continually--every day--all day --would that we had their energies for good.
 4. Evil constantly plotted--not "get around to it sometime."
 5. Committee of opposition in permanent session.
 6. They never adjourn. (Spurgeon)
- D. Sharpen Tongues like a serpent-- adder's poison under lips.
1. Rapid motion of tongue like sharpening it.
 2. No venom in tongue any more than sun goes from East to West--just accommodates figure of speech.
 3. Snakes' tongues fastest that move-- looks like 3 tongues.
 4. Slander's tongue wounds 3; receiver, sufferer, self.
 5. With it man starts an avalanche.
 6. Adder = achsub (āk-shoob)
 7. Expresses coiling, bending back.
 8. Gland under eye secretes poison, conveyed to fang in roof of mouth, thus said to be behind upper lip.
 9. Who can describe the full evil of a mischievous tongue?

E. Proud--snares, cords, nets, gins.

1. Snares in regular path with cords to bind.
2. We have reason to be fearful of Satan's secret assaults.
3. Killed in the usual run by traps they cannot see.
4. Also wayside--so slight a diversion brings you into their nets.
5. One instrument of destruction is not enough--they use many.
6. Wicked resolve to turn a good man from his way, injure his integrity, blast his character.

III. My Confederate

A. It is the Lord.

1. To Him we speak of our fears, complaints, needs.
2. We repeatedly appeal in our strong sense of need.
3. Persecution turns man to prayer.
4. We speak to God--often the less we say to foes and the more to God the better.
5. Lord can hear us.
6. Lord can restrain the wicked.

B. He is my Strength, My Covering.

1. From Him I've received earlier personal blessings.
2. Glory of wicked is opposed to the glory of God.
3. In past protected me with shield thus now I am moved to a greater trust in God.

C. Earnest wish voiced for God to retard wicked advance.

1. Do not let the wicked succeed.
2. God cannot favor an evil cause.

IV. My Wish

A. Is it too vengeful?

B. At least he voices what he wants to come.

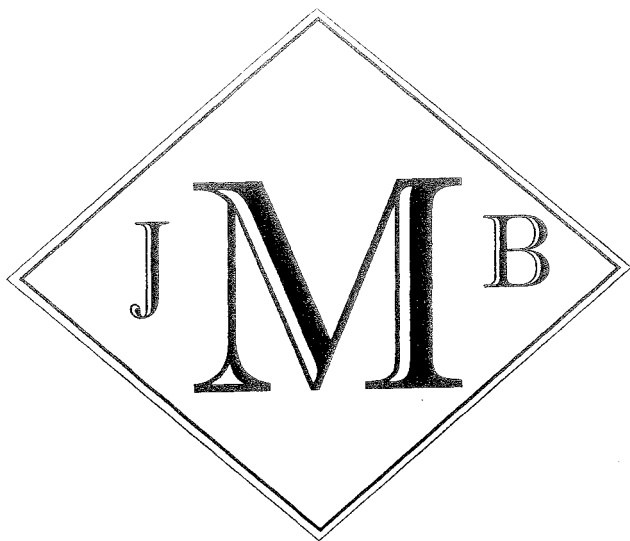
1. "Let the mischief of their own lips cover them."
 - a) He wants enemies to experience what they have given him (Hair pulled on little one--now he knows it hurts.)
 - b) Prays for like "lex talionis."
 - c) Let heads be covered with reward of their own malice.
 - d) Let them receive what they've sown.
 - e) Rock thrown upward apt to fall on head of thrower.
 - f) Violent man needs no more dire gloom than to reap what he has sown.
2. Establish no evil speaker.
 - a) Man of pretense.
 - b) Talks grandly, affects nothing.
 - c) Lit. man of tongues.
 - d) Tongue liberty to say whatever he pleases.
 - e) Limitation to earth--evil can't be established in Heaven, bound for Hell.

- f) Sinner may be prominent but not permanent.

IV. My Security

V-12,13 "I know the Lord--

- A. Confidence in God.
- B. Persecution develops faith.
- C. Leaves his cause in the hand of God.
- D. Bravely confident--nothing in doubt.
- E. Maintain.
 - 1. Cause of the afflicted.
 - 2. Poor
 - a) Right not always with the poor but when it is God protects.
 - b) He is sufficient & almighty.
 - c) Tho fully accused the Psalmist believes God will provide and vindicate.
 - d) Our needs do not exhaust divine help.
 - e) Power corrupts man, not God.
- F. Righteous are sure to give thanks to God--they are sure to dwell in his presence.
- G. How high we've climbed--from being hunted by evil men to dwelling in His divine presence!



GOD'S MILITARY BUILDUP

Ps. 141:3-5

I. Everybody's got armament.

- A. Reagan's Budget.
- B. IRA & Bobby Sands.
- C. KKK on Battery Lane.
- D. Begin & Syria.

II. I've got one - Ps. 141:3-5.

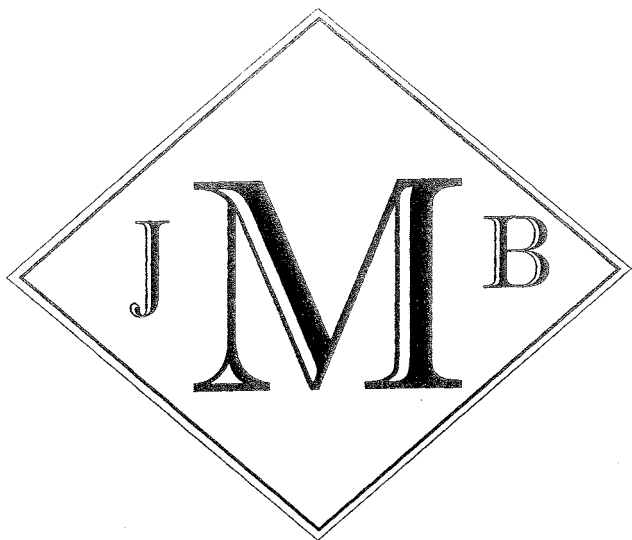
A. Set a watch before my mouth - Keep the door of my lips.

- 1. Sharp tongue.
- 2. Quick, thoughtless word put us in bind.
- 3. Words are powerful - Mary saw peacock - "Chickens in bloom."
- 4. Words can get us in trouble (girl said snakes on tent because she couldn't spell caterpillar).
- 5. Many reasons for quick words: temper, show off, no self control.
- 6. Many hurt: self, parents, church.

B. Incline not heart to evil - practice wicked words eat dainties.

- 1. Never sorry you are good.
 - 2. Don't let impulse & dare destroy.
- C. Have gratitude for oil of reproof.
- 1. Smite = kindness (I needed that).
 - 2. Reprove like oil, even hit on head an insult.
 - 3. Pray for those that abuse you.

Lipscomb High Chapel 5-11-81



SADDEST COMPLAINT--NO MAN CARES
FOR MY SOUL Ps. 142

142

I. Via Introduction

A. Cave Psalm (Adullam)

1. Surrounded by 3,000 soldiers.
2. He has 400.
3. The prison & persecution have brought us some of our richest thoughts.
4. Here we have the prayer of the faint.
5. Last of 8 Psalms crying for deliverance from Saul.
6. Could be Engedi.

B. Each clause a present tense one (?)
(Sills story)

II. His Cry

A. I cried

1. Shriek, aloud, earnest.
2. To sound as thunder.
3. To bellow.
4. He remembers it of such anguish he meakes a note of it.
5. Doubles it - voice 2X.
6. God knows our needs but He expects us to unburden ourselves.
7. However brave we may be, at times we faint.
8. Lord needs not an interpreter between you & him--my voice!

B. Made Supplication.

1. I implore favor.
2. From same word as grace.
3. Note 1st person.

4. We look back on our supplications.

C. Poured Complaint

1. At wits end, know not how to pray adequately.
2. Complaint is a technical term for communal or individual complaint.
3. Harrison Matthews points:
 - a) David fled--didn't understand why.
 - b) Went 1st to Samuel.
 - c) Evidently told him to leave country but keep faith in the Lord.
 - d) Goes to Gath hoping for refuge.
 - e) Life's in danger, feigns madness and goes to Cave Adullam.
 - f) Next 10 years a fugitive.
 - g) Had to live as outlaws.
 - h) Saul insanely pursued him.
 - i) To whom does a man turn in this distress?

4. Note complaint to -- not of God.

5. Really meditation.

6. Told God everything.

7. We rest too much in generalities not specifics in prayers.

D. Showed My Troubles - Hansel card.

1. Trouble = to be bound up, tied tightly, restricted, tight fix.
2. Look on prayer with reality--
"please attend to this, God."
3. In sadness & feebleness He comes.
4. Spirit overwhelmed.
 - a) David brought low.
 - b) Persecutors too strong for him.

- c) Too numerous, wily.
- d) Involved in great peril.
- e) Abandoned by friends & sees no way of escape.

5. One resource is God.

III. My Condition

A. Snares

- 1. Worldly adversity.
- 2. Prosperity
- 3. Flattery
- 4. Alarm

B. Rt. Hand Desertion - (1962 Research)

- 1. Jewish custom--advocate & accuser stood on right.
- 2. My strength not there.
(Clip on Satisfied Customer)
- 3. Loneliness of human desertion.
(Leads him to turn to God)

C. Refuge Failed -- way of escape.

D. No man Cared for my Soul.

- 1. Care = seek after, desire, take interest in.
- 2. No one cares whether I live or die.
- 3. How few people ever pray for us-- like Bob Neil.
- 4. Can't extricate himself nor find anyone to help him.
- 5. Do we allow this charge to be factual today?

IV. My Procedure

A. I cried to thee, O Lord.

- 1. Put complaint in a prayer.
- 2. We derive comfort in the certainty of God's concern.

3. He is our one resource.
4. Before God we can pour out our minds fully.

B. He's Our Refuge--Portion

1. Shelter in time of storm.
2. Anticipate a favorable response.
3. Portion - prized possession.

C. Attend Cry

1. Brought low--helpless condition.
2. Prison & can't get out.

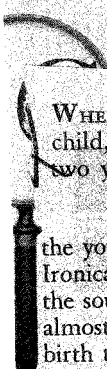
D. Praise Thy Name

1. Reason he wants out--to praise Him.
2. Voice of prayer awakens voice of praise.
3. Righteous will fellowship & see the victory.

E. Deal Bountifully

1. Some things are stronger than me--but none are stronger than Thee.
2. God will do thee good.
3. "Success is never final, failure is never fatal. It is courage that counts!"
(Winston Churchill)

Petersville (Young People), Florence, AL-6/23/93



WHEN opera star Beverly Sills' first child, Muffy Greenough, was nearly two years old, it became certain that

the youngster was almost totally deaf. Ironically, Muffy would never hear the sound of her mother's singing. At almost the same time, Beverly gave birth to a mentally retarded son.

The star took a full year off from performing in order to work with her daughter in a school for the deaf, and to try to come to terms with her dual tragedy. "The first question you ask," she says, "is a self-pitying 'Why me?'" Then it changes to a much bigger "Why *them*?" It makes a complete difference in your attitude." —*Time*

Satisfied Customer

PACIFIC Gas and Electric Company received this letter from a customer: "There I was on the highway, standing bewildered in front of my wrecked-by-a-deer car. Along came a PG&E lineman. He radioed for the highway patrol. It was a very cold night. He offered his jacket, then turned on the heater in the pickup. After the highway patrol came, he drove me home to a worried wife. He was very helpful, thoughtful and considerate. He would accept nothing. So the least I can do is write a letter of appreciation.

"P.S. To help pay for the gasoline, oil and pickup depreciation, I left our front porch light on all night."

—PG&E *Life*

In 1962 research scientists Victor and Mildred Goertzel published the provocative and revealing CRADLES OF EMINENCE. Its purpose was to study 413 "famous and exceptionally gifted people" and learn what produced such lives. The patterns which emerged from the very beginning of the study were startling. For example, approximately of the later famous children loathed school. Seven out of ten eminent persons came from homes which in no way could be considered warm or peaceful. Rather they were homes riddled with traumas such as missing or argumentative parents, poverty, and physical handicaps. Almost every conceivable handicap had been successfully overcome by some eminent person. The book provided some re-

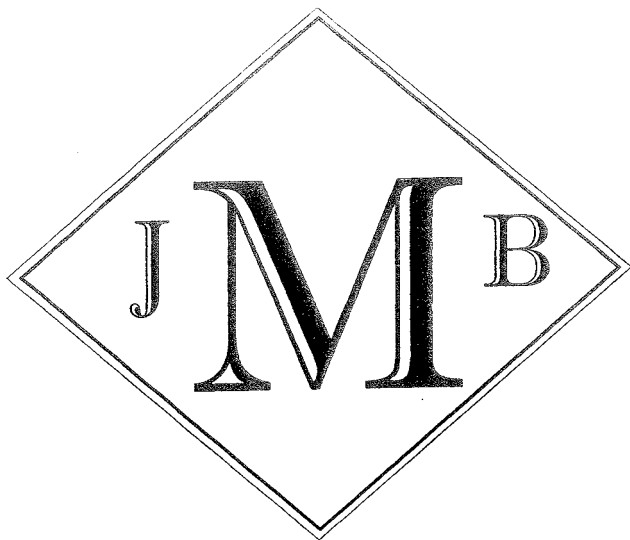
vealing insights into the roots of people who were later to be called "great". Virtually all of them had overcome severe difficulties in order to become the people they were called to be.

YOU GOTTA KEEP DANCIN' - Hansel - P.90

Most of the Psalms were born in difficulty. Most of the Epistles were written in prisons. Most of the greatest thoughts of the greatest thinkers of all time had to pass through the fire. Bunyan wrote PILGRIM'S PROGRESS from jail. Florence Nightingale, too ill to move from her bed, reorganized the hospitals of England. Semiparalyzed and under the constant menace of apoplexy, Pasteur was tireless in his attack on disease. During the greater part of his life, American historian Francis Parkman suffered so acutely that he could not work for more than five minutes at a time. His eyesight was so wretched he could scrawl only a few gigantic words on a manuscript, yet he contrived to write twenty magnificent volumes of history. Sometimes

it seems that when God is about to make preminent use of a man, he puts him through the fire.

YOU GOTTA KEEP DANCIN' Hansel - P. 87



THE PRICELESS INGREDIENT

Ps. 144:11-15

I. Some things I want to get rid of:

A. Strange children.

1. Mouth speaks vanity.

2. Rt. hand is R.H. of falsehood.

B. They bring destruction.

II. Some things I want.

A. Sons as plants grown up in their youth.

1. Child to 18 \$85,000 (22 1/2 - 27 1/2)
58,000 (14-18)

B. Daughters as cornerstones - polished after the sim.
of pol.

III. What makes for that?

V. 15 "Happy is that people whose God is the Lord.

A. May I ask if this is your main pull.

1. See Bulletin on Teen Age.

B. What's appreciated?

1. Education?

"Fine chance will not

2. Power?

improve the flavor of

3. Skill?

indifferent tea." Scott

4. Character.

a.) Carnegie Fd. - Successful engineers.

"In determining the probable success or failure in
your profession, what factors do you count most
important?"

1,500 replies.

1. Training unimportant.

2. Character 7X more votes.

b.) 30,000 members of 4 major engineering societies

- (1) Character.
- (2) Judgement.
- (3) Efficiency.
- (4) Understanding of men.
- (5) Knowledge of life.
- (6) Technical skills.

700 replies

94% said character.

Technical skill at bottom.

C. How build character?

1. Willingness to come to grips c himself.

2. Watch & perfect details of work.

a.) Little details worked over & over. (Cure for
b.) Be right - not sloppy. Baldness)

c.) Fine workmanship.

d.) In sports 1" makes a difference.

3. Sacrifice present for future.

What happened 10 stories - just got here.

a.) Story of Mark Twain - poverty stricken in
Paris - 2 books published - 1/2 finished MMS-
\$16,000.00-refused - tore to bits, burned,
started over to do his best.

b.) "Scorn delights & live laborious days."

4. Work w/o what others require.

a.) Immediate success.

b.) Compliments.

c.) Winning.

d.) Not able bodied man in Ireland.

5. Sustained growth capacity.

a. LeFan boy

86c Chapel 10-9-80

Adjustment to the possible. Benjamin Franklin said, "There are two ways of being happy: we may either diminish our wants or augment our means - - either will do - - the results are the same; and it is for each man to decide for himself, and do that which happens to be easiest."

"The Man of the Messianic Reign and Other Essays: A Festschrift in Honor of Dr. Elza Huffard"- Edited by Wil C. Goodheer

(Elza Huffard)

The GLOSTER MESSENGER (USPS 220500), is published weekly free by the Church of Christ, 307 N. Gloster St., Tupelo, Miss. 38801.

Postmaster: Send address change to GLOSTER STREET MESSENGER, 307 Gloster, Tupelo, Ms. 38801.

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID at
Tupelo, Mississippi 38801.

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WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M.
P.M. Worship 6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:30 P.M.

STATION WELO RADIO 580, 11:30 A.M.

MONDAY THRU SATURDAY

STATION WFTA-FM 1.3

& WFTO 1330 AM

SUNDAY 9:00 A.M.

PEER RECOGNITION TOPS LIST IN TEEN VALUES

A New York consulting firm, hired by the National Board of Junior Achievement, found that peer approval is increasing, at an accelerated speed among teens. This was reported recently by the Knight-Ridder News.

"The need for acceptance in a group is the most powerful of forces which mold young people's decisions," says Robert Johnston Co., Inc. who prepared the report.

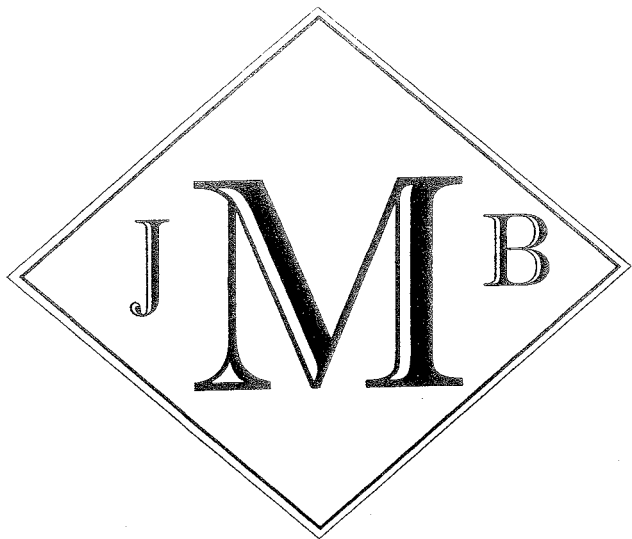
In 1960 parents had the most impact on teenagers' values, but today friends and peers are number one.

In 1960 the ten greatest influences on teenagers were found to be:

1. Mother, father.
2. Teachers.
3. Friends, peers.
4. Minister, priest, rabbi.
5. Youth club leaders, scoutmasters, coaches, etc.
6. Popular heroes, sports idols, etc.
7. Grandparents, uncles, aunts.
8. TV, records, movies, radio, etc.
9. Magazines.
10. Advertising.

By 1980 this had changed to:

1. Friends, peers. (up from 3)
 2. Mother, father. (down from 1)
 3. TV, radio, records, movies (up from 8)
 4. Teachers. (down from 2)
 5. Popular heroes. (up from 6)
 6. Minister, priest, rabbi. (down from 4)
 7. Newspapers, magazines. (up from 9)
 8. Advertising. (up from 10)
 9. Youth club leaders, scoutmasters, coaches, etc. (down from 5)
 10. Grandparents, uncles, aunts, etc. (down from 7)
- (cont'd on page 3)



Daily I Will Praise God

Psalm 145:1-7

- I. Much has been said about this Psalm:
 - A. David's favorite--how do we know that?
 - B. One of the last of the acrostic and so rather the alphabetic Psalm of which there are eight in all.
 - C. Jews said, "He who praise or prays this Psalm from the heart three times daily was preparing himself for the praise of the world to come."
 - D. It sets forth the praise of God in several forms:
 1. First, I will extol thee.
 2. Second, I will praise thee.
 3. Third, I will bless thee.
 - E. It's pointed out (in P.C.) that there are those for whom we praise, but do not bless; we may praise men for genius, skill and integrity and righteousness, but we do not bless them unless not only is their character admirable, but also we have been brought into contact with them and have had personal knowledge and realization of their goodness; then we bless as well as praise.
 - F. This Psalm is pure praise and can be used as a model to praise God.

G. Hard to divide but note:

1-7	Praise	God	for	his	fame
8-10	"	"	"	"	goodness
11-13	"	"	"	"	Kingdom
14-16	"	"	"	"	Providence
17-21	"	"	"	"	mercies

H. Others divided it:

1-7	Praise	for	God's	greatness
8-16	"	"	"	mercies
17-21	"	"	"	righteousness

I. No other Psalm bears "The Praise of David."

J. No thanks is expressed only Praise for God.

1. We want to look at the first seven verses.
2. We want to challenge us to Praise God.

II. To the Psalm itself.

A. "I will extol thee, my God O King."

1. "I will" is a firm personal resolve.
2. "I will" comes four times:
 - a) I will extol (v-1).
 - b) I will bless (v-1).
 - c) I will bless (v-2).
 - d) I will praise (v-2).
3. Personal individually, determinedly I resolve.

4. Remember that the dominant faculty of our nature is not feeling, but will.
 5. One wrote: "When God says my son, give me thine heart" he means not the feeling, but the will, and if that be ever on God's side, everything else will fall into its proper position. Let the will be right and the feelings will give way."
 6. How determined are we to praise God?
- B. I will bless thy name forever and ever.
1. What is our response to God?
 2. What feelings should the greatness and goodness of God call for from us?
 3. How should we utter it?
 4. Is our determination born of experience, sincerity, deliberation, warmth.
 5. Are we in love with God?
 6. He is saying "Write it down as a bond" - I will extol God.
 7. I will offer every form of praise.
 8. You are my God--no distant abstract of mere ideal diety, but one who is my own perpetual benefactor and helper.

9. I cling to Him - my God!
 10. Note the my.
 11. You are my mighty King, the divine character for all time, for all eternity.
 12. Very personal - we wish God well.
 13. It is a growing exercise.
 14. Praise is not discharged by proxy.
 15. First of several "bless."
 16. It deepens and sweetens the senses.
 17. Forever and ever.
 - a) Continuously.
 - b) In all experiences of life.
 - c) Many will begin, but I will last with staying power.
 - d) Duration a full one - no end-second ever shows without close.
- C. "Every day will I bless thee" (v-2).
1. God's royalty arouses our loyalty.
 2. Praise not only for all times and tenses, past and present.
 3. Irrespective of daily circumstances, I will praise God.
 4. Daily we will see cause for doing this.
 5. Not a matter of holy days, but every day is holy.

6. We love his works, his word, but "thee," God Himself.
7. Can't extol an abstraction.
8. Every day - dark or bright as we thank God for a beautiful day-rain or shine.
9. Praise: personal, daily, enthusiastic, perpetual.
10. Bless thee--repetition shows a fixedness of his purpose.

D. I will praise thy name forever.

1. Praise is the only part of duty in which we are presently engaged that is lasting.
2. Praise til the end of time.

2 Chron. 29:30

3. Praise is the thankful, lowly, loving worship of God.
4. Name.
 - a) Whole attribute of God.
 - b) Stands for ordinance of worship.

E. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

1. No part of God's greatness that is not worthy of praise.
2. Great - breath of empire.
 - Length - everlasting.
 - Depth - heart of man.
 - Height - above all kings.
 - Power - rules absolutely.

3. Greatness not traced out.

4. Unsearchable.

a) When we meditate most and search most studiously, we are still surrounded by the unknowable.

b) What's the greatest thing of God to you?

F. Works to another and shall declare his mighty acts.

1. The whole of an existing generation needs to praise God - or have we lost our children?

2. It is especially essential of parents that they teach this to their children.

3. Duty is urgent - we have so little time.

4. If we do not obey this command no one else will.

5. If your parents taught you, then you have the pressing obligation to teach your own.

6. To whom much is given much is required.

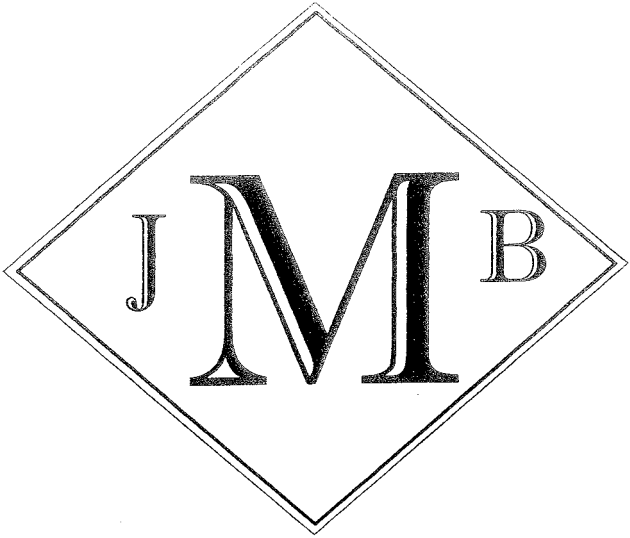
7. Let there be a tradition of praise-instruct your descendants in this hallowed exercise.

8. Do we praise God before our children?

9. Each generation contributes its chapter.

10. The incense will ever burn on
our altar.
- G. I will speak of the glorious honor of
thy majestic and of thy wondrous
works.
1. Can't turn it all over to the next
generation--I will speak--I
personally must do so.
 2. Speak, muse, deeply ponder.
 3. Think of his majestic appearances--
those who saw his effulgence
shrank from him.
 4. God dwells in inexcessible light
which no man can approach.
 5. His splendor dazzles and
bewilders mortal sight--even his
sunsets.
 6. Speak-at large, entering into
particulars.
 7. Whatever speaks of God is
majestic, honorable, glorious.
 8. His least is greater than man's
highest.
 9. Our obligation to rehearse what he
has done.
 10. His greatness.
 - a) Let not his greatness pass
away in silence.
 - b) Warn men of his greatness.
 - c) Delight in speaking to another
about God.

- d) Best comply with what he wants done.
 - e) All are enamoured of greatness
 - f) Tell it not in a half-hearted way - Snookie Lusk "if it ever hurt us can't tell it."
- H. They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness and shall sing of thy righteousness.
1. We are armed with "fearsome facts."
 2. Abundantly - boiling, bubbling like a fountain.
 3. Sacred fluency.
 4. Great goodness.
 5. Say it and sing it - declare in speech and song.



GETTING THE CHURCH TO PRAY

Ps 145:18

I. For anyone to oppose prayer is to oppose the Prince of Prayer.

A. I do think there are terms we need to see. We encourage:

1. Better prayers in the assembly - Table, etc. - so a training class.

2. We enjoy & encourage home prayers - Power for Today.

3. We ask for more individual prayers.

4. But just now want "social prayers" - as we get various members to pray for other members.

B. We must never abandon NT terms, but a loaded one of man's creation we can easily discard - such as prayer partners.

1. Crossroads.

2. Oral Roberts & his current \$240 request.

II. Power in Social Prayer 1st - How to do it later.

A. Power. I Jn 5:14-15 (Recd)

Acts 1:4 "And, being assembled together with them,

2:46 "And they, continuing daily with one accord

4:24 "And when they heard that, they lifted up th

1. Accord, from it comes our Eng. word "symphony" or harmony of thot.

2. Can be secret.

Matt. 6:6 "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into th

B. Others must be on our mind.

1. Paul prayed & told them tho at time they may not have known it.

Rom. 1:9 "For God is my witness, whom I serve with

1 Tim 2:2 "In all godliness & honesty" 2.

Phil. 1:4 "Always in every prayer of mine for you all

2. Jesus did. 1 Cor 2:16 Our hearts are Christ's

Matt. 19:13 "Then were brought unto him little childr

3. Horner, "The less we pray for ourselves & the more we pray for others, the near we will approach the spiritual conception of true prayer & the greater assurance we will have that our prayers will be answered" (Let us Pray Book).

4. 1st prayer of Bible - Abraham prays for others. People of the plain)

5. Christ last words before cross, prayed disciples might be kept in the truth.

6. Real benefit - lifts us out of ourselves & into others.

7. We reach people & places we can't any other way.

8. We thus have the highest interest in others.

9. It shows our faith in God & His promises.

10. Puts us in readiness to cooperate c these prayers.

a.) Card on sanctify.

III. How Can We Get WE To Do It More?

A. Secret Pal.

B. Elders give out cards to ones assigned them or else by rows.

1.) I'll preach on prayer - 2 Sundays.

2. Let this be part of the hour.

C. I'd like to see it as a special program: "Exercise or Operation: Remembrance."

1. Ask for volunteers.

2. Assign reasons for praying.

D. Have a luncheon & meet your "Closet Keeper" or "Burden Bearer" or "Love Leader."

1 Tim 2:8

godliness & gravity
decoration

Rev. & dignity

godly & respectful in every way

ful observance of religious

standards of morality

Col 4:2

be consistent & unwearyed

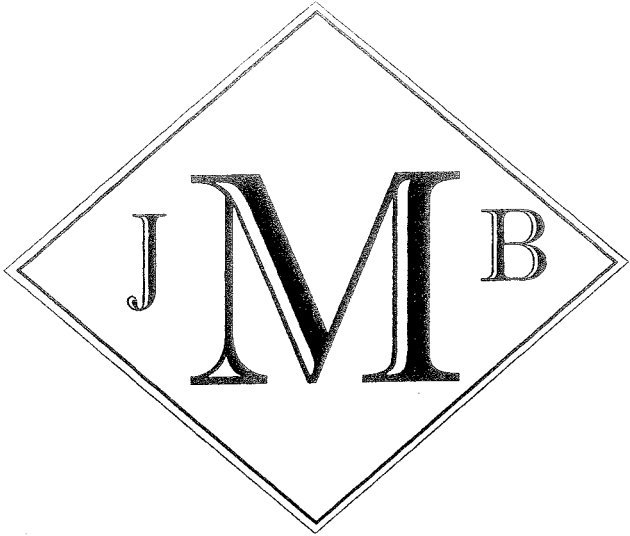
Be alert & thankful

Watch for God's ans. & remember to

be thankful when they come

Elders-Deacons-Preachers Seminar,

3-5-83



THINK COLD

Ps. 147:12-20

I. In any effort to be seasonal, I have to change sermons

A. Was preaching on Spiritual Gardening & soils
Matt. 13:2

B. In record breaking weather now turn to "cold" as
we had the lowest recorded 3/1 ever--10°.

II. There is the Poetry of the Ps. 147:12-20.

A. Note things he gives - Nation's well-being.

1. Security - bars.
2. Homes - children.
3. Prosperity.
4. Religion.

B. Interesting details.

1. God gives in great abundance.
2. Obedience brings blessings.
3. Poetry - ice like bread crumbs scattered.
4. God only has to speak & it's done.
5. All need time of soul culture.
6. All God makes is beautiful--frost & snow are
God's plowing. Penetrates - brings chemicals.

III. Wise Man speaks of cold.

A. Cold shows proper timing.

Prov. 20:4 "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the

1. At time of harvest sluggard plows now (lit.)

- a.) Best time.
- b.) Cold will later help.

2. Beg in harvest - have nothing.

- a.) Neglect to plow at right time, when you ask for
harvest none will be forthcoming.

- b.) Put off tilling = put off success - no crop to reap
- c.) Spanish proverb, "By the street of By & By one arrives at the house of Never."

3. We need to know proper time to do our work.

B. Faithfulness Refreshes.

Prov. 25:13 "As the cold of snow in the time of harvest

1. Doesn't mean you want a snowstorm in harvest, but rather the refreshment the snow of Hermon brings to a sweaty harvester.

2. Faithful messenger brings refreshment.

C. Cold Shows Folly of Inappropriate action or timing

Prov. 25:20 "As he that taketh away a garment in cold

1. 3 things cited that are wrong.

a.) Take away garment in cold.

b.) Vinegar on nitre.

c.) Songs to a heavy heart.

2. Take away garment.

3. Vinegar on Nitre.

a.) A natural alkali - carbonate of soda - used in washing & cooking.

b.) Pour on vinegar & it effervesces, thus neutralizes.

c.) Spoils a useful article.

4. Sing songs.

a.) Can't cheer sad heart c silly songs.

b.) We learn to weep c those that weep.

Rom. 12:15 "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

c.) Some deeds are totally inapt.

d.) Let's not be out of tune c the occasion.

- e.) Don't be accused of thoughtlessness or want of sympathy.
- f.) **Abstain** from the inopportune.
- g.) What's valuable one time is misplaced another.
- (1) I am Grimaldi

(Joy in the Morning)

D. Cold can show a blessing.

Prov. 25:25 "As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news to a weary soul."

1. Man appreciates being relieved (watch 5:30 news = indigestion 10:00 - have insomnia).
2. Kids, "Why don't you call me?"
3. Good news from mission field stirs heart.
4. Cultivate the acceptable.
5. Cheer the depressed.
6. Guide in perplexity.

Jesus came from far country c good news of salvation.

West End 3-2-80

On a cross country Route 75
outside Idaho Falls: SPEED
LIMIT 55. THOSE OBEYING
MOVE TO THE RIGHT AND
DON'T BLOCK TRAFFIC. —

Funny Funny World.

