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## McInteer Sermon Outlines - Corinthians, 2

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# EACH MAN NEEDS TO KNOW HIMSELF

II Cor. 1:1-2

I. An imperative in life is:

- A. Know who I am.
- B. Know who you are.
- C. Know where we are going.
- D. Know things I use to get there.

II. All this Paul handles in a 2 verse Introduction.

A. I know who I am.

1. My name is Paul.

a.) Ancient style of letter writing was to name 1st the writer, then the addressed, then a greeting. He does all this with a little elaboration.

b.) We start a book c man personal references.

c.) Erdman said are "recorded the most dramatic moments in life, plus actual motives, impulses, struggles & yearnings."

d.) But look at Paul.

(1) 1st mentioned Acts 13:9. (*Earlier Saul, Acts 9:3*)

(2) Why chose Paul (little) as name?

((a)) Show self little - Augustine.

((b)) Small physically. "A man small in size, bald-headed, bandy-legged, well built c eyebrows meeting, rather long nose, full of grace - for sometimes he seemed like a man, & sometimes he had the countenance of an angel."

((c)) Humble.

I Tim. 1:15 "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of c

Eph. 3:8 "Unto me, who am less than the least of all  
the saints

((d)) Name never regarded as complimentary in NT.

2. He was an apostle.

- a.) Wide range of apostles (one sent, messenger) - Barnabas, i.e. Acts 14:14
- b.) Gave room for false to enter in.
- c.) Became a more demanding term.

1 Cor. 9:1 "Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have Acts 1:22 "Beginning from the baptism of John, unto th Matt. 10:2 "Now the names of the twelve apostles are

- d.) Paul always says he's an apostle - tho challenged except in 1 & 2 Thess., Phil. & Philemon.
- e.) 9 out of 13X says he is.
- f.) He must speak c the authority of God since he's an apostle.

3. He's inseparably connected with Jesus.

- a.) "Christ" originally an adjective - "anointed."
- b.) Became a proper name like Jesus.
- c.) God's will made him an apostle.

(1) Not a religious interloper nor an ecclesiastical imposter - Laurin.

(2) Apostleship not ecclesiastically conferred nor reward of meritorious religious service. *with*

d.) Does God send folks (preachers) today in a call?

Rom. 10:15 "And how shall they preach, except they b

1 Cor. 1:17 "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to p

e.) Is there one message to preach that would meet the needs of man & do we know what it is?

f.) Who are you, anyhow?

g.) Is life an endless maze or are there purposes behind us?

4. Also had a buddy in Timothy.

a.) Most precious of all to the heart of Paul.

b.) Not an apostle but a true child.

c.) He's "the brother" - definite article shows he's well known.

d.) He had nothing to do c writing the letter.

e.) Paul stood by his scorned helper.

I Cor. 16:10-11 "Now if Timotheus come, see that he

f.) Great brotherhood c whom we unite.

B. Who Are You?

1. It's the Church of God at Corinth.

2. Church not Paul's creation or voluntary human assn. but a divinely established brotherhood.

3. Strange to find church at Corinth.

4. Noted for immorality, license, pagan impurity.

5. Capital also power of gospel there.

6. Saints.

(a) Unites all believers - saints, disciples, brethren

(b) Saint not an artificial name for a select few.

(c) Coffman, "Legitimacy of congregation depends more on ideals & intentions of heart than on performance."

7. Achai = Southern part of Greece.

Macedonia = northern part.

8. Are we on our way to glory.

C. Things with which I work.

1. Grace.

a.) Unmerited favor.

b.) Empowers.

2 Cor. 8:9 "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Cl

c.) Mentions at start & end of each epistle.

d.) Always proceeds peace.

2. Peace.

a.) Not in material security.

b.) Chances & changes take their toll.

c.) Heavenly peace.

3. Via God & Jesus.

a.) Equality of two seen.

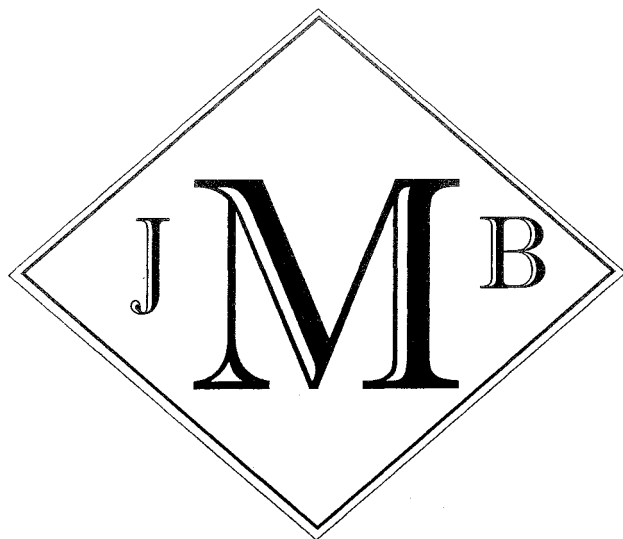
b.) God bestows all His gifts to us thru His Son.

c.) Blessings thus jointly given.

d.) God source, origin.

e.) Jesus - channel of communication.

*Next End Med. Night Class 1-9-80*



## THAT REMINDS ME OF HIM

2 Cor. 1:12-14

- I. I read a passage and think "That reminds me of ----."
- A. But I have that backwards. The reason I say this is because the person I'm remembering has earlier read that same Scripture and seeks to make it the model of his life.
- B. How grateful I am for those who pattern themselves after the truth of Christ.
- C. I believe Joe Keller did exactly this.
- II. May I tell you a few things about him.
- A. Dr. Joe and Ruthie.
  - 1. He was my dentist via his invitation.
  - 2. Was he good? I went to sleep in his chair.
  - 3. Though he'd give me a lecture on enamel--looking away from me--he'd suddenly pounce into my mouth with both hands!
  - 4. Ruth was the one that taught flossing.
  - 5. What were both doing?--giving me a better grasp of life--replacing alloy with gold.
- B. Dr. Joe was a deacon and Bible teacher.
  - 1. Knew God's truth and taught it.
  - 2. Fearless expression of his beliefs.
  - 3. Was about as strong in his opinions.
  - 4. First man who ever proposed I make \$100 a week preaching.

C. Dr. Joe was grateful.

1. Loved Ruthie with a passion, taking care of her handsomely.
2. Loved his boys--both of them deacons.
3. Loved West End and served her well.
4. Loved his patients and his friends.

III. Now I want to go to my Passage:

2 Cor. 1:12-14

A. "For our rejoicing is this" *Our Boast!*

1. How many things are ours as a Christian that calls us to "Rejoice evermore." *Phil 4-4*
2. Though Paul would speak of a personal matter--all of life has its happy moments.

B. The Testimony of our Conscience.

1. Makes claim of his sincerity.
2. His character would stand the searching gaze of God.
3. This a statement of absolute integrity as he dealt with members of the church.
4. Conscience must be regulated by the Scrp.
5. Remember Isaiah--Don't have this:

Isa. 44:20 "Is there not a lie in my right hand"

C. Came in Simplicity.

1. Can pray for him if he treats others fairly.
2. Great advantage comes in appealing to records.

*3. Word for holiness*

*4. Single minded generosity*

### Transparency of Character 3.

#### D. Lived in Godly Sincerity

1. Perfect openness to God.
2. Life must entirely and unreservedly be devoted to God.
3. Sincerity from either the rolling and shaking it a sieve so that the purged may be unadulterated or else what is found unstained as examined in the light. *Test of strongest light*

#### E. Not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, we have our conversation in the world and the more abundantly to you-ward.

*Disclaim worldly wisdom*

1. Sometimes Christians hold conflicting views of the will of God--we ask why?
2. Is this, even in tragedies, the will of God? *Conversation is Conduct*

#### F. Grace of God

*Habitual*

1. There comes a judgement and he will give reason for all things.
2. To do the will of God should be our most consuming desire.

1 Cor. 10:31 "Do all to the glory of God"

Isa. 56:4 Speaks of eunuchs who

"Choose the things that please me" and  
"Take hold of my covenant"

3. Do nothing to accomplish our end  
that will not bear the light.

4. Read what Hezekiah said of his life:

Isa. 38:4 Walked before thee in truth

With a perfect heart

Done that which is good in thy sight

G. It is the duty of every man:

1. To see his lost estate and turn to God--seek means of our recovery.  
(Sheep an animal that does not retrace his steps from lost route)

Zech. 13:1 "There shall be a fountain opened...  
for sin & for uncleanness"

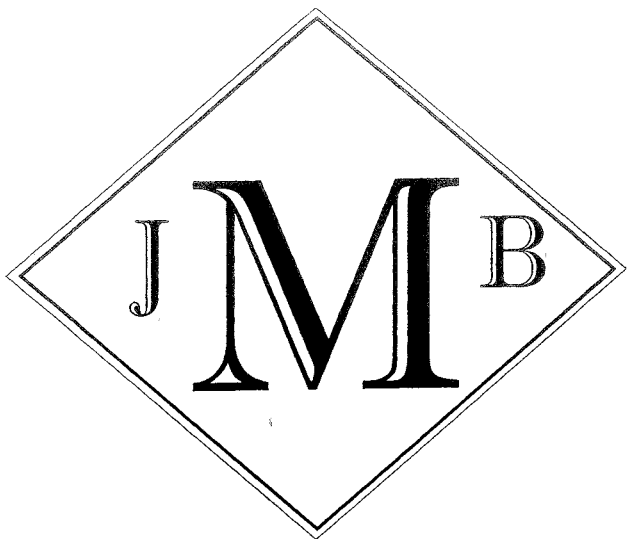
2. Having found salvation, delight in it and serve God.

Ps. 37:9 "Those that wait upon the Lord shall  
inherit the earth"

Funeral, Dr. Joe Keller - 12/14/96

Olive Branch, MS (C.W.Bradley) - 12/15/96

*Franklin, KY - 12/29/96*



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B. How grateful I am for those who pattern themselves after the truth of Christ.

C. I believe C. W. Bradley did exactly this.

II. May I tell you a few things about him.

A. Things about C. W.

1. Chose a lady that was Ward-Belmont schooled--with all that that means.

2. Successes in school as a single man.

a) Worked his way to a good education.

b) Pursued it to advanced degrees.

c) Bachelor of Ugliness.

d) Class President.

e) Met Margaret Trousdale with mule and wagon at Kennett, AR.

f) Baptized her husband-to-be.

g) Spokesman for Graduate School.

3. Preached in hard places in NY and Carolina.

Rom. 15:20-21 READ

B. Services to church with a great record of success.

1. Heart attacks.

2. Roberta's illnesses.
3. Disappointments come but nothing stopped him.
4. Taught children--taught in Universities--all to glory of God and devoid of any slander.

C. His ministry marked by encouragement to others. *Thick and lush with*

1. At your meetings. *sermons*
2. Rebuked when he felt error or unfairness came.
3. Utterly dependable.
4. Scrupulously moral.

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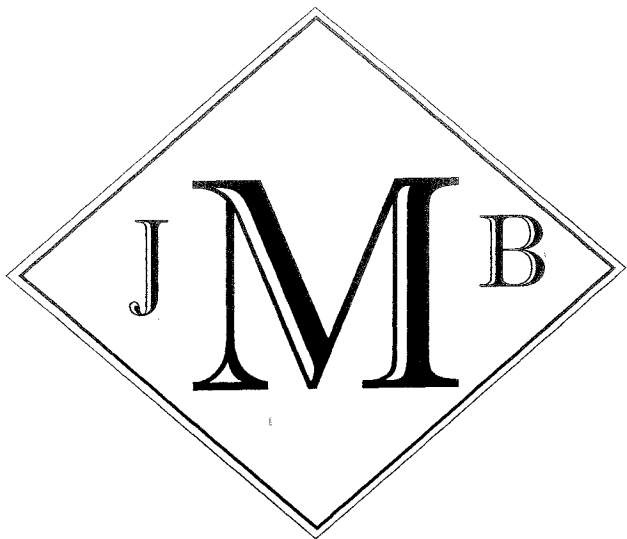
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## WHEN CHARACTER IS X-RAYED

II Cor. 1:12-14

I. All of us are called on to "explain ourselves."

A. As Christians, with our high claim, we are ever subject to a spiritual X-Ray.

B. Motives, actions, deeds are called in question; what is our answer?

1. Paul severely criticized at Corinth.

2. His character assailed--let's see what he said as all must defend our manner of living.

3. "Blessed is the man that has nothing to hide."

II. Paul's Openness *"Proud Confidence" AV*

A. "For our rejoicing is this" (KJ)

"Now this is our boast" (NIV)

1. Rejoicing, proud confidence.

2. Our boast is a good word.

B. The Testimony of our Conscience.

1. He will present his conviction.

2. He knows his aims are simple and his purpose holy.

3. Conscience.

a) Moral judgement.

b) Approves when we walk in light of word.

c) His clear.

Acts. 23:1

d) How do we stand before a testing conscience?

C. "We have had our conversation in the world."

1. We are all here. *Behaved in the world (RSV)*

2. We are all living today.

3. Conversation.

a) Conduct

b) To turn up, overturn and then turn back to normal.

c) To turn around.

d) Not normal discourse & talking.

4. World.

a) Everywhere--not in contrast with the church or worldliness.

b) Common day to day living.

D. This Conversation in 3 Ways:

1. Simplicity - Holiness (NIV)

a) Without doubleness.

b) Sincere.

c) Candor.

d) Frankness.

e) Singlemindedness.

2. Godly Sincerity. "That from God"

a) Clearness.

b) What's more serious a charge than to say one is not sincere--oath devoid of mental reservation in Pres. oath.

c) Kill confidence in one by innuendo.

d) Test by sunlight & found to be unstained, pure substance, unadulterated.

e) Purity--can bear the test.

f) It's sincerity from God.

3. Not fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God.

a) Man who can win only by carnal purpose is not of God.

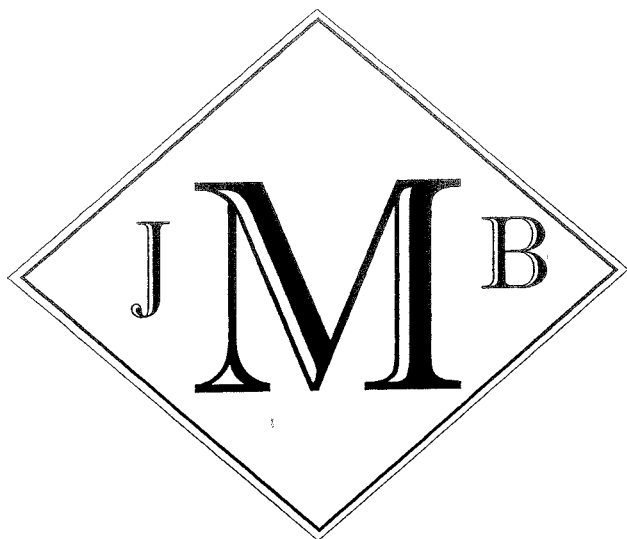
- b) Fleshly wisdom vs. grace of God.
- c) Examine motives--what do we ever do with absolutely unmixed motives?
- 4. In all this especially mindful of Corinthian brethren. *Rem cor- Sinners*
  - a) Behaved toward them above *et 1st* reproach.
  - b) Interrelations of Christians underscores the importance of confidence in each other & steadfastness to one another.

Central, Tuscaloosa, AL (Noon) - 4/11/94

MY GRANDFATHER, an ardent lay preacher, was concerned that he was preaching only to the converted. Then one day the deacon rushed up to him after a service and announced: "Somebody has taken my new raincoat from the cloakroom."

Grandfather raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed with delight, "The Lord be praised. We're getting the sinners in at last!"

—Contributed by Mary Carter



## RETREAT AND TRIUMPH

2 Cor. 2:12-17

I. Does a pitcher throw a no-hitter every day?

A. Are the biscuits always right?

B. Does every morning the car start perfectly?

C. Is the preacher as helpful one Sunday as he is another?

D. Should we expect Christians to always be 100% effective?

1. If not, does that lower standard--just how low?

2. If we strive for constant perfection, will we make it or blow up?

3. Does it comfort you to see the humanity of another?

II. Paul Takes a Powder.

2 Cor. 2:12 "Furthermore when I came to Troas to preach

A. Setting.

1. Paul nowhere tells a connected story of his recent plans & travels.

2. Titus was to travel North to Corinth, east thru Macedonia & meet Paul somewhere on a pre-arranged route & place.

B. Came to Troas.

1. "As to preach" - for, eis, to preach - not because he already had.

2. Mentioned by Luke.

Acts 16:8 "And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas"

Acts 20:7-12 "And upon the first day of the week, when we gathered together, Paul stood up, and said unto us, Men of

C. Door Opened of the Lord.

1. God controls plans & travels of Paul.

2. Did he say how he opened it?

3. Does he do it today?

### D. No Rest in Spirit.

1. Mind could not rest, anxious over Corinth & Titus.
2. Did he worry?
3. Was it wrong to so do?
4. No man at best when concerned over continued failure of friends.
5. "Had" is a perfect tense. Feels this uneasiness as tho still present.
6. NO is emphatic.
7. Rest = relief, relax.

### E. Found not Titus my Bro.

1. Deeply loved him.
2. Earnestly wanted a report.

### F. Took Leave for Macedonia.

1. Normally, he'd seize any opportunity to evangel
  2. But couldn't stay, wanted to see Titus so keenly.
  3. It caused him to pass up an evangelist opportunity
  4. Macedonia - Greece - North.
  5. So relieved when word came broke into doxology
  6. His departure not fickleness as he's accused.
- 2 Cor. 7:2-7 "Receive us; we have wronged no man,
7. His parish entire Gentile world.

## III. Paul & the Triumph.

### A. His doxology - thanks be to God!

1. Are you ever so full you have to say something.
2. Do events unfold that so warm your heart you burst out in adoration.

### B. God causes us to Triumph in Christ.

1. This capable of 2 meanings:

a.) Roman conqueror led slaves in humiliation as he saw his victory.

"Naked I wait thy love's uplifted stroke!

My harness piece by piece thou hast hewn from me

And smitten me to my knees

I am defenseless utterly."

Thompson "Hound of Heaven"

b.) Paradox - in bondage to Christ is secret to freedom.

c.) Saw life as triumph, not failure.

d.) His continual triumph.

e.) Best part of triumphant pageant.

2. Note clipping from Barclay.

C. Varied Reactions.

1. We are the Savor of his knowledge in every place

a.) Message, not man, gives the sweet aroma.

b.) Gospel serviceable everywhere.

c.) Does the incense of our goodness fill the city?

d.) Note catholicity of gospel & fact he can radiate it everywhere.

2. Salvation or Perdition.

Death to Death or Life to Life.

a.) By our reaction to gospel we have either salvation or ruin.

b.) Gospel confirms some in their sin.

c.) Keep however the balance of sovereignty of God & the responsibility of man.

d.) See its power - life or death matter.

e.) Some folk made better, bad folk worse. It's like light that blinds the sick eye & illuminates the good.

- f.) Some have total loss of spiritual sense & go die.
- g.) To reject gospel is to perish.
- h.) Some have heavier ruin because gospel was preached to them.

#### D. Who's Sufficient?

- 1. Qt. implies he is.
- 2. Gospel is too.
- 3. Paul really didn't ans. his qt. - left it dangling.

#### E. Peddlers.

- 1. Many corrupt gospel.
  - a.) Use it falsely to selfish ends.
  - b.) Like peddlers who use every cheap trick to make a financial profit.
  - c.) Business is for themselves & not the good of the people.
  - d.) They weakened it, adulterated gospel.
  - e.) Served cheap wine, well watered.
  - f.) He's an unholy huckster.
  - g.) Some add to gospel to make it more palatable to others.

#### F. Way it should be!

- 1. Sincere.
  - a.) Be a channel of truth, not an exhibitionist.
  - b.) Unmixed honesty; not "I hope no one thinks of that passage! It blows my argument."
  - c.) Sincerity should dominate us.
- 2. Of God.
  - a.) Truth commissioned by God.
  - b.) Desire nothing but pure truth.
  - c.) Doctrine came to you pure, keep it that way.

d.) Act by his command.

3. In sight of God.

a.) Continually depend on Christ.

b.) His eye is always on us.

IV. Great the Holy Spirit condemns neither the Leave Taking nor the Triumph. Both happened to the same man.

Westend 2/80 (2X) was nice

# THE LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIANS

## IN THE TRIUMPH OF CHRIST

### 2 Corinthians 2: 12-17

When we had come to Troas to tell the good news of Christ, even when a door of opportunity stood open to us in the Lord, I had no rest for my spirit, because I did not find Titus, my brother, there. But thanks be to God who at all times leads us in the train of His triumph in Christ, and who, through us, displays the perfume of the knowledge of Him in every place; for we are the sweet scent of Christ in God to those who are destined for salvation and to those who are destined for destruction. To the one we are a perfume from death, to the other a perfume from life to life. And who is adequate for these tasks? We do not, as so many do, make a traffic of the word of God but, as from utter purity of motives, as from God, in the very presence of God in Christ we speak.

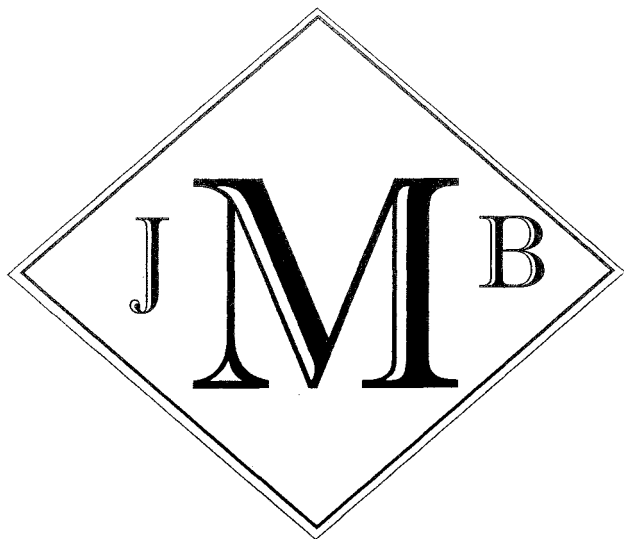
PAUL begins by telling how his anxiety to know what was happening in Corinth made him so restless that he could not wait in Troas, although a fruitful field was there, and sent him off to meet Titus who had not yet arrived. And then there comes his shout of triumph to God who in the end has brought all things to a happy ending.

Verses 14 to 16 are difficult to understand by themselves, but when they are set against the background which was in Paul's thoughts they become a vivid picture. Paul speaks of being led in the train of the triumph of Christ; and then he goes on to speak of being the sweet scent of Christ to men, a perfume which to some is the perfume of death and to others the perfume of life.

In Paul's mind there is the picture of a Roman *Triumph* and of Christ as a universal conqueror. The highest honour which could be given to a victorious Roman general was a *Triumph*. Before he could win it he must satisfy certain conditions. He must have been the actual commander-in-chief in the field. The campaign must have been completely finished, the region pacified and the victorious troops brought home. Five thousand of the enemy at least must have fallen in one engagement. A

## THE LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIANS

positive extension of territory must have been gained, and not merely a disaster retrieved or an attack repelled. And the victory must have been won over a foreign foe and not in a civil war. In an actual Triumph the procession of the victorious general marched through the streets of Rome to the Capitol in the following order. First, there came the state officials and the senate. Then there came the trumpeters. Then there were carried the spoils taken from the conquered land. For instance, when Titus conquered Jerusalem the seven-branched candlestick, the golden table of the shew-bread and the golden trumpets were carried through the streets of Rome. Then there came pictures of the conquered land and models of conquered citadels and ships. There followed the white bull for the sacrifice which would be made. Then there walked the wretched captives, the enemy princes, leaders and generals in chains, shortly to be flung into prison and in all probability almost immediately to be executed. Then there came the lictors bearing their rods, followed by the musicians with their lyres. Then there came the priests swinging their censers with the sweet-smelling incense burning in them. And then there came the general himself. He stood in a chariot drawn by four horses. He was clad in a purple tunic embroidered with golden palm leaves, and over it a purple toga marked out with golden stars. In his hand he held an ivory sceptre with the Roman eagle at the top of it, and over his head a slave held the crown of Jupiter. After him there rode his family, and finally there came the army wearing all their decorations and shouting *Io triumphe!* their cry of triumph. As the procession moved through the streets, all decorated and garlanded, amid the shouting, cheering crowds, it was a tremendous day, a day which might happen only once in a lifetime. That is the picture that is in Paul's mind. He sees the conquering Christ marching in triumph throughout the world, and himself in that conquering train. It is a triumph which, Paul is certain, nothing can stop. We



# WHAT I'VE GOT & WHAT I GIVE

## II Cor. 1:21-24

I. In a most remarkable statement Paul tells--really itemizes, the matchless blessings Heaven gives its children. Immediately afterward, he shows in one incidence how this affects his life.

II. So I ask us--what have we got that's so magnificent, and how are we using it--is our life truly affected by Heaven's gifts?

### III. The Four Things Cited

2 Cor. 1:21 "Now he which stablishes"

#### A. 1st of the 4--Stablishes

1. Establishment is most comforting,  
be it--

a) Home

b) Work

c) Fellowship

d) Certainly Christianity

*what security has the  
preacher where you are?*

2. One translation--make us firm.

a) Arkansas had headlines about ~~safe~~ bridges. #1

b) It's like the bolted door feeling.

3. Note it is "In Christ."

a) Closer union.

b) More like Him daily.

c) It's in present tense--we are  
growing in this.

4. His message centered in Jesus.

5. Every promise of God is made possible  
by Jesus.

6. Jesus did what the Father ~~would~~ <sup>WANTED</sup>--  
so must we.

B. He has anointed us.

1. We belong to God.
2. We are branded as God's property.
3. If we belong to God, we must be faithful with our brothers in all dealing with them.
4. Act of anointing in NT always act of God(??) (Lipscomb)

1 Jn. 2:20-21 *We have an unction from the Holy One*

1 Pet. 2:9 *Show forth the praises of Him who*

C. Sealed Us

1. Seal shows ownership & security.
2. Guarantee a common term used in commercial & legal circles--as we'll see in "earnest."
3. Interpreters said this is baptism--believer is marked by God as owned and accepted--he is under God's protection.
4. Seal guarantees genuineness--is a warrant of safety--is an imprint of likeness.
5. Authenticate.

*Imprimatur of God*

Rom. 8:16 *The Spirit bears witness with our spirit*

6. Verifies value.
7. Guarantees quality of the goods--insures safety in transit (as we live day to day).

D. Earnest of the spirit in our hearts.

1. It's like closing a sale, a confirmation of an agreement--each party will carry out the terms of the contract (a la Jones & Johnson with Dallas Cowboys).

2. Also promise of more to come--left Betty as pledge at P.B.
3. A pledge is restored when a debt is paid but an earnest is not taken away but completed.
4. Coffman says all this comes at baptism.
5. Tyndale--word for engagement ring --guarantee a wedding will take place.
6. Holy Spirit is God's downpayment that there is more to follow.
7. He confirms we'll inherit the Kingdom eternally.

sign  
note

IV. Having these 4 things, what does it do to my Daily Behavior?

A. Paul was challenged with fickleness.

1. Can he be trusted? *Bette Davis #2*
2. Why did he change plans to come?
3. Was it caprice, cowardice or personal convenience--or was it out of his consideration for the church?
4. Was the change prompted by pure selfishness? Afraid?

B. Attacks so severe he put himself under oath.

v-23 "Moreover I call God for a record"

1. Asks God's punishment if he is lying.
2. See his conscience open to God's judgement via his penetrating light.
3. He's ready to foreit his life if he's speaking falsely.

## C. Reason for delay--to spare you.

1. Sometimes preachers have to defend character & explain conduct.
2. He felt for them--did not want to come & censor them--give them time to repent. #3 You clasp

13:2

*"If I come again I will not spare"*

3. His coming would cause an unpleasant confrontation.

## D. Barclay sees this when rebuke is necessary.

1. Use it very unwillingly--only when driven to it.
2. Do it in love--never speak just to hurt.
3. Do not domineer--"he cut the cable and gave us a glimpse of blue water"--never domineer but guide & discipline.
4. Rebuke when necessary.

## V. Our Liberty

## A. Not that we have dominion over your faith.

1. Only God has dominion over man--and shortly he's shown how--via faith.
2. Can't dictate what you are to believe but can help toward joy.
3. Private judgement is liable to error but is a risk that must be taken for sake of freedom--without it no one can come to maturity of mind or character. (Interpreter)

## B. Helper of Your Joy

1. This his lofty goal.
2. Jesus grants this as fruit of Spirit.

## C. For By Faith Ye Stand

1. Faith comes by the word.

1 Kings 22:14M. "What the Lord saith unto me;

2. It acknowledges no subjection except to word of God and is not at all liable to the rule of man. (Calvin)
3. Nothing stronger can be said of one's faith than that he stands in it. (DL)
4. 2 little boys, one good, one bad, went out with mud and a basin of water--one to throw mud at the moon, the other to wash it off--what was the moon doing all that time? (Lauren)
5. You have no master over you, you are grounded in the faith.
6. Jesus used power of truth & love--so must we.

OVC Lectureship, Parkersburg, WV - 4/4/94

# Arkansans can breathe <sup>#1</sup> easier crossing bridges

BY JAKE SANDLIN  
Democrat-Gazette Staff Writer

Anyone with a hint of squeamishness can relate to the fear of driving across a long river bridge and morbidly, momentarily wondering if it just might fall right out from under them.

Arkansans can cross with a little less apprehension. What has fallen in the past 10 years is the percentage of substandard bridges in the state — half what it used to be.

"We all feel good about the condition our bridges are in," Roger Almond, chief engineer

for the state Highway and Transportation Department, said last week. "We know the condition of the bridges."

"Still," he added with a cautious tone, "we can't help to have that little fear that we missed something. That would be my personal fear."

There are 3,759 substandard bridges under state, county or city responsibility, or 30 percent of Arkansas' 12,556 bridges, according to Highway Department statistics. (Construction and demolition change numbers

See **BRIDGES**, Page 8A

# Poi tc Ponder

#2

## Bette Davis in *The Lonely Life*:

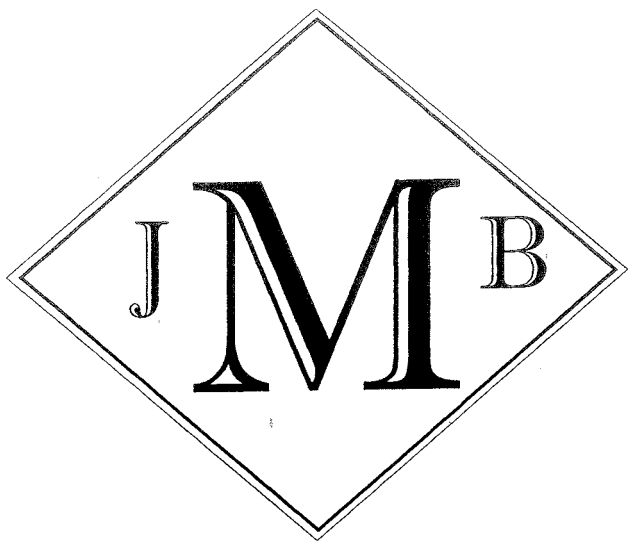
X Morality to me is honesty, integrity, character. Old-fashioned words. There are new words now that excuse everyone. Give me the days of heroes and villains. The people you can bravo or hiss. There was a truth to them that all the slick credulity of today cannot touch. How wonderful it would be to know again where we stand and which side we're on!

—Putnam

—Collected by Sue Baker

X WANTING TO GET ALONG with my new roommate, I tried to ignore his snoring. Soon I found that clapping stirred him from his deep, snoring state, enabling me to fall asleep. One morning, however, after an exceptionally sleepless night when several applauding attempts had failed, I blew up, yelling: "YOU KEPT ME UP ALL NIGHT BECAUSE YOU SNORE IN YOUR SLEEP!"

"You think *that's* bad," he replied. "You *clap* in yours!"



# SUCCESSFUL SPIRITUAL SURGERY

2 Cor. 2:6-8

- I. All of us know cases where physical surgery did not go well--"the operation was a success but the patient died."
- II. We also know when life was saved, recovery achieved.
- III. It works the same way in spiritual matters and I want to tell you of Successful Spiritual Surgery.

2 Cor. 2:6-8 "Sufficient to such a man"

A. The man and his crime.

1. We do not know his name.
  - a) Offender not identified.
  - b) Was it I Cor. 5--man of incest?  
Many doubt this.
  - c) Was it one in 7:12?
2. We do not know his sin, whom he offended nor how.
3. We do know it troubled the church.

B. Erdman makes these points.

1. No church should fail to discipline offending members.
2. The punishment not by the will of any one man but the majority of the church.
3. Supreme purpose of discipline is to reform & reclaim.
4. When he repents, forgive and treat with affection.
5. Severity & lack of sympathy may drive to despair & place him again under the power of Satan.

C. This man had been punished.

1. Hurt the Corinthians more than he hurt Paul.
2. But he knew action was taken against him.
3. Inflicted of many.
  - a) It was not unanimous.
  - b) Was action though of the whole church, not her officers?
  - c) Many implies majority?

D. The Man Repented, so now the church has another obligation.

1. Forgive him.
  - a) You have no other choice nor should you want one.
  - b) Lit. to act graciously toward and to encourage.
  - c) Vindictiveness & unforgiving spirit as sinful as the offender's deeds.

Matt. 18:21-35

- d) Must forgive if we are to be forgiven.
- e) Paul now goes with them that he should now be forgiven.
2. Comfort him.
  - a) Restore.
  - b) Let peace come.
  - d) Be strong together.
3. Avoid Swallow Up With Sorrow.
  - a) Swallow--from lion devouring its prey.

I Pet. 5:8

Heb. 11:29

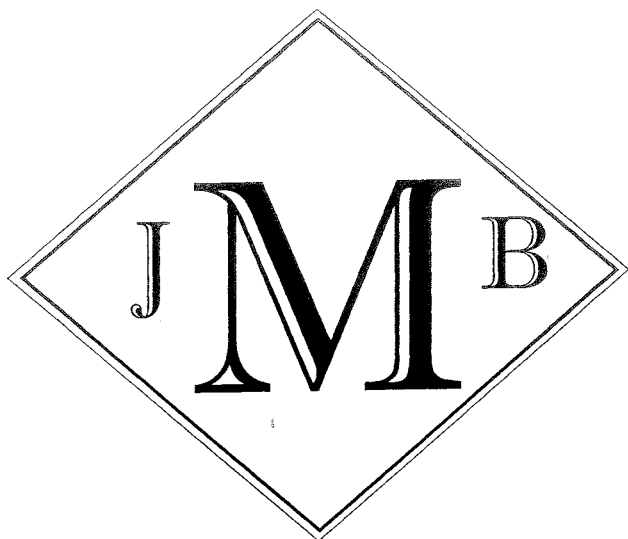
I Cor. 15:54

- b) Work for restoration & reformation of the offender.
- c) Don't force one to give up and be lost.
- d) End of discipline is to save one and deliver him from his sins.
- e) He knows his error--to continue punishment would be wrong.

#### 4. Confirm Your Love

- a) Genuine expressed love exists for him.
- b) Human justice not always performed with an even hand.
- c) Hard to know timing of forgiveness, wish for his success.
- d) Confirm--to validate--show this valid love.
- e) Reaffirmation shows the church had continued to love him even in prison.
- f) Make your love for him a matter of certainty.
- g) True Christian love is spontaneous, unforced, cannot be commanded. (Nelson)
- h) Expressions of love for him ought to be as public & unmistakable as the expression of disapproval. (DL)

E. So here is "surgery" with a happy ending as sin is overcome.



# I JUST CAN'T STAY AND PREACH!

II Cor. 2:12-13

I. In two most unusual verses we see magnificent truths. They are:

- A. It's great to want to preach the gospel.
- B. It's inspirational when the Lord opens the door of opportunity.
- C. It's true there are times when even an apostle cannot preach & seize the opportunity.
- D. It's uplifting to see overriding love for a brother and another congregation that takes precedence over everything.

II. From Ephesus to Troas.

A. "When I came to Troas--"

- 1. Those dear folk must have felt "snakebit." He now resumes narrative broken off in v. 4.
- 2. It was a famous town & district.
  - a) Highly favored Roman area.
  - b) To them represented ancient Troy, cradle of their mythological race--10 miles away.
  - c) Founded 300 BC.
- 3. Yet there earlier but could not stay--vision of Macedonia.

Acts 16:9-11 (READ)

- 4. Now another opportunity and he leaves without any work.
- 5. Later did find a thriving church there.

Acts 20:6-7

2 Tim. 4:13

6. It was here as everywhere he wanted to preach "Christ's gospel"--how worthy the aim!
7. Thus his original plan to preach there thwarted though.
8. Duties do not come in equal measures --we must choose.

B. Secondly, it is great to see the Lord open the door of opportunity.

1. It's God's providential work.

1 Cor. 16:9

Col. 4:3

Acts 14:27

2. It is his work--not man's.
3. Opened for the sake of both preacher and hearer.

Rev. 3:8

Isa. 45:1

4. "Opened of the Lord".
5. Normally we seize what's set before us.

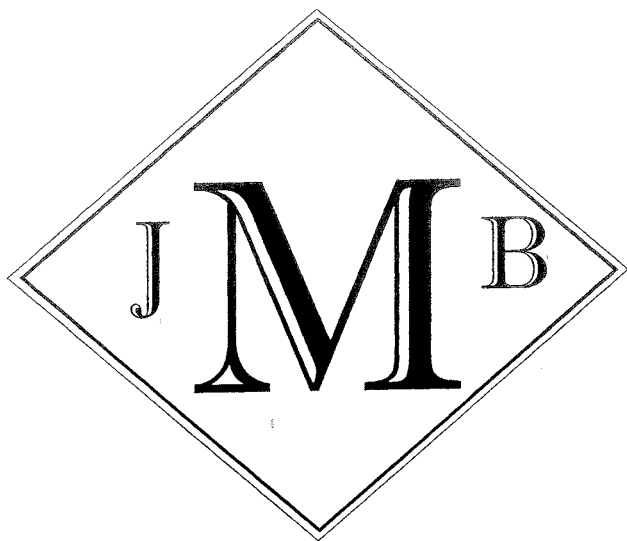
C. But there are times when we humanly cannot seize the opportunity.

v-13 "I had no rest...but taking my leave"

1. It had been tough in Ephesus as he faced much opposition there.
2. Comes to meet Titus and hear how Corinth accepted his "painful letter" only to find no Titus!
3. Added concern of Titus' whereabouts and welfare.
4. Circumstances otherwise would have been favorable for preaching but he

was in such a state of miserable anxiety he lacked strength to avail himself of the opportunity. (P.C.)

5. Perhaps he could not help this anymore than he could a serious illness.
  6. Does the "show have always to go on?" Can we understand a breakdown?
  7. No record of God chastising him.
  8. No wonder we sing one step at a time, dear Savior.
  9. So concerned over Corinth affair & meshing his schedule with Titus, he could not go on. We are human.
  10. Circumstances can render us to be utterly incapable.
  11. Paul left and went to Macedonia--not through the open door. (He'll find Titus and get a good report!)
  12. So if ever you get floored--so did an apostle.
  13. Even Jeremiah said, "I will speak no more in thy name."
- D. It is marvelous to see the love he had for Titus & Corinth even in face of the open door.
1. Paul calls Titus my brother.
  2. Titus not in Acts unless Acts 18:7.
  3. Was a Gentile--got a whole letter to himself. (Gal. 2:1-3)
  4. He is in 2 Cor., Gal., 2 Tim. & Titus.



# THE WAR BETWEEN LETTER AND LAW

II Cor. 3:6-11

I. If anyone is familiar with New Testament expression he surely is with "law & letter", "Spirit & letter."

A. Think of others:

1. Apple of his eye Prov. 7:2.

2. Son in the gospel.

II. Our 1st quest is to see what is being contrasted &, 2ndly, what's the meaning of the contrast.

A. Paul's a Minister of the NT.

1. Not of the letter.

a.) Gram matos.

b.) A thing written.

c.) Character of the alphabet.

d.) Old covenant was based on a written document.

e.) See:

Exo. 34:29-35 "And it came to pass when Moses came

2. But of the Spirit.

a.) Unlikely this means Holy Spirit, yet some so translate it.

b.) From pneuma = breath, wind.

c.) Not a thing written by a scribe, but breathed by the Holy Spirit, says Hobbs.

d.) I see it more as inward, honest application.

B. What does it mean?

1. Some explanations not acceptable:

a.) Moses received a double law, one literal & one spiritual. He wrote the former later God said not write but communicate it only to wise men.

- b.) Scriptures do not possess a superficial sense whereby the limited capacities of multitude get one meaning & the mystic arcane sense applicable to none but a select few. This violates fundamental principle of the Bible.
  - c.) Literal vs. spiritual.  
Actual vs. allegorical.  
Thus don't pay literal attention but be governed by spiritual meaning.
  - d.) Condemnation of written form of teaching.
2. What's closer in meaning?
- a.) Difference between externally written law at Sinai on stone vs. law written internally on heart.
  - b.) No contrast between outward verbal form of Moses law & spirit underlying them.
  - c.) Is it the difference between a written code and one that has the transforming power of the HS?
  - d.) Or is it the old governed wholly from W/out & the new from within. (McGarvey)
  - e.) Or is it condemning slavish obedience that make work mechanical.
  - f.) No cry against the literal. "The literal sense is the root & ground of all, & the anchor that never fails, whereunto if thou cleave thou canst never go out of thy way. And if thou leave the literal sense, thou canst not but go out of the way."

### III. Kill vs. Life.

## A. Kill - Death.

1. Verdict of law breaker is death.

Ezek. 18:4 "The soul that sinneth, it shall die.

Prov. 11:19 "Rtiness/tend to life, evil death

Rom. 5:12 "All have sinned

6:23 "Wages of sin is death

2. Calvin, "The office of the law is to show us the disease in such a way that it shows us no hope of cure; whereas the office of the gospel is to bring a remedy to those who are past hope."

3. 3000 died day law given - 3000 saved at Pentecost

4. Law demands perfect obedience, it's impossible, thus death.

5. Still law revealed God's glory.

6. Law in itself not evil or death dealing.

Rom. 7:10 "Commandment ordained to life,

Prov. 4:4 "Keep my c. & live

7. Old cov. diagnosed disease but gave no cure.

## B. Life.

1. Christ is the only perfect law keeper & thus new man loves God's laws & is able to fulfill its precepts.

2. Christ is believer's righteousness.

3. Christ's obedience reckoned (counter) to the sinner on the ground that the penalty of the sinner's disobedience has been borne by Christ - this is justification. In sanctification whereby the HS causes the believer to grow in obedience and in likeness of Christ.

Eph. 4:13 "Till we all come in the unity of the faith

4. New covenant men are endowed c sense of invigorating spirit & he removes impotency.

#### IV. What's this about Fading?

##### A. Play on Moses face.

1. He did not veil his face to hide the shining but to hide the fading.
2. Longer Moses away from God, more his face faded.
3. Christ needs no veiling - His glory never passes away.
4. Old was born to fade.
5. Israel failed to see this symbolism.
6. All transient things have some glory, but that which abides has a greater one.

##### B. Glory that Excelleth (V. 10).

1. Excell = to throw beyond.
2. Steadfast = steady gaze.
3. Contrasts moon fading with the sun of righteousness.
4. "When sun is risen, no need for lamps."
5. "A candle has no light at all when held in the light of the sun."
6. Unspeakable comfort:

- a.) Everlasting gospel.

Rev. 14:6 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of  
b.) Everlasting covenant.

Heb. 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought ago  
c.) Everlasting salvation.

Heb. 5:9 "And being made perfect, he became the au

7. "2nd best is the worst enemy of the best."

*West End Med. Night 3-12-80.*

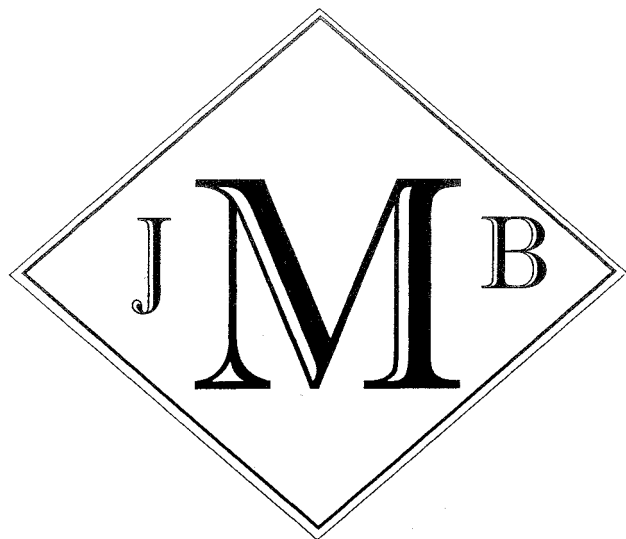
A quotation from Herveius:

"The letter kills in that it causes us to sin knowingly; but the spirit gives life in that it causes us to fulfill what is commanded. That the spirit be added therefore to the letter and the letter to which the spirit gives life no longer kills. Accordingly we ought not to regard the letter as condemned or reprehensible. The letter alone forbidding evil and commanding good, kills the souls of those who transgress it. But the spirit, who through the grace of the new covenant is in the heart of the believers, now gives life to their souls by justifying them, and thereafter will cause their bodies together with their souls to live everlastingly."

---

This quotation from Rudolph Bultmann

"The reason why man's situation under the law is so desperate is not that the law as an inferior revelation mediates a limited or even false knowledge of God. What makes his situation so desperate is the simple fact that prior to faith there is no true fulfillment of the law. That is why the ministration of the law is a ministration of death, or of condemnation; that is why the written code kills; that is why the law is the law of sin and death. The reason why man under law does not achieve rightwising and life is that he is a transgressor of the law that he is guilty before God."



# THE REFLECTION THAT CHANGED A MAN

II Cor. 3:17-18

I. What makes me what I am?

A. Am I what I eat?

B. Am I what I **breathe**?

C. Am I what I drink?

D. Am I what I stare at?

1.) Nudity.

2.) Nothing.

3.) Jesus.

II. Men do reflect what they gaze upon.

II Cor. 3:17-18 "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and w

III. We want to see 4 Points.

A. The Lord is what Spirit?

B. The connection of the Lord & liberty.

C. The change Reflection Brings.

D. At what via results in my life am I gazing?

IV. The Lord is What Spirit?

A. The Trinity is hard to understand, impossible to master.

1. Paul has been discussing the Old & New Testame

2. Veil on face of some under Moses who could not in reading OT see Jesus.

3. On turning to Jesus the veil is taken away.

(a) Now see it fully.

(b) Prophecies take meaning.

(c) Veil was symbol of slavery.

(d) Christ the substance of which the law was the shadow.

(e) Veils come in various sizes: prejudice, wishful thinking (all mercy, no wrath) fragmentary

thinking, disobedience.

(f) Some won't comprehend - present problem.

B. The Lord is that Spirit.

1. I know it varies in a nu. of translations -

2. What is meant?

a.) McGarvey, "Jesus is the spirit of the new Cov.  
I Cor. 15:45 "And so it is written, The first man Adam  
Heb. 9:13-14 "For if the blood of bulls and of goats,

b.) Can't really separate work of Christ & the Holy Spirit.

c.) Is Christ the Holy Spirit.

d.) Is the Holy Spirit the risen Christ?

e.) Is not the Spirit the agent thru whom Christ works?

f.) "The Spirit so effectively performs his office of communicating to men the benefits of the risen Christ thus for all intents & purposes of faith the Lord Himself is present bestowing grace on His own." N. Q. Hamilton

V. What is the Connection of the Lord & Liberty.

A. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is Liberty!"

1. When Christ is given His rightful place, we move in a new liberty.

- (a) Not regulated by outer law, but inspiration of inner spirit.
- (b) Not regulated by rules, but transformed from within.
- (c) Freedom not a licenses - rather our desires, affections, convictions changed.
- (d) Laurin says the motive power is different - love, not fear; Spirit, not flesh.

2. True liberty is the power to do as we ought.

B. It leads us to rightly regard others.

Gal. 5:13 "For, brethren, ye have been called unto

C. Liberty & Light are yours in Christ.

- 1. Free of ceremonialism.
- 2. Free of legalism.
- 3. Free of sin's dominion.
- 4. Free of fear of death.

VI. The Change Reflection Brings.

V. 18 "But we all, with open face beholding as in a

A. Note it's everybody.

- 1. We all.
- 2. Not just apostles.
- 3. Not one like Moses.
- 4. Rather all Christians.
- 5. Paul moves from his own ministry to that of everybody - all can see.

B. We are all open faced.

- 1. Unveiled face.
- 2. Tell story of Moses - Exo. 34:32.
- 3. What have you to hide in Christ? Open faced!

4. Unveiled shows no self interest between us & Christ.

C. We all behold.

1. Difficult translation.

2. Is it like a mirror?

3. Is the mirror the word?

4. We behold - not glance!

5. The pictures around your house have impact on children's minds.

6. Ancient mirrors of metal & thus reproduction imperfect - thus we have not fully arrived.

7. Different views of RSV & RV on mirror.

8. Lord makes us mirrors to reflect the brightness of His face.

9. The light is transforming.

D. We are changed into what we gaze upon.

1. Like Moses our faces are transformed into what we see.

2. We are to continue our staring! Don't stop.

3. We faintly give back that which we adore.

4. He's the model - we are copies.

5. Note value of Christian contemplation.

6. We gaze on a movie star, then duplicate style of hair & dress.

7. Jesus the Image of the Invisible God - Col. 1:15

E. We grow from Glory to Glory.

1. Moses faded - is that the reason he hid?

2. We grow brighter daily.

3. Ours from inside & does not fade.

4. It's continuous - from one degree of glory to another.

5. Education is by degrees.
6. Yet glory to glory like faith to faith means completeness.
7. Glory of old law a fading one.
8. It's progressive.
9. He who occupies self c trifles becomes trivial.

F. The Spirit of the Lord does it.

1. As we gaze, God works in us.
2. Change not by human improvement but the indwelling Spirit working in us.

Phil. 2:13 "For it is God which worketh in you both to

3. We work out what God works in us.

VI. How's my Reflection?

A. Am I proud of what I see?

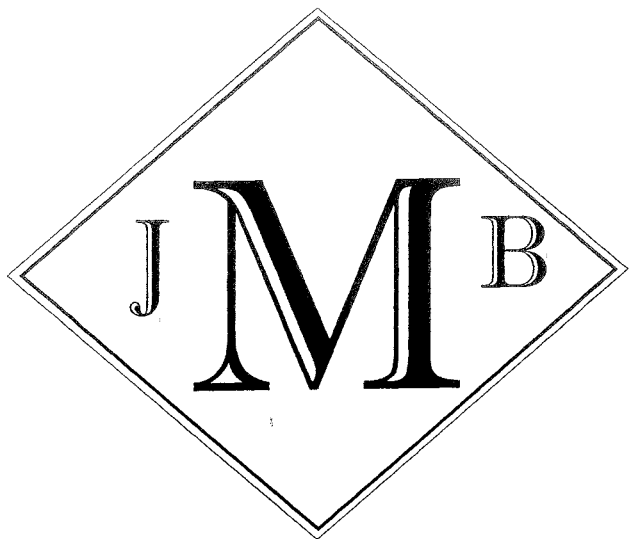
(Queen Eliz. last 20 yr. of her life would not look at reflection due to wrinkles - all mirrors banished from palace).

B. Do I let the Bible reveal me?

C. Is our change deep - to His likeness?

D. How can I have the changed life?

1. Consider Jesus.
2. Fasten attention on Him thru the Word.
3. Allow the Spirit to work.



# THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

2 Cor. 4:1-2

I. Constitution, by-laws, creeds, manifestoes, guidelines, dreams--they are necessary to all.

A. Co. have to have goals.

B. So do churches.

C. But what is mine individually?

*Thz to her #0*

II. Paul tells it handsomely.

2 Cor. 4:1-2 "Therefore seeing we have"

A. We have a task--no denying it exists.

B. It's a "ministry." *H. Keller quote #1*

1. Greatest work in the world--set before men: Jesus and his truth.

2. It's a "glory"--though it is not always successful.

3. But we must see that the fault is in the heart of those we seek to reach--let it be their failure not our faithlessness.

v-3 "But if our gospel be hid it"

4. It came to us by the mercy of God.

a) It's his grace & compliment that gave us the task.

b) Do you call it a job?

c) Humility marked Paul's appreciation for it--do we just like to hear the sound of our own voice?

d) Do we acknowledge our unworthiness--mercy is shown the guilty. As Alice Cummings said, "if all are sinners, how do we pray for someone else?"

C. It's a task from which we "faint not."

1. Maintain holy courage.
2. Persevere (P.C.)
3. No difficulty or danger disheartened Paul.
4. Chary? No!
5. Faint is to shrink back, lose heart because things did not go smoothly--but instant in season & out of season.
6. Had firm conviction of nature of work--kept going.
7. No place for faintheartedness or concealment. (Hughes)
8. For true minister no question of abandoning it. *Oster words #2*

III. Now Paul lists things that are Off Limits as well as required. (Does not mean he did all the bad things.)

A. There has been a "Renunciation".

1. Once and for all.
2. Repented--baptized. *Boxing quote #3*

B. Hidden Things of Dishonesty. *#4*

1. Some things hidden because of shame.  
Some Translations: *Sanders: The peril*  
 a) "Secrecy prompted by shame." *#4*  
 b) Shame conceals from view.  
 c) Underhanded, disgraceful methods.  
 d) All shameful concealment.  
 e) Deeds that men hide for very shame. *DeHoff card #5*  
 f) The secret ways that anybody should feel ashamed of.
2. Honesty is moral excellency.

3. Every form of sin is a thing of shame.

- a) Falsehood
- b) Meanness.
- c) Selfishness.

### C. Walking in Craftiness.

1. Note Paul's was a personal experience --not a theory from books, not one learned from teachers, not ceremony developed by devotion. (Laurin)
2. Craftiness defined.
  - a) Subtle
  - b) Underhanded
  - c) Cunning readiness to adopt any device or trickery for the achievement of ends which are anything but altruistic. (Duduit)
3. Jesus resorted to no arts, schemes, tricks, but his work was simple-- to bless men.
4. Paul used no trickery.
5. J. R. Ewing, "Once integrity goes, everything else is easy."
6. Paul was obviously sincere.

2 Cor. 1:12

### D. Handling the Word of God Deceitfully.

1. He preached what was delivered to him. *Becher on Truth #6*
2. Deceit. *Moody " " #7*
  - a) Adulterate the truth.
  - b) Truth cannot be preached as tho aided by lies.
  - c) Not guilty of wrong emphasis or withholding significant parts. (Kent)

- d) Dilute wine--add water.
- 3. How can we do it?
  - a) Increase its demands--via our own cultural patterns.
  - b) Reduce its demands.
  - c) Distort: Baptism & Lordship of Boston church.
- 4. Paul bore severe criticism.
  - a) Supported a sect.
  - b) Exhibited self.
  - c) Not true apostle.
  - d) Father's hatred.

#### IV. Now Embrace:

##### A. Manifestation of the Truth.

- 1. Truth as in Jesus--not creeds or churches. *Overman, "People:" #8*
- 2. It is the pure word.

##### B. Commend Ourselves.

- 1. Picture of preacher. *E. Roosevelt*
  - a) Strong *No one can make you feel*
  - b) Pure *inferior w/o your consent.*
- 2. Pass on faithfully word to others.

##### C. Subject to Review of Every Man's Conscience. *Lincoln & Hoffa #9*

- 1. Appeals to consciences of men.
- 2. Surely such will let you see such preaching comes from God.
- 3. His public and private character above reproach. *Epitaph: This is #10*
- 4. He exhibited honestly before all--believer & unbeliever.
- 5. No appeal to fear, interests, superstitions, vanity--but to consciences of men. *Greeley quote #11*

6. Great variety of them--dull or clear, friend or foe, none could speak against the authenticity of his ministry. *Character card #12*

D. All was in the Sight of God.

1. His life would conform to the teaching he was doing.
2. False life is false doctrine.
3. Best recommendation of the gospel is what it's done for us.
4. Above all else--whether men approved or not, he wanted to be right in the sight of God.
5. He felt he was under the inspection of God.
6. Living in the sight of God he gave faithful, honest, earnest service.
7. Jesus, "I am with you alway."
8. The highest--above every man, is God--to Him we answer.

Harding Graduate School - 11/7/89

containing 1466 pages were required to tell thje story of his life.

His name was Sir William Osler. Here are the twenty-one words that he read in the spring of 1871- twenty-one words from Thomas Carlyle that helped him lead a life free from worry: "Our main business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand."

Dale Carnegie, HOW TO STOP WORRY-  
ING AND START LIVING.

Helen Keller, on duty:

GREAT QUOTE

P. 212-213

I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they *were* great and noble. Green, the historian, tells us that the world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.

Sweeting

#1



## Purpose of Man

*Preaching*

#2

In the spring of 1871 a young man picked up a book and read twenty-one words that had a profound effect on his future. A medical student at the Montreal General Hospital, he was worried about passing the final examination, worried about what to do, where to go, how to build a practice, how to make a living.

The twenty-one words that this young medical student read in 1871 helped him to become the most famous physician of his generation. He organized the world-famous Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He became Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford- the highest honor that can be bestowed upon any medical man in the British Empire. He was knighted by the King of England. When he died, two huge volumes

~~my~~ PRONE TO BRAG about his collegiate athletic abilities, my uncle was recounting another story at a recent family gathering. "I had to give up tennis because I got tennis elbow," he explained. "I had to quit football and basketball because of torn cartilage in my knee. I also boxed, but finally had to give that up because of my hands."

"Your hands?" the family chimed in.

"Yes," he said. "The referee kept stepping on them."

#3

Over



#9

The peril of pressing the argument from silence too far is illustrated in the old claim of the criminal who maintained that only two men saw him steal, whereas he could bring a hundred who did not, and therefore be acquitted!

THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST - Sanders - P.29

Guilt

#5 & #6

Truth

Whatever is only almost true is quite false, and among the most dangerous of errors, because being so near the truth, it is the more likely to lead astray.

Henry Ward Beecher

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting  
P. 254

Paul practiced no crossed or partisan arts and taught nothing in private which he did not teach in public. *Ward Beecher 2nd Cor.*  
(over) ↓

The greatest temptation of every gospel preacher is to hold back the truth lest he offend someone present. He'd

Truth

Truth

#7

The best way to show that a stick is crooked is not to argue about it or to spend time denouncing it, but to lay a straight stick alongside it.

D. L. Moody

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting  
P. 253

#8  
People who presuppose that man is not subject to any higher moral law than what man himself determines will behave much differently than those who believe that moral law is predetermined by a higher Being. For example, when it comes to sexual behavior, what one person considers to be immoral may be viewed by another as a matter of personal preference. A man or woman who adheres to God-given moral guidelines or boundaries in this area will make much different choices than a man or woman who presupposes that morality is determined solely by human reasoning and that any form of so-called sexual expression is fine as long as it is engaged in by two consenting partners

DIFFERENT WINDOWS - Christian Overman - P 95-96

■ No one can make you feel inferior  
without your consent.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

## Mistakes

#9

The man who is incapable of making a mistake  
is incapable of anything.

Abraham Lincoln

I may have my faults, but being wrong ain't one  
of them.

James Riddle Hoffa

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting  
P.186

This is the grave of Mike O'Day  
Who died maintaining his right of way,  
His right was clear, his will was strong,  
But he's just as dead as if he'd been wrong.  
Author unknown

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting  
P. 104

X FAME IS a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings, those who cheer today will curse tomorrow; only one thing endures - character!

- Horace Greeley (1811-1872)

#11

CHARACTER

#12

I am only one, but I am one. I can't do everything but I can do something. And what I can do, that I ought to do. And what I ought to do, by the grace of God, I shall do.

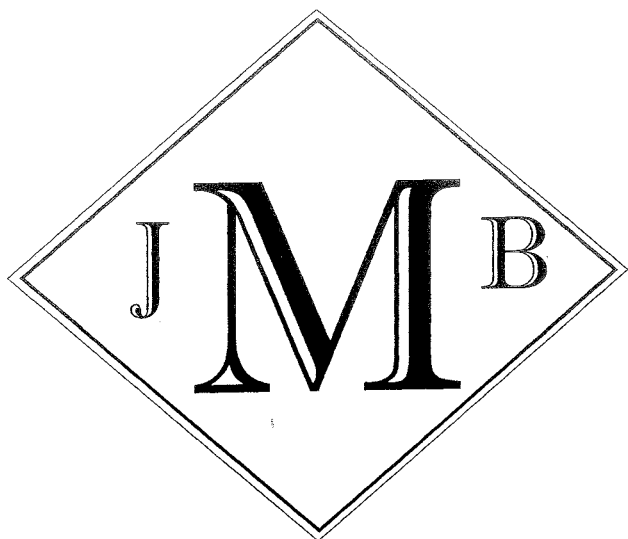
Edward E. Hale

A dear old Quaker lady, distinguished for her youthful look, was asked what she used to preserve her appearance. She replied sweetly, " I use for the lips, truth; for the voice, prayer; for the eyes, pity; for the hand, charity; for the figure uprightness; and for the heart,, love.

Jerry Fleishman, Ladies' Home  
Journal

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting

P. 41



# THE HIDDEN GOSPEL

## II Cor. 4:1-4

- I. Because the gospel has been placed in the hands of earthen vessels (II Cor. 4:7) there is always the chance of the steward hiding it. (II Cor. 4:3)

### A. Men employ various methods of obscuring

1. Some disdain all religion.

(a) Chas. Manson - "God", "Jesus", "Satan".

2. Some give only occasional service.

(a) Birth - marriage - death; hatching, matching & dispatching.

(b) They are often on our "prospect list" of contributors - perhaps "conscious money"?

3. Others claim a love for but their actions deny full life conformity.

(a) Here the younger generation gaps.

It's the "put your money where your mouth is" application of "Put your performance where your preaching is" attitude.

### B. No doubt there are other "hiders" but the main question now is "Am I one?"

1. I'm sure God didn't intend a hidden gospel.

II Cor. 4:3-4 "But if our gospel is hid it is

2. Does my life blind some?

## II. Hiders of the Gospel.

### A. Personal wickedness.

1. Read Romans 1:18-32 in TEV #1.
2. Man won't countenance sin and own it as his!

John 8:33-47

3. We can be so enslaved we don't know we are!
4. Do I accept sin as I do the fast foods as "part of my day?"

(a) Arkansas Democrat on games #2.

5. Do I believe some passages?

Prov. 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the b

Gen. 16:13 "Thou God seest me.

Rom. 3:18 "There is no fear of God befo

### B. Denial of Supernatural.

1. Before Agrippa, Paul asked

Acts 26:8 "Why should it be thot a thing

(a) Do we see only: virgin birth?

(b) Miracles?

(1) Must operations of God be limited to what I grasp?

(2) Then who's God?

(3) Can man decide what's good, reasonable, believable - Why then a revelation?

(4) Goodspeed explains miracle of 5 M as little boy started eating - others too, embarrassed until he did - then all did.

(c) Resurrection.

2. But could it be other things?

(a) Does prayer work - and need it be employed? See Clip #3.

(1) A storm on Lake Ponchatrain, 2 fishermen in danger, "Lord, haven't bothered you in 15 yrs., get me out of this mess, won't for 15 more."

(b) Does Thanksgiving work. (Turkey said it was a pain in the neck - ACC chorus clip).

(c) Honesty in action (Pennington clip) #4

C. Numbness, Dumbness & Prejudice.

1. I just don't feel any more.

(a) Dow Merritt clip #5.

2. I don't see opportunities & needs.

(a) "With the world a possible volcano, the husbandmen were plowing at the base of the mt."

3. Blind spots.

Jn. 1:45-46 "P. findeth N. & saith

(a) Do-it-yourself religion. #6

III. But what would "uncover" the gospel?

A. Paul calls it a "manifestation of truth" in v. 2 - Then all see!

B. Let the light shine.

II Cor. 4:5-6 Read

Isa. 9:2 "The people that walked in d.

Matt. 4:16 - Quotes above.

1. Let God take over.

Rom. 8:9-11 Read

(a) Columbus to prove he'd been to a new country, brot back a new man - an Indian!

2. Let sinners be converted.

3. Conversation is interesting.

(a) Noun once in NT.

Acts. 15:3 "declaring the conversion of

(b) Comes from "epistrophe" found once in NT.

(c) Gk. word strepho is (c the compound form epistrepho found 49 x in Gk. NT)

(d) Strepho is always "turn", "Turn upon or about, from one to another."

(e) It had no religious usage.

Matt. 9:22 Jesus turned him about

(1) Denotes a physician turning

2 Pet. 2:21 "Turn from the holy com.

(2) From good to bad

1 Thess. 1:9 "Turn from God to idols

(3) Bad to good.

(f) Verb in original always in the active voice, never passive.

(g) It is something you can do - don't wait for God to do it for you.

(h) Next move is yours, not God's.

*Thess End 12-7-69*

①  
***Men who are burdened with  
guilt and caught in the web  
of immorality may  
consciously avoid the  
gospel's light.***

# **THE CORDS OF PERSONAL WICKEDNESS**

By Herbert Gipson  
AMARILLO, TEXAS



**HERBERT L. GIPSON**

“God’s wrath is revealed coming down from heaven upon all the sin and evil of men, whose evil ways prevent the truth from being known. God punishes them, because what men can know about God is plain to them. God himself made it plain to them. Ever since God created the world, his invisible qualities, both his eternal power and his divine nature, have been clearly seen. Men can perceive them in the things that God has made. So they have no excuse at all! They know God, but they do not give him the glory that belongs to him, nor do they thank him. Instead, their thoughts have become complete nonsense and their empty minds are filled with darkness. They say they are wise, but they are fools; they exchange the

glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man, birds, animals, and reptiles.

"Because men are such fools, God has given them over to do the filthy things their hearts desire, and they do shameful things with each other. They exchange the truth about God for a lie; they worship and serve what God has created instead of the Creator himself, who is to be praised forever! Amen.

"Because of what men do, God has given them over to shameful passions. Even the women pervert the natural use of their sex into unnatural practices. In the same way the men give up natural sexual relations with women and burn with passion for each other. Men do shameful things with each other, and as a result they receive in themselves the punishment they deserve for their error.

"Because men refuse to keep in mind the true knowledge about God, he has given them over to corrupted minds, so that they do the things that they should not. They are filled with all kinds of wickedness, evil, greed, and hate; they are full of jealousy, murder, fighting, deceit, and vice. They gossip, and speak evil; they think of more ways to do evil; they

disobey their parents; they are immoral; they do not keep their promises, and they show no kindness or pity to others. They know that God's law says that people who live in this way deserve death. Yet they continue to do these very things—and worse still, they approve of those who live as they do" (Romans 1:18-32, TEV).

The sinner is in bondage. He is in the bondage of his own sin while he supposes that he is enjoying a larger liberty than they possess who are constrained to walk in the narrow path of righteousness. Moreover, even when this shocking condition is reached, the sinner is slow to admit its existence. He will not confess his bondage; perhaps he scarcely feels it. Thus the Jews indignantly rejected any such notion when our Lord offered deliverance from the slavery of sin (John 8:33). But this only proves the bondage to be greater. The worst degradation of slavery is that it so benumbs the feelings and crushes the manliness of its victims that some of them do not notice their true condition. The reality of the bondage is soon proved, however, whenever a slave tries to escape. Then the chains of sin are felt to be too strong for the sinner to break. Then he cries, "O

# ARKANSAS

99th YEAR—No. 64

★

## Ignoble

*Games that brutalize  
the grown-ups too*

COLUMN  
ONE:  
Lancaster's  
Arkansas

I was just over at one of Little Rock's better department stores looking over a display of adult games, all of which were suggested for Christmas giving. The display

made me wonder if the Little Old Toy-maker hadn't been busy, while we were worrying about toys of violence brutalizing the kids, inventing games to brutalize their elders.

Canasta has given way to "group therapy."

I'm afraid a trend was established last year with the arrival of "The Newlywed Game," which consisted of young married people disclosing their private little embarrassments for the benefit of a mindless and tittering audience. The new games are, if



anything, even more ignoble, preying as they do on the impulsive and pardonable tendency of many respectable people to let cocktail parties get the best of their inhibitions.

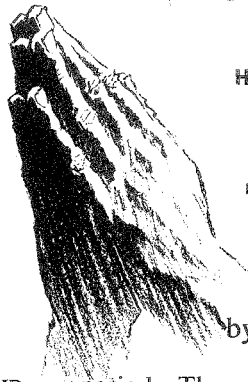
"GROUP THERAPY" seems particularly bad in that respect. As I understand it, it works like this: A group of people, apparently married folks who are so tremendously bored that they can't find anything better to do, get together for some "emotional involvement." The game gives them instructions on how the emotional involvement is to proceed.

S  
bodies  
day

N

# Finding Time

# To Pray



Determination and  
planning are the keys

by ROSS W. HAYSLIP

OSWALD CHAMBERS HAS SAID, "Prayer is an interruption to personal ambition, and no man who is busy has time to pray."

Ours is a day that is marked by intense pressures in life. We are surrounded by a civilization engaged in the drive to "make it" and a culture that is bombarded constantly by the various media of communication. Signs, billboards, store displays, newspapers, radios, and television envelop us in a cocoon of sensory stimulation. It is indeed difficult to find time for the process of prayer in our complex environment.

"The reason that I beat the Austrians," said Napoleon Bonaparte in explaining one of his brilliant victories, "is that they didn't know the value of five minutes."

Five minutes for prayer is but a short time, but how important five minutes can be! In five minutes the earth revolves 6,000 miles in its orbit. In five minutes an electric current will circle the globe 3,000 times. In five minutes a ray of light travels 55.9 million miles.

If we are to make time for prayer, we must do it by a schedule for life into which we fit this

period. The seasons compel the farmer to schedule his work. The airlines fly by a careful timetable, and the industrialist plans his work to finest detail.

Look over your day and find all the activities you can streamline, and from which you can take away some time. It may mean rising earlier in the morning in order to meet God in the cool of an early dawn. Perhaps it will mean less time with the newspaper and the television screen.

Abnormal days will come to upset our schedules, but if we look ahead and anticipate these days we can select the things that must be done, eliminate some of the unnecessary activities, and distribute our time so that the place for prayer is found. Determination is the secret of keeping a time schedule.

In my highest moments of prayer, I offer myself to God for his service. Studdert Kennedy put it properly when he said, "Prayer is not an easy way of getting what we want; but it is the only way of becoming what God wills us to be." For this reason I must find time to pray!

#4

Good deeds that do not express our honest attitudes may not accomplish very much. They certainly don't do anything for the doer. And they may stir up resentment in those for whom they are done--leaving us to wonder why!

"A More Excellent Way" - By Chester A. Pennington

A Meditation on First Corinthians 13 Page 27



## Editorial

JAMES F. FOWLER



#4

### IT PAYS TO EXPRESS THANKS - - -

Last week when the Alabama Christian College Chorus journeyed to Birmingham to sing at our Homecoming program they stopped at a Holiday Inn for breakfast. Everyone in the dining room was sitting quietly that morning, so the chorus decided they would sing their prayer of thanksgiving for their food. The persons in the dining room were so impressed that they asked for more singing. One man was so moved by it that he came over to inquire about the group. He expressed appreciation not only for their singing ability but for their dedication to Christian principles. He then gave the school a \$100.00 bill.

BRETHREN, is it possible  
granted the contribution  
Jesus

were

Did you see a recent article by syndicated columnist **David Lawrence** on church attendance? Lawrence noted a recent Gallup poll which indicated a drop in church attendance nation-wide, from 49% to 42% in the last decade. The decline, primarily among young adults, was attributed by pollsters to "widespread disapproval of the tendency of clergymen to preach sermons about governmental affairs rather than to deal with personal problems and spiritual concepts."

This is further evidence that the people, young and old, are looking for a religious group that stands for something in the spiritual realm! Never has there been a greater opportunity for the Lord's church!

**Pic  
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**An  
Ski**

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... of salvation is really a subtle form of idolatry with self as the idol.

All religious activity—personal goodness, tithing, church attendance, preaching or whatever—is less than worthless to God as long as you retain possession of yourself. He doesn't want all that religious buzzing; he wants you! And he can't have you as long as you have you.

Why does God want you? I'm not really sure. We have a few exciting hints: we are going to rule something magnificent; we are going to inhabit heaven; we are going to be part of some awesome plan in eternity. In other words, we are going to become "little gods" (unless we choose to

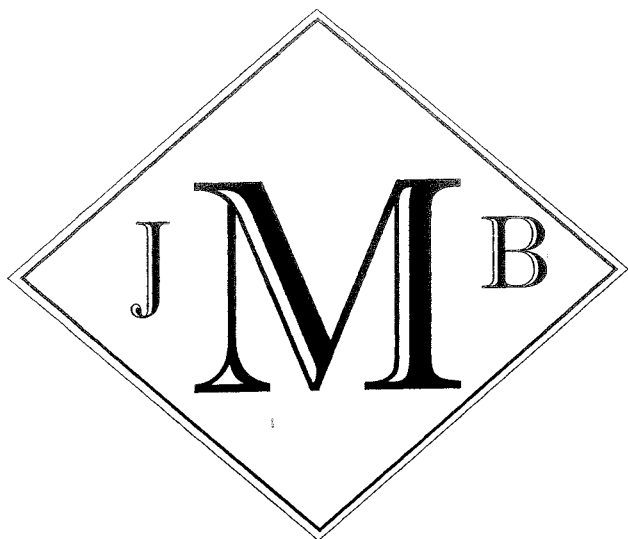
THE APPEAL

Everybody is so busy; they have so much to do. They must be on the go--must be doing something. People here cannot sit down and be quiet. Whether a person ever has time to sit down for meditation, I do not know. They seem to be bored to death to be alone."

He noted the difference in the unity that exists among the brethren in Africa and here in the United States. "They don't see the little things that divide us. They see some things like instrumental music, baptism, etc., but they are just not sectarian." He summed it up by saying, "There is a great deal of unity in innocency."

Reflecting upon the past years work in Africa, Dow Merritt recalls, "When we entered Africa in 1926, no more than 30 college graduates could be found in the entire country. There were no churches except the small group of people with Bro. W. N. Short, one of the first missionaries to Africa." Now there are over 90 churches and many mission schools in Northern Rhodesia where he labored."

After 40 years absence from the United States, he observed some changes in the church. "I see a difference in the church now, and when I visited from time to time in this country. The church has grown more materialistic. It is not sociable like it used to be. Everything is related to the church building and the institution, and not so much to the daily living.



# WHO'S LOST?

II Cor. 4:1-4

I. Perhaps no more important qt. comes to us than

"Who's lost?" *Verse 4:1 man I didn't read*

A. If I am I want to be saved. *send*

B. If you are, I want you altered. *will a tota*

II. But how shall we decide it? *cautious*

A. 1st thing to see is - I don't decide it. *2nd*

1. Not that you must be in "my church".

2. Not according to my likes or dislikes.

3. Since the subject is disagreeable can't be dismiss with "let's forget it." Liberal - no one; legalist - everybody.

B. 2nd there is only one standard to decide it - it's

God. *(Solely belongeth to the Lord) Ps 3:8*

1. The Lord has been fair enough to give us insights as to His thinking.

2. Byron Groves said he'd always guessed accurately what the judge was going to do.

3. That word of God surely can outline His thinking John 12:47-48 "If any man hear

III. I ran some references on Lost, Perdition, Damned-- now whatever the Bible says on this I'm ready to accept. Surely it will answer "who's lost."

A. Accepting the false guidance of men.

1. Their teachings are off.

Jude 11 "Woe unto them, for they have

(a) Story in Nu. 16. *1) mark of envy, hate*

(b) Rejected authority. *2) Greed - Balaam*

2. Teacher didn't care. *3) Rebellion - Core*

*2 Pet 2:1-3 - false teachers - damnable heresies*

Matt. 18:14 "Even so it is not the will

Jere. 50:6 "My people hath been lost

Matt. 18:11 "For the Son of Man is come to

B. Turn deaf ear to gospel.

I Cor. 1:18 "For the preaching of the cross *is to them*

II Cor. 4:3 "But if our gospel is hid *from them*

(II Thess. 2:10 "With all deceivableness of unrighteous

*1. man's way - preaching gospel, a witness to look*

*2. blind not - don't know, don't see, not true*

*3. hidden things or things - unscrupulous, not*

*4. adulterous gospel*

*5. whole conference - had men to believe & Christ*

*not lost because haven't heard or  
understood but rather no  
love for truth*

C. Disbelieving impenitent.

John 3:14-15 "And as Moses lifted

Heb. 11:31 "By faith, the harlot Rahab, *perish not c them*

2 Thess. 2:12 "That they all might be d. *who bel. not the tr.*

Mk. 16:16 "He that believeth and is *(but had pleasure in*

Lu. 13:3 "I tell you nay, except ye *wist.*

2 Pet. 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promi

2 Thess. 1:7-10 "And to you who are

### D. The Inconsistent Man.

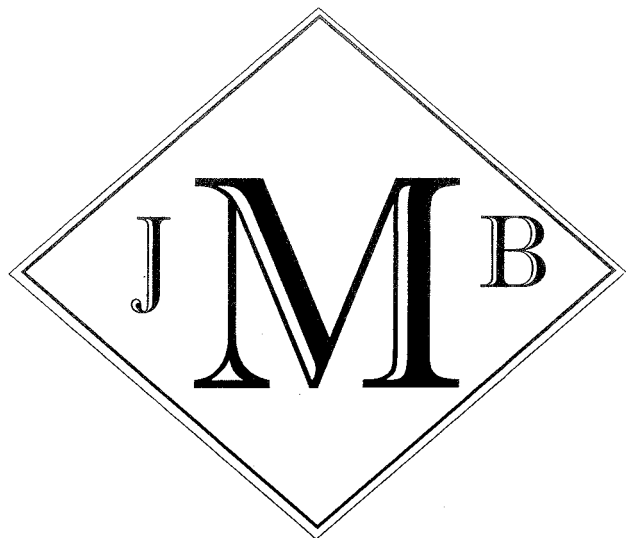
Rom. 14:22-23 "Happy is he that condemn. not himself

2 Tim. 3:14 "But continue thou in

in the things which he cleaveth of he that doubteth is  
damned it he eat, because he eateth not in f.

The man pulling his hand to the plow & looking  
these End 9-10-72

Bethel Church, Frankltn, Ky. 9-10-72



# LET THE LIGHT SHINE

2 Cor. 4:1-6

- I. Most of us know the smallness of the size of the church - what would change it?
  - A. Elder McCormick of Hialeah asked me what the church needed most.
    - 1.) I said leadership.
    - 2.) He said work by every member - then told of a free travel club to go all places - church owning a plane.
  - B. Qt. arises individually - for & from me is:
    - 1.) The gospel hidden?
    - 2.) Or does the gospel shine?
- II. We do have a ministry! - *He never lost heart!*
  - A. What will we positively do?
    1. Laurin, "We need to perform more than reform."
    2. Whatever Paul had he felt a need to pass it on to others.
    3. To be a Chr. demands a decision.
  - B. We need mercy of God to continue.
    1. Cross was planned as carefully as Creation was.
    2. Christ to be revolving point of all life.
  - C. We must determine not to faint.
    1. Ministry great - don't faint.
    2. Faint = behave badly, give in to evil, lose courage.
  - D. We've renounced evil. *Declared nothing they did*
    1. Hidden things of dishonesty. *not believe to be true*
    2. Walking in craftiness.
    3. Handling the Word of God deceitfully.

a.) Renounced all this at time of baptism.

b.) Repentance is a turning.

c.) False life as bad as false doctrine.

E. Manifest truth.

1. Commend self to every man's conscience in sight of God. *Don't try to make it palatable to men.*

2. Best recommendation is see what Gospel's done to us. *A Sight of God in his judgment.*

III. The Gospel.

A. Hidden. *Present tense: can change if will.*

1. Some willfully blinded.

2. Blindness not fault of gospel or messenger.

3. False teachers had been at work.

4. If can't see truth, perhaps your fault.

Jn. 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that light is a

5. Satan active - god of this age.

6. He'll hide true knowledge.

B. Shining Gospel.

1. His teaching was such that every man should have believed him whether he did or not.

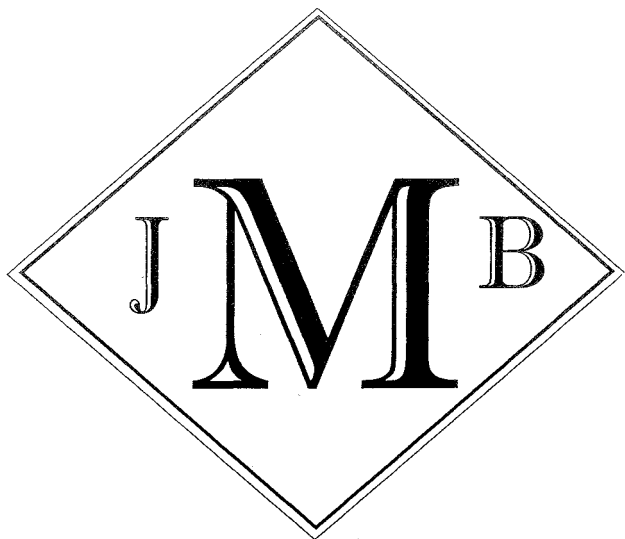
2. Yet Paul not impersonal in his teaching.

3. He preached only what Christ commanded.

4. See God in face of Jesus.

5. *We must be His slaves..*

*West End Home Builders Wed. Night class 1-28-81*



## WHEREIN LIES THE FAILURE

2 Cor. 4:3-6

I. When things go wrong we search for reasons.

A. Airplanes

B. Terrorist

C. Companies

II. Same applies to Preaching the Word--why are we not always winning?

A. Paul answers.

2 Cor. 4:3-6 "But if our gospel be hid"

B. Keep in mind that this applies only if the gospel is being properly preached.

III. See First Our Gospel

A. It has various "possessives".

1. Our

2 Thess. 2:14 "Whereunto he called you by our"

2. My

Rom. 2:16

2 Tim. 2:8

3. Not pretentious but humble as it came by God & Scriptures.

Gal. 1:11

1 Cor. 15:1

B. It is to be loved as your own.

IV. The Hidden Gospel

A. We don't hide it, we proclaim it.

B. But for some it's hidden.

1. Fault lies with the hearer.

2. To be a Christian demands a decision--some won't make it.

C. It's addressed to the mind--needs to hear & learn.

D. But the perishing unbeliever is blinded by the god of this world.

F. Problem is with the unbelieving heart-- it's blinded.

V. Who is the "Blinder?"

A. Satan

Jn. 12:31

Jn. 14:30

Jn. 16:11

Eph. 2:2

B. He is not deity yet some worship him.

C. It's God that rules.

Dan. 4:25

D. Satan usurps.

1 Jn. 5:19

Mk. 3:22

1. His power a sham.

1 Tim. 1:17

2. He is of this and every age.

3. Not denying his existence but that he is God.

4. Sad to see world power to a no god as these heresiarchs teach we should

5. Scripture uses word god not in regard of dignity it suggests but in weakness of those in subjection to such. (Hughes)

VI. Results of this Blinding

A. See not the light of the glorious gospel of Christ.

1. Christ is the revolving point of our lives.

2. The Cross was planned as carefully as the Creation. (Laurin)

- 3.
3. Jesus is called Lord 30X in 2 Cor.
  4. He is the Image of God.
    - a) Reveals Him

John 1:15

Col. 1:15

Jn. 14:9

b) He is our salvation.

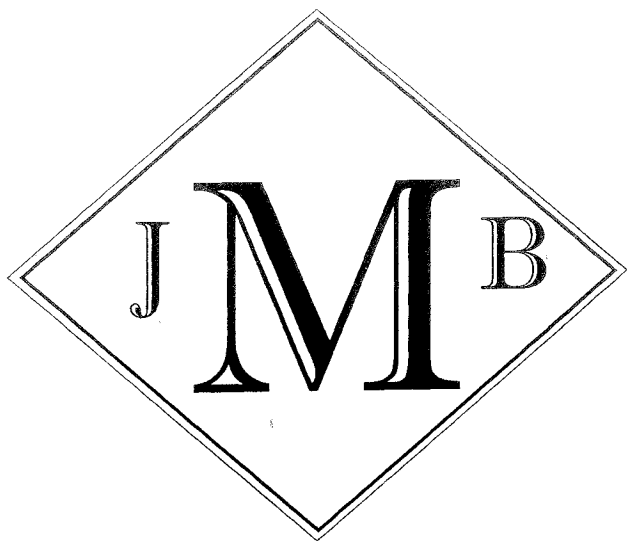
B. We preach Him not ourselves.

1. Emphasis on preacher's feet.
2. Not on his head--so don't follow man. (Holland)

Rom. 10:13-17

C. Jesus is Lord and we are Servants of the Church.

1. Paul a minister not a master.
2. He does not place himself under man with his prelatical pomp of those that disfigure the church--Christ alone is master yet for Jesus' sake he becomes the servant of his fellowman. (Hughes)
3. Satan wants to prohibit true knowledge of Jesus.
4. See God in the face of Jesus.



# LET ME VOLUNTEER FOR THE BATTLE

2 Cor. 4:4-6

I. If ever a time for courageous volunteers in the battle for the souls of men it's now.

A. Twin forces are at work for the souls of men.

1. The Devil

2. The God of Glory

B. Strangely He lets me have a part in the battle--as we each choose our Commander & Chief. Hear these words:

2 Cor. 4:3-6 "But if our gospel he hid it"

1. God who commands (v-6) vs

2. Devil who blinds (v-4).

C. Where am I in the fray?

II. Let's See Our Opponents--1st, Satan.

A. God of this world.

1. Must grieve the Holy Spirit to say this--but it's true (not like Henry Evans, sore breast, who had a "mimeograph").

2. His recognition is Heaven noted so that you don't think this is a minor skirmish.

B. Identified

1. "God of this world"--Holy Spirit.

2. Prince of this world (Jn. 14:30) Jesus.

3. Prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2) Apostle.

4. Literally "God of this present evil age."

C. He is not the rightful governor--He has usurped and we've allowed it.

D. He blinds the minds of them that believe not.

1. Veils minds so gospel is not seen.

2. How?

a) Fill heart with evil & the love of it--am I moral or immoral?

b) Fills men with conceit, no one tells me what to do.

c) Stimulates fleshly gratification.

d) Fills with prejudice against the truth. *Evangelist story*

e) Says God too merciful to punish.

f) You have plenty of time.

g) Glamor of lusts.

1 Jn. 2:16 "Lust of flesh, eye, pride of life"

3. But this blindness is allowed by me.

a) "Wherever blindness exists man permits it." (Laurin)

b) "No lack of ability on the part of the subject nor deficiency of the promises but to willful blindness (our choice) which refuses to abandon its course." (Scott)

c) "Satan does not blind against the will of man." (Interpreters)

E. Results he wants: "believe not the glorious gospel."

1. We turn to Satan instead of God.

Lu. 4:6

2. Unbeliever makes obvious choice of godless view of life.

3. Rejects faith because he does not want to live that way.
4. Man must have something to adorn-- money, power, position, popularity.
5. Truth of God to our conscience reveals our sin and the true remedy needed (D.L.) & Satan does not want this.

### III. What Does God Want?

v-4 "Light of glorious gospel of Christ, who"

#### A. Shine

1. Satan seeks to blind--God to enlighten.
2. Satan seeks to hide Jesus--God to show Him.
3. Once we see Jesus we cast off Satan.
4. As long as gospel is hidden we are lost.
5. God reveals Jesus--nothing short of discovery of Christ will save our souls.
6. God leads to the perfect knowledge of His Son.

#### B. Embracement of Jesus Saves Our Souls.

### IV. Here We Enter the Picture.

#### A. We Preach

1. Ministry of the new covenant.

3:6

8

9

2. Office of ministry most honorable and useful thing a human can execute--if perverted more injurious to society than a raging pestilence.

3. Just think--I can preach & live life of Jesus.

B. Preach Not Ourselves--Poor Subject Matter--Yet a Sad Possibility.

1. "Proclamation cannot promote its bearer--only its subject." (Elwell)
2. Preach not our own thoughts, self-exaltation, honor and glory. (Lipscomb)
3. Not to exhibit talents, genius, learning, production. (P.C.)
4. Not speculations, theories, fancies, experiences. *Orange tent peg story*
5. "Pulpit is raised for acoustical advantage--not otherwise." (P.C.)
6. "He who would catch fish must not be seen." (P.C.)
7. Though Paul spoke freely of himself, he did not set himself up as a savior of the people.
8. Seek not our own honor but the salvation of souls. (Simeon)
9. No point in preaching ourselves, we can't save anybody.

C. Preach Christ Jesus The Lord.

1. Jesus to be proclaimed as the rightful Ruler.
2. End of preaching to make mankind see Him.

1 Cor. 9:19

3. What the Holy Spirit revealed to him He taught the world.
4. See Jesus as a historical person: divine person, Lord, mediator, living.

Rom. 8:34

*what I  
touch  
dies*

Col. 3:1

5. Paul's rivals preached themselves & sought to make preaching a contest between them and him. (McGarvey)

D. Ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

1. I am not Lord--I'm a Slave.

1 Cor. 3:5

2. His relationship not a spiritual overlord but as a willing servant as well as a concerned father.  
(Expositor)

1 Cor. 4:15

3. Jesus his model, a servant.

Phil. 2:7

4. Love to Jesus his motive in serving the Corinthians.
5. Became servants of men for Christ's sake. *Clp James Byrnes*
6. Not only Christ's but Corinthians' servant.

Mk. 10:45

## V. Heaven's Wish

A. In times past, God commanded light out of darkness to shine

1. Be conscious of the Presence of God

2. Shine - 2 great events

a) Creation

b) Redemption

c) Cross planned as carefully as Creation

3. Shined in our hearts.

- a) On way to Damascus
- b) One light & was not Moses (M<sup>c</sup>Carvey)
- c) Blinds others - not me
- d) At equator dawn comes up like thunder

4. Give the l. of the know. of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ

- a) We are to reflect what's shone
- b) If no shine, it's my fault, not His
- c) As in creation, dispell darkness
- d) Pulpit's purpose - reveal Christ

Jn 14:9

Hcb 1:3

(1) Only thru Christ do we see God

(2) Streams thru medium - face of Jesus

(3) He bears the image of God

(4) Gospel: tell what Christ is - SON

B. We've a story to tell.

Pine Bluff, AR - 3/30/94

Harding Graduate School - 3/31/94

Ohio Valley Lectureship, Parkersburg, WV - 4/5/94

Spiritual Growth Workshop, Orlando, FL - 8/5/94

K WITH oranges, they really

### *Whoops!*

As a YOUNG PHYSICIAN, I learned a lesson in thinking twice before you speak. A recovering patient asked if I'd like to take home a plant he'd received during his stay at the hospital. "Thanks, Sam," I said, "but I'd better not. I have such rotten luck that everything I touch seems to die."

Small wonder that Sam refused to let me examine him on all the remaining days before he was discharged.

—Matthew Frankel, M.D., in *Medical Economics*

# DAVID LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

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*Spiritual America*

*US news & World Report 4/4/92*

1. Have we lost our moral compass?  
"We have pressed the religiously faithful  
to act as tho their faith does not matter"  
Skeptical Center Cautious of this belief
2. Yet we say we are a nation under God
3. Modern people are as religious as  
ever but a people who are uncomfortable  
how to wield the word in a  
pluralistic & secular society  
Lask & Green poll
4. 95% Americans say they believe in God
5. 60% attend religious services
6. 9% no religion at all
7. 80% (71% are college grad) believe  
Bible to be word of God
8. Give \$38 billion annually
9. More churches per capita than any  
nation - 1 to 900

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

10. 1990 - 67% Church members  
1976 - 1970 " " " "

11. Most rapid growing "most  
rigid in doctrine & life style"

12. They reject traditional doctrine &  
clear to make serious demands  
on flock are coming to grips

13. "We are becoming less theologically  
& institutionally grounded & more  
inclined to making up our own  
faiths as we go along"

R. R. R. - Princeton

14. 76% believe God is a heavenly  
father who can be reached by prayer

15. 78% believe Pres. should be  
a moral leader.

16. Gallup This is a national  
of biblical illiteracy. The sad  
fact is most Americans don't  
know what they believe or <sup>why</sup> ~~use~~

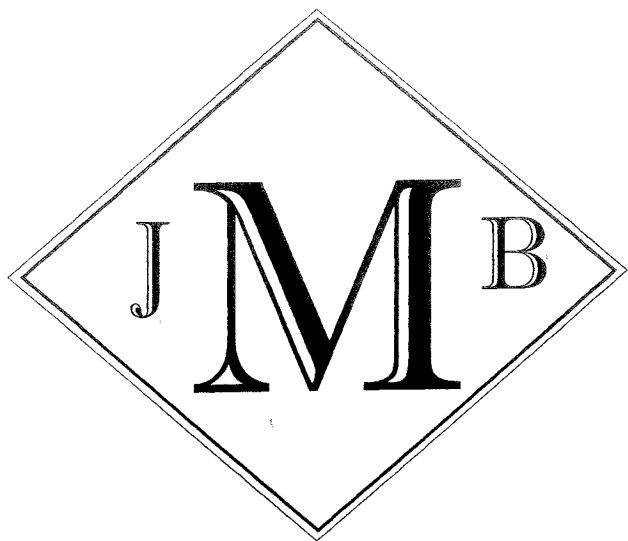
17. 30% believe nation is hostile to  
moral or spiritual values

62% via TV

47% congress

46% newspapers

39% clergies



## AT WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING?

2 Cor. 4:16-18; 5:1

I. The point of our gaze is most important.

A. The way we look at a matter determines character.

B. It also pinpoints our attitude & destiny.

II. Paul Encourages the Right View

2 Cor. 4:16 "For which cause we"

A. We've a Cause!

1. Nothing could make Paul abandon his mission.

2. Do we see it with a consuming passion or are we spectator Christians?

3. He--along with us--must not faint or falter.

B. Change is constantly occurring.

1. Outward man perishes.

a) Present tense--is decaying.

b) Our pictures show we grow older.

c) It is a steady, irreversible process - (You look well).

d) Outward embraces the whole human constitution with all faculties & energies; mental & muscular.

2. Inward is renewed.

a) Inward has soul--not just hidden anatomy!

b) As physical energy is constantly changed to a higher form (rivers don't just run to sea, they turn turbines) so we day by day must grow spiritually.

## C. Life brings its Troubles.

## 1. Light afflictions.

- a) They do exist.
- b) See now a series of contrasts.
- c) But be aware merit is not acquired through suffering as R.C. teach.
- d) Evil's triumph is only temporary.
- e) Spoken of as moment, passing, not abiding.

## 2. Works for us

- a) This pressure works for us not against us.
- b) That which weakens the body can strengthen the soul.
- c) Don't fear years--they bring you not closer to death but to God. (Barclay)

## 3. Glory

- a) Stephen saw glory & Jesus.  
Acts 7:55 *Full-looked steady - saw the glorified Jesus*
- b) Earth's sufferings are forgotten in the glory of heaven--even as you forget the pain of childbirth in view of the joy of a child.
- c) Afflictions led to glory.

## D. Where's Your Gaze?

## 1. Look

- a) To fix one's gaze upon.
- b) To concentrate our attention.
- c) Lot depends on where we are looking.

*Card on Seeking*

d) Two ways of looking at life

(1) Decay OK

(2) Journey to God

Heb. 11:27 "Sees him who is invisible"

2. Don't center mind on things you can see.

3. Look at the unseen.

a) Only the unseen lasts.

b) That not seen is immortality, future glory, and all blessed certainties revealed to us in Christ. (Erdman)

c) Things are real to faith tho not seen.

d) One day we'll see Jesus face to face.

3:18 But we will, & open face beholding as in a glass

1 Jn. 3:2 Beloved, now we are the sons of God

1 Cor. 13:12 For now we see thru a glass

e) To view things unseen gives the proper perspective.

f) It's things unseen that is the motive of obedience - Wesley.

4. They are eternal

a) World would have thought Paul a failure with all he gave up to be a saint.

b) What's eternal? God, Christ, Holy Spirit, Heaven, truth, salvation.

III. Thus move to Assurance.

2 Cor. 5:1 "For we know that if our"

A. Know assuredly.

## B. Earthly house.

1. Only note of uncertainty is if--  
might be alive when Jesus comes  
thus no death.

## C. Our tent.

1. Dwelling place on earth.
2. Fragile & impermanence seen in  
present bodies.
3. Transitory
4. Without foundation
5. Will fold
6. Tent dwellers are never settled--  
sojourners.

1 Pet. 2:11 *Respect you as stranger & pilgrim abiding*  
Jn. 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh & dwelt*

7. Even Jesus lit. pitched his tent  
among us.
8. Paul could be thinking of his own  
tent making.
9. Two bodies of the saints.
  - a) Frail one now, perishing, a  
burden.
  - b) Eternal, heavenly one from God.
10. Dissolve--broken up like tent.

## D. Get one not made with hands.

1. Resurrected body part of God's new  
creation.
2. Not by procreation of man's ability.
3. We've no hand in this one.

## E. Body

1. Paul shows dignity of it.
2. Plotinus "blushed he had a body."

3. St. Francis of Assisi called his body  
"my brother, the ass."
4. Don't get rid of it but clothe in  
immortality.
5. God prepares us thus for an  
eternity.

#### F. Eternal in the Heavens

1. Contrasts here.
2. Comes as soon as we leave here.
3. There is life after this one.
4. We have a habitation.

Graveside service, -10/20/89  
Dalebrook - Nashville, TN - 10/25/89

I WAS LEAVING the supermarket with the week's groceries when I noticed a small child in a stroller looking at me. As I stepped on the rubber mat that operates the self-opening glass door, I puffed my cheeks and blew hard. The expression on the child's face as the door swung open made my day.

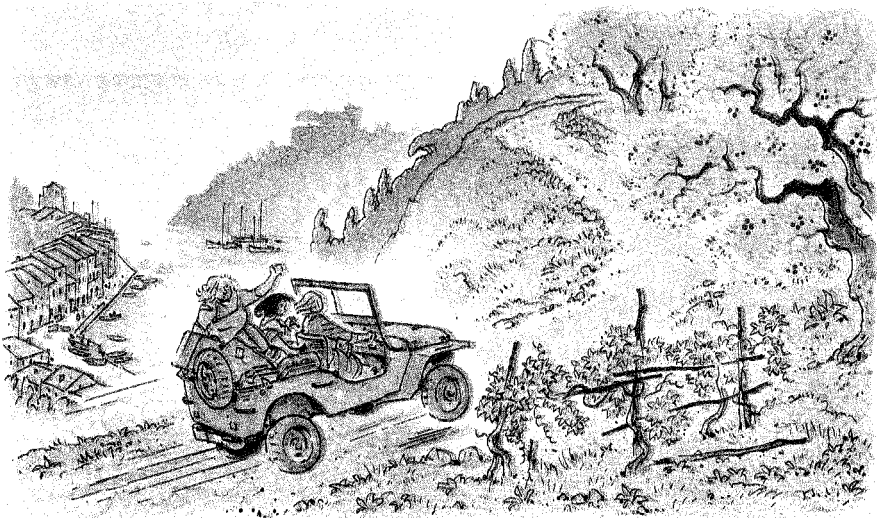
—Contributed by Jack Turner

101

If one seeks gold, his heart becomes cold metal; if only flesh, he dies as the flesh dies, if power, he perishes when others steal his power; if he seeks only fame, he will perish as others become more famous; if he seeks only ease, he will dry up and fade away. If he seeks fulfillment of his false selves, he will become a miserable creature always trying to conform to the false standards of this world.

THE HARD SAYINGS OF JESUS. - McClellan - P. 61

*A Jeep, a summer's day—and a glimpse of greatness*



# TO THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN WITH HELEN KELLER

*Condensed from*  
"CHANGE LOBSTERS — AND DANCE"  
LILLI PALMER

IN THE summer of 1950, my husband and I were living in a house built high above Portofino in Italy. The view was extraordinary. Far below us on the right lay the blue harbor, with its romantic peninsula and the old castle. To our left was the tiny emerald bay of Paraggi, with its white beach framed by cypresses. There was, however, a serpent in our paradise: the path up the cliff to our house. The municipal authorities had refused us permission to build a proper road in lieu of the mule track. The only vehicle we had that could climb the narrow path and negotiate the hairpin turns, steep incline and pot-

holes was an old U.S. Army Jeep.

One day, Contessa Margot Besozzi, who lived even higher up our path, called to say that her cousin had arrived in Portofino with a companion and that her own Jeep had conked out. Would I mind going down to the Hotel Splendido to fetch the two old ladies in ours? "Just ask for Miss Helen Keller," she said.

"Margot," I gasped. "You don't mean *Helen Keller*?"

"Of course," she replied. "She's my cousin. Didn't you know?"

I ran to our garage, jumped into the Jeep and bounced down the mountain.

I had been 12 years old when my father gave me Helen Keller's autobiography to read. In that book she wrote of Anne Sullivan, the remarkable woman whom fate had chosen to be the teacher of the blind-and-deaf child. Miss Sullivan had turned the rebellious, brutish little creature into a civilized member of society by teaching her to speak. I still remembered vividly her description of the first weeks of physical battle with the child, until the glorious moment when, holding Helen's hand under running water at the pump, she spelled w-a-t-e-r into the other hand, and the mystery of language was revealed to the transfixed little girl.

When I had backed the Jeep against a bougainvillea-covered wall

and presented myself at the hotel, a tall, buxom woman rose from a chair on the terrace to greet me: Polly Thomson, Helen Keller's companion. A second figure rose slowly from the chair beside her and held out her hand. Helen Keller, then in her 70s, was a slight, white-haired woman with wide-open blue eyes and a shy smile. "How do you do?" she said slowly and a little gutturally. I took her hand, which she was holding too high because she didn't know how tall I was. She was bound to make this mistake with people she was meeting for the first time, but she never made it twice. Later, when we said good-by, she put her hand firmly into mine at exactly the right level.

The luggage was loaded into the back of the Jeep, and I helped the jolly Miss Thomson to her seat beside it. The hotel porter lifted Helen Keller onto the front seat next to me. Only then did it dawn on me that this was going to be a risky undertaking. The Jeep was open; there was nothing you could hold on to properly. How was I to keep the blind old lady from falling out of the rickety thing when we took a curve, which had to be done at a fast clip because of the angle and the Jeep's general condition? At the foot of the rocky path, I stopped the Jeep, turned to her and said, "Miss Keller, we're going to go up a very steep hill. Can you hold tight to this metal on the windshield?"

She continued to look expectantly straight ahead. Behind me, Miss

---

ACTRESS Lilli Palmer has played leading roles on both Broadway and the London stage, and has appeared in more than 25 films in the United States and abroad.

Thomson said patiently, "She can't hear you, dear, nor see you. I know it's hard to get used to it at first."

I was so embarrassed that I stammered like an idiot, trying to explain the problem ahead of us. Miss Thomson knelt across the luggage and reached for Miss Keller's hand. Rapidly she moved Helen's fingers up, down and sideways, telling her in blind-deaf language what I had just said.

"I don't mind," said Helen, laughing. "I'll hold tight."

I placed her hands on the piece of metal in front of her. "Okay," Helen cried gaily. The Jeep started off with a jump, and Miss Thomson fell off her seat onto the luggage. I couldn't stop because of the steep trail and unreliable brakes. We roared upward, with Miss Thomson as helpless as a beetle on its back.

I'd had plenty of passengers in the Jeep, and they'd all complained about its lack of springs. No wonder, with all those boulders and pot-holes, not to mention the hairpin turns through the olive trees, which only partially obscured the precipitous drop that had unnerved quite a few of our guests. Helen Keller was the first passenger who was oblivious to the danger; she was enchanted by the violent jumps and only laughed when she was thrown against my shoulder. She actually began to sing. "This is fun," she warbled happily, bouncing up and down. "Lovely!" she cried.

Out of the corner of my eye, as we tore past our house, I saw our

gardener crossing himself. I had no idea how Miss Thomson was doing, for the Jeep's fearful roar had long since drowned out her exclamations. But I knew that Helen was still next to me. Her thin white hair had come undone and fluttered about her face, and she was enjoying the crazy ride like a child riding up and down on a wooden horse on a merry-go-round.

At last, we rounded the final curve between two giant fig trees, and I could see Margot Besozzi and her husband waiting for us. Helen was lifted out of the Jeep and hugged; the luggage was unloaded, and Polly Thomson was upended and dusted off.

While the two old women were being shown to their rooms to freshen up, Margot told me about her cousin and her life. "All she really notices," Margot said, "is a change of smell. Whether she's here or in New York or in India, she sits in a black, silent hole."

Arm in arm, casually, as if they just happened to be fond of each other, Helen and Polly walked through the garden toward the terrace, where we were waiting for them. "That must be wisteria," said Helen, "and masses of it, too. I recognize the scent."

Helen's diction was not quite normal. She spoke haltingly, like someone who has had a stroke, and her consonants were slow and labored. She turned to me, looking directly at me because she had sensed where I was sitting. "You know, we're on

the way to Florence to see Michelangelo's 'David.' I'm so thrilled. I've always wanted to see it."

Mystified, I looked at Miss Thomson, who nodded. "It's true," she said. "The Italian government has had a scaffolding erected around the statue so that Helen can climb up and touch it. That's what she calls 'seeing.' We often go to the theater in New York, and I tell her what's going on onstage and describe the actors. Sometimes we go backstage, too, so that she can 'see' the sets and the actors. Then she goes home, feeling that she's really witnessed the performance."

Luncheon was served on the terrace. Helen was led to her chair, and I watched her "see" her place setting. Quick as lightning, her hands moved over the objects on the table—plate, glass, silverware—memorizing where they were. Never during the meal did she grope about, but reached out casually and firmly like the rest of us.

After lunch, we stayed on the shady terrace, surrounded by trailing clusters of wisteria like a thick mauve curtain, the sun glittering on the sea below us. Helen sat in the usual way, head raised slightly as

though listening to something, her sightless blue eyes wide open. Her face, although an old lady's face, had something of a schoolgirl's innocence. Whatever suffering must have tormented her—and might still torment her—her face showed no trace of it. It was an isolated face, a saintly face.

Through her friend, I asked her what else she wanted to see in Europe. She slowly mapped out her journey—all the places she would visit and the people she would meet. Incredibly, she spoke French quite well and could make herself understood in German and Italian. "There's still so much I'd like to see," she said, "so much to learn. And death is just around the corner. Not that that worries me. On the contrary."

"Do you believe in life after death?" I asked.

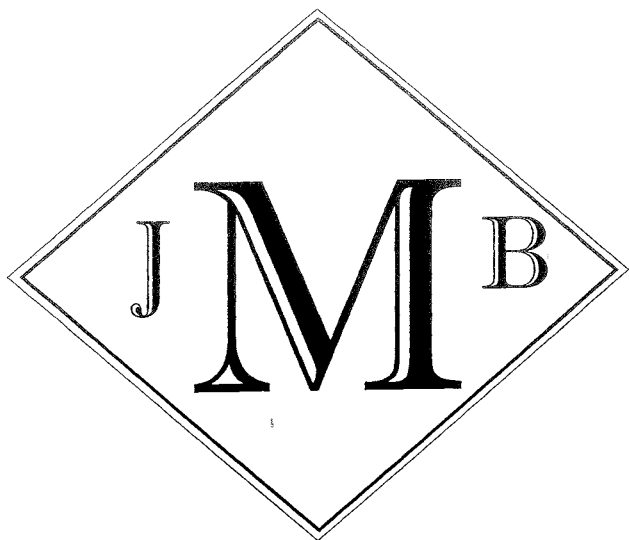
"Most certainly," she said emphatically. "It is no more than passing from one room into another."

We sat in silence for a moment. Then, slowly and very distinctly, she spoke again: "But there's a difference for me, you know. Because in that other—room—I shall be able to see."



**Dream World.** A hotel manager in Raleigh reports that a guest woke up everyone in the hotel screaming, "It's in the phone book! It's in the phone book!" The manager got the house detective and they let themselves into the man's room, where they found him in the midst of a nightmare. "I was having a horrible dream," the man explained when awakened. "I dreamed the income-tax people wanted to send me a big refund, but they'd lost my address!"

—Raleigh Times



# At What Are You Aiming?

2 Cor. 5:1-10

- I. Whether we are a success or failure depends a lot on that which we aim.
  - A. Finish school just to say so.
  - B. Choose a vocation just to have something to do.
  - C. Go to church just to sit in judgement of those who do.
- II. Paul establishes a great aim  
(2 Cor. 5:1-10 Read)
  - A. Please see the "aim" (v-9) "Wherefore also we make it"
    1. Do we ever hit anything without aiming at it?
    2. Life's no slot machine.
    3. What is your aim?
      - a. Wealth
      - b. Honor
      - c. Power socially, politically
    4. We need a singleness of purpose else we get sidetracked.  
Edison sought to invent a light bulb--found 101 ways not to build one.
    5. Is your aim to be well pleasing to God?
  - B. Let's study the Cor. passage and see what would contribute to this aim?
- III. Text-2 Cor. 5: 1-10
  - A. (v-1) For we know that if the...
    1. Some things I know: I'm in a body but will not stay there

*He demolished  
Dismantled*

*Taken Down*

*Destroyed*

*Real*

*Listen to me*

*Talk*

*Birds don't talk*

*"I must not*

*be a bird*

- a.) It's a tent--temporary dwelling.
- b.) Song--"This old house"
- c.) Tent is not what I eventually want--here we are camping Dehoff
- d.) Christian has 1 foot in time and 1 foot in eternity Barclay
- e.) Body's on earth, heart is in Heaven
- f.) Contrast between tent & permanent tabernacle
- g.) I am real today--so Heaven is real

2 Cor. 4:16 "Though our outward man"

2. I know part of me must "dissolve"

- a.) Dismantled
- b.) Take apart as a building
- c.) The same moment of death marks the destruction of the transitory earthly tent dwelling also marks the taking up of permanent residence with the Lord (v-8)
- d.) You remember how they dissolved part of the Tabernacle & was put back together after moving it.
- e.) Life is a pilgrimage, our body a tent, so slight, so transitory, easily taken down

*Expositor's*

f.) "Man is, by terms of his  
existence, a being of eternity  
and he cannot unmake  
himself" Liddon (3)

g.) Our tent goes to dust-  
subject to debility, death

3. We have a building of God, not

a.) God created this body.

b.) Our next one by him, but  
not of natural generation

c.) Contrastly--its eternal and  
be not earth, but Heaven  
(if I've got one here can  
have one there--Heaven's  
real

d.) It's being prepared--tent  
is placed and temple

e.) Our aging bodies and  
feebleness give way to  
permanent ones

f.) NO matter what happens to  
the body nothing can happen  
to me" Coffman

Groan  
Sigh

4. In this we groan

a.) Dr. Ray "Where do you  
ache today?" (Groan 2x)

b.) Know pain & discomfort

~~WTF~~  
Burdened  
Heavy hearted

c.) "Gates of death look gloomy  
on this side but on the other  
open into the present  
chambers of Jesus" Myers

d.) "Longing to be clothed with  
our Heavenly bodies" Paul

Painful longing

5. When we are clothed we will ④
- a.) Better clothing--"get what you pay for"
  - b.) Comes at resurrection time
  - c.) MacKnight says the wicked have one that's burned up???
  - d.) Change metaphors: house to garment
  - e.) Not naked--"get out of away from" Col 3:9 Put off
  - f.) Mortality swallowed up "by life"--Live somewhere!
  - g.) "Knowledge comes via divine revelation" Lipscomb

Ecc 12:7

1 Cor. 15:38

- h.) No doubt--"we know"
6. It is God who made us for this
- a.) God gives us this holy desire
  - b.) Take off garments of world, put on one prepared in glory
  - c.) Suffering & decay is over
  - d.) No alternate--home here or home with the Lord
  - e.) Gave you earnest of the Spirit

1.) Part payment, proof of one to come--engagement ring

2.) Holy Spirit--Acts 5:32

7. Conclusion--"Therefore"

a.) Read v. 6-8

*Not willing  
to take it  
off*

*Stripped of*

*Life*

*swallowed up*

*Pledge*

*guaranteed*

*1st installment*

*Foretaste*

- 1.) Can't hope for anything  
God has not promised
- 2.) Not hope without 5  
complying with his  
provisions
- 3.) Can't by faith do anything  
God has not commanded

b.) Our own "We make it on"

2 Cor 4:18 "While we look not at the..."

- 1.) To have Christ after  
death we must have  
gained acceptance  
in His eyes before death  
Expositor's

*Unfailing  
Confidence*

- 2.) Like the bird be thou  
that for a moment rests  
upon the top most bough  
He feels the branch to  
bend. And yet as  
sweetly sings

*Labour  
Aim*

- 3.) Total purpose please  
the Lord
- 4.) Completely surrender to  
His will & way
- 5.) He knows what's best for  
us
- 6.) Our ambition
- 7.) Single verb--make it our  
aim. Summit of ambition

*Strive  
earnestly*

*Am eager*

- 8.) For we must all appear

*Well pleasing*

- a.) Bema
- b.) All there--none  
excused or tardy

2 Tim 4:1

- c.) It's open
- d.) Christ the Judge
- e.) Judge by what is  
done in & thru  
the body
- f.) We are responsible
- g.) Rewards &  
Punishments
- h.) Happy or sorrowful?
- i.) Manifest--laid bare,  
openly revealed in  
ful
- j.) Judgement is not a  
declaration of doom  
but an assessment  
of worth
- k.) This appearance a  
priviledge for  
Christian
- l.) Get ready to give  
account
  - 1.) Christ bore the  
burden not the  
guilt of sin
  - 2.) Felt sins horrors  
without guilt
  - 3.) Not made a  
sinner but sin  
(Dummelver)
- m.) Seaching scrutiny of  
God ever Real--as He  
knows all about us

(7)

n.) Insincerity impossible  
for one who takes  
seriously the  
judgement of Christ  
(Broadman)

North Jackson C/C - 9/25/05

Walnut Street C/C (2 services) - 10/23/05

Neely's Bend - 11/6/05

# How should we talk about death?

**CURIOUS** expressions abound in these days of politically correct speech. Someone described a group of mechanics who were fired from their jobs by saying, "They were placed on non-duty non-pay status."

And then there was the physician whose patient died. The sensitive doctor wrote on the patient's chart, "He failed to fulfill his wellness potential."

Of course, all of us have strange and insensitive ways of talking about death. We say, "He kicked the bucket." (And died from a toe injury?) "He bought the farm." (And died from an acute case of buyer's remorse?) "She expired." (Like a parking meter?) "He croaked." (Compare me to no frog when I die.)

By comparison, the Bible uses meaningful and comforting word-pictures to describe a believer's death and resurrection.

## Old Testament Pictures

Before Jacob died he gathered his sons around him and gave instructions and blessings to each of them. Then "he drew his feet up into the bed, breathed his last and was gathered to his people" (Genesis 49:33). Abraham and Isaac also were "gathered to their people," which makes death sound less lonely and more like a family reunion (Genesis 25:8; 35:29).

The death of King David evoked a similar expression: he "rested with his fathers" (1 Kings 2:10). In the familiar words of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, David expected to "dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Solomon used vivid poetic imagery to portray what it means to die. Remember the Lord, he warned, "before the silver cord is severed, or the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, or the wheel broken at the well, and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:6, 7).

The prophet Daniel foresaw a time

when "multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:2, 3).

## New Testament Pictures

A devout old man named Simeon waited faithfully for the coming of the Messiah. "It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Luke 2:26). When Mary and Joseph brought the Christ-child into the temple courts, "Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have

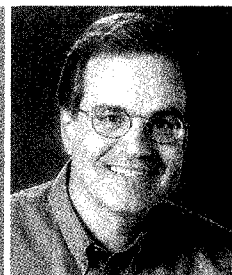
On the Mount of Transfiguration heavenly light surrounded Jesus as he talked with Moses and Elijah. "They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem" (Luke 9:31). Peter used the same term in reference to his own death. "I will make every effort," he wrote, "to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things" (2 Peter 1:15). "Departure" translates the Greek word *exodos*, literally the "way out," like the way God led the Israelites out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. For a Christian, death isn't an inescapable trap. Because of Jesus, we know the

way out! Death is our "exodus," our departure—an exit, not extermination. Someone has said, "Earth's exodus is Heaven's genesis."

According to the apostle Paul, a believer's death and resurrection will be a glorious transformation. "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:51, 52).

And the final book of the Bible offers this Beatitude: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them" (Revelation 14:13).

However, one popular euphemism for death never appears in the Bible in reference to a Christian. First John 2:17 says, "The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever." Instead of saying, "He passed away," we should learn to say, "He lives forever!"



seen your salvation . . ." (Luke 2:28-30). "Dismissed"—what a vivid way to describe Simeon's approaching death! The Lord was like a teacher saying, "Class dismissed," or like a commanding officer giving the order, "At ease, soldier!"

At what are we aiming 2 Cor 5:1-10

1 Success depends on Him - ✓ (9)  
Wealth, Honor, Power, Please God

2. V-1 We know

Tent - This old house - Camping De HFS

Chr. 1st in time, 1st in eternity - Barclay

Body on Earth - Seat in Heaven

Is Im real - Heaven is Birds not talk

Disolve - dismantle, take apart, tabernacle

The same moment of death marks the destruction of the transitory earthly tent dwelling & marks the taking up of permanent residence & the bond of Jesus. Man is, by terms of his existence, a being of eternity & he cannot unmake himself. Hidden

Bldg of God - next bldg by Him not a natural gener. being prepared "no matter what happens to the body - nothing can happen to me - Lott man Green - Dr Roy - where were we today?

Gates of death look gloomy on this side, but one other open into the present chamber of Jesus. Many changes metaphor house to garment Alex sandhu Knowledge comes via Road Lipscomb

Earnest Spirit - Acts 2:38 - Can't hope for anything not promised by God. Faith is a promise.

If to have Christ after death - have Him now  
Total Purpose - Please the Lord

Appear Before - none excused or tardy  
Open Christ the Judge  
We are responsible

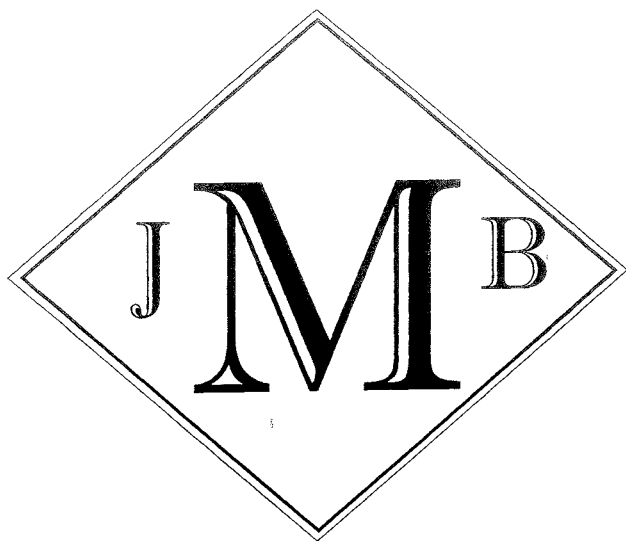
Manifest - laid bare - get ready to  
give account

Christ bare burden not guilty sin

Felt sin's horrors who guilt

Not made sinners but sin

Innumerate - impossible for one who takes  
seriously the Judgment of Christ



# THE UNIVERSAL JUDGEMENT

2 Cor. 5:1-10

I. Perhaps no thought more sober than with full knowledge and certainty I shall one day stand before Jesus in final judgement.

A. What does the Bible say about it?

B. Secondly, how do I appropriate these truths to my life?

II. Our text is 2 Cor. 5:1-10.

A. 1st I see there is an end of this pilgrimage.

2 Cor. 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly"

1. This tent goes down but he fashions another dwelling for our spirits.

2. "We are just camping in a tent."  
(DeHoff)

3. Death separates body & spirit.

4. The body is a temporary structure.

B, Secondly, we have a new covering.

2 Cor. 5:1 "We have a bldg. of God, an house"

1. Tent replaced with a temple in time past.

2. So we have a permanency.

Phil. 3:12 *Not as though I had already attained perfect*

3. It is fitted for the lofty life beyond  
(Nelson)

4. One day we get a better house -  
(Erdman)

5. The flesh will not be annihilated but spiritualized, glorified and beautified as the human body of Christ was at the transfiguration -  
(Augustine)

6. Thoughts of heaven stir us to greater care & diligence. (Scott)
7. It's eternal.

- a) Non-physical.
- b) No pain or disease.
- c) Non-temptable since this comes from the flesh.

Rom. 7:5 *In the flesh, the motions of sins did wage in*  
 7:23 *our members to bring forth fruit unto death*

- d) Our new bodies not a part of this creation.

Heb. 9:11

- e) Not enough revealed to satisfy our curiosity but enough to comfort our hearts. (Erdman)

C. Thirdly, we currently know a state of evaluation.

1. "In this we groan" - (v 2)

- a) We sigh with anxiety.
- b) 2X says we groan.
- c) We carry the burden of sin.

2. "Earnestly desiring to be clothed" (v-2)

- a) We know we are destined for something better & we want it.

- b) We are not naked, unclothed.

(1) Slaves & prisoners of war naked.

(2) Metaphor changes - from shelter to garment.

(3) We want to die into glory as stars die into sunlight.

(Interpreters)

3. We want to be "clothed upon" (v 4)
  - a) We'll be fully covered.
  - b) At no time is soul unclothed.
  - c) Not so much wanting to put off (we love life) but to put on (that which is better).
  - d) Because we are spiritual we can never be fully at home here.
  - e) "Thou hast made us unto thyself and our hearts find no rest until it rests in thee". - (Augustine)

4. We want immortality.

5. I know it is the work of God.

V-5 "Now he that hath wrought us"

a) Earnest

(1) Deposit

(2) Lit. engagement ring one gives to seal the promise of marriage.

(3) Pledge to consummate what one has experienced.

(4) This pledge is a Person

b) It's the Spirit we now have.

D. I also know a state of confidence.

V-6 "There we are always confident"

1. Faith gives us confidence.

2. Holy Spirit makes courage possible.

3. "If as I believe" is the thought - confident expectation.

4. It is not blind foolhardiness but knowledgeable confidence. (Kent)

5. Faith lets you see the invisible.

Heb. 9:27 *And it is appt. unto men once to die*

6. Faith walks these steps of salvation in order. (DeHoff)
7. Faith for this world - sight for the next. (Henry)
8. Ellicott says sight never means the facility of seeing but always the form & fashion of things seen.
9. We now believe without seeing but one day face to face.
10. If absent from the body we will be immediately at home with God.
11. At home with Christ is our proper home & we should live accordingly - even as you asked your children to do.
12. Not preferring to be dead but to be at home with the Lord.

E. Fourthly, wherever we are we share a common aim.

V-9 "Wherefore we labor that whether present"

1. Endeavor - margin.
2. Make it our aim, ambition.
3. We are spurred to greater heights. (Tyndale)
4. No encouragement to slouth.
5. Strive after an honor or prize.
6. Wherever we are we try to please the Lord because that is what human existence is all about.
7. To please the Lord = earth or Heaven.
8. Summit of ambition - to be acceptable to Him.

9. No higher way of living than to want life approved by Jesus.

"We have as our ambition" -(V-9)

F. Fifthly, there is a Judgement.

v-10 "For we must all appear"

1. Command appearance.

- a) We are here on probation.  
b) Appear = manifest - appt. we'll keep.

2. Judgement Seat

- a) Bema - Paul knew at Corinth.

1 Cor. 3:10-15

- (Read)
- (1) Here Judge bestowed awards to the winners.  
(2) Judge was high & seen of all at Bema.  
(3) Judge towers above the crowd.  
(4) Raised above the level of the basilica or hall.  
b) Note surety of Judgement - certain & universal.

Heb. 9:27

Acts 17:30-31

Heb. 4:13

1 Tim. 5:24

Rev. 20:11

*And the times of this ignorance*  
*All things are naked & opened unto the eyes*  
*And I saw a great white throne*

- c) Award throne.

3. Christ there.

- a) Our eternal destiny depends on how we react to Him.  
b) He has paid for our sins thus no punishment to believers.

Ps. 103:12 *As far as the e. is from the w. so far*  
Heb. 8:12 *For I will be merciful to their unbelief & their sin*  
Heb. 10:12 *This man offered 1 sac. for sins forever sat*  
Heb. 10:14 *For by 1 off. he hath perfected forever them*

c) He judges

Jn. 5:22 *For the F. judgeth no man but hath com.*  
Jn. 5:27 *Hath given him authority to exec. judg. because*  
Rom. 2:16 *God judge secrets of men by Jesus Christ*

4. Other facts.

a) Everyone there.

- (1) Each accountable.
- (2) Destiny of redeemed is life.
- (3) We may expect something better.

b) Basic - things done.

- (1) Wages in next world tied to acts in this one.
- (2) Recompense.
- (3) Universal law of retribution.

Gal. 6:7 *Be not dec. God is not m. for what a cov*

- (4) We are responsible human beings not playthings of fate.
- (5) Life is worthwhile because we are here to fulfill God's purposes.

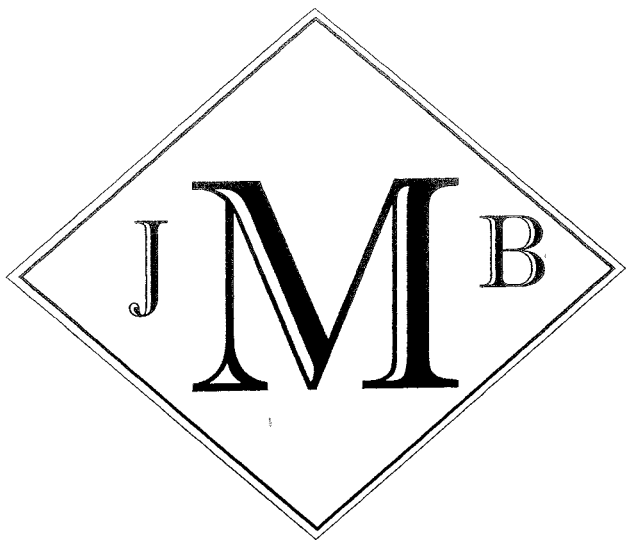
c) Good or Bad

- (1) Not once saved - always
- (2) Good
  - (a) Brings reward.
  - (b) Ever blessed.

- (3) Bad - no reward - worthless

I Jn. 2:28 *Abide in him, that when he shall appear*  
1 Cor. 3:15 *we may have confidence & not be ashamed*

- d) Believers' sins are judged in Christ & believers' works are judged by Christ.
- e) Your life is God's gift to you - what you do with it is your gift to God.
- f) We'll see our unworthiness and know fuller the power of His grace.



IF I AM ~~lost~~

2 Cor 5:10

I. Ea. gives vent to feature of self-examination.

A. Business- filling Station Operator

B. Pleasure - I can't do - Selly's coming

C. Spiritually - not just alien, also member.

Wise men will be saved.

1. Tiny Tots - Wise men on camel, ain't stupid.

II. Let's then analyze. A. Ady of Acct.

2 Cor 5:10 "For we must all appear before

Matt 25:31-2 "When the Son of Man shall come

Heb 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men

Rom 2:6 "who will render to every man

(Sin deserves death - just. a dist. - Creds Index)

Rom 1:16-7 "For I am not ashamed of the

2 Pet 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning

B. what if I flaunt all in God's face?

1. If I am lost, I will be lost forever.

2. Not ambition to make Hell worse than<sup>13</sup>

But do be fair

Matt 25:41 "Then shall he say unto them

Matt 25:46 "And these shall go away

Rev 14:10-11 "Tormented - fire - forever - no rest

b No rest from torment

c Coexistent with Heaven

2. If I am lost, I will many other also  
Rom 14:7 "For none of us liveth to himself"

a) You are in the trial - you whatever you  
are affects lives of others.

b) More you are with person, more influence.

c) You are with loved ones most!

1) Child weeps in snow - to saloon.

2) Do you worry about your own child

3) Only word of Hell "Son remember

3. If I am lost, I will be at fault

a. Not God. In 3:16 "For God so loved the

1. Death Valley in Calif.

b. Not Christ Rom 5:9 "Much more then being

1. Where is greater love? 1 man brought death,  
1 obedience - life, if you appropriate it.

c. Not Holy Spirit 2 Pet 1:3 "According as his

d. Not Church Eph 3:10 "To the intent that

e. It's my own fault.

1. Arsenal of Toulon 2) Epitaph

Greene Ave 1/24/54 Mullinville 10/18/55

Pine Bluff 11/2/55

New Brandels 3/6/54

P.M. C1245 Pitcher - from Chm. Church  
Rosemead 1/24/55

Locust Grove 7/18/54

West End 8/23/54

Woodson Chapel 7/20/54

Whitlock 7/30/54

Birmingham 8/14/54

Dodge City 8/27/54

A PRINCE, traveling through France, visited the arsenal of Toulon, where the galleys were kept. As a compliment to the Prince's rank, the commandant said he was welcome to set free any of the prisoners he selected.

The Prince, wanting to make the best use of this privilege, spoke in succession to the prisoners, inquiring why they were condemned to the gallows. Injustice, false accusation, oppression were the only causes they could assign. They had been ill-treated and were all innocent.

At last he came to one who, when asked the same question, answered, "My lord, I have no reason to complain; I have been a very wicked, desperate wretch. I have often deserved to be broken alive on the wheel. I account it a very great mercy I am here."

The Prince fixed his eyes upon him, gave him a gentle blow upon the head and said, "You wicked wretch! It is a pity you should be placed among so many honest men. By your own confession you are bad enough to corrupt them all; but you shall not stay with them another day." Then, turning to the officer, he said, "This is the man, sir, I wish to see released."

All the prisoners were offenders, all were equally guilty, but only one owned and confessed his guilt, and he was set free. So our gracious God deals with sinners. If we confess that we are sinners, then we can claim the sinner's Savior, and His blood is sufficient for us all.

—The Prairie Overcomer

## RELIGION MIGHT HURT BUSINESS

A revival service was being held, and one of the partners in a butcher shop joined the church. He tried to his partner to do likewise. "I just can't do it, John," replied the partner when the insistence became irksome. "Who'll do the weighin' if I join?"

Mrs. Bryant Worthy, Alabama.



Franklin's epitaph which he wrote himself at age 22:

The body  
of  
Benjamin Franklin, Printer,  
(Like the cover of an old book,  
Its contents torn out,  
And stript of its lettering and gilding,)  
Lies food for worms:  
Yet the work itself shall not be lost.  
For it will, (as he believed) appear  
once more, in a new  
And more beautiful edition,  
Corrected and amended  
by  
The Author

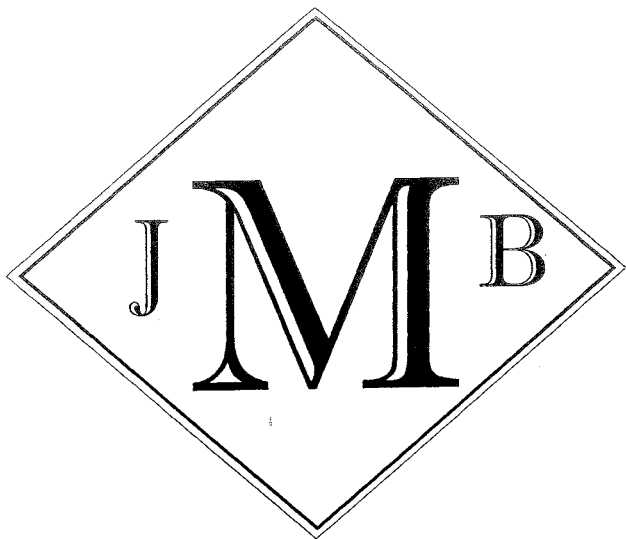
rich the thought. ...  
are taken up into some refined human...

D I S C R E E T L Y   S A I D --

A preacher whose congregation regularly spurned seats in the front of the church was surprised to see one man, a stranger, sitting in the very first row. After the sermon the preacher asked the man why he sat down in front. The man replied that, being a bus-driver, he wanted to find out how the preacher got the people to move to the rear.

--Pathfinder.

QUOTABLE QUOTES



## 43 YEARS ON HARDING'S BOARD

- I. I want to start something. *2 Cor 5:12-13*
- A. Tieless man denied club entrance--get a tie--used battery cables--OK but don't start anything.
- B. But I want to start a deeper appreciation for our task.
1. No assembly could be finer than this one.
  2. Deep is my gratitude knowing my poor comparison with your talents.
  3. Jim Maple & I claim however a distinction in service & he comparative to institutional length in proportion is No. 1.
  4. For me--all he ever did is grow old and look how long it took to do it.
- II. Like my marriage, my preaching career, my 20th Century Christian and farming experience--I wish everyone could have what I have had. (Sis had a 3-year-old with her who said, "This the prayer I like because we get to eat right after it.")
- A. Pinpointing some highlights, I begin by citing the thrill of watching the Alert Analytical Abilities of my fellow trustees.
1. From these words you see they make All A's.
  2. Budget presentation--(who taught presidents to ask for more than they had last year, "to cut is cruel") future plans & dreams, new departments--immediately questions come.

3. That's the reason I serve as secretary forever--I can't grasp the situation but I can write it down after you summarize it.
  - a) ESP = Error Some Place.
  - b) How old Hez.?--different ages at different times--never thought of that.
  - c) Well done--not many compliments.

B. Secondly, there is the spirit of constant Betterment--as I lead you in your ABC's.

1. One ideal--what is better for the school. *Sent to my room*
2. Decisions made totally devoid of "what do I get out of it?"
3. After all, this is the one job you pay to keep so its decisions are totally devoid of selfishness--rather it's the opposite--increase of duty.
4. If preachers build attendance & budgets they get raises, but Board members the need of a larger pledge.
5. I don't consider mine a pledge--it's payment on a magnificent debt of gratitude.
  - a) ASA--2000 nothing moves that fast.
  - b) Taxi--here's fare & thanks for waiting.

*Different name  
300  
Cucumber  
VINE*

6. Will accept change for the better.
  - a) Clip on Schools.
  - b) Never mind clip.
  - c) Wall St. Journal.
  - d) Lincoln clip.

C. Beautifully Christian.

1. Sure we've made mistakes but who hasn't?
2. I've voted no--you serve God in your own way, I will in His!!!
3. But I don't recall a shady story, a slang word, an angered insult. Elders don't even do this well but you have to put up with preachers, Board members with presidents.
4. Channels of duties are kept--we can man to man discuss doctrine, out of place as Board to faculty.
5. Good way to tell George Benson is dead--"not always right but never in doubt."
6. All the mates I've met fit the same mold.
  - a) Change view on capital punishment.
  - b) Dinner? Ask Dr. who operates, he's my fiance.

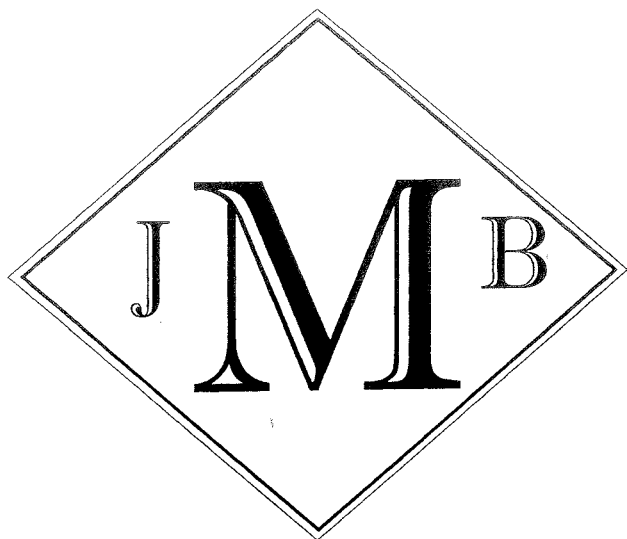
D. Endlessly Devoted to the school they serve.

1. True, no competition between light houses but we've been known to polish the lenses now and then.
2. No Philistines in the camp, rather a firm belief we serve an excellent institution deserving of our first loyalty.
3. Bowling Green farmer stopped by patrol and asked, "Do you have any I.D.?" "About what?" he asked.

4. Problem big enuf for us all

- a) Bill Bennett report
- b) Daniel Webster
- c) DURANT
- d) Horse c Tongue out

OCUSA Board, Okla. City, OK - 4/2/93



# LEAD ME TO SOME SOUL TODAY

2 Cor. 5:14-15

I. Call it what you will, an obligation rests on each Chr. to "give a reason for his hope" & "make disciples of all nations."

A. Is it "witnessing" - see card on it.

B. Is it soul winning?

Refuge vs. hazard p 203 #2

C. Is it personal work?

Tragic adjectives #3

D. Is it evangelism?

Twiddle, twiddle #4

E. Whatever you call it, is it being done? Napoleon

II. By & large - No - so we ask why.

A. -I don't care ~~enough~~ about my neighbor nor see the vastness of an eternity.

B. I don't know what I believe well enough to intelligently present it against objections that might come. Hatfield - Shrivak #6

2 Tim. 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God

Jn. 5:39 "Search the Scrp. for in them ye think ye have

C. I think it's someone else's job. "Curtis" "Ward"

D. I know my life is too out of tune - "You, talk to me about Jesus?" "Silent People - Relations" #9

Acts 1:8 "Be witness" vs. bearing

Phil. 1:27 "Only let your conversation be as it becomes"

III. Why should I be spiritually concerned?

A. Christ expects it. Rabbi's view #10

Mk. 16:15-16 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all

Matt. 28:18 "And Jesus came and spake unto them, sa

John 10:16 "Other sheep I have which are not of this

B. I'm grateful for what He's done.

1. Assembly of God in Temple, Tx. sign: God loves Jesus died for you & we care for you.

2 Cor. 5:14-15 "For the love of Christ constraineth us  
C. Inward compulsion.

Jer. 23:29 "Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lo

Acts 4:18-20 "And they called them, and commanded

D. Sense of responsibility. *Gospel 13 + 17/12 #11*  
*John changes #12*

2 Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judger

2 Cor. 5:18 "God hath given us the ministry of reconc

2 Cor. 4:3 "If our gospel be hid, it is his to them that

Prov. 24:10-12 (Read). #13

E. Time is short. *CB Shaw - Helen Keller #14*

Rom. 13:11 "It is his time to awake out of sleep: for now

John 9:4 "I must work the works of him that sent me

#### IV. What will win?

A. The Truth.

Ecc. 11:1 "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou

Ecc. 11:6 "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the ev

1. Spurgeon, "Defend the Bible? I'd just as soon  
defend a lion! Let it loose."

B. Blessed & a consistent life.

C. Using all tools of the times.

1. Literature. *Wm Carey #15*

2. Hospitality.

a.) 20th CC story.

1 Pet. 4:9 "Use hospitality one to another without grud

3. Invitation & contacts.

Acts 17:2-4 Read. *Create desire #16*

17 Read.

V. Will I: *Dr James Stewart #17*

A. Try?

B. Pray?

*Ezek #18*

## THE MEANING OF THE WORD

#1  
"Witness" comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word "wotan," to know, "wot" being used in this sense in the KJV seven times in the Old Testament and four times in the New (Acts 3:17; 7:40; Rom. 11:2 and Phil. 1:22). A witness is one who speaks of that which he knows about at first hand. Personal spoken witness is telling an individual or group what we *know* to be true, not what we *think* or *hope* or *feel*.

## THE MOTIVES FOR WITNESS

If we ask the question, "Why should Christians witness?" the answer is, out of:

12

Our churches are more frequently cities of refuge than launch-pads to invade a secular society that in the past has made the Puritan distasteful and is trying in the present to make the evangelical no less so.

#2  
"Evangelicals In Search of Identity" - By Carl F. H. Henry -  
pp. 91-92

The church is what its people are. If the life of the average Christian can be described by such tragic adjectives as prayerless, powerless, spineless, and fruitless, then it stands to reason the church will fit into the same definition.

"Tongues, Healing, and You"- Don W.Hillis  
Chapter 1 - Page 4

**Simplified**  
(F. B. Meyer)

A famous astronomer stepped onto a jet to find that his seatmate was a noted theologian. Looking at his collar, the astronomer said to the priest, "Please, I'd rather not talk about religion. It can be boiled down to 'doing for others what you would have them do for you.'"

The priest, recognizing the astronomer, answered, "All right. But let's not talk about astronomy either. It just boils down to 'twinkle, twinkle, little star.'"

Hartland, Minn. Al

While the Church has a mission, a task to perform, it is guaranteed life and strength to endure. Napoleon once said, #15  
"While I am necessary, nothing can remove me."

"Your Church and You" - By Fred Pierce Corson - Page 97

We shrink from sharing our deepest convictions with those who may be unfamiliar with or hostile toward them. Perhaps this is because people today are more certain about their doubts than they are about their convictions.

#16

"Conflict and Conscience" - By Mark O. Hatfield - Page 11

Our task requires personal involvement in the world. We cannot abdicate our personal responsibility to an institutional response. Unfortunately, our tendency is to seek escape from personal involvement in problems confronting us by endorsing institutional solutions to them. We give money to the church's missionary fund, we donate clothes to the street mission, and we contribute faithfully to worthy causes, believing that these are the only avenues through which we can carry out God's work. Yet, what is most needed is individual, personal involvement. We must make our lives relevant to others; we must involve ourselves personally in situations where we demonstrate the concern and compassion Christ imparts to us. #2

"Conflict and Conscience" - By Mark O. Hatfield - Page 46

"Wouldn't it be interesting if the new Ward's store on State Street hired 200 employees who would finish remodeling their building, and when finished would spend all their time waiting on each other?" #8

The speaker--a regular church attendant--was trying to illustrate what he was beginning to see in his local congregation--that its members spend most of their time simply waiting on each other.

Christ once told a story about a shepherd who left 99 sheep in the fold to find the one lost in the wilderness. Someone has suggested that today's shepherd too often would rather stay with the one church member left in the fold than go after the 99 now lost in the wilderness.

"Faithful Rebels" - By Roy Blumhorst - Pages 67-68

church

#9

The joke about the silent couple who hadn't been communicating for some time isn't far from reality; they were riding on a Sunday afternoon in the country, and he spotted two mules on the other side of the fence. For the first time in three weeks, he spoke to his wife. "Some of your relatives?" he asked.

She was equal to the occasion: "Yes, on my husband's side."

~~Say It With Love~~, by Howard G. Hendricks, p. 79.

## METAMORPHOSES

#10

"I had thought the New Testament to be impure, a Source of Pride, or over weening selfishness of hatred and of the worst kind of violence, but as I opened it, I felt myself peculiarly and wonderfully taken possession of. A sudden glory, a light flashed through my soul. I looked for thorns, and gathered roses; I discovered pearls instead of pebbles; instead of hatred, love; instead of vengeance, forgiveness; instead of bondage, freedom; instead of pride, humility; instead of enmity, conciliation; instead of death, life, salvation, resurrection, heavenly treasures."

*Isaac Lichtenstein,  
formerly Chief Rabbi of Batipfui, Hungary*

#12

#11

The Gospel is failing to produce results in some places today because it lacks an audience. Christians in churches are busy evangelizing the evangelized. We constantly face the danger of developing a fortress mentality: making occasional excursions into unfriendly territory and scurrying back to the safety of our church and its people when opposition arises. We tend to derive security from friendly surroundings rather than from Jesus Christ, and so we fail to penetrate our society for Christ.

Say It with Love, by Howard G. Hendricks, p 117.

#### DENOMINATIONS—Changes

Nearly 40 per cent of American Protestants belong to a denomination different from the one in which they were raised, according to a study in the new edition of *Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches*. Theologically conservative churches with strong evangelization programs have benefited most by denominational switching, indicated Southern Baptist official C Kirk Hadaway, author of the study. The trends indicated that persons most often switch for theological reasons — in order to meet personal religious needs — contrary to the most widely accepted past explanation linking church changes to economic or social mobility. The fastest growing churches in 1978, according to the yearbook, were the Presbyterian Church in America (11.09 per cent) and the Free Methodist Church (6.2 per cent), while the United Presbyterian Church suffered the highest rate of loss (1.6 per cent).

George Bernard Shaw was hospitalized for a short spell when he was in his nineties. He was so frail that every time he dozed off, the doctors would lean over him to listen to his heartbeat, faint as it was.

One afternoon, when the playwright felt drowsy, he called the nurse and said: "I am going to take a nap now. Don't let anyone near me who is hard of hearing." — *Funny Funny World.*

Only when the optometrist tells us we are losing sight in an eye do we truly value our vision. Helen Keller, born deaf, mute, and blind, advised people to use their eyes as if tomorrow they would be blind. She recounted what she would do, if she had only three days to use her eyes. First, she would visit all the people who had befriended her and look lovingly at their faces. Then, after also gazing intently on a baby, she would walk slowly through the woods. The second day, after seeing the sun rise, she would tour museums and places of art and science and industry. That night she would watch the grace and beauty of a ballet. The last day she would again rise early to watch dawn break. Then she would visit schools and playgrounds before standing on a street corner to observe the ache and suffering of passing crowds. That night she would attend a comedy to observe the greatness of the human spirit which can laugh at its own foibles.

"The Gift of Joy" - By Leslie B. Flynn - pp. 42-43

"William Carey is quoted as saying: 'My work is to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus. I make shoes for a living.' Paul spent a lifetime preaching the gospel and he made tents for a living."

--Faces of God, p. 23

Samuel J. Schreiner

This training is further explained to by the root of the <sup>#16</sup> Hebrew verb. It was used to describe the process of the Hebrew midwife who, at the time of birth, would plunge a finger into crushed dates and olive oil and rub the substance across the rood of the mouth of the newborn infant. The child was stimulated to suck and take nourishment, and this came to be translated : "create a desire."

How hungry and thirsty are you making your children for Jesus Christ? Somebody said, You can lead a horese to water, but you can't make him drink." That's right but you can feed him salt! That's what I'm suggesting. Your life ought to demonstrate the reality and the day-to-day relevance of Christian faith, so that your children want it.

Only as you possess that reality do you have something significant to say. The present generation is weary of words, they are screaming for reality.

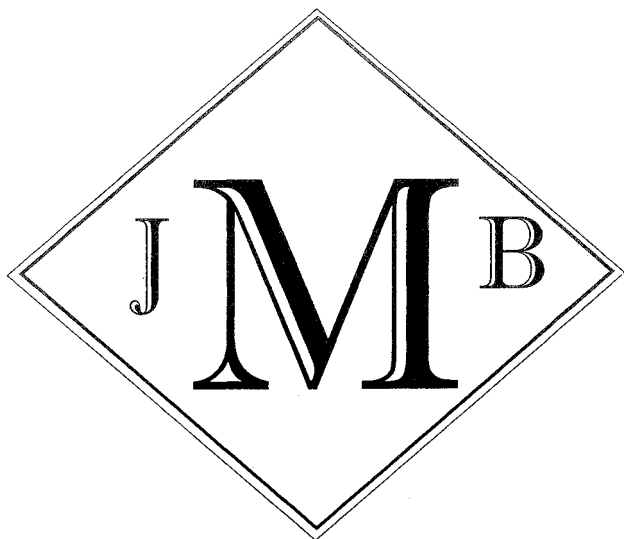
Say It With Love, by Howard G. Fredericks, pp 90-91

Dr. James Stewart, professor of New Testament at the University of Edinburgh, described what he thought is the greatest threat to the Church. He said it is not Communism, atheism, materialism, nor Catholicism; the greatest threat is Christians trying to sneak into heaven incognito without ever sharing their faith. Tragically, these people have the truth, but not enough to keep them from forgetting that evangelism is the process of one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread. #17

Say It With Love, by Howard G. Hendricks, pp 26-27.

The last sentence in the Book of Ezekiel is a strange one. It reads, "The name of the city . . . shall be, The Lord is there" (Ezek. 48:35, RSV). Ezekiel is speaking about a specific city, Jerusalem, and the special circumstances which surrounded it at that time. #18

"God, the Disturber" - By Alan Walker - Page 29



# GENTLEMEN, WHAT'S THE MAIN ORDER OF BUSINESS TODAY?

II Cor. 5:20

I. In this world of choices, priorities must be established.

A. You couldn't eat everything set before you.

B. Business leader, "What's the main order of business today?"

II. So it is with us - what's the day for - what's the most pressing assignment that's mine?

2 Cor. 5:20 "Now then we are ambassadors for Chri.

A. This passage says 3 things.

1. The authority of the servant.

2. The attitude of the servant.

3. The alternative of the servant.

B. As the servant does his duty you are involved in a reaction.

III. The Authority of the Servant.

A. We are ambassadors.

1. Truly the apostles were.

Eph. 6:20 "I am an ambassador in bonds; that the

2. Who was he?

3. Barclay tells origin of word legate.

(a) Ambassador's origin int.

Roman had 2 provinces:

(1) One under direct control of Senate, peaceful, no troops.

(2) One under direct control of Emperor - dangerous troops there.

- (b) Imperial (#2 above) had Emperor's direct rep. - called legates - one c direct commission from Emperor.
- (c) When country to become a province sent 10 legate, envoys who arranged terms of peace, determined boundaries, drew constitution, submitted what they did to Senate for ratification. Thus responsible for bringing men into family of Rom. empire.
- (d) Honor of a country are in an ambassador's hands.
- 4. Ambassador's task one of responsibility & honor. Matt. 10:40 "He that rec. you rec. me, and he th
- 5. He represents his nation's viewpoint, smooths out friction, creates harmony.
- 6. Not responsible for origination of message - only its faithful delivery.
- B. God's put this power of heraldry in earthen vessels.
- 1. Our task to build bridges between God & man.
- 2. We'll make some enemies.
- Heb. 12:3 "Contradictions of sinners"
- 3. What God's given us to do He's given us the power to accomplish.
- 4. Do you see God making His appeal thru us?
- 5. God gave His word to us.
- IV. The Attitude of the Servant.
- A. He not only tells me what I'm to speak, but how I'm to speak.
- V. 20 "As tho God did beseech you by us we
- B. Do I sound like Jesus?

1. He had a compassion.

Matt. 9:36 "But when he saw the multitudes he wa

Matt. 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou killes

2. He burned c a passion for men.

3. He appealed in gentleness.

2 Cor. 10:1 "Now I Paul myself beseech you by the

V. The Alternative of the Servant.

A. It has one message.

V. 20 "Be ye reconciled to God"

1. I can, Laurin says, do 3 things:

(a) Rebel = anarchy, Communism.

(b) Resign = stoic, Buddhist, fatalist, slave, pawn.

(c) Reconcile = be at peace.

2. Reconcile is opposite of enmity.

Col. 1:21 "And you, that were sometime alienated

3. It's from estrangement to acceptance.

4. Above every need - physical or otherwise.

5. Our reconciliation doesn't bless God - only us.

6. God for Christ's sake forgiven us.

B. The gospel is good news and is urgent news.

1. He begs people.

2. Who with sense of urgency can speak indifferently

3. After one's adjusted to God He must tell others!

4. Jesus our substitute & our surety.

5. Reconciliation is for every man. Each must recognize his needs & seek fulfillment.

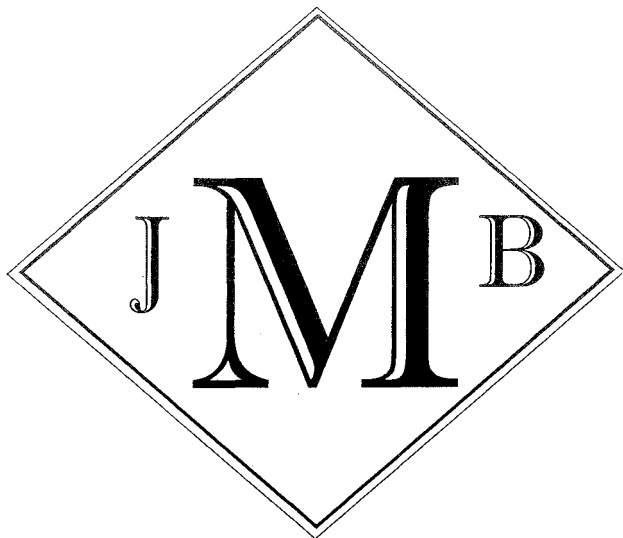
6. Reconciliation is incomplete as long as man holds out in resistance.

7. Would you comply if there came a voice from Heaven?

- (a) Do we c one consent begin to make excuses?
- (b) Is this the day of salvation? }
- (c) Have all necessary things on God's part been done by Jesus?
- (d) Are you ready to do your part & be baptized into Him?
- (e) Do you know many judges who beseech a condemned criminal to accept pardon? Or a creditor beg a ruined debtor to be forgiven of his debt - yet God does you!

West End 12-31-72

Mid South Training Series, Memphis 3-20-73



# THE HAPPY EXCHANGE

2 Cor. 5:21

I. What time than right after Xmas is better to preach on the happy exchange!

A. But I have the most important exchange in the world to consider.

B. it involves Jesus & you.

II. "How could God ever forgive me?" Not only does He, but He tells me how. And even if I can't fully understand it, I can believe it, because He said it.

2 Cor. 5:21 "For he hath made him to be

III. The Happy Exchange (Luther's words).

A. Even the flow of the language in the GK has the strong emphasis on "He." It's 1st all the way thru--not salvation out of Him.

B. God made Jesus to be sin.

1. I must define "made" & "sin."

2. Jesus was not made against His will.

(a) Lamb of God slain before foundation.

(b) God's eternal purpose - Eph. 3.

(c) Jesus in perfect agreement.

John 10:17-18 "Therefore doth my Father love me

3. Made Him Sin.

(a) Paradox - He was sinless!

(1) Never confessed a sin.

(2) Never took back a word.

(b) Jesus asked which convicts me of sin - none did

(c) Pilate: "I find no fault."

(d) Centurian, "Innocent man".

John 8:46 "Which of you convinceth me of sin?"

John 14:30 "Hereafter I will not talk much with y

Heb. 4:15 "For we have not an high priest which

1 Pet. 2:22 "Who did no sin, neither was guile fo

1 Jn. 3:5 "And ye know that he was manifested to

(e) Became "sinful" on the cross in that He bore alone the responsibility of sin.

(1) Voluntarily became what we were.

(2) Act was retroactive to those of past & prospective to those who came after.

(3) He took to himself the whole burden of our sin.

(4) Broadman: "The clearest result of sin is seen in the cross - the murder of one pure man, God's Son!

(5) God treated Christ as tho He personified sin.

Rom. 8:3 "For what the law could not do, in th

(6) Rejoice: There was not a single sin he did not bear.

B. We are made the Righteousness of God.

1. He became what we are so that we might become what He is!

2. Power of the cross seen - as cross is more than a message - it's also God's method.

Isa. 53:4-5 "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and

3. We know acquittal & are transformed into His life

2 Pet. 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding

4. Now surely you see why one must be baptized into His death, thus reach the efficacy of His blood!

5. Won't you?

West End 12-31-72 Jim Smedley-Bapt.  
Mr & Mrs. Thea Hardner-Ident.

All that is His is imputed to me.

O, lovely and fair is my Lord,  
And He gives me the robe of His own righteousness  
To cover my sins, says His Word.

All that I am is imputed to Him.

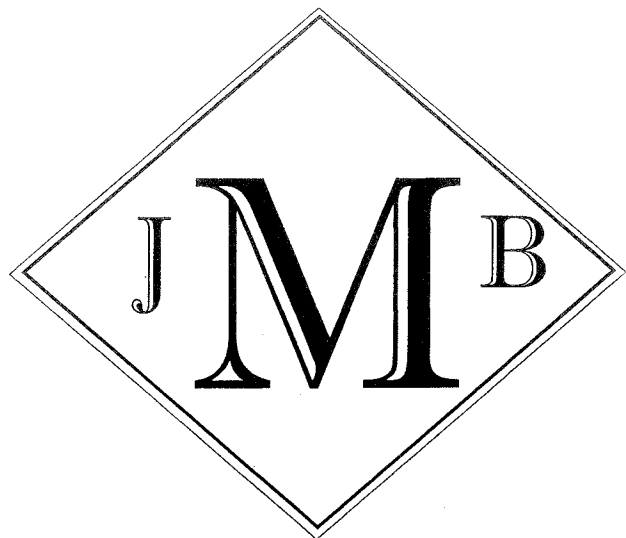
O, black were my shame and my guilt  
Which were laid upon Him on Calvary's cross,  
But precious His blood that was spilt.

Was ever a bargain so wondrous as this?

O, matchless His love and His grace!  
My guilt for His glory, my pain for His peace,  
My night for the light of His face! "

--Author Unknown

"Second Corinthians" - By G. Coleman Luck - Page 58



WHAT'S THE HARDEST TRUTH FOR ME  
TO IMPART? 2 Cor. 6:1-2

- I. In the language of the sermon title what would you guess it is?
  - A. Instrumental music?
  - B. Weekly Lord's Supper?
  - C. Baptism---mode & necessity?
  - D. Oneness of the church?
  - E. Giving as prospered?
- II. No, it's "Now is the day of Salvation."
  - A. I run into all kinds of excuses.
    1. God's merciful.
    2. I feel fine.
    3. Want to wait til I'm sure.
    4. There'll be another day.
  - B. But has not the Devil won, regardless of what you believe and intend, if he sells you on "wait awhile?"
- III. The New Testament Teaching about Opportunity. We'll take Paul & Corinthians.  
2 Cor. 6:1 "We then as workers"
  - A. We are workers together.
    1. Paul, with all the changes in his life, had one great concern--be a profitable minister of Christ.
    2. Saw a team: Paul, Corinthians, God.
    3. Necessary for even an apostle to have associates.
    4. He wanted the Corinthians to do well.
    5. He was a willing channel of God's power and wants them to so be.
    6. All to be active partners.

I Cor. 3:9 "For we are laborers together"

7. What is God's work with which we cooperate?
  - a) Creation?
  - b) Writing Scriptures?
  - c) Government policies for the church?
  - d) No! It's reconciliation.
8. We do not work alone--we represent God.
9. There is a work which only God can do and there are forms of work He does through man.
10. "With him" not in the original but in I Cor. 3:9.
11. National Cathedral story.
- B. We Can Frustrate the Grace of God.
  1. Beseech--beg, not command.
  2. Receive not the Grace in vain.
    - a) "He who ceases to be better ceases to be good." (Cromwell)
    - b) Receiving the Grace of God chief aim of the Gospel.
    - c) God provides--man receives as he obeys.
  3. Can be in vain.
    - a) Men who receive it can lose it.
    - b) Vain = without effect.
    - c) If we do not effectively use the gift of God's grace, we fail in life's most important matter.
    - d) How much of his grace to me is without effect in my life?

- e) Lose it by flirting with the world.
- f) Freedom of choice remains ours even after baptism.
- g) Work does not deny grace.

Phil. 2:12 "As ye have always obeyed...work out

- h) It's imperative Christians stay alert and not get lazy.

### C. God Keeps Time

1. He's ever spoken for our continuance.

Isa. 49:8

2. Heard in Time Accepted.

- a) Nature has her seasons.  
(Spring, Summer, Fall & Flu)
- b) All we know has a relation to time.
- c) There is value in an opportunity--stock market.
- d) Penalty for missing it--wasted days never recalled.
- e) Urgent.

Heb. 3:7-8 "Today if you will hear"

3:13 "Exhort one another daily"

3. In day of Salvation succoured thee.

- a) This is the age of salvation--it has come.

- b) We are not to reason why God limits this day.

- c) We have only now--past is gone and future may not come.

- d) "Men hang their immortality on a thread of one day of life."

e) Daily some offend God--am I in that number?

f) Every day is filled with the possibility of being the last day.

4. God feeds us with goodness, are we grateful and show it?

#### IV. If All The Above Is For the Encouragement of the Saint--What About the Sinner?

A. This is the Accepted Time for Him.

1. Delay is unreasonable, dangerous, foolish. Make money/spend it

2. Opportunity for securing salvation is limited to the present.

3. Milan Cathedral Please/Trouble/*Eternal*

B. Now

1. That's what's hard to preach!

Even now you are conjuring up "reasons" not to obey the gospel: not at home, plan to later, might not last, etc.

2. Door won't always be open.

3. Time is NOW.

4. Tides are clearly felt.

5. Reminds me of 3-legged dog that chased me in Cordell--he was all bark--else lose another leg--didn't mean what he was saying.

6. Every day could be the last one.

7. We go to Dr. too late--can also to the Lord.

8. Really--why wait & die!

*Word test: 3 letters*

*Job; Hinder; You; Sin; God; Yes; NOW!*

C. Salvation--our commodity to sell!

1. No matter so great--it should be sought instantly--how quickly would you accept cancer cure?

2. Miss this and you miss everything.

Matt. 6:33 "But seek ye first the Kingdom"

3. Procrastinate via:

a) I've enough time left--Ticket writer

b) Need to settle temporal matters.

c) Later after some worldly fun.

d) Easier tomorrow.

4. Risk taken:

a) Death

b) Sickness--can't be baptized.

c) Desire passes.

d) Heart hardened.

e) Spirit quenched.

5. God is not mocked--an insult to wait.

6. Two voices:

Satan--wait.

God--come now.

7. In a war a minute is all it takes  
(from Naida Zecevic).

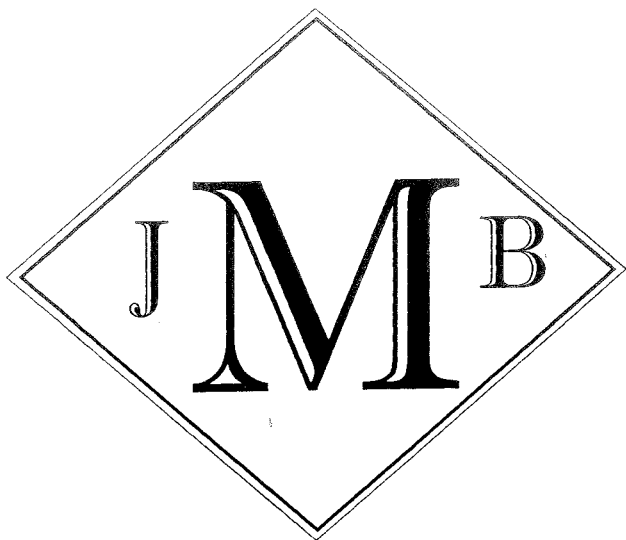
Northside-Cordell, OK - 3/10/93

Main Street, Manchester, TN - 4/6/93

Harrison St., Batesville, AR (BC) - 4/18/93

Locust Grove, KY - 6/29/94

Coopertown, TN - 7/20/94



## 5 NECESSITIES OF BIBLE TEACHERS

2 Cor. 6:1-3

- I. For those that have taught me anything good, I'm thankful:
  - A. Always cut away from yourself & you'll never cut your finger.
  - B. Obey the law & every policeman is your friend.
  - C. Put things back where you found them.
- II. But think of the great issue of life--eternal salvation. No task equals it & no prize comes close to its reward.
- III. If you then will teach the word of God, a Corinthian passage shows 5 necessities to getting a good job done.

2 Cor. 6:1-3

IV. Those 5 are:

A. Glory in my partnership.

v-1 "We then as workers together"

1. Unity of fellowship Christians as together we advance his truth.
2. Though "with him" not in MMS--our partnership with the Savior as well as saints is implied.

1 Cor. 3:9 "Fellow workers with God"

3. He didn't ask me to frame the stars, determine the tide, or write the Bible--but rather cooperate in evangelizing & living his truth.

B. Secondly, maintain consistent Christian behavior.

v-1 "We beseech you also that ye receive not"

1. Plea for faithful continuance.

2. Grace of God the best thing you could ever receive and the most costly carelessness if you lose it.
3. Whatever blessings belong to the head do also to the body.
4. After we have been baptized we still can lose our hope.
5. Vain = without effect.
6. Some candlesticks already removed.
7. Some once heard but are now where no offer of mercy is ever sent.
8. Ephraim is joined to his idol--let him alone.
9. "Though baptized and had received this grace, the freedom to choose good or evil still remained."
10. If you hear without faith  
Profess faith without obedience  
Accept counterfeit version--you'll lose it.
11. Imperative you stay sharp.

*Pope's Statement*

#### C. Goal the Highest--Salvation of Souls

v-2 "Now is the day of salvation"

1. Promised to come by God.
- Isa. 49:8
2. Entirely acceptable is idea.
  3. What better could you give anyone than the hope of Heaven?
  4. Promise of God relating to his Kingdom has been fulfilled through to redemptive acts of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

D. Fourth, it is urgent.

v-2 "Behold now is the accepted time  
Behold now is the day of salvation"

1. It is urgent.
2. Seize the opportunity.
3. Gospel must be proclaimed as a matter of urgency--the accepted time is not always with us!

There is a tide in the affairs of men  
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune  
~~Omitted, all the voyage of their life~~  
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.

Shakespeare Julius Caesar

- Start dying*
4. We are not to reason as to why God limits the day of his grace.
  5. It is a limited opportunity.
- Heb. 3:7-8 *Don't make news this weekend that you*
6. Every day filled with the possibility of being the last. *Wait the second breath*
  7. *Drivel, Hallel* Tragic to see slaves refuse freedom,  
sick refuse healing, exiles refuse  
home.

E. Fifth -- Give no offense.

v-3 "Giving no offense in anything that"

1. Put no obstacle in another's way.
2. Means cause of stumbling.
3. Don't give even 1 stumbling occasion.
4. Carries idea of mockery, ridicule.
5. Put no stumbling block that would cause another to fall.
6. "Dread possibility for besmirehing God's grace by its preachers and hence obstacles to be put in the

*Close  
Basement  
stair  
doors*

way of men accepting the good news and thus fault found in our ministry." (Broadman)

7. Further the faultfinding can be sop to the conscience of men & sometimes downright wicked.
8. By speech and action try to make it easy for men to see the gospel.
9. Be careful not to hinder the cause.
10. Our conduct must not be the grounds for someone not obeying the gospel.
11. Labor to be genuine.
12. Let your conduct square with your position.

E. TN School of Preaching - 2/14/94

Memorial service, Louis Green - 2/26/94

Concord Road - 2/27/94

Walter Hill, Murfreesboro, TN - 3/25/94

40th & Hazel, Pine Bluff, AR - 3/27/94

## We start dying at birth

Hugh Rodham makes Rush Limbaugh look anorexic. Will Rodham's sister, Hillary, get him an exemption from the inevitable mandatory weigh-ins *a la* life in the military under national health insurance? As to health programs, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas wants to up the premiums on red meat eaters. What ever happened to the cattlemen's association?

Enter the doctor who claims that nitrates in hot dogs cause brain cancer. A few decades ago, high protein diets were the rage, and ads told us that cigarettes were far healthier than candy. If we soon hear that even fruits and vegetables cause some terminal disease, don't be surprised. We start dying the second the doctor or midwife slaps us on the behind.

**LOUIS F. HERZBERG**  
North Little Rock

## Safe Conduct

INSPIRED line from a driver license manual: "Every child is a human CAUTION sign."

—Marilou Meyers in Phoenix *Central N.*

SAFE-DRIVING suggestion: "Don't make any news this weekend that you won't be around to read about."

—Joe O'Brien on WHUD, Peckskill, N.Y.

# 'I don't bend' on sexual principles, pope says

The Associated Press

ROME — He chatted with moms and dads, encouraged children preparing for their first communion and blessed a baby held up in the crowd of parishioners. Then the pope turned stern.

"I'm not strict, I'm gentle by nature," Pope John Paul II said. "But when it comes to defending principles, I don't bend."

He then went on to condemn homosexual marriage.

The recent parish visit was part of a new crusade against homosexuality, contraception, abortion, euthanasia and other elements of modern society the pope believes have no place in Roman Catholicism.

"No human society can run the risk of permissiveness in fundamental issues regarding the nature of the family," the pope wrote in a recent message to Roman Catholic families.

He is considering addressing the U.N. General Assembly in New York in October to give his views worldwide resonance. The United Nations has declared 1994 the International Year of the Family, as has the church.

He has already served notice that the Vatican will battle to block any reference to abortion from the final resolution of a U.N. population conference in September, as it successfully did 10 years ago in Mexico City.

2/27/94  
The pope staked out his position in an encyclical last October that declared morality was not a matter of opinion and that certain acts are always evil.

But in a world of scientific advances that have produced the day-after abortion pill and made possible in-vitro births, the pope's words often seem to fall on deaf ears.

In January, he urged Italian Catholic pharmacists to reject selling condoms and other birth-control devices. But there are no signs any pharmacy has taken down the racks of multicolored packs of condoms.

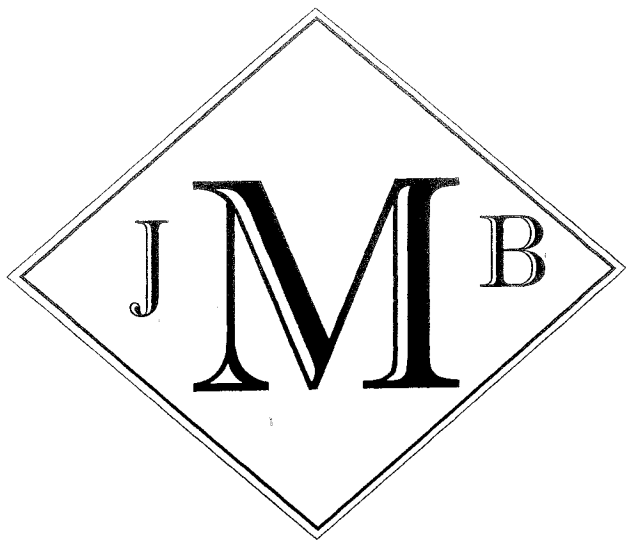
"It's not like abortion, where the law allows doctors to be conscientious objectors," said Gio-

vanmi Milozza in his store on the busy Via del Corso. "If someone comes in with a prescription for birth-control pills, you have to sell them."

In the case of homosexual marriages, John Paul is trying to head off legislators from recognizing such unions.

He assailed a resolution adopted by the European Parliament on Feb. 8 that homosexual couples be allowed to marry and adopt children.

He returned to the subject during his visit to the Church of St. Bernard of Chiaravalle in a lower-class Rome neighborhood, condemning "false and fictitious families composed of two men or two women."



# RISE UP O MEN OF GOD

2 Cor. 6:3,6

- I. There is a neglected prayer in the church.  
It is not:
  - A. Ready Recollection
  - B. Well pleasing & beneficial
  - C. If we have been found faithful
  - D. Widows & Orphans
- II. It's raise up reapers! Matt. 9
- III. For those raised up there is a duty we now discuss. It will only be a fragment of 28 things Paul said.
  - A. Via Introduction
    1. We have not been saved to keep a secret--our salvation & the hope for others--now is the day.
    2. Not put in a little social club--as it is easier to be a church member than some social club member.
    3. Paul will expose us to what he endured to be a Christian & a gospel preacher.
  - B. My Aim--give no offense that hinders this work. *Survey-Most respected #1*
    1. Some are glad for an excuse not to listen to gospel or to take it seriously. (Coffman)
    2. We cannot be careless about our reputation. *TV Reformation #2*
    3. Paul knew his opposition to and fraternization with Gentiles would bring questions--be sure he was OK.
    4. We must be faithful in trouble as well as peace. (Henry)  
*henski/cord #3*

## C. The Ministry

1. Paul wants you to feel the impact of his service to Christ.
2. He constantly urges people to live up to the fact of their standing.
3. Let your conduct square with your profession.
4. For what do we commend preachers today?
  - a) Adm. skills
  - b) Fund-raisers
  - c) Scholars
5. Have a ministry without blame.
  - a) Some doctors, lawyers are a disgrace--so some preachers but I do not need be among them.
  - b) "Without the confidence of people a minister has little power, no matter how great his talents." (McGarvey)
  - c) Paul's ministry not a source of embarrassment for the churches but one of strength & encouragement.

## D. Approving Ourselves as Ministers of God

1. Ministers of God & servants of Christ--not 2 masters--God & Christ are one. *Gray statistics #4*
2. We are:
  - a) Minister of Christ

2 Cor. 11:23 *Are they m. "I am m. 23-*

Col. 1:25 *Church - CS Lewis clip #5*  
*Minister - to fulfil word*

c) ~~Gospel~~~~Col. 1:23~~

d) Covenant

2 Cor. 3:6

*not letter*  
*man. of the NT... spirit*

3. We do not work alone--represent God!

IV. Now, out of a long list of citations, I chose  
3 pertinent ones from the 1st part of  
verse 6.

## A. Purenness

1. Even in Corinth!
2. "He who ceases to be better ceases to be good." Cromwell
3. Clean life begets a great message. (Barclay)
4. Purity is the careful avoidance of all sins which are against the gods. (Barclay)
5. Impurity reduces effectiveness. *H6*
6. Seek to be without reproach. *D.W. Moody card*
7. Pure intentions.
8. Honorable thoughts and actions in all areas of life. (Nelson)
9. Moral integrity. (J. D. Thomas)
10. Sincerity (P.C.), singleness of motive. *D.W. Moody card*
11. Simplicity of intentions. (Clark)
12. Chastity of body & mind. (Interpreters)
13. Greatest personal credential of the worker--his brilliance & ability are second. (Laurin)
14. Chastity plus absence of anything blameworthy in deed or motive. (Kent)

B. Knowledge

1. Know the Word *10 Commandments*
2. Understanding, insight, enlightened, grasp of truth, comprehending the things revealed. (Duduit)
3. Help avoid bigotry. - *Twain memory*
4. Can't attribute your actions to ignorance or narrow views. *#9*
5. Zeal without knowledge is madness.
6. Knowledge of God in living, personal experience.
7. Knowledge is available to every believer without respect to innate ability or social standing or personal education. (Miss Blanche listened to Bro. Dawson)
8. God can't fill what's already full-- keep studying. *de Vinci #10*
9. Comprehension of truth is vital.

C. Long-suffering.

1. Patience, with
  - a) Babes *Coolidge - Talk Back #11*
  - b) Elders *Silence CARD #12*
  - c) Forgetful folk *Swindoll - Corals #13*
2. Patience normally has to do with dealing with people. *Twain Trinity #14*
3. Bear with them even when misguided, wrong, cruel & insulting. (Barclay)
4. Lose the battle--never the campaign.
5. Military citation for soldier who took enemy charge yet possessed enough reserve to countercharge to victory. (Hobbs)

*Fennie Crosby card #15*

*Pen handler - 254 #16 5.*

6. Paul bore long with faults of those he converted. (Lipscomb)
7. Patient toleration of others' unpleasantness. (Nelson) *#17 Wesley card*
8. Not quick to retaliate, endure without resentment or anger. (Erdman)
9. Courtesy under criticism.

Harding Graduate School - 11/8/89

A recent survey asked high school students to<sup>#1</sup> select individuals they respected the most as today's heroes. At the top of the list were two movie stars: Clint Eastwood and Eddie Murhpy- not political leaders or social reformers or ministers, but entertainers! Either out young people have limited exposure to respected leaders, or they have a terrible misunderstanding of what leadership is all about.

JOY IN MINISTRY - Duduit - P. 130

A TV repairman kept putting off repairing his<sup>#2</sup> own television antenna after a storm tore off one of its arms. When a new family moved in next door, the man decided to install his own antenna. He knew the neighbor was a TV repairman so he modeled his own installation after the expert's. He drilled the hole in the same location and turned the antenna in the same direction. Carefully studying his neighbor's roof, he finally reached up and tore the arm off his brand-new antenna!

Believe it not, you and I are the experts on Christianity in this world- at least according to those who watch us every day. We are letters written by Christ--expressions of his love, his grace, his concern. How tragic if they receive a faulty

*Examples*

impression of the living Lord because of the message we offer with our lives.

JOY IN MINISTRY - Duduit - P. 36

Lenski comments about the false insinuations of this charge:

#3

Paul is such a lowly fellow, and he cannot face anyone with manly courage, he is courageous only when he is at a safe distance. (2 Cor. 10:1). The answer to that is the tremendous campaign which he is directing as commander-in-chief by demolishing the mightiest enemy fortifications (2 Cor. 10:2-6) Timid little cowards who make fists at a distance do not wreck fortresses!

2 CORINTHIANS - A Self-Study Guide - Jensen  
P.86-87

300 MC Fresh men 26 yr

(Doe Gray - Blue Ridge 6/23/83 (#4)

Do you believe that the visible  
church, Christ <sup>today</sup> is the church

9 NIV

94% membership the church

59% said yes - 3 out of 5

26% " No 1 out of 4

14% didn't know

Newspapers on November 23, 1963, were ablaze with headlines reporting the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Few people noticed a short obituary appearing, if at all, deep inside their papers announcing the death of a man who had held the Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Literature at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Yet it may well be that of these two men who died on November 22, 1963, the man who will ultimately be remembered as having the greater effect on the world is the unassuming professor, Clive Staples (C.S.) Lewis.

A convinced skeptic early in his life, Lewis became perhaps the most influential apologist (defender) of Christianity in our century. His best-known apologetic work is *Mere Christianity* in which he sets forth the foundational truths upon which all believers stand regardless of their religious tradition.

It was a task not without risk. Lewis, himself a member of the Church of England, writes, "The danger clearly was that I should put forward anything that was peculiar to the Church of England or (worse still) to myself." And so he sent the manuscript to a number of different clergymen from different groups for their comments which were, on the whole, favorable.

By doing this Lewis made a significant discovery. He found that the worst opposition and haggling came from those who were on the borderline in their commitment to any group, "men not exactly obedient to any communion." He writes, "This I find curiously consoling. It is at her centre, where her truest children dwell, that each communion is really closest to every other in spirit, if not in doctrine. And this suggests that at the centre of each there is something, or a Someone, who against all divergences of belief, all differences of temperament, all memories of mutual persecution, speaks with the same voice."

That "Someone" is the one Lord. Those who truly love the one Lord share in the same Spirit. Those who truly love just themselves or their tradition or their sect share only a common failure to bow before the One who is Lord of all.

One of the earliest confessions of faith, according to Bible scholars, is the short but powerful statement, "Jesus is Lord." Very likely this was the statement uttered by early believers just before they were baptized into Christ.

It was packed with meaning. The Greek word for "Lord" is the word which is used over 6,000 times in the Greek translation of the Old Testament to translate the name of God, Jehovah. When a person confessed his belief by uttering the words, "Jesus is Lord," he was recognizing both the deity of Jesus Christ and the right of the Savior to be the Master of his life.

"Jesus is Lord." Paul says that no one can make that confession from the heart unless the Holy Spirit is at work in his life (1 Corinthians 12:3).

Warren Wiersbe, in his book *Real Worship*, quotes G. Campbell Morgan: "Religion is that which binds a man. Every man is bound somewhere, somehow, to a throne, to a government, to an authority, to something that is supreme, to something to which he offers sacrifice, and burns incense, and bends the knee."

The paradox is that only when a man is bound to Christ does he become truly free. The Christian is one who is bound by his confession, "Jesus is Lord," to Christ as the Master of his life.

What a marvelous binding it is! And every man who is bound through faith to Jesus Christ is also bound to everyone else who has surrendered to the Lordship of Christ Jesus as his Savior.

One faith. William Barclay writes, "By *faith* the New Testament nearly always means the complete trust and surrender of the Christian in and to Jesus Christ . . . . All Christians are bound together in one [faith] because all of them have made one common act of complete surrender to the love of Jesus Christ."

There may indeed be many creeds and many traditions, many expressions of faith. But the one faith which binds Christian people together is summed up in three words — "Jesus is Lord!" ■

## Apathy

#6

The hottest places in Hell are reserved for those who in time of great moral crises maintain their neutrality.

Dante Alighieri

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting  
P.19

Never think that Jesus commended  
trifle, nor dare to trifle with anything  
he commended  
D.L. Moody

#9

## Memory

When I was younger I could remember anything, whether it had happened or not.

Mark Twain

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting

X Iron rusts from disuse; stagnant water loses its purity, and in cold weather becomes frozen; even so does inaction sap the vigors of the mind.

Leonardo da Vinci

#10

Silence

*Listening* #11

When Calvin Coolidge was Vice-President, Channing N. Cox, who had succeeded him as Governor of Massachusetts, came to Washington and called on his predecessor. Cox noted that Coolidge was able to see long lists of callers daily and finish his work at five o'clock, while Cox found himself held at his desk as late as nine P.M.

"How come the difference?" he asked.

"You talk back," Coolidge explained.

Walter Trohan.

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting  
P.231-132

SILENCE

#12

The best time for you to hold your tongue is the time you feel you must say something or bust.

Josh Billings

Many a time I have wanted to stop talking and find out what I really believed.

Walter Lippmann

BESSER STUMM ALS DUMM - Better silent than stupid.

German Proverb

If you don't say anything, you won't be called on to repeat it.

Calvin Coolidge

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting  
P.231

#13

In ancient days, homes were heated and meals were fixed on a small portable stove, somewhat like our outside barbecue grills. Frequently, a person would run low on hot coals and would need to replenish his supply. The container was commonly carried on the head. So as the individual passed beneath second story windows, thoughtful people who had extra hot coals in their possession would reach out of the window and place them in the container atop his head. Thanks to the thoughtful generosity of a few folks, he would arrive at the site with a pile of burning coals on this head and a ready-made fire for cooking and keeping warm. "Heaping burning coals on someone's head" came to be a popular expression for a spontaneous and courteous act one person would

voluntarily do for another.

DAILY GRIND II - Swindoll - P. 438

Countenance

#14

A solemn, unsmiling, sanctimonious old iceberg that looked like he was waiting for a vacancy in the Trinity.

Mark Twain

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting  
P.72

As a child Fanny Crosby wrote that she would<sup>#15</sup> not wallow in self-pity because of her blindness, and by adulthood she chided someone who felt sorry for her: "Had it been up to me, I would have ASKED to have been born blind. This way, Jesus will be the first face I ever see."

HYMNS FOR PERSONAL DEVOTIONS -  
Jerry B. Jenkins P.74

## What Nerve!

A CAR STOLEN from a garage in England was returned with crash damage and a message from the thieves: "It does 115 m.p.h., but the brakes need attention."

—The Observer, London

"PARDON ME, MADAM," the panhandler said to a woman on a busy street in Manhattan, "but do you have a quarter?" #16

There was something rather elegant about this particular panhandler, so the woman opened her purse and began searching within. The contents were numerous and disorganized and she was having difficulty locating a coin. She rummaged for several moments.

"Madam," the fellow said impatiently, "I don't have all day!"

—D. J., quoted by Ron Alexander in New York Times

Living

109

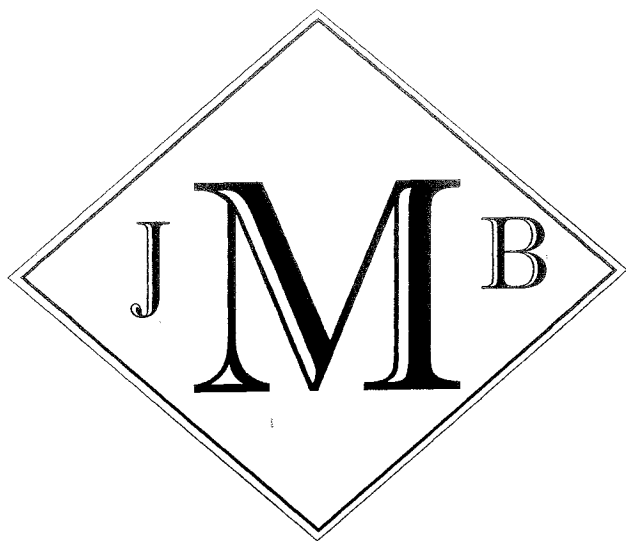
## Frankness

A trouble-making woman once told John Wesley, "God has given me the talent of speaking my mind." #17

Mr. Wesley snapped back, "God wouldn't mind if you buried that talent."

G. S.

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting  
P. 118



# B GRADE ISN'T SO BAD!

2 Cor. 6:14-16

I. All of our lives we've been molded to a certain grading system. *Worst behaved &*

A. A is for excellent. *perfect attendance*

B. But had you ever thought about God having a different system? *10,000 bus, 100,000 guy-*

1. He says "Be" is best and he spells it BE.

C. We'd like to examine some "B's" God's given.

II. Among them we find:

A. Be ye separate.

2 Cor. 6:17 "Wherefore come out from amo

1. Here is a great injunction--what brought it about?

2. Para. v-14 thru 18 are showing the principle of Christian behavior. It governs you as you walk here.

3. It says there are two spheres

2 Cor. 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in

a. Christ vs world; new vs old; in vs out.

4. We are to act like sphere to which we belong--not shuttle back and forth.

5. We are ever to maintain our identity-- although we engage socially, commercial and professional with world.

6. We must cater to spirit not flesh.

7. 5 qts. are asked:

a. Fellowship hath r. with unrighteousness

b. Communion light with darkness

c. Concord Christ with Belial

d. Part believer with infidel.

e. Agreement temple with idols.

8. Note contrasting terms.

9. Separation protects from reversion.

a. Roses grafted and cultivated, tulips,  
my pecan tree.

10. Be separate Christian!

B. Be kind.

Eph. 4:32 "And be ye kind one to

1. Here is a high goal of morality-- *Temper vs*

a. Kind=gentleness in bearing wrong. *News*

b. Tenderhearted=positive warmth of  
sympathy and love. Reason you go to a  
funeral.

c. Forgiving=not condone evil nor withhold  
needful chastisement.

d. But why--as God for Christ's sake for-  
gave us.

(1) Jesus always interested in motives. Is  
yours fear, love of fame, pursuit of  
high ideals, or is it the cross.

(2) Are you a Christian? A forgiven  
sinner?

C. Be not anxious.

Phil. 4:6 "Be careful for nothing but in

1. Sounds like Jesus in Matt. 6:25, 34.

2. We are not to be self dependent!

3. We are not to be anxious or worried.

a. Laurin "Worry is the unrest we pay for  
the unbelief with which we mortgage  
life."

b. Yet this does not mean thoughtlessness  
nor nor indifference.

4. But get your eyes off anxieties and on  
God.

a. Are you more anxious about what you  
want than God's will?

b. Do we hurry to hasty and ill advised  
action?

(1) Can we wait on prayer's answer. Time  
not element with God, eternity his  
only demension.

c. Are we in a state of unrest?

5. Bring God into life's situations.

a. Pray for everything --all encumpassing  
invitation.

b. Supplications are personal, specific and  
intense.

c. With thanksgiving.

(1) Praiseful and prayerful we surrender to  
God's will.

d. Specific--let requests be known.

(1) Be known to God--so its more than  
psychological moment. Shows  
heavenly familiarity without earthly  
anxiety.

D. Be thankful.

Col. 3:15 "And let the peace of God rule

1. Note the one body--thus can be at peace.  
No schisms or factions.

2. Thanksgiving is becoming.

a. "Did you say thank you?"

Magic word

3. Let this replace envy and jealousy.

E. Be Holy.

I Pet. 1:16 "Be ye holy for I am holy

1. God called you (v-15) for a purpose--  
holiness. *Sherree North - Penn Foster*

2. Sacrilege to impose impurity on God thru  
you.

3. God commands us to be holy.

*West End 6/9/63*

*Caribou Me 6/14/63*

*Jackson Park 7/22/63*

*College-hobart 8/12/63*

## Good But Bad

Teacher to friend: "Not only is he the worst behaved child in school, but he has a perfect attendance record."

*Shirley Kerr,  
Clay County, Ala.*

"We cannot afford to have had security risks in high office in this country."

"MEN WHO choose to live in adultery, men who are homosexual or men whose moral influence is against the highest interests of our nation ought not to be appointed to serve our queen and country."

Harold Watkinson, minister of defense until Macmillan fired him last year, told a party rally: "This is a testing time for our party and our government."

## Fair Exchange?

Nowadays they spend \$10,000 for a school bus to pick up the kids right at the door so they don't have to

## Temper?

Little girl to mother: "Why is it 'temper' when I slam things and 'nerves' when you do it?"

*Nellie Sue Garland,  
Cherokee County, N. C.*

walk. Then they spend \$100,000 for a gym so the kids get some exercise.

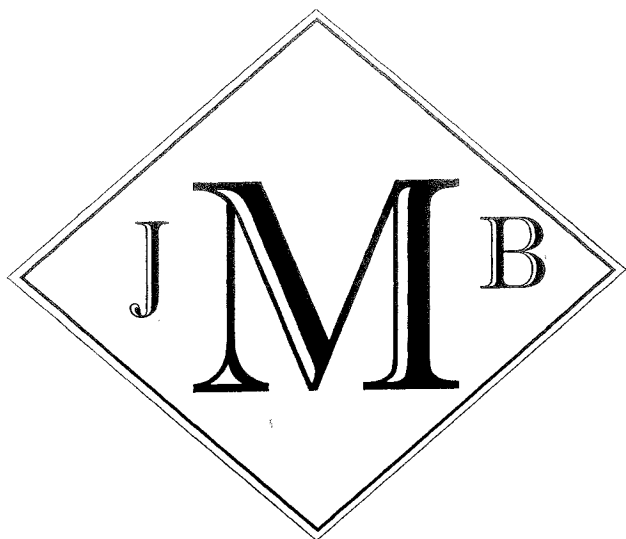
*Nicholas West,  
McDowell County, N. C.*

## Too Late

Some people are like blisters. They never show up until the work is done.

*Mrs. J. E. Pate,  
Martin County, N. C.*

I read in the "Arkansas Gazette" where Sheree North, age 30, an actress, got a divorce from her husband Dr. G. R. Somner. Dr. Somner was a psychologist. The reason for the divorce was cruelty. That which precipitated it was she liked to eat by candle light, and he didn't, thus they had many arguments.



# COULD I SAY THE SAME THING?

2 Cor. 7:1-2

I. We hear men make some moving statements.

A. I have never been arrested even for speeding. (Burton & Overall)

B. I have never cheated--exam, wife, bills.

C. I've never missed a day reading my Bible.

1. Some we doubt.

2. Some we praise.

3. Some we take as a challenge.

4. Bachelor - marry anyone I please.

II. I don't know what you've heard but I want to read you Paul's and ask if we can say the same thing.

2 Cor. 7:1-2 "Having therefore these promises"

A. Promises

1. Of God.

2. Conditional.

3. The ideals of life in close companionship with God. (Laurin)

4. Do nothing that forfeits this.

B. Dearly Beloved.

1. 6 other times.

2. Check these:

2 Cor. 12:19 "We do all things d.b. for your edifying".

1 Cor. 10:14 "D.B. flee idolatry"

15:58 "Therefore D.B. be ye steadfast, un."

Rom 12:19 "D.B." avenge not yourselves.

Phil 2:12 "My B. always obeyed, work out your"

4:1 "My B., D.B., longed for joy, crown, stand fast"

## C. Let us Cleanse Ourselves.

1. Exortion to them and self.
2. Let us--not a harse command.
3. Do not wait for God to do what He expects us to do.
4. Cleanse Ourselves.
  - a) Complete break with every form of unhealthy compromise.
  - b) If we know of a sin in us we have the responsibility to do the cleansing.
  - c) Get rid of habitual sin. Great souls have wills. Feeble ones only wishes.
  - d) "Don't try to do what God alone can do--nor try to get him to do what he's assigned us to do--he gives us grace to do our assignment." (Nelson)
5. All
  - a) Every defilement of body & spirit.
  - b) External
  - c) Internal
6. Flesh & Spirit
  - a) Put away not only evil action but all thoughts that sully the soul.
  - b) Flesh = body.
  - c) We can be clean in habit but unchristian in disposition.
  - d) Body & Soul totally Christian.

## D. Perfecting Holiness in Fear of God.

1. Bring it to completion.

2. Daily seek more perfection--even as athletes & musicians do.
3. Positively advance in holiness.  
(Coolidge quote)
4. Filthiness recedes as holiness proceeds.
5. Work on being complete & mature as you conform to his image.

Rom. 8:29 "Predestinate to be conformed to the"

6. All by faith in fear of God.
7. "Our business in life is not to get ahead of others, but to get ahead of ourselves--to break our own records, to outstrip our yesterdays by our todays." *(Stewart Johnson)*

### III. Then Comes What He Said Personally.

A. ~~Receive us~~--Lit. Make Room for Us.

B. ~~Wronged no man.~~ *Type of friends important*

1. Emphasis on absolute integrity.
2. Not unjustly treated any. *important*
3. 1st step of great ethic.
4. Menninger clip.

C. ~~Corrupted.~~

1. Ruined.
2. Quickest way to meet new people is to pick up wrong golf ball.

C. ~~Defrauded.~~

1. Made victim source of personal enrichment.
2. Exploited.

D. ~~See this:~~

1. His conscience begat joy.

2. He knew of nothing he had done that could cause them to doubt his sincerity or lose confidence in him.
3. Blameless compared to what his critics & false prophets did.
4. May be criticized (and it will hurt) but heart tells you that you are innocent.

Central--Cleburne, TX (noon) - 3/29/93  
6th & Izard, Little Rock, AR (BC) - 5/16/93  
Crittenden Drive, Russellville, KY (Luncheon) - 4/25/94

Proud bachelor: "I could have married anybody I pleased."

Doubting friend: "Then why are you still single?"

Bachelor: "I never pleased anybody."

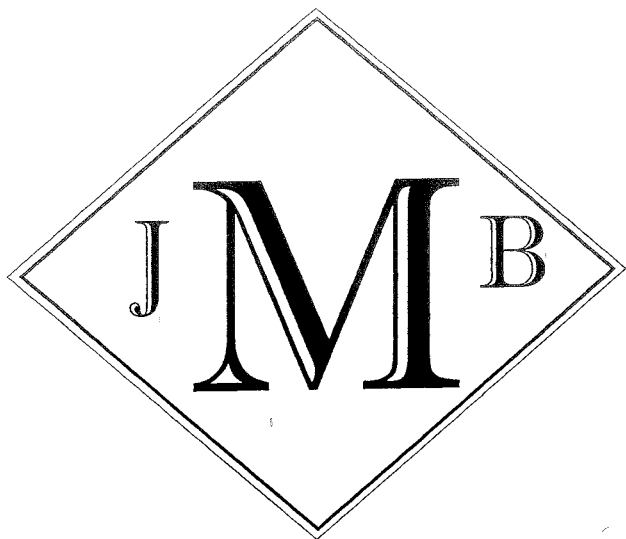
NOTHING IN THIS WORLD can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan "press on" has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

DR. KARL MENNINGER, the famous psychiatrist, once gave a lecture on mental health and was answering questions from the audience.

"What would you advise a person to do," asked one man, "if that person felt a nervous breakdown coming on?"

Most people expected him to reply: "Consult a psychiatrist." To their astonishment, he replied: "Lock up your house, go across the railway tracks, find someone in need and do something to help that person."



THE INDISPENSABLE INGREDIENT -  
AUTHORITY II Cor. 7:6-7

I. There are some things I have to have to live successfully.

A. Sure there are necessities; food, clothing, shelter. *Bro. & Duct*

B. There are other things that make life full - fellowship, goals, and rewards.

C. But still one more - authority.

1. Without it, home has no semblance.

Bill Heartsfield said he was *the Minister of punishment of home*

2. Gov. - each did what was right in own eyes - no man has a right to cry fire in a crowded theatre - your liberty ends where my nose begins.

3. In the church: preacher as a herald; elders as bishops and apostles as foundation. *Respect for leadership*

4. If apostolic power is broached then we have little left. So I should like to speak on this.

2 Cor. 7:6-7 "Nevertheless, God, that comfort.

II. Coming of Titus

A. Here is a pivotal matter.

1. Future effectiveness related to how Corinth accepted his apostolic authority. *every day has a few folks he can't reach - Lincoln*

2. Titus not with him and it confirmed his worst fears. *he imagine things going wrong*

II Cor. 2:12-13

3. But now comfort his via:

a) Arrival of Titus.

b) His positive experience with them  
(Comfort you gave him)

c) Reassuring news he brought of their attitude toward Paul.

(1) Affection for him. - *RAAS Press*

(2) Longed to see him.

(3) Defend his cause.

(4) Following his instruction in discipling the guilty party.

(Expositors)

4. McGarvey points out:

a) He felt the feelings of Titus even more substantive than the report he brought.

b) One conveyed his good feelings to another.

c) He reported they shared mutual grief over what troubled Paul.

d) He reported zeal with which they followed Paul's instructions.

e) Thus more joy than sorrow.

B. Fears overcome.

1. Titus was received.

2. Titus safely traveled.

3. Corinth properly responds to an authoritative letter.

III. *Thus* This I see His Joy:

A. By promise he is sustained.

1. I will adopt you as children if you obey me.

2. Dwelling place with God.

6:16 "I will dwell in them & walk"

B. From Evil Separated.

1. Avoid fellowship with unrighteous people.

*Family Issue card*

*Complete  
Walter Scott*

*Quintess  
Story*

2. No defilement that stains.
3. Clean break with paganism.
4. Filthiness - defilement.

C. In Companionship & Fellowship be blessed.

1. Sanctification.
2. Promise can't be unless you are.
3. Perfect holiness.

Heb. 6:1

12:14

Laurel Church, Knoxville, TN - 3/13/88

A little boy was playing all alone in the front yard when a neighbor came along and asked where his brother was. "Oh," he said, "he's in the house playing a duet. I finished first."

*Arkansas Baptist*

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### DUTCH EMPLOYERS

Dutch employers a few centuries ago were noted for their easy-going, good natures and were addressed as "baas," or uncle. New forms and terms of English authority adopted the word "baas" from their fellow colonists from the Netherlands. The American term "boss" thus stands as another monument to the independent spirit of the founding fathers.

*Horizons,  
Cambridge Associates*

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### FLATTERY

Flattery, now and then, makes husbands out of single men.

*Fellowship*

## RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

Walter Scott, one of the great preachers of the Restoration movement in this country, was called the "Golden Oracle." One of his best known sermons was entitled "Three Divine Missions." He preached one hour on the mission of Christ, one hour on the mission of the Holy Spirit, and one hour on the mission of the church. He had the ability to hold his audience spellbound for three hours! At one point in his life he preached through the book of Matthew for twenty-two months by preaching twice a week. Scott said, "If any man would work faith in his audience, let him give his days and nights and years to the study of the evangelist." Scott's preaching was so powerful that one time even the staid Alexander Campbell stood up and shouted, "Glory to God in the highest!" Upon hearing of Walter Scott's death, Alexander Campbell wrote, "Next to my father, he was the most cordial and indefatigable fellow laborer in the origin and progress of the present Reformation....His whole heart was in his work. I knew him well. I knew him long. I loved him much. We might not agree in every opinion, nor in every point of expediency; but we never loved each other less because we did not acquiesce in every opinion, nor in every point of expediency in every measure. By the eye of faith and the eye of hope, we think I see him in Abraham's bosom."

### *If the Shoe Fits*

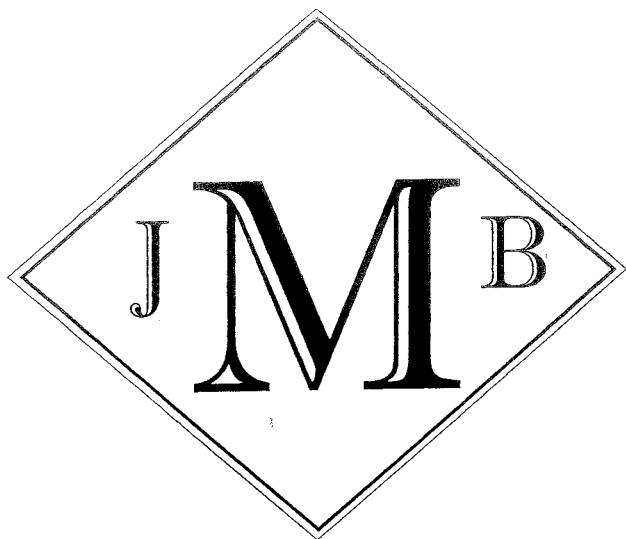
A QANTAS Airlines passenger agent in Honolulu cabled his counterpart in San Francisco: "Qantas flight 596 passenger Mr. Baker fell asleep during flight with shoes off. Arriving in Honolulu he put on one shoe from man in next seat. Would you believe it was perfect fit and passenger did not note error until check-in at hotel. Contact man in seat 26E and ask if holding shoe. Baker traveling Qantas flight 530 August 9 will claim shoe then. Please advise if 26E needs shoe before Saturday."

San Francisco replied: "Seat 26E unoccupied Qantas flight 596 and foot-inspection arrival revealed no shoe property Mr. Baker. All passengers had matching shoes. Assume Mr. Baker started his trip with two different shoes. Lucky thing he can go barefoot in Honolulu." —Contributed by R. Blagden

*Country*

The idea of living together and the overall idea that sex outside marriage is not immoral has changed our language. One-night stands are now "brief encounters," perversion is "sexual variation," promiscuous means "multi-friended," and wife-swapping is "expanding the circle of love." An affair is a "relationship," homosexuals are "gay," and dirty books are euphemistically sanitized into "erotica." Concerned to maintain propriety in a changing culture, Emily Post suggests that people living together be called "convivants." But whether they are referred to as lovers, roommates, paramours, or apartmates, the intent is to condone the conduct by avoiding morally harsh language.

FAMILY ISSUES - Bob Larson p.20



# GLORIOUS GIVING

2 Cor. 8:1-5

- I. Examples are powerful - they best be the right one tho. I've gotten several that I believe are:
  - A. Lena Dees Mann asked Louise Howard to come stay c her til she got well.
  - B. Ginny & Larry Barwick moved & the couples & singles helped do it.
  - C. Mary E. Gill had a special party for Tina Welsh & Tabb Meade.
  - D. Sally Crawford repaired my song book.
  - E. Eileen Branch made purses for all Justine's bridesmaids.
  - F. Paula & Geo. Pierce use their new home to benefit many.
  - G. Laurel Church launched out on faith in a World's Fair project - and that brings me to my subject of giving!
- II. Paul cited the Macedonian churches as an example.  
So we study:
  - A. Circumstances.
  - B. Action.
  - C. Results.
- III. The Circumstances.
  - A. He holds them up as an example.
    1. Note it was God's grace that enabled them.
  - B. Their circumstances.
    1. "How that in great trial of affliction.
      - a.) Persecuted perhaps.
      - b.) Did not offer it as an excuse for not giving.

2. The abundance of their joy & their deep poverty abounded unto riches of their liberality.

a.) Strange combination - as Jim would remark, "Say that again." *Peterson*

b.) Interest of others beyond their own.

c.) Speaks of deep poverty.

d.) We estimate size of gift - God estimates size of balance. *KOREAN FARM*

e.) 2 of loveliest flowers of Christianity: joy & liberality.

f.) Area so poor Tiberius Caesar lightened taxes!

#### IV. Their Action.

A. Riches of their liberality.

B. Beyond their power they were willing of themselves

1. Required no urging.

2. No selfish appeal:

a.) "You'll get a return gift."

b.) "Name on roll."

c.) "Deductible."

C. Praying as with much entreaty that we would receive the gift.

1. Insisted on doing more than they should - one more biscuit won't hurt!

2. May not have been asked to give - heard about it & wanted to.

3. Praying's no substitute for paying.

D. Take...the fellowship of ministering to the saints

1. If a church is in need anywhere the abundance of saints elsewhere is her supply - Johnson.

2. Distance does not diminish the claim of brethren on others.

3. We can give w/o loving but can't love w/o giving.

#### V. The Results.

A. And this they did.

1. Exceeded fondest hope.

B. Ist gave their own selves to the Lord.

1. If you give yourself you automatically know whose money it is that you have - it's the Lord's!

2. Primary motivation was God!

3. Note by will of God - not by whims.

*Test End 5-16-82*

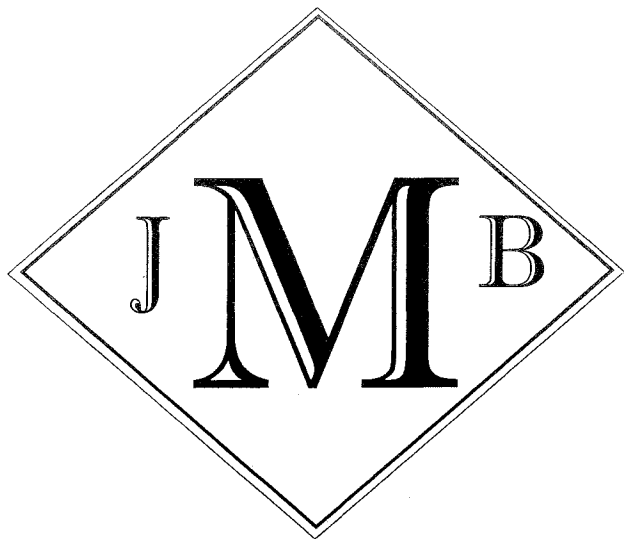
The occasion for this giving was the need of the Jewish Christians at Jerusalem. They had passed through bitter persecution which had swept away their homes and their means of employment. They were now destitute and in desperate need of the assistance which was due them from fellow Christians. It was this urgent need that Paul was laying before the Corinthians.

In seeking to stir them up to a proper effort, he referred to the sacrifices of the Christians in Macedonia.

This is often necessary in connection with our own giving. We think we are generous, liberal and sacrificial until we behold the giving of others.

A business man and a lawyer, both Christians, were traveling in Korea. One day they saw in the field by the side of the road a young man pulling a rude plow, while an old man held the handles. The lawyer was amused and took a snapshot of the scene. "That's a curious picture! I suppose they are very poor," he said to the missionary who was interpreter and guide to the party. "Yes," was the quiet reply. "That is the family of Chi Boui. When the church was being built they were eager to give something to it, but they had no money, so they sold their only ox and gave the money to the church. This spring they are pulling the plow themselves." The lawyer and the business man by his side were silent for some moments. Then the business man said, "That must have been a real sacrifice." "They did not call it that," said the missionary. "They thought it was fortunate that they had the ox to sell." The lawyer and the business man had not much to say. When they reached home the lawyer took the picture to his minister and told him about it. "I want to double my pledge to the church," he said. "Give me some plow work, please. I have never yet given anything to my church that cost me anything."

The giving of these Macedonians, which is cited for



## SHALL WE GIVE?

2 Cor.8:1-9

2 Cor.9:6-7, 19

Phil. 4:17-19

I. Was it Berlin that asked "shall we dance?" Contrastingly the Lord asks "shall we selfishly give? "

A. Referring to an Astaire movie--we've danced all around the subject and not preached on giving.

1. Tests have shown if every church put every member on welfare and every Christian gave 10% of his check, contributions would double.

2. Even 10% scares many saints and the rebuttal - "we are not under law" - how shameful is our stinginess.

3. Reminds me of a football story  
"get the quarterback."

B. May we learn the beauty and absolute joy of giving.

II. It's a delight to ask brethren to give.

A. I'll refer to the Holy Spirit and to man.

1. The Spirit speaks in 2 Cor. 8 & 9.

2. Man speaks in Proverbs.

- a) Brother King: There was a man folks called him mad, but the more he gave the more he had.
- b) Keeble and shovel: I shovel to God; God shovels to me; but God's got a bigger shovel.

B. I want you to hear some beautiful words:

- 1. My mother asked "what are some beautiful words to you?"
  - a) I went by sounds like armada.
  - b) She countered with "I hoped you'd think mother."
- 2. Let's look at words the Spirit used.

### III. Words of Beauty via II Cor. 8 & 9.

A. Brethren--not asking others, but my brothers and sisters.

- 1. If we don't believe in the spread of the gospel why should anyone else?
- 2. "I'm a-giving while I'm livin then I'm a-knowin where it's goin."
- 3. Voltaire- "when it comes to a question of money everybody is of the same religion."

B. The grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia.

- 1. I thought that was a salvation word. It is primary.

2. Here it has to do with money!
  3. Shanks in 21st CC tells of a widow who pled to stop payments on her husband's life insurance policy-- "he's been dead three years and I can't afford it anymore." She was told she was paying on what she already had in thousands of dollars--so are we.
- C. Abundance of joy--riches of liberality.
1. Once Paul had to stop people giving--need was met.
  2. One version "overflow in wealth and liberality."
- D. Gave themselves to the Lord.
1. With this gift first the fruits follow.
  2. No one asks is 10% enough.
- E. Grace pops up again and again.
- F. Abound in everything.
1. Faith
  2. Utterance
  3. Knowledge
  4. Diligence
  5. Love
  6. "This grace also" - so giving keeps good company.
- G. Know grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Rich--poor reverse our poverty to rich.

1. Gala \$25,000 + supper.
2. Pork and beans - heaven's mine.
3. Equality (V.14-15) - no lack.
4. Power - "no bounced checks."
5. Security.

#### IV. More beautiful words in Phil. 4:18-19.

A. He's just used all those accounting terms earlier in the chapter.

1. Credit your account.
2. Full payment.
3. Profit and loss.
4. Receipt.
5. Credit and debit.
6. Interest.

Heb. 6:9-10

B. Now

1. "Odor of sweet smell."

Gen. 8:21

Exo. 29:18

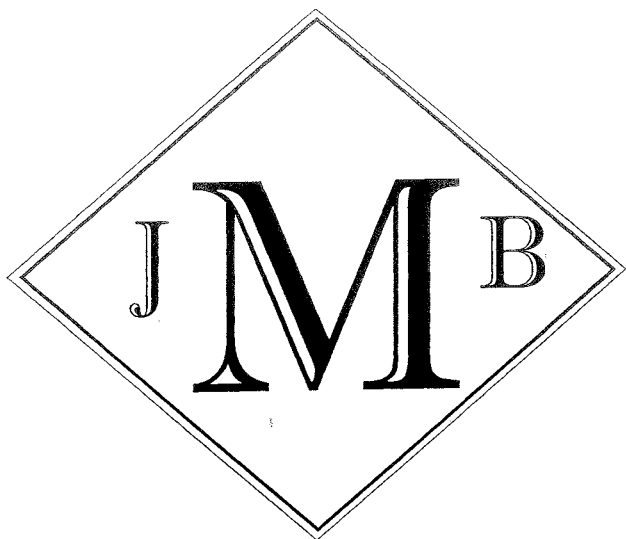
Ezek. 20:40-41

- a) Married young woman. Why?  
Smell perfume not liniment.
- b) Shouted at referee - "you stink" - moved ball 15 yds. penalty and asked "how do I smell from here?"
2. Sacrifice acceptable.
3. Well-pleasing to the Lord.

C. A promise not to turn down. "My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

1. Give in proportion to your trust.
2. "Now unto God and our Father (who will not forget his children), be glory forever and ever Amen."

White Rock Fund, Dallas, TX - 9/30/06  
(Raised \$104,000)



# PRINCIPLES THAT ENCOURAGE GIVING

2 Cor. 8:8-10

- I. Surely everyone understands that Christianity is a sharing religion.
  - A. But what would make me want to give?
  - B. Are there NT principles propounded by Paul?
  - C. May we adopt them today?
    - 1. Clip on I care 25¢ worth.
    - 2. Don't pull wool over eyes.
- II. As I read Cor., I see a sinful church taught to give. 2 Cor. 8 has some principles that we need to duplicate today. They are:
  - A. I will be more prone to give when prodded by the example of other congregations.
    - 2 Cor. 8:1-5 (Read). Story of Macedonia's giving.
  - 1. Story of 3 farmers:
    - a.) Too much grain taken to feed the mule, sell him, plant what I can work, less risk, more labors.
    - b.) Drought might get it all - save seed in bin.
    - c.) Take risk, feed mule some, sow some, plant heavily - at harvest who had the most?
  - 2. Macedonia gave.
    - a.) Great trial of affliction.
    - b.) Deep poverty (deep down).
      - (1) Destitute.
      - (2) Broke.
    - c.) Their attitude.
      - (1) Abundance of joy.

(2) Abounded to riches of their liberality.

(Coolidge quote).

(3) Beyond their power.

(4) Prayed with much entreaty.

(5) 1st gave their own selves.

3. Why giving - saw a need! Sympathetic c it.

V. 4 "Ministering to the saints."

Rom. 15:25-29 "For he must reign, till he hath put al

a.) Jerusalem 1st had the faith - owed them something.

b.) Paul wanted them Mission minded (both Cor. & Macedonian).

c.) Note churches - each one independent, yet cooperative.

d.) Gave of own accord, lit. authority.

4. Note in passing:

a.) Didn't expiate on want of sufferers or obligation of Cor., but told of Macedonia & stirred them to imitate.

b.) Often with our affections we get consumed & have little interest in others.

c.) Their liberality was voluntarily, bountifully, zealously shown. (Greeley quote).

d.) Beautiful almoner. Rose above their trials to help others.

e.) W/o love - sounding brass.

f.) We can be mechanical about our giving. (Beecher Card).

g.) Macedonia was special.

Phil. 4:10-16 "But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, th

B. Example of Jesus (V. 9).

1. Was rich.

2. Became poor.

a.) At a definite time - earth advent.

b.) 2 exchanges.

c.) Came into poverty, beggar.

d.) Relinquished pre-existent state.

e.) Contrasts 2X.

(1) Eternity vs. incarnation.

(2) His earth vs. affluence of contemporaries.

f.) What He gave up should be an encouragement to us.

C. 3rdly, I'll give more if I face my own integrity.

1. 1 year ago they voluntarily said they'd give.  
(V. 10).

2. Wasn't commanded to do so, but volunteered.

3. McGarvey - since willingness our pledge can thus only advise - not command.

4. Bring to an end your stated goal. Mac. started later & finished earlier!

5. Church needs to be a part of planning.

6. Their original zeal flagging.

7. Trouble comes & the contribution 1st thing to suffer.

8. Can I command you to keep your promise?

Rather, get c it & do what you said you'd do.

9. No certain amount was promised (V. 12).

10. "Perform the doing of it."

11. Note life's equalization: (V. 13-15).

- a.) Life evens up things.
  - b.) Give because tomorrow you may need the help someone does today.
  - c.) Charity no encouragement to laziness or luxury.
  - d.) Religious parasitism not of the N. T. - "What do the alumni give?"
  - e.) Inequalities come from birth, education, accident. What does this call for at our hands
12. Man can own property - yet all I have is what I need & use. Do we see the needs of others?

13. Drummond quote.

D. 4thly, Funds must be handled in a way beyond reproach.

V. 21 "Provide for honest things, not

- 1. Give glory to God & sight of men.
- 2. Later means no suspicion tolerated.
- 3. Proper business procedures.
- 4. Sent brother.
  - a.) Chosen by ballot of uplifted hands.
  - b.) Fit men sent.

5. Paul was big enuf man to do the little things and practical things supremely well.

6. Avoid (of V. 20) nautical term - furling sail - take precautions in view of danger.

Prov. 3:4 "So shalt thou find favour and good unders

7. Both man & God need to know conscience is clear.

8. Refute lies before they are spoken.

9. Love challenges us to prove it in face of competent witness.
10. Messengers of the churches.
  - a.) Information only.
  - b.) Did not change or modify any decisions.
  - c.) Not legislative.
  - d.) Didn't meet other messengers & organize a body.
  - e.) Didn't sit in judgement on rest of church - all from D. Lipscomb.

### III. What Then is Taught?

- A. Power of an Example.
- B. Keep your word - in on it.
- C. Avoid suspicion.

*2nd End 5-20-84*

## FLASHBACK

QUOTE, July, 1946

The phrase "to pull the wool over one's eyes" has been traced back to the English courts and the fact that the judges wore wigs. Literally, if a wig was lowered over the eyes, the judge could not see the situation clearly.

—*Southern Christian Advocate*

## FAITH WITHOUT WORKS

A young boy, on an errand for his mother, had just bought a dozen eggs. Walking out of the store, he tripped and dropped the sack. All the eggs broke, and the sidewalk was a mess. The boy tried not to cry.

A few people gathered to see if he was OK and to tell him how sorry they were. In the midst of the words of pity, one man handed the boy a quarter.

Then he turned to the group and said, "I care 25 cents worth. How much do the rest of you care?"

—*Leadership*

1, 1984

*Quote*



over

Horace Greeley once received a letter from a woman stating that her church was in distressing financial straits. The congregation had tried oyster suppers, grab-bags, box socials, everything. "Would Mr Greeley be kind as to suggest some new advice to keep the struggling church from disbanding?"

The editor replied: "Try religion."





## REPEATERS

"Son," a Texan told his offspring, "I just heard you asking that man what state he was from. Now, my boy, I want you to always remember this: If a man comes from Texas, he'll tell you, and if he isn't from Texas, there's no need to emphasize it."

Another vital ingredient in the great secret and part of the key to life's great treasures is the importance of giving. ~~This is the sixth great step.~~ Calvin Coolidge put it well when he said, "No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave." And an old Hindu proverb says it so well: "Help thy brother's burden across, and lo, thine own has reached the shore." One thing that money cannot buy is the warm impulse of the human heart, and it will invariably produce greater happiness for the giver than for the recipient."

*giving*

Harding Lectures 1980

"Victorious Living" - By Randall Yearwood - Page 199

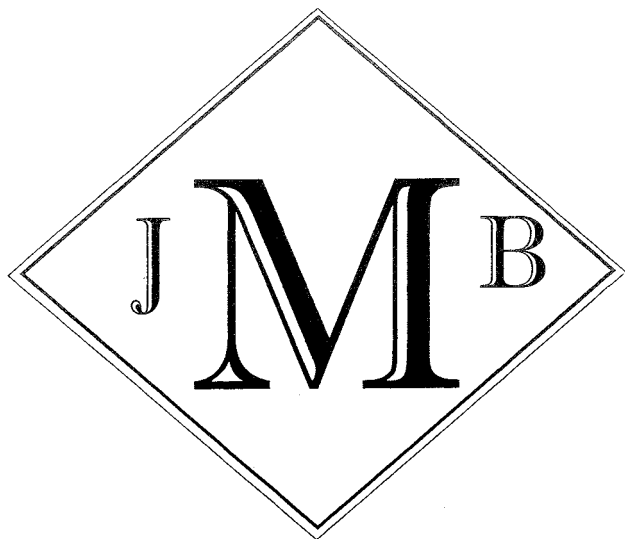
Henry Drummond said, "There is no happiness in having or in getting, but only in giving. Half the world is on the wrong scent in the pursuit of happiness. They think it consists of having and getting, and in being served by others. It consists of giving and in serving others."

Life Is What You Make It by Ronald L. Willingham

Page No. 24

The great preacher, Henry Ward Beecher, put it this way: Some men give so that they are angry every time you ask them to contribute. They give so that their gold and silver shoot you like a bullet. Other persons give with such beauty that you remember it as long as you live; and you say, "It is a pleasure to go to such men." There are some men that give as springs do: whether you go to them or not, they are always full; and your part is merely to put your dish under the ever-flowing stream.

Beauty Care for the Hands by LeRoy Koopman, page 34



# IF THE WILLINGNESS IS THERE

2 Cor. 8:1-12

I. Today I want to talk to you about giving money.

A. I join good company - Paul often did.

1. Made 5 visits to Jerusalem Acts 9:26, Gal. 1:18

a.) 2nd visit c Barnabas as brot benevolent offering from Antioch to relieve famine (Acts 11:27-30).

b.) 3rd X - was urged to remember the poor "which thing I was eager to do." (Gal. 2:10) Rom. 15:25.

c.) 5X brot alms. Acts 24:17

2. This campaign took a lot of time.

a.) Fund raise a major task of his.

b.) Wrote letters, made tours.

c.) Appointed comm. to help him.

d.) 2 chapters of 2 Cor. devoted to topic.

B. There are others too!

1. Jim Elliot, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

2. John Wesley, "Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can."

3. Helen Steiner Rice.

4. Wm. Ward Ayer.

C. If you do not care to hear, now is the time to leave.

1. Douglas, "1 day I'll come for nothing."

2. 2 Bro. - late - fainted.

II. I'd like you to read c me 2 Cor. 8:1-12.

A. Example of the Macedonia churches (V. 1-5).

1. Berea, Phillipi, & Thess. were evidently the churches.

2. Great example to Corinth.
3. Nothing harsh - affection address as brethren.
4. It was the grace of God that enabled the Macedonians to do what they did.
  - a.) We'll see gifts by those who did not have adequate means.
  - b.) Widow & mites vs. superfluity.
5. Gave out of "severe trial" & "extreme poverty."
  - a.) Poverty hurt early church - lost jobs, family ties, inheritances, business collapsed.
  - b.) Lit. "Rock bottom poverty" Extreme
  - c.) Poland & Athens, Guatemala.
6. Contrast c "overflowing joy" & "rich generosity" (V. 2).
  - a.) Shows organic unity of church.
  - b.) Middle wall gone.
  - c.) Poverty did not hurt their giving nor persecution (1 Thess. 1:6, 2:14) their joy.
  - d.) Note he looks not at size of gift, but attitude.
7. Features of their Mac. gift.
  - a.) According to their power.
    - 1.) What God asks of all.
  - b.) Beyond their power.
    - 1.) Lit. contrary to nature.
    - 2.) Grace enters here - no. thot of their future security financially.
  - c.) Of their own accord.
  - d.) Beseeching us c much entreaty.
    - 1.) He'd not asked them - since he knew their poverty!

2.) Not Paul, but they did the **begging**.

3.) "Urgently pleaded" for the privilege of fellowship.

e.) 1st gave self to Lord & us.

1.) 1st in time - before their money.

2.) 1st in importance.

3.) Loyalty to Paul out of appreciation for his services - thus he who asks for contribution - elder or preacher or missionary has his neck on the block. "Will Jim Bill be here."

B. Paul's Encouragement & Procedure.

1. Sent Titus (V. 6).

a.) He'd help start it.

b.) Paul wants them to complete.

c.) You are not faced c poverty or persecution.

2. It will take more than a Titus visit.

a.) Had many graces: faith, speech, knowledge, earnestness, love.

b.) Add grace of giving to list - generosity stands alongside the above.

3. Prove the sincerity of your love (V. 8).

a.) Not forced.

b.) Free to do as they wished.

c.) Compulsion out, yet he had right to command.

d.) Rather puts you to the test.

e.) Weighs not outward amt. but inward motive - the genuineness of your love.

f.) Not measured by others but by yourself!

4. Introduced example of Jesus (V. 9).

a.) Ye know - no Christian can gainsay this example.

b.) No one ever richer - none ever poorer.  
 c.) It was for our sakes that He did it. Intensely  
personal.

d.) Shows his pre-existence.

1.) One sent.

2.) One came into world.

3.) One became flesh.

5. So complete what you earlier started (V. 10-12).

a.) All giving - free & spontaneous ideally.

b.) I own nothing - it is all by the grace of God.

c.) Fitting for us to complete what we start.

d.) Something had allowed it to be sidetracked.

e.) Not asked to give like the Macedonians but rather see when readiness is present it is acceptable in accordance with the measure of ability, not inability.

f.) It's expedient we complete what we start.

g.) Don't put hand to plow & look back.

h.) Completion needs to match earlier intention.

i.) Gave according to your means - "God assesses the value of a monetary gift not in terms of the actual amt. given but by comparing what is given with the total financial resources of the giver. No one is expected to give according to what he does not have." Expositor's Bible Com.

*West End 8-16-81*

When the offering plate was passed during church services, small Douglas hesitantly opened a tight fist and parted with his coin. Looking up at his mother, he whispered, "Some of these days I'm coming in here for nothing!"

Bonnie Braun—Cincinnati, Ohio

**DO YOU HAVE AN ANECDOTE FOR**

**"KID STUFF?"** TEACH will pay \$1 for every story published. Send to TEACH, Box 1591, Glendale, Calif. 91209.

**GIVING**

Who are the most generous Americans? Those in the \$100,000 a year class—and up. That's what the latest study shows. "Their gifts to churches and other philanthropies averaged \$13,553 in 1970," says a spokesman for the American Ass'n of Fund Raising Counsel, Inc. "That's 7.25 percent of their adjusted gross income. The average for all Americans was 2.9 percent."—JOHN COSTELLO, *Nation's Business*, 9-72.

**HIMSELF—NOT MONEY**

Have you ever stopped to realize that Christ never gave any one money? The riches of the world were His for the taking, and His to give away, yet when the poor and the hungry came to Him, He didn't give them money, and He rarely gave them food; He gave them love and service and the greatest gift of all — Himself. — Contributed.

*Giving*

ON ONE OCCASION Jesus sat by the temple treasury watching people give their gifts. He had nothing to say about the lavish gifts of the wealthy, but of a poor widow's pitiful gift He exclaimed, "Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: for all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living" (Mark 12:41-44).

Jesus is always present when His people make their offerings. It is obvious from this account that He considers "giving" a very important part of the service. There may have been some beautiful music in those temple services, but Jesus has left no word concerning His attitude toward it. We do have Christ's important word about the offering.

Our use of money is often the acid test of our character. Money is not merely an objective thing. It is something vastly more than dollars and cents, bills and silver: our money is life crystallized, service transmuted into currency, talents and efforts made negotiable. Money used is life extended. Money is power—power for good or power for evil. The New Testament speaks about the use of money as being a Christian grace and a definite responsibility. Paul says: "Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also" (2 Corinthians 8:7). He is speaking about the grace of giving.

The use of money by the American people is a revealing index to our character. We spend billions for liquor, billions for entertainment,

billions for pleasure and billions for luxuries but statisticians inform us that we are giving less and less to churches and charitable organizations. America spends more for chewing gum than she does for God. If the church could have one tenth of the amount spent for cigarettes in America, she could put missionaries in every nook and corner of this lost world of ours to tell the glad story of the love and mercy of God. The evangelical church doesn't spend as much for all of its labors for the Kingdom as the liquor interests spend for advertising.

The use of our money is a revelation of heart attitudes—whether we put God first or last in our affairs. The man who tithes—who receives his salary and sets aside one-tenth for the Kingdom of God—acknowledges God's existence and sovereignty. "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase" (Proverbs 3:9). Millions of our people give "something" to the Kingdom of God only when they have "anything" left after they have indulged themselves and served the flesh. Many people are saying today, "I cannot afford to set anything aside for God. My family and obligations take it all." Unless God is given first place, there will be nothing left for Him.

I read of a little girl who planned to give her father a pair of slippers for his birthday. "Where will you get the money?" she was asked. She opened her eyes like saucers and said, "Why, Father will give me the money." So it is with our God. Some of you once honored God by setting aside His tenth, but you no longer do it. You must trust God and begin anew!

Money is such a practical thing that it reveals

our willingness or unwillingness to trust God. Jesus said, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). If the woman of the text gave all her living she certainly must have trusted God to supply her every need in spite of the totality of her generosity. Do you think for a moment that God let her down? I wouldn't believe in a God who would let a woman like that down. God will never allow Himself to be in debt to His children.

The use of our money *reveals our yieldedness to Christ*. What is the true basis of giving? Love is the only proper motivating force. If you have a family I am sure you have noticed that the love of that family is constantly calling upon your generosity. Only a love for God and for His needy children will give you an overflowing and generous heart, and a desire to pass on to the lives of *others* the blessings He has showered upon *you*.

William Ward Ayer

"Just for You" - Helen Steiner Rice

III

*Two Palestinian Seas*

*A* very favorite story of mine  
Is about *Two Seas in Palestine*

One is a sparkling sapphire jewel,  
Its waters are clean and clear and cool,  
Along its shores the children play  
And travelers seek it on their way,  
And nature gives so lavishly  
Her choicest gems to the *Galilee* . . .  
But on to the south the Jordan flows  
Into a sea where nothing grows,  
No splash of fish, no singing bird,  
No children's laughter  
is ever heard,

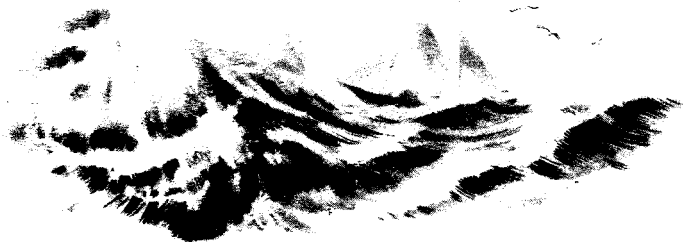
The air hangs heavy all around  
And nature shuns this barren ground . . .  
Both seas receive the Jordan's flow,  
The water is just the same, we know,  
But one of the seas, like liquid sun,  
Can warm the hearts of everyone,  
While farther south another sea  
Is dead and dark and miserly—  
It takes each drop the Jordan brings  
And to each drop it fiercely clings . . .



III

It hoards and holds the Jordan's waves  
Until like shackled, captured slaves  
The fresh, clear Jordan turns to salt  
And dies within the *Dead Sea's* vault . . .  
But the Jordan flows on rapturously  
As it enters and leaves the *Galilee*,  
For every drop that the Jordan gives  
Becomes a laughing wave  
that lives -  
For the *Galilee* gives back each drop,  
Its waters flow and never stop,  
And in this laughing, living sea  
That takes and gives so generously  
We find the way to *Life and Living*  
Is not in *Keeping*, but in *Giving!*

Yes, there are *Two Palestinian Seas*  
And mankind is fashioned after these!



# GEMEINDE CHRISTI

Carl-Benz-Straße 75  
6800 Mannheim  
July 1981



Dear Brethren,

Since our last report many exciting things have happened. A group of students, led by X-German missionaries Jack and Kay Nadeau, came from Lubbock Christian College to assist us in door knocking during our Campaign for Christ. Over thirty different adult visitors attended during the eight nights of preaching. Most of these were new contacts.

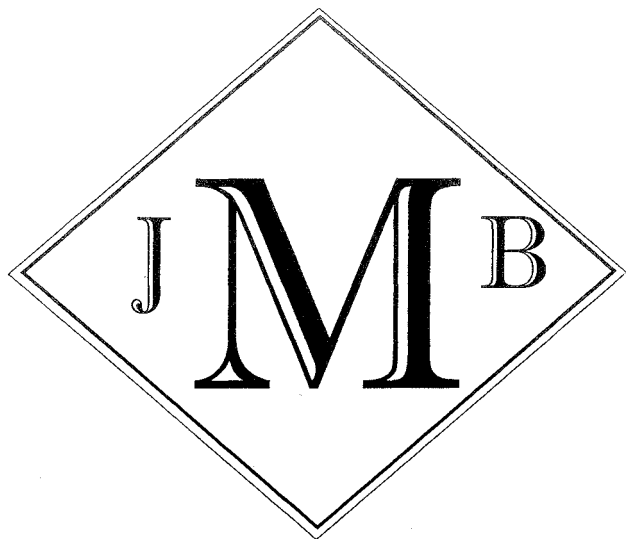
One young woman, Elisabeth Rheinhardt, was baptized last week. She is a thirty year old nurse who works as a floor supervisor in our largest hospital. She has studied with us for several months but the Campaign helped her make a decision.

Two older ladies that were once active Christians here but had fallen away have returned to the fold. One of those was a result of the Campaign.

Our Wednesday evening Bible study attendance is now up to an all time high average of 17. This has moved up from average of five prior to our arrival less than one year ago. The Lord is truly blessing our work together.

As I wrote in my last report we were preparing to take a truck load of groceries to our brethren in Poland who because of the impending crisis are suffering. I am enclosing a copy of a report, with photos, which appeared in the bulletin of our sponsoring congregation. Since that report however, we have made a second trip to Poland. It was unbelievable how drastically the situation had worsened in only five weeks. There is certainly a critical shortage of everything. A sister, who is a Dentist, asked if we could get her some bits for her drill. Clothing, particularly small childrens, is not available. Material to sew clothing is not available. Yarn to knit is not available. Gasoline is in short supply, car parts are not available and hundreds of cars sit under canvas coverings waiting for parts. Medicines are in short supply. Matches are not available and the people have gas heat and cooking stoves without pilot lights. Even at the Hotels, designed for Western tourists, we were told there were only two things on the menu and no soft drinks but mineral water. (Five weeks earlier we could get anything we wanted at the same hotels.)

Due to this critical shortage I am making a special request of you. We plan to return to Poland in early October. With \$55,000 we can fill and take five trucks loaded with food to help our brethren survive the winter. Would you take a special contribution and send it to the Polish Food fund, c/o sixth and Izard church of Christ, P.O. box 228, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. You may save a brother or sister from starvation.



# DON'T FORGET THE OTHER BROTHER

2 Cor. 8:16-22

I. In all church relationships, the ministry of the minister must be beyond reproach.

- A. This is demanded in his personal behavior and reputation.
- B. He needs remember he may need an outside Amen in protecting his services.
- C. Such is beautifully seen with Paul, the sending of Titus and the two brothers.
- D. The method is an imperative one--he is handling the money of others!
  1. From Corinth.
  2. For poor saints at Jerusalem.
  3. Must cross racial and geographical lines.

II. First there is Titus

A. God be praised he had the same earnest care for you. *Anti-Provincial*

1. Big enough to love both Jerusalem & Corinth--neither dominated him.
2. Interest not only in Jerusalem needy but way Corinthians would share.
3. Titus had the same drive in him Paul did, thus gave beautiful cooperation. (McGarvey)

a) We are not alone.

b) Neither are we the spark of *nothing* everything. *Chop your own wood*

4. His zeal is high because of the *warm* Corinthians--so proud of them *you*
5. So concerned he'd have gone on his own initiative without Paul's urging--so take no credit for something you did not earn. *twice*

*See  
Big  
Picture*

*watch train  
one thing  
I don't  
have to  
push*

*H. Ford Simpson*

*Maecher's card #1*

2.

6. His zeal for both cities.

B. How big is our spirit--must we dominate everything? *which cupcake? #2*

1. Do we see our work to glory of God?
2. Do we respond to needs of others?

III. And then there's the Brother.

A. His identity unknown. *Lincoln card #3*

1. Only to us.
2. The Corinthians would have known him.

B. His work is known. *renders our speech #4*

1. Praise is in the gospel.
  - a) Connected with the proclamation of the gospel--what could be finer.
  - b) Well travelled, well known.
  - c) It does matter what people think of you.

2. Throughout all the churches.

- a) Great the church knew him universally.
- b) His presence a precaution against false rumors and impropriety with the money. *Michelangelo card #5*
- c) His reputation untarnished.
- d) Necessary: good character in the sight of God and fair reputation among men.

3) McGarvey points out how fit these men were.

3. Thus entitled to confidence--earn it.

*I wish to preach, not the doctrine of ignoble ease, but the doctrine of the strenuous life. T. Roosevelt*

*Nothing earthly  
will make  
me give up my  
work in  
despair  
J. Livingston*

## C. Chosen of the churches.

## 1. Chosen

- a) Lit. stretch the hand.
- b) Some kind of voting.
- c) Kent - by an elect vote of raised hands.

## 2. It's Congregational not Apostolic Choice

- a) As all the churches selected him there could be no charge of cronyism. *Proceed base or destination?*
- b) Another step in avoiding suspicion.

## 3. Represented churches only in things to which they were chosen. (Appleby)

## IV. The Administration of the Bounty.

## A. Need a sound method.

- 1. Proper procedure adapted.
- 2. Funds must be administered with great care particularly when for the poor given even by poorer people. (Erdman)

## B. Needs be above suspicion.

- 1. "In a field of melons do not stoop to tie your shoes." (Chinese proverb)
- 2. No suspicion will be tolerated.
- 3. Acted with the meticulous accuracy of a chartered accountant. (Barclay)
- 4. Paul was a big enough man to do the little things & practical things extremely well. (Barclay)

5. V-20 uses "avoid". *#64. hard plane now?*

a) Nautical term.

b) Furling sail taking precautions in anticipating danger.

Prov. 3:4 *Find favor & good land in the sight of God.*

6. Also uses "abundance" in same verse

a) Only time in NT for large contribution. (Jensen)

b) Size compounds the problem.

c) Expects a generous contribution--high goal.

7. A church that doesn't give doesn't live but don't let budget overshadow spiritual.

V. And so the 2nd Brother (v-22)

A. Identity

1. Unknown

2. Unnamed

3. Doesn't name this one nor the

*immortal* immortal man either.

4. Shrouded in anonymity.

B. Position

1. Authorized by Paul.

2. Also by the churches (v-23)

a) Not called apostles of Christ.

b) Rather called apostles of churches.

3. Derived authority from local church.

4. Skillful on Paul's part--sending a commission of men would get them to complete their work.

5. Proven diligent many things.

a) Note fitness of men again stated.

b) Churches watch for love & loyalty.

c) Wide, proven ability.

Harding Graduate School - 11/9/89

Westvue church, Lewisburg, TN - 11/19/89

DON'T FORGET THE OTHER BROTHER

5.

Belltown church - 12/3/89

Walnut Street, Dickson, TN - 12/3/89

Ohio Valley Lectureship, Parkersburg, WV--4/7/94

Humboldt, TN - 5/1/94

## APATHY - Neglect

#1

The crime against life, the worst of all crimes, is not to feel. And there was never, perhaps, a civilization in which that crime, the crime of torpor, of lethargy, of apathy, the snake-like sin of coldness-at-the-heart, was commoner than in our technical civilization.

Archibald MacLeish

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting -  
P.18

As the two children sat down to lunch, their mother told them that they'd get a special cupcake when they finished. She showed them the goodies, each one frosted and decorated differently. Then she said, "Whoever

70

#12

ILLUSTRATION: I

cleans his plate first gets first pick."

The children finished quickly, with the little girl beating out her brother. "All right, dear," the mother said, "which cupcake do you want?"

Nancy studied them all. "I can't choose yet," she said. "John hasn't picked the one he wants, and whichever one that is, *that's* the one I want!"

—Contributed by Michael Hunt

The release of atom power has changed everything except our way of thinking, and thus we are being driven unarmed towards a catastrophe...The solution of this problem lies in humankind.

Albert Einstein

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting  
P.179



<sup>#4</sup>  
**A**nn Landers, *newspaper columnist*: "Everyone wants recognition, attention, praise and acceptance. We bristle at criticism and respond warmly to a compliment. We steer clear of people who make us feel uncomfortable. We gravitate toward those who make us feel good about ourselves. Warmth, kindness and friendship are the most yearned-for commodities in the world. The person who can provide them will never be lonely."

100  
Michelangelo was also a superb applied psychologist. At first, he was ignored and disdained by his own generation. But he had faith in his ability and decided to use some psychology on his critics. Knowing that they were fascinated by excavating in old ruins to dig up supposedly priceless works of art, he tinted one of his masterpieces and then had it buried where an excavating party would be sure to find it. The critics were enraptured. They pronounced it an antique of rare value. The Cardinal of San Giorgio was so impressed that he paid a huge sum to add it to his art collection. Then Michelangelo deftly let the cat out of the bag. The art critics...were so far out on a limb that they had to admit that he was an artistic genius.

After that, Michelangelo was commissioned to do important work.

George Crane

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - SWEETING -  
P.20

A famous admiral always encouraged his officers to act on their own initiative. One day he received a message from one of the captains in his fleet: "Am lost in fog. Shall I proceed to destination or return to base?"

The admiral replied: "Yes."

Soon after, another message arrived: "Do you mean, Yes, I should proceed to destination, or, Yes, I should return to base?"

This time the reply was "No."

*Woodchuckles; Woodmen of the World Magazine*

ON A PLANE TRIP TO Michigan, my mother took her crocheting with her to pass the hours. Thirty minutes after takeoff, she finished the tam she was making for her niece. When the woman seated across the aisle asked if she could buy it, Mom was flattered and said yes. "I have two young granddaughters," the woman added. "Could you possibly make another one before we land?"

Mom crocheted furiously, but was only half done when the plane started

PHEN E. STANLEY

*overs*

to circle Detroit. The pilot announced a landing delay, and Mom renewed her efforts, cheered on by passengers around her. Two more delays were announced. Finally Mom finished, and the grandmother held up the two tams while everyone applauded.

As things quieted down, a businessman sitting in front of my mother turned around and quietly asked, "Can we land the plane now?"

—ANTHONY W. STOCKMAN (Littleton, Mass.)

For the better part of an hour the patient bent her doctor's ear with a detailed dissertation of painful symptoms. "Doctor, you won't believe this," she said finally. "When I came in here I had a terrible headache that has quite disappeared."

"You are wrong, Mrs. Jones," the unhappy doctor replied. "I have it now."

Lane Olinghouse

## Mistakes

#8

When Henry Ward Beecher was preaching in Brooklyn, he carried a handful of flowers into the pulpit one Lord's Day and placed them in a vase that they might adorn the stand from which he spoke. The newspapers, the next day, carried lengthy articles condemning Beecher for desecrating the pulpit with flowers.

And when Morse was trying to get money from Congress for a telegraph line from Baltimore to Washington he had to endure the adverse criticisms of the press for eleven years.

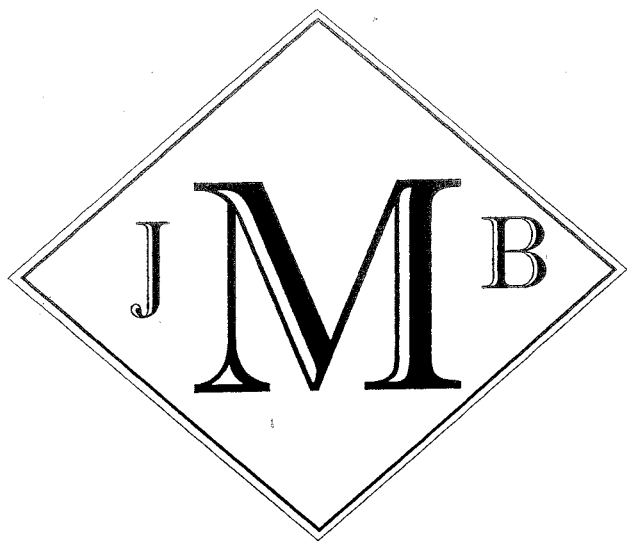
And when, in 1845, Mr. Adam Thompson got up the first bathtub in America, the newspapers said he was

"going to spoil the democratic simplicity of the republic."

And when Cyrus Field was trying to lay the Atlantic cable as "a mad freak of stubborn ignorance."

Robert G. Lee

GREAT QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS - Sweeting  
P.186



# GOD'S TRIPLE PLAY

2 Cor. 8:16-22

I. Ever mindful of the needs of men, God sent multiple folk to do His will.

A. Jacob had 12 sons.

B. Jesus sent disciples by two.

C. Jesus chose 12.

D. Missionaries went by teams.

E. Missionaries sometimes sent trio.

1. That's today's lesson - God's triple play.

(You'll never get a hit until you get the bat off your shoulders).

2. We see usage of 3 men.

## II. The Occasion.

A. Poor Jewish saints at Jerusalem need help badly.

B. Richer Gentile Christians are taking up a collection for them.

C. Paul writes to Corinth in particular about it.

1. Poor Macedonian churches gave generously (8:1-5).

2. Now want Corinth, much richer, to give (8:6-15).

3. Now he tells the immediate necessary plan for Corinth.

## III. God's Triple Play.

A. "But thanks be to God" --

1. For all Good we need to thank God.

a.) We need to keep heart open to praise.

b.) Are we full of praise to God - all things that come are by His grace.

c.) Weekly in Lord's Supper - Gratitude!

2. We must recognize Him as source.

V. 16 "God put the same earnest care into the heart of

a.) God moved Titus heart to so dispose.

b.) Behind all good events is God.

c.) How does He put things in hearts?

(1) Paul asked Titus to go, thus he may thru another

V. 6 "Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had b

(2) He doesn't need to explain his method - he just does it.

### B. The Trio.

1. 1st was Titus.

a.) Name means "I honor."

b.) Comfort to Paul.

2 Cor. 7:6 "God, that com. those that are cast, comf

7:13 "For the joy of Titus we were joyed

Gal. 2:3 "Titus - Greek . . uncircumcised

c.) 9X mentioned in 2 Cor. - never in Acts.

d.) Famous letter: set in order, ordain elders; avoid unprofitable discussion; assert authority.

e.) Paul asked him to go to Corinth.

V. 17 "For indeed he accepted the exhortation

2. About this we need to see some things.

a.) Sent to encourage but before Paul could commiss him it was already in his heart to do it.

b.) He saw the gift would bless Jerusalem saints but perhaps more so those that gave it.

c.) Outburst his own spontaneous zeal. 1 step ahead of Paul!

d.) "Earnest care" is what he had - he loved both cities.

e.) Zeal is continuous.

f.) You are not only one with a good idea - God works on several hearts. (Clip on goal)

g.) Titus selected as almoner.

h.) Model behavior is not pressure but voluntary!

3. No. 2 was unnamed brother.

V. 18 "And we have sent c him the brother

a.) Who was he?

1.) Pure speculation as unnamed. *Faith vs Opinion*

2.) Some said originally named but left off later because he disgraced the cause but no MMS evidence of such.

3.) Was he Luke?

b.) What do we know about this good brother?

1.) His praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches.

a.) Gospels not yet distributed - was he taking Luke's around to churches?

b.) Praised because of his preaching.

c.) Great to have the praise of all the churches.

d.) Reputation in gospel demanded - Mildred told Melinda never to hurt me.

e.) What can arms, art, science do for men compared to what gospel can.

f.) Famous - praised of men.

g.) Kennedy card.

2.) And not that only but was also chosen of the churches to travel c us with this grace or gift.

a.) Not just Paul's appointment but also the church

- b.) General reputation plus choice of churches commends him. Paul + churches = A #1!
- c.) Name proposed in various churches & they voted on it. Church ever considered.
- d.) Chosen = stretch the hand - thus held up hand in vote.
- e.) Lit. "fellow traveler" - Commies rein term. *→ like at Jeff Bell d2*
- f.) Represented churches only in task to which they were selected - they made no delegate decisions.

### 3.) Administered to us to the glory of the Lord.

- a.) Gracious work - object the glory of God.
- b.) This the design of the effort - promote Glory of God.
- c.) God honored as we are instruments of supply.
- d.) "The service we render others is really the rent we pay for our room on earth" Sir Wilfred Grenfell, English politician.

### 4.) And the declaration of your ready mind.

- a.) Your good will.
- b.) Your wise response.
- c.) Seize opportunity.
- d.) Shows readiness & glory.

*Served others*

### 4. No. 3 was unnamed too (R. B. Stevens).

### V. 22 "And we have sent c them our bro.

- a.) Diligent - (Fred Rhine recommendation).
- b.) Proven - tested business ability.
- c.) Why anonymity of 2 envoys? Didn't name immoral men.

1 Cor. 5:1 "It is reported commonly that there is fornication in your midst, even such as whom we cannot name."

2 Cor. 2:5 "But if any have caused grief, he hath not grief, forasmuch as he hath caused grief to many."

d.) "A ship in harbor is safe - but that's not what ships are for." J. A. Shedd

#### IV. What does this say to us today?

A. We have the capacity to respond to the needs of others.

1. We need to train our children to feel.

2. We must know concern.

3. "Add a little silver" Clip.

B. We do better when we respond voluntarily - not under pressure.

C. We must look to our reputations.

1.) Money supreme form of trust.

2.) Funds needed to be handled faithfully & careful

3.) Give glory to God & honesty in sight of men.

4.) "In a field of melons, do not stoop to tie your shoes" Chinese proverb.

5.) Nobel article.

D. We can stimulate men to beneficent action.

1.) Titus conferred a favor when he stimulated them to generous deeds.

2.) Don't avoid but welcome appeals.

3.) Drown ego in the sunny tide of love.

E. Don't put ourselves above appearances. Have code of common sense & prudence.

Sheet End 10-23-83

No Initials, Please! — R.B. Stevens' parents couldn't decide on a name for him so they gave him the initials, "R.B." When he joined the Army, his application form requested "Print your full name—no initials, please."

Not having a full name, Stevens wrote "R (only), B (only) Stevens."

Throughout his Army career, he received paychecks, instructions and notices addressed to "Ronly Bonly Stevens."

Another has said, "Men who die mentally in the ministry are not murdered . . . they commit suicide."

(Bishop Kennedy, "We Never Had It So Good")

Harding Lectures 1980

"Stewards of Our Minds" - By Jack P. Lewis - Page 150

*The most important thing is to set a goal - and never give up. Never let anybody else's word that something can't be done. That only means they can't do it. Jackie Gleason*



# To The Point

## LIVING ON PURPOSE

*by Steve Goodier*

They said he had died!

One morning in 1888, Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite, the man who had spent his life amassing a fortune from the manufacture and sale of weapons of destruction, awoke to read his own obituary. Actually, it was a mistake. Alfred's brother had died, and the reporter mistakenly wrote Alfred's obituary.

For the first time, Alfred Nobel saw himself as the world saw him—"the dynamite King," the great industrialist who had made an immense fortune from explosives. This, as far as the general public was concerned, was the entire purpose of his life. None of his true intentions sur-

facted. Nothing was said about his work to break down the barriers that separated persons and ideas. He was quite simply a merchant of death, and for that alone he would be remembered.

Alfred read the obituary with horror. He thought, "The world must know the true meaning and purpose of my life!"

He resolved to do this through his last will and testament. The final disposition of his fortune would show the world his life's ideals! And at that time came into being the most valued of prizes—the Nobel Peace Prize.

May all who know us know what we stand for.

### ADD A LITTLE SILVER

A wealthy man visited a less fortunate friend and began to brag about his riches.

"Hold it," interrupted the friend. "I'd like you to look out the window and tell me what you see."

"Well," said the rich one, staring, "I see people."

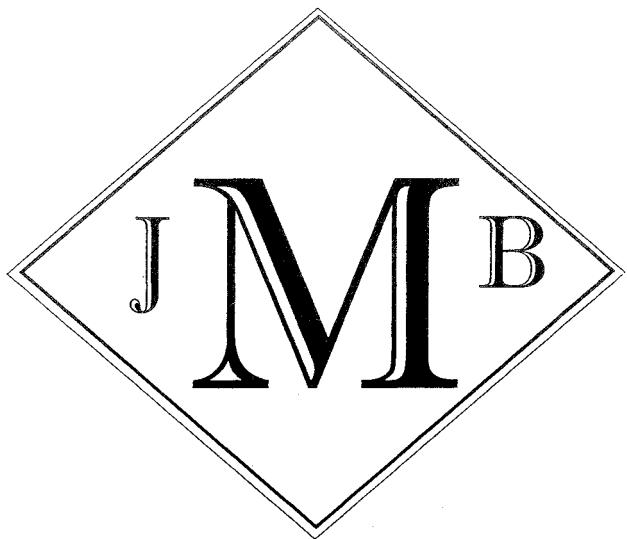
Then the friend held out a mirror. "What do you see now?" he asked.

"Myself, naturally," said Mr. Wealthy.

"Then, observe," said the other softly. "In the window there is glass, and in the mirror there is glass. But the glass in the mirror has had a little silver added to it. No sooner is that little silver added than you cease to see others and see only yourself."

*Funny Funny World*

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# PERPETUITY: THE CRY OF THE MOMENT

2 Cor. 8:23

I. If I wanted a big word to convey my spiritual assignment, I'd use perpetuity, the cry of the moment.

A. But if I wanted to be understood I'd use what Paul wrote to two young men:

Titus 1:7 "For a bishop must hold fast the faith. That he may be able by sound doctrine to exhort and convince the gainsayer for there are..."

2 Tim. 2:2 "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou..."

B. This is the unanimous theme of all leaders.

C. Please note it was a task given young men!

1. We old preachers are not a passing breed, but see ability and truth in youth.
2. If every eldership and every preacher subscribed to these words today there would be a church of Christ in old Philippi, Troas, Turkey.

3. It would not be Moslem but Christian.
4. The only way this would not happen is:
  - a) That there are no longer people there--my seven tenant houses are gone.
  - b) Or else some eldership and preacher failed to do their duty.
  - c) Otherwise the church would perpetuate itself.
- D. I want you to see this charge in the person of Titus.

## II. Extracts from work of Titus:

- A. He was an uncircumcized Gentile.
- B. Timothy was the son of a mixed marriage.
  1. He was circumcized to make him acceptable to Jewish people.
  2. He was Paul's son in the gospel.
- C. Titus was a Greek.
  1. Never circumcized - Gal. 2:3.
  2. Else you would preach necessity of: Hearing, faith, repentance, baptism, circumcision for males--thus bear in body signs of the flesh.
3. Circumcision today of the heart.

- D. This loudly proclaims liberty in Christ.
- E. He was with Paul in missionary journeys.
- F. He's mentioned never by name in the Book of Acts.
  - 1. Maybe in Acts 15:2 he is included in "certain of them."

### III. Specifically about Titus:

- A. Plug in a word or two as in Matthew 23:35 -- righteous Abel
- B. For Titus - 2 Cor. 8:23
  - 1. My partner.
  - 2. My fellow helper concerning you.
  - 3. Messenger of the churches.
  - 4. Messenger of the glory of Christ.
  - 5. Bear in mind his companion-Paul.
- C. And in other references:
  - 1. Mine own son after the common faith.
  - 2. Mike Tune--Liz Curtis Higgs

### IV. In Paul's letter to Titus one finds great contrasts.

- A. One has to do with the condemnation of evil and in our world of:
  - 1. Sexual abuses: Home, same sex marriages and Wall Street Journal story of Alzheimer's wife and week-end mistress, hear what he rec'd.

Titus 1:13-16

Titus 3:3

Titus 3:9-11

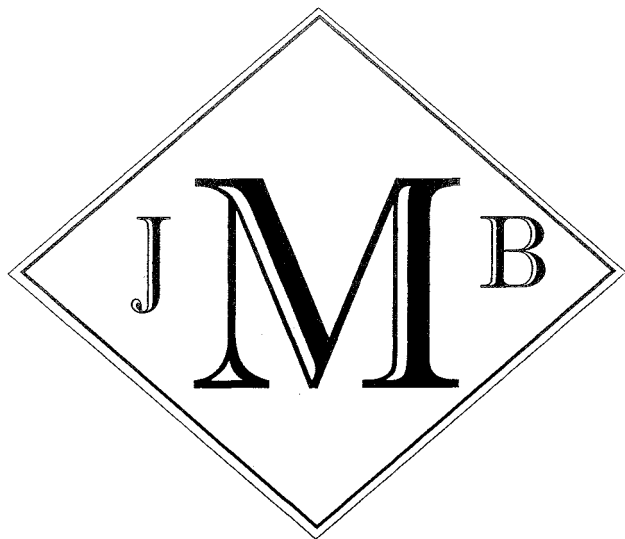
B. Contrastingly the purity of the  
gospel.

Titus 2:1 "But speak thou the things which  
become sound doctrine."

Titus 3:4-8 "But after that the kindness and  
love of God our Saviour toward  
man appeared."

Titus 2:11-14 "For the grace of God that  
bringeth salvation hath  
appeared to all men."

Titus 3:14 "And let our's also learn to  
maintain good works for  
necessary uses, that they be  
not unfruitful."



# GIVING'S GOT A TWO WAY STREET

II Cor. 9:6-7

I. As in most things:

A. 2 sides to every question.

B. Not all 1 way.

C. So c giving - 2 sides to the issue:

1. God's.

2. Man's.

3. Basics for it 2 Cor. 9.

II. Let's look 1st at our side - Man's.

A. There is the matter of pride and reputation.

Read 2 Cor. 9:1-5.

1. "Ye may be ready" - V. 3.

a.) Perfect tense.

b.) Doesn't mean preparation to take offering, but that it earlier be taken & ready to hand to Paul on arrival.

c.) Should he come & find they haven't taken it, his boasting was vain.

2. Barclay says we give 4 ways.

a.) Duty.

b.) Self satisfaction.

c.) Prestige.

d.) Love's compulsion.

B. Secondly, we give purposefully.

V. 7 "Every man according as he

1. Give by own choice, not coercive.

2. Earlier said you would since you knew what it was going for - Keep word.

3. Give as your heart prompts - McGarvey.

4. Church the bride - what about husband who spends all on self - nothing for bride.

5. Jowett Card #1.

6. Lay by Card #2 & 2 1/2.

C. 3rdly, give Cheerfully.

1. All are happy to move to hilarious. Enjoy it.

2. Main motive not what others think - not just safeguarding good name.

3. God's folk are happy folk in every phase of the work.

4. Frances Havergal story. 2 3/4

5. Miser is miserable.

6. W/draw from covetous 1 Cor. 5:11.

7. Talk to elders about your gifts.

D. 4thly, Resultant Giving - we see what it does.

1. V. 12 "Supplies the want of the saints."

a.) Iron Cross Story #3.

b.) Deathbed gifts #4.

c.) Millionaires #4 1/2.

2. Causes thanks to be given God.

Ps. 112:9 "He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth forever; his horn shall be exalted with honour."

a.) Coffman calls this the epitaph of the philanthropist.

b.) General Gordon #4 3/4

3. God glorified (V. 13).

a.) King Midas drawn c ass' ears.

b.) Mark Twain #5.

c.) Card on Pride #6.

4. Moved to pray (V. 14).

III. Let's now look at God's side.

A. He established law of sowing & reaping.

V. 6 "He which soweth sparingly

1. C. S. Lewis #7.

2. Multiple Card #8.

3. Proverb #9.

B. Grants sufficiency & ability to every good work  
(Read V. 8-11).

Ps. 50:10-12 Read.

I Chron. 29:14 "But who am I, & what is my people,  
that we should be able to offer so willingly after  
this sort? for all things come of thee - and of thine  
own have we given thee."

1. Tozer Card #10.

C. He reserves a gift for you.

V. 15 "Thanks be unto God for his

~~Test~~ End 5-27-84

Dr. J. H. Jowett has said, "Ministry that costs nothing ~~it~~ accomplishes nothing." Paul takes great care to show that it was not in circumstances of prosperity that the saints in Macedonia gave their liberal offering. Some severe test of affliction had come on these local churches (Acts 16:20; 17:5, 13; Phil. 1:28; 1 Thess. 1:6; 2:14, 3:3-9); and they had been reduced to what is described as "deep poverty" or, more literally, "down-to-the-bottom poverty." But in all their affliction and poverty there was joy and liberality. This is true sacrifice, and they had learned it from their matchless Savior, "who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame" (Heb. 12:2).

"The Grace of Giving" - By Stephen Olford - Page 43

The thought conveyed in the phrase, "lay by him in store," is quite suggestive. In one translation it reads "form a little ~~it~~ hoard." This, of course, is the proper kind of hoarding. It is something which is deliberately and dedicatively set aside for the Lord Himself. It involves thought, time, and planning in this whole matter of stewardship and puts to shame the present-day procedure of so many who come to worship without the preparation or consecration of their gifts.

"The Grace of Giving" - By Stephen Olford - Page 35

Lay by ... as God hath prospered.

# 242

Before we decide on our regular giving it is well to point out that the collection for which Paul was asking was something over and above the normal giving of the church at Corinth. Of the six or more words that are used in the New Testament to describe our monetary gifts to God, the apostle uses a special term in our text which means "an extra collection." The Greek word logia denotes that which was opposite to a tax; in other words, it was an extra piece of giving.

"The Grace of Giving" - By Stephen Olford - Page 37

A lovely story is told of the saintly Frances Ridley Havergal, who wrote the lines we so often sing without due seriousness and commitment:

Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold.

244

On record is the fact that this hymn was autobiographical. Frances Ridley Havergal did what she sang. In her writings is this personal testimony: "'Take my silver and my gold' now means shipping off all my ornaments--including a jewel cabinet which is really fit for a countess--to the Church Missionary Society.... I don't think I need tell you I never packed a box with such pleasure." This was giving with hilarity!

"The Grace of Giving" - By Stephen Olford - Page 76

Perhaps a story from the past will illustrate what I mean. 13  
Early in the nineteenth century, the king of Prussia, Frederick William III, found himself in great trouble. He was carrying on expensive wars; he was endeavoring to strengthen his country and make a great nation of the Prussian people. But he did not have enough money to accomplish his plans. He could not disappoint his people, and to capitulate to the enemy would be unthinkable.

After careful reflection he decided to approach the women of Prussia and ask them to bring their gold and silver jewelry to be melted down and made into money for their country. He resolved, moreover, that for each gold or silver ornament he would give in exchange a bronze or iron decoration as a token of his gratitude. Each decoration would bear the inscription, "I gave gold for iron, 1813."

The response was overwhelming. And what was even more

important was that these women prized their gifts from the king more highly than their former possessions. The reason, of course, is clear. The decorations were proof that they had sacrificed for their king. Indeed, it is a matter of history that it became unfashionable for women to wear jewelry. So the Order of the Iron Cross was established. Members of this order wore no ornaments, save a cross of iron for all to see.

"The Grace of Giving" - By Stephen Olford - pp. 18-19

This brings up the whole question of whether or not we should leave our giving until we have departed this life. Some one has said that those who defer their gifts to their deathbeds virtually say to God: "We will now give You something that we can keep no longer." Happy, therefore, is the man who is his own executor, giving in life, not waiting until death. Think of the uncounted millions of dollars in the hands of Christian men and women that are withheld from Christian service until death releases these vast resources. A study of the New Testament raises questions about the wisdom and rightness of this kind of stewardship. That is not to say that we are to be irresponsible for our daily expenses, for the Scripture says, "Owe no man anything" (Rom. 13:8). Nor does it mean that we are not to lay up for our dependents, for the Word of God declares, "If any

provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (1 Tim. 5:8). Having **taken** these matters into consideration, we should remember that God's timetable requires our resources now, not only after death.

"The Grace of Giving" - By Stephen Olford - Page 52

How well you and I know this! Perhaps this explains why rich people are seldom genuinely happy or secure. "Millionaires who laugh," confessed Andrew Carnegie, "are rare." Sir Ernest Cassel, a multimillionaire who spent vast fortunes for the benefit of mankind, the friend of kings and emperors, said to one of his **visitors**: "You may have all the money in the world, and yet be a lonely and sorrowing man. The light has gone out of my life. I live in this beautiful house, which I have furnished with all the luxury and wonder of art; but, believe me, I no longer value my millions." #412

"The Grace of Giving" - By Stephen Olford - Page 99

It is said that when the British government sought to reward General Gordon for his brilliant service in China, he declined all money and titles but accepted a gold medal inscribed with the record of his thirty-three engagements. This became his most-prized possession. But after his death the medal could not be found. Eventually it was learned that he had sent it to Manchester during a severe famine, directing that it should be melted down and used to buy food for the poor. In his diary under the date of its sending were these words: "The last earthly thing I had in this world that I valued I have given to the Lord Jesus Christ."

"The Grace of Giving" - By Stephen Olford - pp. 45-46

For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted.

This matter of intent cannot be overemphasized. Mark Twain quipped that when some men discharge an obligation, you can hear the report for miles around.

"The Grace of Giving" - By Stephen Olford - Page 54

One theologian has said: "It is a foolish pride which leads to a disregard of public opinion." Both Old and New Testaments corroborate this principle. Solomon says, "A false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight" (Prov. 11:1). The apostle Paul adds, "Provide things honest in the sight of all men" (Rom. 12:17).

"The Grace of Giving" - By Stephen Olford - Page 64

C. S. Lewis didn't talk about percentage giving. He said the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. Our charities should pinch and hamper us. If we live at the same level of affluence as other people who have our level of income, we are probably giving away too little.

"The Grace of Giving" - By Stephen Olford - Page 74

He multiplies the seed that is sown. Giving is not self-<sup>#8</sup>impoverishment but self-enrichment. The Lord Jesus affirms that giving is an assurance of gaining: "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38). This, of course, must not be our motive for giving lest as someone has said, "We vitiate the whole ethical value of the act. But our Lord offers this assurance, that giving is never a one-way street: it is the door to plenty."

"The Grace of Giving" - By Stephen Olford - Page 78

So we would say in the words of another: "If you want to be rich, give; if you want to be poor, grasp! If you want abundance, scatter; if you want to be needy, hoard!" <sup>#9</sup>

"The Grace of Giving" - By Stephen Olford - Page 79

Dr. A. W. Tozer addressed this concept of the heavenly treasures when he wrote: #10

It is one of the glories of the Christian religion that faith and love can transmute lower values into higher ones. Earthly possessions can be turned into heavenly treasures.

It is like this: A twenty-dollar bill, useless in itself, can be transmuted into milk and eggs and fruit to feed hungry children. Physical and mental powers, valuable in themselves, can be transmuted into still higher values, such as a home and an education for a growing family. Human speech, a very gift of God to mankind, can become consolation for the bereaved or hope for the disconsolate, and it can rise higher and break into prayer and praise of the Most High God.

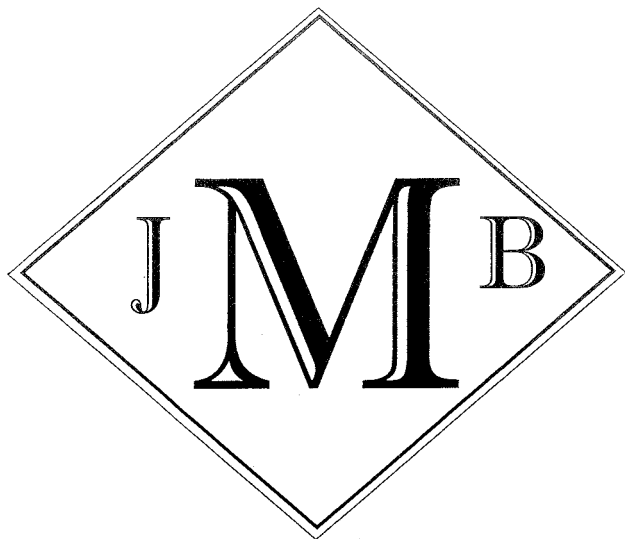
As base a thing as money often is, it yet can be transmuted into everlasting treasure. It can be converted into food for the

hungry and clothing for the poor; it can keep a missionary actively winning lost men to the light of the gospel and thus transmute itself into heavenly values.

Any temporal possession can be turned into everlasting wealth. Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality. Hosanna to God in the highest!

(The Alliance Witness, October 8, 1958)

"The Grace of Giving" - By Stephen Olford - page 100



## THE LOVE TEST

2 Cor. 9:6-8

- I. I want to give you the "love test."
  - A. Nothing to do with Valentine.
  - B. No test on whether you know you are in love with a date or not.
  - C. Nothing to do with your marriage.
  - D. No test on your patriotism.
  - E. Rather it's your relationship with God.
- II. Is not everyone here of the desire to please God? Then what does God love?--how could I please him if I did not embrace his love?
  - A. God declares the things he loves.
  - B. What would you put on your list?
    1. I Kings 10:9 "The Lord loved Israel"
    2. II Chron. 2:11 "The Lord loved his people"
    3. Jn. 3:16 "God so loved the world"
    4. Jn. 15:9 "The Father loved me" (Jesus).
    5. I Jn. 4:11 "God so loved us."
    6. Isa. 61:8 "The Lord loves judgement"
    7. Hosea 14:4 I love the backsliding
    8. Micah 6:8 "What doth the Lord require"
    9. Ps. 70:4 Love thy salvation
    10. James 2:5 Heirs of King
    11. I Jn. 5:3 Keep commandments
    12. II Cor. 9:7 Cheerful giver
  - C. Now that we know some things God loves and cheerful giver is among them--can we do less than be one? Let's study that passage--II Cor. 9:6-8.
- III. Things We Learn
  - A. A lesson in sowing & reaping.

v-6 "But this I say, he which"

1. Closes appeal by way of reminder.
2. Either recall his own previous teaching or some portion of gospel tradition.
3. Introduces law of proportion.
4. Chrysostom "He calls it sowing in order that we may learn by the figure of harvest that in giving we receive more than we get."
5. Waite--"Giving is not a sacrifice but a sowing followed by a reaping and as is the sowing so the reaping."
6. Prov. 11:24 "There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty" (NKJ)

#### B. Nature of the Gift.

##### v-7 "Every man according as he"

1. Every man--we all can do something--and must--I see a lot of \$1.00 bills in plate--no one exempted.
2. Purpose--Deliberate, Design.
  - a) We are free to decide in faith the amount of our gift.
  - b) We know they should be bountiful--lit. "with blessings."
  - c) Bountiful sets the amount.
  - d) Does God require less of us than of the Jews & Moses?
3. Heart
  - a) Pass from amount to motive.
  - b) Freedom must be insisted on--not like giving to United Way so Co. is 100%.

- c) One may give with his hand & pull it back with his look. 3.
- d) Not out of compulsion--man must give freely, not from respectability, reputation, or earnest admonition.
- e) Sowing springs out of deliberate preferences, not out of state of mind in which grief is felt at parting with a possession.
- f) Not by constraint or circumstances. (DL)
- g) Free will, voluntary.
- h) As forced baptism is no good, neither is forced giving.
4. Not grudgingly - from grief.
- a) Nothing niggardly or from restraint.
- b) Some can exort money out of you then with parting you later regret.
- c) Yet some so stingy it's like parting with life's blood.
- d) A grudging giver is an offense to God.
5. Cheerful = hilarious.
- a) Emotion accompanies our gift.
- b) One of joy--not sense of compulsion or reluctance.
- c) We enjoy giving--sweeps away all restraint.
- d) We make folks happier--so don't speed up the collection.
- e) Loves = blessed.
- f) God loves this giver and what God thinks is most important.

## IV. God's Reaction Further Seen

## A. God is Able

1. Think of the seasons.
2. Look at His care.

## B. Abound--2X

1. God at all times abundantly cares for our needs--so we should freely give.

Ps. 112:9

2. God will ever generously supply our sources.
3. You will be no loser by giving.
4. Are we content with bare necessities?
5. God gave us what we have so that we can give more.

## C. All Sufficiency

1. Means contentment.

I Tim. 6:6

2. We possess all we need.
3. Contentment which arises from the full supply of all needs given us by God.
4. Like a full tank of gas.

## D. Abound Again

1. Seed cast into the ground not lost.
2. Can we lose in doing what pleases God?
3. He can make our charities rebound to our advantage.
4. Gifts do not impoverish but enrich.

5. Like the little child that thinks Daddy can fix everything.
6. We are impressed with our own feebleness.
7. Trust God--"I have set the Lord always before me" (David)

E. Promise--To Every Good Work

1. Service--inexhaustible.

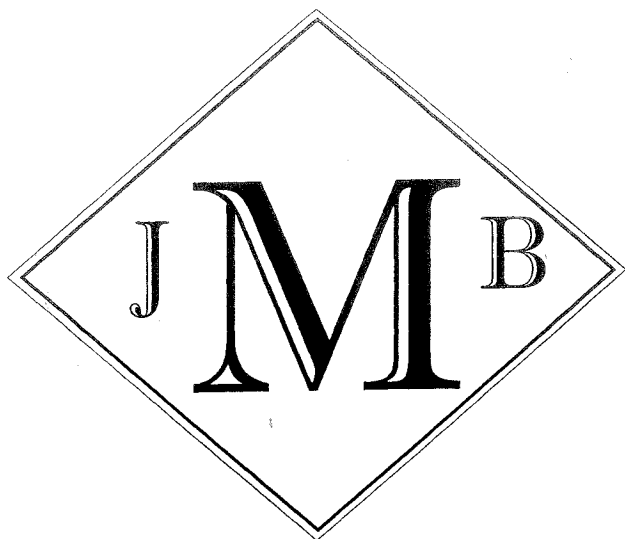
Ps. 112:9

2. Scatter--liberal in every direction.
3. Seed supplied--thus ability and opportunity to help others.
4. We give not of our own products but what God provides.

1 Chron. 29:14 "Of thine own have we given thee"

5. God can give you such abundance you will not feel the loss of generous contributions to his service.
6. Spiritual blessings are assured--temporal ones are promised.
7. Liberality with God extends through every stage of life.
8. He will make all favors abound.
9. Count all the alls.
10. His grace like oceans at full tide.

Beltline church, Decatur, AL - 2/7/99



## 5 ALLS

2 Cor. 9:7-8

1. If there is anything distinctive about God, it's His completeness - and similarly the impartation of this to His children.

A. 2 Cor. 9:7-8 illustrates it.

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart

B. Note the 5 Alls.

1. Greek word "pas". Literally, "God is able to make all (1) grace abound to you so that having (all) (2) sufficiency in all (3) things always (4) you may abound in all (5) works."

2. All grace

All sufficiency

All things

"All" ways

All good works.

- II. Prior to the "Alls" is a lesson on giving. It has these features.

A. All participate.

- 1.) Every man.

B. Each makes up his own mind - purposes in his heart

1. Not everyone else's affair.

2. Not impulsive.

3. Give as our own heart prompts - not as improperly influenced by others.

4. Law of proportion earlier cited - sowing & reaping

5. Freedom scrupulously insisted upon.

C. Not grudgingly or of necessity.

1. Two negatives.

2. Not coercive.

II Cor. 1:24 "Not that we have dominion over your faith"

Phil. 14 "But w/o thy mind would I do nothing; that th

3. Not emotionally motivated.

4. Not reluctantly: not from grief lit.

5. Not c grumbling on question.

Rom. 12:8 "He that giveth let him do it c

D. It's cheerful.

1. Jews had 2 chests for alms in temple.

a.) One what the law requires.

b.) Other of free will (Clark).

2. "One may give c his hand & pull it back c his looks."

3. Lord sees His own character in the cheerful giver.

III. "But will I be able?" is answered. God gives you:

A. All grace.

1. See sovereignty of God 1st of all.

a.) Resources of God are put at disposal of the Christian.

b.) Nothing is beyond God's power.

c.) Your sufficiency will let you abound to every good work because God supplies the wherewithal

d.) It is God who enables you to keep on.

2. Grace.

a.) God gives every blessing.

b.) Makes it abound.

Eph. 3:20 "Able to do exceeding abundantly above all

c.) He's the 1st giver.

2 Cor. 9:15 "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable

d.) All I have comes from him.

Marilyn Monroe, "I'm all empty inside."

Hemingway, "I live in a vacuum that is as lonely as a radio tube when the batteries are dead & there is no current to plug it in."

### B. All Sufficiency.

1. Our giving is God's grace thru His earthly agents and we aren't giving to run out!
2. We'll excel.
3. God replenishes those who give - but don't tempt Him!
4. Paul taught the Corinthians they'd always be able to give.
5. This grants contentment.
6. He meets all our needs.
7. God has no limits - He replenishes but not for selfish use but so you'll have sufficient for every good work.
8. Enuf for self & brothers.
9. Contentment comes when others have a share in it.

Phil. 4:11 "I have learned in whatsoever state I am th

19 "But my God shall supply all your need acc

10. Man of charity loses nothing by his contributions.
11. Blessings rightly used bring larger ones.
12. There is a future in everything - in every \$1.
13. It's God who orders the future.

Ps. 110:3 "Thy people offer themselves willing in the day of thy power."

### 14. Clip on Business.

### C. All Things.

1. Every need is met.

2 Cor. 6:10 "As having nothing, yet possessing all things"

2 Cor. 9:10 "He who supplies seed to the sower both multiplies and increases his seed"

2. God gives us what we have in order that he may give us more.

3. Childlike spirit of one who brings toys to daddy thinking he can fix it.

D. All Ways.

1. He's **constant**.

Ps. 37:25 "I have been young & now am old: yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken"

Heb. 13:5 "I will never fail you"

2. Jesus ever true to the Father - so must we be.

3. "Beyond the street a tower, beyond the tower a moon, beyond the moon a star, beyond the star - what? Shakespeare.

4. Card on Fool.

E. All good works.

1. Can abound in everything I need to do.

2. Righteous man is ever giving - never stops.

Ps. 112:9 "He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor"

Titus 2:14 "Zealous for good deeds"

Eph. 3:10 "Created in Christ Jesus for"

3. Lord expects a steady life, guided by principles, lived from all Chr.

4. "Lack of compassion" card.

F. Conclusion.

1. Everett Ferguson points out 4 of these alls are about God's giving.

2. 1 is about man's - he'll always have sufficiency.  
(Really pts. 3 & 2)

3. God's promised!

4. One voice of Christianity - "This God expects you to do" - this is our motivation.



## The Odds Have It

### IN BUSINESS

WHEN A CERTAIN young man grew tired of working for others, he went into business for himself. Later a friend asked him how it was to be his own boss.

"I don't know," he replied, "The police won't let me park in front of my own place of business; tax collectors tell me how to keep my books; my banker tells me how much balance I must maintain; freight agents tell me how my goods must be packed and addressed; customers tell me how my goods must be made; federal, state, county, and local agencies tell me how to keep records; the union tells me who I can work, and how, and when; and, on top of all that, I just went broke!"

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In the Middle Ages, a great king had a court jester who was the funniest "fool" in the world. The king gave him a golden cane with a diamond on the top of it, with the stipulation that, if ever a greater fool was found, the cane would become his. *Judgment*

Years passed, and the great king was close to death. The fool, golden cane still in hand, came to pay his respects to the dying king. The fool said, "My king, where are you going?" To which the king replied, "I am going on a far journey." "My king," the fool inquired, "will you return to us from that journey?" "No," said the king, "I will never return." "Then, my king," the anxious fool asked, "Have you made any preparations for that journey?" "No," said the dying king. "I have made none."

Upon hearing this, the court fool stood up, took the golden cane, and placed it in the hand of the dying king. "My king," he said, "you are going on a far journey. It is a journey from

which you will never return. And yet, knowing all this, you have made no preparations whatsoever for your journey. It is no longer I, but you, who are the world's greatest fool."

"The Cross and the Crown and Other Sermons" - By Danny F. Cottrell

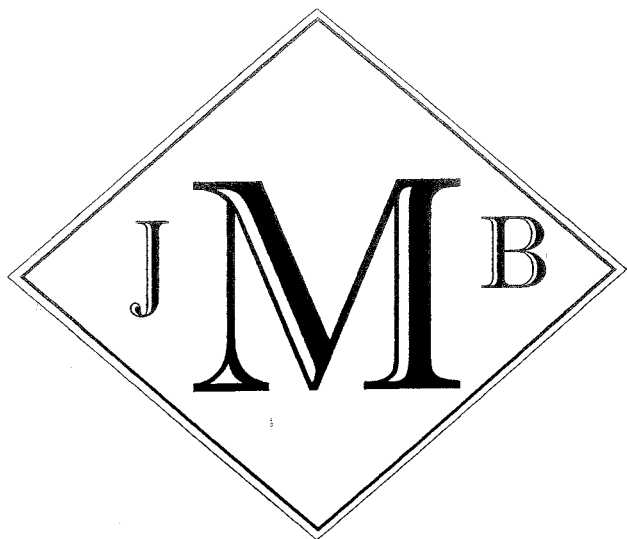
pp. 55-56

Lack of compassion was one of the changes brought against Docetics by Ignatius of Antioch. He says: "Pay close attention to those who have wrong notions about the grace of Jesus Christ, which has come to us, and note how at variance they are with God's mind. They care nothing about love: they have no concern for widows and orphans, for the oppressed, for those in prison or released, for the hungry or the thirsty."

Smyrneans 6:2

Do-sel'xio

held Christ's body not real-phantom



# LORD, MEET TODAY'S NEEDS

1.

2 Cor. 9:9-11

- I. When I pray "Give us this day our daily bread" how would I answer a True or False test.
  - A. In the giving God does it all. *T or F*
  - B. Bread is the embracement of all I need. *True*
  - C. The Lord wants me to have the luxuries of life and doesn't really love me unless I get them. *T or F*
  - D. The word "our" includes my personal family only. *T or F*
  - E. It is the part of wisdom to lay up great store for the future. *T or F*
- II. How did you do on the test? Graded 20 points per question--please check yourself. We'll now study it to see the accuracy of our evaluation.
- III. This Bread Petition.
  - A. It's the first thing in the prayer I've said about myself.
  - B. It asks for one day supply of necessities.
  - C. It emphasizes my dependency on God.
- IV. Give
  - A. The giver is God.
    1. "Satan has no gifts only baits".
    2. We sing "the world has nothing left to give".
    3. *Annie Cherry poem #1*

3. Father looks down - none are above Him.
4. He gives only good things.
5. Heaven's above and is the birthplace of all good things.

B. Yet the "giving" is not all our sedentary receiving.

Gen. 3:19 "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou *eat* bread."

Deut. 7:13 (Read)

2 Cor. 9:10 "He that ministereth seed to the sower"

2 Thess. 3:10 "This we commend you, that if any"

Eph. 4:28 "Let him that stole steal *no more but rather*

## V. The "Us"

A. Jesus gets rid of the perpendicular pronoun. It's now community.

B. Prayer shows the expansion of the gift--us.

1. We cannot limit it to ourselves.
2. "Us" and "Our" excludes every calling wherein is injurious to the interest of our fellowman. *Clap on these white #2*
3. Your plenty is an opportunity to help many. *Article on Billings #3*
4. Thompson points out we cannot pray this and take advantage of our fellowman.

## VI. Day - Daily Bread

A. Would you believe it--this is one of the difficult words of N.T.

1. From epiousios  
ep-ee-oo-see-os
2. For long time not found in Greek literature except Matt. 6 & Luke 13.

3. Finally found it on a fragment that was a lady's shopping list.

B. What does it mean?

1. Sanders - daily means bread for the coming day (might pray at night).
2. Lloyd-Jones - give today what is necessary, or "give us this day our bread for tomorrow". Limits it to day.
3. Our daily wants are seen by God.
4. He is interested in minute details -- see clipping. - *How big is your bread?*
5. God's concerned about our needs.
6. Our needs have their rightful place.
7. Needs: physical, mental, spiritual, body, soul, spirit.

C. How wide is "bread".

1. It is all the essentials brought to God.
2. Jesus is bread of life.

John 6:48-51 "I am the bread of life...living bread"

3. Mother Bergner used to say "everybody likes bread".
4. As Steven points out it starts with the body -- do not depreciate it.

1 Cor. 6:19 "Know ye not that your body"

5. Proper to ask for the material needs of life.
6. Ask for the sufficient, the necessary; bread covers all material needs.

7. Expositor, "Prayer for our needs; not for our greeds!"
8. Bread is not bitter thus as we work to sustain life it's not painful but pleasant.
9. Ps. said "not seen the righteous forsaken"
10. Yet does not encourage superfluities.

## B. Inescapable Lessons

### 1. About prayer -

- a) We do not give God information when we pray -- He already knows.
- b) Then why pray?
- c) Prayer keeps us in touch - "reach out and touch somebody" spirit.
- d) Earthly father wounded by child who is content to enjoy the gift but never seeks his company again until he exhausts his supply and needs more.
- e) Prayer is presenting our signed checks and God honors them. *prayer*

### 2. We learn more about God.

Acts 17:28 "For in Him we live and move"

- a) He links Kingdom and bread to show our capacity and limitation.
- b) He providentially provides
  - (1) No sparrow falls
  - (2) Hairs are numbered
  - (3) He's interested in every part and portion of me.

- c) I'm utterly dependent on Him.
- d) Jesus did not exalt himself above the necessity of food.
- e) God doesn't give it all to us at once-- installments.
- f) He cares for our bodies - Matt. 25

### 3. Ourselves

- a) 1st Century folk paid one day at a time and at end of each day.  
Remember Matt. 20:1-5 & Lev. 19:13
- b) We are so fragile.
- c) Make our living honorably.

### 4. Yet God doesn't want us restless.

- a) Covetousness is idolatry.  
Anxieties is indecision.
- b) Moderation and contentment his order.

Prov. 30:8-9 (Read) (convenient: my allowance)

- c) When we come to die the only thing we possess is what we gave away.

Matt. 6:34 "Take no thought for the morrow"

1 Tim. 6:8 "But godliness with contentment"


### 5. Finally - am I one:

- a) Content
- b) Industrious
- c) Trusting
- d) Loving God and man

6. We have so much - hard to feel "daily bread" in our culture - yet billions starve.
7. Excellent antidote to materialism - we put things in the place of those who made them - Ash.

West End - 11/25/84

God only is the Maker  
Of all things near and far;  
He points the wayside flowers,  
He lights the evening star;  
The winds and waves obey Him;  
By Him the birds are fed;  
Much more to us the children,  
He gives our daily bread.

#1  


I'm a lover of pastry.

Annie Cherry

8  
Shortly after the end of World War II, a woman wrote the following letter to TIME: #2

"I am an American housewife. I have lost a son in this war, and I am not going to tighten the belts of my other children to feed Europe. I find my friends, clubwomen, etc., feel the same way. I, like thousands of others, donated in the 1920's to feed starving Europe. I was a traitor to my son. Now I say, let them stand on their own feet and work out the problem they have brought upon themselves."

- E. T. Thompson

(The Sermon on the Mount, pg. 87)

## Church Giving Could Wipe Out World Poverty #3

In their book, *The Hidden Billions: The Potential of the Church in the U.S.A.*, John and Sylvia Ronsvalle contend that if Christians increased their present church contributions to the 10 percent per capita level, \$134 billion would be generated. As much as 60 percent of that money, they suggest, could be earmarked to support world missions based on a Yoking Map which would link U.S. counties to specific areas of need in the world.

According to *The Hidden Billions*, church adherent giving is presently at a level of under 2 percent per capita. In 1983, church goers generated approximately \$21.5 billion. Eighty percent of the money (\$17.2 billion) currently stays within the congregation for expenses. The remaining 20 percent (\$4.3 billion) is spent outside the congregation and of this amount, about \$1 billion is set aside for overseas mission. At the 10 percent giving level, the authors say, an additional \$110 billion would become available for needs of the world.

Presbyterian Women's  
O-

Henry Norris Russell, a Princeton astronomer, gave a lecture in which he talked of the Milky Way and its millions of stars. When he finished his address, a troubled woman asked, "Dr. Russell, if our world is so little and the universe so great, can we really believe that God pays any attention to human beings?" The noted astronomer answered, "That depends, Madame, on how big a God you believe in."

Is the God you believe in big enough to have reached down to man in the miracle of Christmas?

\*\*\*\*\*

Otherwise, Jackson spent Sundays at church—and duly reported this fact to his wife. Each week he tried a different denomination: first Presbyterian, then Baptist, next Methodist, all of which he seemed to enjoy if the sermon was interesting and short. He knew how much his church attendance pleased Rachel and his many letters to her went on in a religious vein.

*Prayer*

I trust that the god of Isaac and of Jacob will protect you, and give you health in my absence, in him alone we ought to trust, he alone can preserve, and guide us through this troublesome world, and I am sure he will hear your prayers. We are told that the prayers of the righteous prevail much, and I add mine for your health and preservation untill we again meet.<sup>25</sup>

Jackson  
p. 62-63

**When the "experts"  
speak . . .**

The next time you're tempted to take the advice of a so-called expert, put that advice in perspective. Remember what some experts have said in the past:

• I think there's a world market for about five computers. —*Thomas J. Watson*, IBM chairman, in 1943.

• With over 50 foreign cars already on sale here, the Japanese auto industry isn't likely to carve out a big slice of the US market for itself. —*Business Week* in 1958.

• TV won't be able to hold on to any market it captures after the first six months. People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night. —*Daryl F. Zanuck*, head of 20th Century-Fox, in 1946.

• By 1980 all power (electric, atomic, solar) is likely to be virtually costless. —*Henry Luce*, founder and publisher of *Time*, *Life* and *Fortune*, in 1956.

• 1930 will be a splendid employment year. —*US Department of Labor*, in 1929.

• I don't need bodyguards. —*James Hoffa*, president of the Teamsters Union, in 1975.

• My imagination refuses to see any sort of submarine doing anything but suffocating its crew and foundering at sea. —*H.G. Wells*, British writer and historian, in 1902.

• Airplanes are interesting toys, but of no military value. — France's *Marshal Foch* in 1911.

—*The Experts Speak — the Definitive Compendium on Authoritative Misinformation* by Christopher Cerf and Victor Navasky, Pantheon

99

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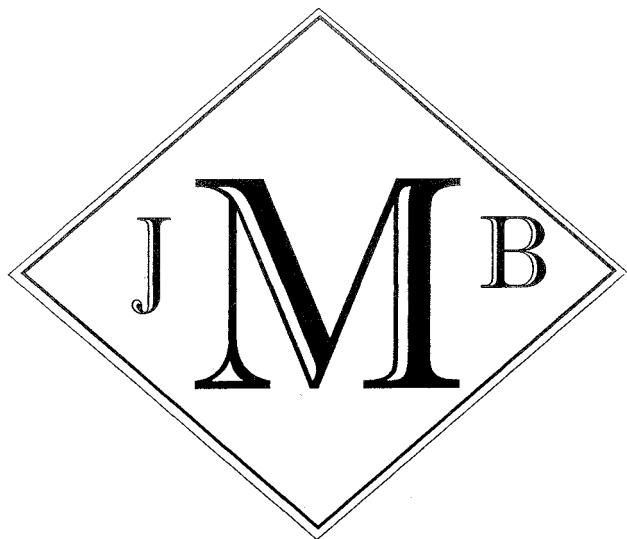
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# GIVING GLORY TO GOD

2 Cor. 9:11-15

I. Of all things I can do, I'm glad I can give glory:

A. To ourselves - clean, fair reputation.

Clip on "feel tired."

B. To our family.

C. To our work - Potter Clip.

D. To our nation.

II. Above all, I'm glad I can give glory to God.

A. He tells me how.

1. Via praise. *I will glorify thy name forever*

Ps. 86:12 "I will praise thee, O God, with all my heart

2. Via good works. *which thy grace beareth, glory, Lord*

1 Pet. 2:12 "Having your conversation honest among the

3. Via humanitarian services. *ambulance, for free food*

Mk. 2:12 "And immediately he arose, took up the bed

4. Via faithfulness.

Acts 4:21 "So when they had further threatened them,

5. Via missionary activities.

Acts 11:18 "When they heard these things, they held their

6. Via Jesus. *then he spoke to the Gentiles, granted rep.*

Lu. 7:16 "And there came a fear on all: and they glorified

B. In any of these efforts I may exercise myself but I

want to come to one particular sphere.

II Cor. 9:11-15 - Read Text.

*Prophet*

III. We glorify God by giving.

A. He's just encouraged giving. *Giving not a*

V. 6 "He which soweth sparingly *sacrifice, but a*

V. 7 "every man according as he p. *sowing*

B. The benefits of this service. *Johnson*

1. The word service.

a.) Ministry.

b.) Liturgy.

c.) No special appeal for gift - only for state of heart that they'd be ready.

d.) Special religious service undertaken voluntarily

e.) Benson article.

2. God enabled:

a.) "to make all grace abound"

b.) "Have sufficiency in all things"

c.) "Abound to every good work"

d.) Minister seed to sower.

e.) Minister bread for your food.

f.) Multiply seed sown.

g.) Increase the fruits of your R.

C. What are some of its benefits that are enumerated?

1. Enriched in everything to all bountifulness.

a.) God supplies the giver so he can give more.

b.) Not born of exhortation, but of bounty.

c.) Note completeness of everything.

d.) Those who give find God increasing their power to do it. *Faithful steward entrusted & more*

e.) Not impoverished by giving, rather enriched.

Ps. 112:9 "He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor"

Prov. 22:9 "He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed"

Ecc. 11:1 "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt see it grow"

f.) Clip on hunger.

g.) Ellen Shannon.

2. Which causes, thru us, thanksgiving to God.

- a.) Giving & gratitude: proper cause & effect.
- b.) People moved to say "Thank you, Lord."
- 3. Supplieth the want of the saints.
  - a.) Needs are met.
  - b.) Want = not what they desired but what they needed.
- 4. Causes the receiver to be "abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God."
  - a.) God said we would not see the righteous forsaken or his seed begging bread.
  - b.) He makes a pledge to the giver that he'll have temporal abundance.
  - c.) Wisest investment is a faithful contribution to the church.

Mk. 10:29 "And Jesus answered and said, Verily, I say unto thee, From now on, thou shalt be seated at my right hand in heaven."

Prov. 11:24-25 "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that soweth seed, and yet reapeth more seed."

- d.) "Hi, Stephen" story.
- 5. God glorified for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ.
  - a.) Gift is proof of your confession.
  - b.) Christianity is real.
  - c.) Subjection: to line up as troops in submission.
  - d.) Liberality shows you have truly changed. You adopt His lifestyle.
  - e.) Gave cheerfully, lit. hilariously, we love to do it, sing during collection? *not compulsion, have applause, dedication, etc*
  - f.) Non-givers are non-Christians.
  - g.) Reputation is enhanced & magnified. *grudgingly*
  - h.) Strengthen will vs. weaken conscience.
  - i.) Cards "Like mighty army."

6. Causes prayers to be raised.
7. Causes the receiver to want to see you.
  - a.) Jew & Gentile bound together.
  - b.) Giving overcomes prejudice.
  - c.) Gift will become a bond, a bridge, a binding.
  - d.) Jerusalem church looked at Paul's Gentile churches c suspicion. Gift changed this pattern of thought.

### III. Thanks be to God for His Unspeakable Gift.

#### A. Grateful for Jesus!

Jn. 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his

Rom. 8:32 "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered

1. Unspeakable = inexpressible, unutterable.

B. God gave so much - we need to so respond.

*Pleasant Valley Church, Little Rock,  
Seasons Workshop 12-5-81  
West End 12-20-81*

*Pine Tree Church, Longview, Texas 2-9-82*

Patient: I've been misbehaving and my conscience is bothering me."

Psychiatrist: "And you want me to help strengthen your will power, right?"

Not really, Doc. I was sort of hoping you could help me weaken my conscience.

g

The relatives of an eccentric millionaire were gathered in the office of the family lawyer as the will of the late magnate was being read. Each leaned forward as his name was called and his bequest announced.

Finally only Stephen, the spendthrift nephew, was left. He twitched nervously when the lawyer called his name.

"To my nephew, Stephen Brown," the attorney read, "whom I promised to remember: Hi there, Stephen!"

j

## SPENDING—Govt.

The Tax Foundation, Inc. says this year, for the first time, combined federal, state and local government spending will top one trillion dollars. The total spending works out to an average of \$4,768 for each man, woman and child in the country, the research group reports.—*Changing Times*, 10-81.

ROBERT J. POTTER, Sr. VP at International Harvester Co: "Although our civilization has existed for about 10,000 years, 90 percent of the technology we enjoy today has been developed in the last 30 years, essentially since the end of World War II. Perhaps it's because 90 percent of all the scientists and engineers who have ever lived are alive today, creating and developing more and more technology every day."

11-Q

# It Is Hard To Believe

*From HC Benson*

The Associated Press, in an article written from Raleigh, N.C. reported that a small Congressional Club led by Senator Jesse A. Helms reported that it raised \$2.4 million in the first six months of 1981. That's believable!

Organizations raising political funds are required however, to report the names of any persons who give more than \$200 on any one election. The report from this Congressional Club affirmed that of its \$2.4 million a total of \$2.02 million came from gifts of less than \$200. This means that of the \$2.4 million raised approximately 98.5 percent of it came from gifts below \$200. This is amazing! It is hard to believe.

## HUNGER

There are four billion people in the world today. One billion have per capita incomes of over \$5,000 per year, and by and large are the well fed and the well off. Three billion live in what has become known as the Third World. Their per capita income is generally under \$500. They are the poor and the hungry. In the world one billion people go to bed hungry each night and 85 percent of the children born the rest of this century will grow up in poor countries. In Africa, a continent richly endowed with 95 percent of the world's diamonds, 87 percent of the cobalt, and 65 percent of the world's gold, the overall per

capita income is about \$450 per year, and in many countries such as Upper Volta, Mali, Chad, Somalia, Ethiopia, per capita income is less than \$150 per year. We know full well the relationship between poverty and hunger.—JOSEPH C. KENNEDY, Dir. of Internat'l Development, Africare, Inc.

"Like a mighty army  
Moves the Church of God;  
Brothers, we are treading  
Where the saints have trod;  
We are not divided,  
All one body we,  
One in hope and doctrine  
One in charity."

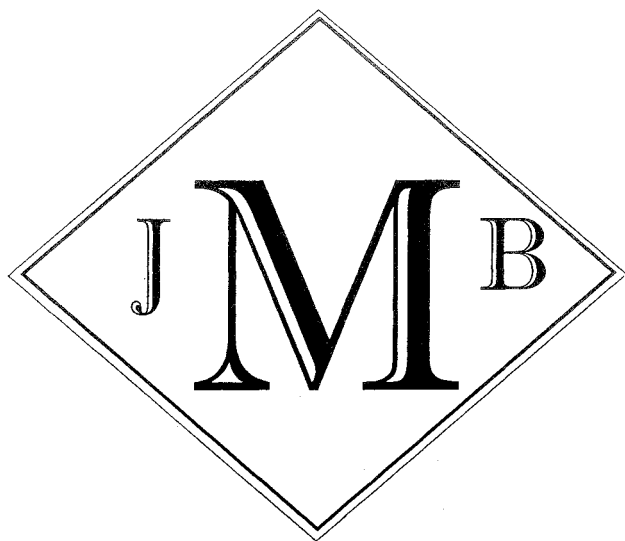
"What More Can God Say?" - By Ray C. Stedman  
Page 238

I heard about an epitaph in an old cemetery in Girard,  
Pennsylvania, which reads:

In memory of  
Ellen Shannon  
Aged 26 years  
Who was fatally burned  
March 21, 1870  
by the explosion of a lamp  
fill ed with R. E. Danforth's  
Non-explosive  
Burning fluid.

I am tired of nonexplosive fluids exploding; of fail-proof  
banks that fail; of sure-fire programs that fall flat.

The Miracle of Easter, compiled and edited by Floyd  
Thatcher, p. 41.



# THERE'S A GIFT BEYOND WORDS!

2 Cor. 9:12-15

*Xmas is a time when kids really sprout*

I. Perhaps at no time in the year equal to this are minds filled with the recollection of Gifts. *See Bro - 112 sales; New Toys - closet.*

A. In love we've saluted each other. *got other*

B. In friendship we've sought to remember the unfortunate.

1. Bill Collins was Santa at Clover Bottom.

2. Lady beat on him, "Don't like my doll-- here now, it's supposed to be a Merry Christmas!" *Xmas is forgetting the past*

II. Since our minds are attune, let me speak on Gifts, in two forms. *With a present*

A. God loves our gifts to the poor.

2 Cor. 9:12-15 - Read & select facts.

1. The rendering of this service supplies wants of saints.

(a) The Corn. Christian would not let the Jer. Chr. suffer.

(b) Word service is a "religious" word - a work undertaken voluntarily.

2. It causes thanksgiving to God.

(a) One of our slowest lessons learned is gratitude.

(b) We need to thank God for brethren.

(c) I see Meals on Wheels, Clover Bottom 86 fruit baskets, kids' toys, clothing room, Lakeshore, calls for Orphans, Children's Home rug.

3. Further, God is glorified.

(a) You gave because gospel demanded it.

(b) Your giving proved you believed the gospel & it had effect in your life.

It's proof!

(c) It touched them to be remembered - & the ripples spread to all men.

(d) Gospel made a demand & you responded.

(e) People judge your God by way you give.

(f) God made it possible (v. 10).

(1) Man sows - but God grants harvest.

(2) He will multiply their seed if they sow bountifully.

(3) V. 11 "You'll be enriched in every way" because of your gifts.

(4) Can't outgive God - it's like sowing seed.

(5) NT practical - it tells the reward motive.

(6) Goodness has a purpose - God blesses those who are His.

4. 4th, they are motivated to pray.

(a) Not only do they pray for them, they long for them.

(b) Because we give we win prayers & love of others.

(c) It restores faith in our fellow man.

B. 2ndly, God gave you an unspeakable gift.

2 Cor. 9:15 "Thanks be unto God for His

1. He gives us the supreme gift in Jesus.

2. Nothing compares with him.

(a) Clip on gifts granted.

3. He speaks often of the gift.

Jn. 3:16 "For God so loved the

Rom. 6:23 "The gift of God is eternal

Jn. 10:27-28 "My sheep hear

Eph. 2:8-9 "For by grace are

Rom. 8:32 "He that spareth

Acts 17:25 "He giveth to all life, breath,

4. What's my response?

Ps. 116:12 "What shall I render unto

5. Have you obeyed Him?

*2 kept End 12-17-70*

### Cancel Order

A Santa was puzzled by the child who said that he didn't want the presents he had previously requested.

"But didn't you write Santa for these toys?" Santa asked.

"Yes, I did," the little tot replied. "But I opened the closet door the other day, and I've already got 'em."

**JAMES M. EASON in  
PARKS & RECREATION**



### Generous

Church school teacher: "Keith, what are you going to give your brother for Christmas this year?"

Keith: "I dunno. Last year I gave him the measles."



Christmas: The time when kids and money both sprout wings.



# NOW

"Get  
in the  
best  
in the  
city"

*Tom M. Olson's*  
MESSAGES

## The Most Valuable Gift

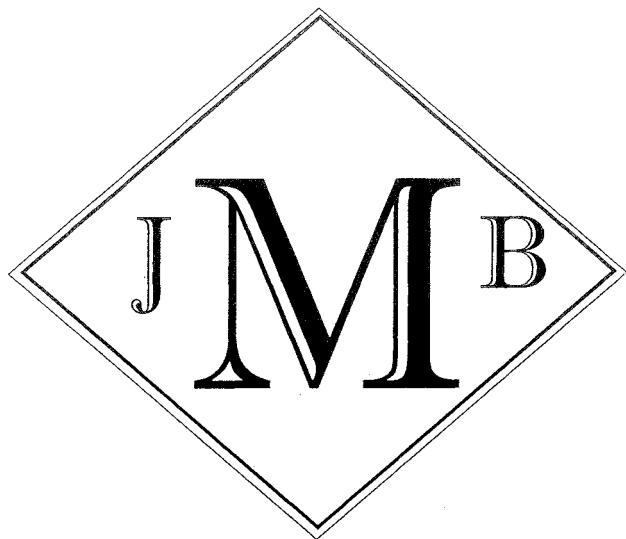
At this time of year our thoughts turn to the subject of gifts. How do we measure their value?

Recent news has been carrying the story of the Cartier Diamond valued at way over a million dollars which has been purchased by a movie actor for his wife. But before it can be presented, it is to be on display at the Fifth Avenue Jeweler's in New York. It is 69.42 carat, a pear shaped diamond. A common comment: "Some gift!"

At the recent marriage of Aga Khan IV, leader of the world's Ismaili Moslems, the Oriental ceremony included not only garlands of flowers around the neck, but also a shower of PEARLS at their feet! What a display!

Some men have been known to give millions of dollars in cash, or in stocks and bonds. Others have given immense pieces of real estate. Some have given master pieces of art worth many thousands of dollars. Surely such great gifts are worthy of deep appreciation. But should the value of all gifts be measured in dollars?

At this season of the year we are reminded of a gift that excels all



# THE ENGAGED VIRGIN

II Cor. 11:1-3

## I. The Bride Wears White

A. Signal of Purity

B. We have many other symbols

1. Wedding Ring finger

2. Throw rice

3. Tin cans & old shoes

4. But none exceeds purity

C. It was this analogy Paul used in his self defense as in reality he shows what God wants in his church.

## II. Paul's defense

A. His apostleship severely challenged.

1. A faction had been very industrious in aspersing his character. (Macknight)

2. To boast of ourselves is a mark of weakness, yet sometimes you have to --couldn't be silent with calumnies heaped on him. (Simeon)

3. Erdman well points out no worker wants to see his work destroyed.

B. Paul asks for a hearing.

1. It may appear to be a selfish action he's earlier condemned in men.

2. They've been listening to false apostles, dubbed super-apostles, it's time they listened to a real one.

a) One sees the blend between apostolic authority & personal concern.

b) Concern alone is sentimental.

Authority alone is harsh. (Kent)

*c) Child's Fingers - "Peace" #1*

3. Bear with me in a little folly.

a) Tense says "would you now bear with me."

b) Folly or foolishness

(1) Folly is without reason, a want of mental sanity recklessness. Luck calls it inconsiderate habit of the mind.

(2) As used here it's a self-depreciating statement--tho embarrassed by it, Paul found it absolutely necessary to speak in his defense.

c) Thus the imperative--a demand for their attention as he writes with great passion.

III. Paul now turns and reviews his Purpose, Love & Work Among Them.

A. I am jealous over you.

1. Do you see the "green-eyed monster?"

2. Or do you see an intense affection born of great strength shown toward them.

3. After all, God calls himself a jealous God--he brooks no rival.

a) He intensely loves his own & wants this returned.

b) Elijah felt the same thing.

I Kings 19:10 *"I have been very jealous for*

4. If God so properly uses this intense affection, so can Paul.

Exo. 20:5 *I the Lord Thy God am a j. God*

## B. I Espoused You

1. We meet a strange word to us.
2. The role of the preacher in seeking converts too and helping faithfully maintain is a bit like Abraham's steward searching for Isaac's bride.

Gen. 24

3. Paul had converted these folk to Christ.
4. As a friend of the bridegroom he had espoused them.

Jn. 3:29 "He that hath the bride is the"

5. Both John & Paul knew the church was not theirs.
6. Betrothal took place before marriage & sometime there was a time lag between the two.
  - a) Betrothal is the present life.
  - b) Marriage is entrance into Eternal Heaven at judgement.
7. Paul's role subservant but vital.
8. See Hosea 2:19-20

## C. He presents them to One Husband.

1. Note things singular--1 "one virgin".
2. The husband, of course, is Christ.
3. To the Lord we profess loyalty.

Hos. 3:3 *Thou shalt not be for another man*

4. His will to dominate us.

Ps. 45:10-11

5. Marriage is an exclusive.
6. Christian owes loyalty to Christ above all else.

7. Paul wants to "present" the Church to Christ.

a) From watery grave to final grave we must be interested in our brothers.

b) Picture of a father who has daughter engaged to King's son--surely wants her to properly behave.

D. She is a chaste virgin # Kite line #2

1. Paul wants church to stay put & be pure until the wedding day.

2. If not chaste, will be rejected.

Rev. 19:8-8 - Read

Eph. 5:25-27 H. Love your wives even

3. She is faithful to her promise.

4. Note not virgins but virgin, yet a single soul is not the bride it's the one church--the whole body.

E. She is presented to Christ.

Isa. 54:5

Jn. 3:29 "He that hath the bride"

Eph. 5:32 "This a a great mystery"

Rev. 19:7 "Let us be glad"

1. Every member partakes of this honor.

2. Everything Paul has done for them was that they might solely belong to Christ.

F. But he was concerned!

1. He voices a fear.

2. He knew the serpent beguiled Eve.

a) Serpent suggested he had wisdom superior to God.

- b) Fooled her--we could be ignorant of our dangers.
- c) Eve was fooled
  - (1) Story Gen. 3
  - (2) Doesn't sound like Paul feels Genesis an allegory w/o fact foundation.
  - (3) Let there be a 2nd Eve for the new Adam.

I Cor. 15:45

- 3. Satan uses subtility. *Godfrey story #3*
  - a) Foe of simplicity.
  - b) Ellicott says it's a mischievous activity of a man ready for anything.
- 4. Satan goes for the mind.
  - a) It's possible to corrupt a mind with false doctrine.
  - b) Get the mind you will the body.
  - c) Mind is part of body--not divorced from Spirit as some teach.
- 5. Corruption comes by: *Boy & Fish #4*
  - a) Winking at doctrine or practice contrary to truth.
  - b) How would you feel if your bride no longer enjoyed or wanted your company?
  - c) Corrupt by diversion. *Runner #5*
  - d) Make no additions or subtractions from gospel.

Mk. 4:19

*Gordon Smith #6*

- e) No fundamental errors of faith or deviation from rightful practice.

6. Maintain the Simplicity

a) Meaning

- (1) Integrity
- (2) Unmixed
- (3) Unadulterated

b) Demands:

- (1) Single-minded devotion.
- (2) Eyes only for the groom.
- (3) Single-hearted loyalty in contrast with double-mindedness.

Hillsboro Ladies Class - 12/14/89

#1  
ELEVEN-year-old Perry, my nephew, was in the emergency ward of the local hospital after smashing headlong into a tree while chasing his brother. The examining doctor, testing the boy's vision, asked Perry how many fingers he was holding up. The doctor had raised one finger, and my nephew said, "One." The doctor then raised two fingers. My nephew said, "Peace."

—Contributed by Mrs. Richard C. Stuckmeyer

#3  
X  
ARTHUR GODFREY claims that, when he was a boy, his father had an ingenious system for teaching him to save. It involved three boxes. One was a yellow box for pennies. When Arthur had saved five pennies, his father would give him a nickel, which he would put into a blue box. When he'd saved five nickels, his father would give him a quarter, which he would put into a red box.

Arthur says he was 12 before he discovered that the red box was the gas meter.

—*Wit and Humor*, quoted in *The Link*



The teacher looked at the boy coldly: "I'm told you went to the ball game yesterday instead of coming to school."

"That isn't true," the boy answered, "and I've got a fish to prove it."

#2  
GALE-FORCE WINDS and sub-zero temperatures had taken their toll: snapped electric wires were sparking and snaking dangerously about the ever-building snowdrifts. As a foot patrolman, I was assigned to a desolate intersection to provide security at the scene of a downed wire.

X  
It was 12:40 a.m. and two degrees below zero when I relieved the initial guardian of this dangerous area. He pointed out the thin line swinging ferociously from the main electric circuit, as he entered the squad car for his return to warmth. I pulled my coat collar up to my earmuffs, tightened my scarf and placed myself in a position to protect the public.

Finally, at 5:40 a.m., a utility truck arrived. The linemen checked the wires, let out roaring bellows and continued laughing as they descended toward me. "Well, mate," one of them said, "congratulations. You've successfully guarded a frozen kite string all night."

—RAYMOND E. CALLAHAN (*Narragansett, R.I.*)

X  
A TOURIST overtook a young man running beside the road and stopped and offered him a ride. "You seem to be in a big hurry," the tourist said. "Some kind of emergency?"

"No," the out-of-breath young man said, "I always do this when I want a ride. It works every time."

#5

## A "Denominational Concept"

Occasionally I catch myself making the statement, "We must be careful that we do not develop a 'denominational concept' of Christianity." How do we develop a "denominational concept"? Some examples:

...We attend worship just once a week, more out of fear of hell than anything else.

...Preachers become our "paid clergy" and we expect them to interpret the Bible for us, visit the sick, convert the lost and spread the gospel for us when we all should be involved in the Lord's work.

...We accept the position of some preacher rather than studying the Bible for ourselves.

...We elevate preachers, and the endearing term "brother" and the academic term "doctor" become religious titles.

...We expect the church to train our children rather than taking the time to read the Bible, pray with them and bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

...We ignore the autonomy of each congregation and attempt to force our opinions on sister congregations.

...Church publications take on a "hierarchal" or "creed-forming" disposition and arbitrarily condemn all who do not subscribe to their opinions.

...Traditions become equal to the Bible.

...The church building is exalted and considered to be the house of God (Acts 7:48; 17:24).

...We use the descriptive term "church of Christ" as a proper name.

...We inherit our religion rather than finding it through a personal study of the Bible.

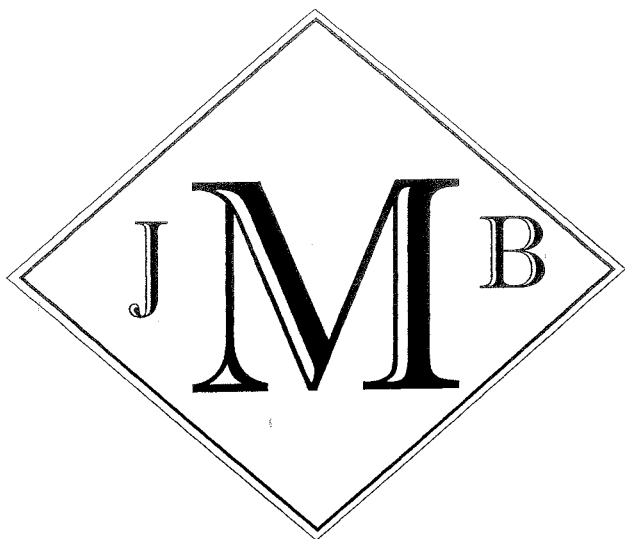
...We are converted to the system rather than to the Christ who commanded the system.

...We convert people to the church rather than to Christ who then adds them to the church (Acts 2:47)

There is nothing more beautiful than undenominational Christianity, nothing more logical than the Restoration Movement and nothing more certain than the fact that human beings have an overwhelming propensity to denominate themselves religiously.

If the church is to be truly undenominational, we must constantly re-evaluate ourselves to make certain that we are not developing denominational concepts of Christianity. Denominational concepts, if they are not checked, lead to denominationalism.

--Gordon Smith, 2201 Rainbow Drive, Gadsden, AL 35901 (205/547-3731)



# THREE IMPERATIVES OF A MINISTRY

2 Cor. 11:1-4

## I. Importance of this Sunday.

A. We begin 28 years.

B. We do it with the most generous granting of a staff W.E. has ever known.

1. 2 men hold doctorates - Dee & Mike.

2. 4 men hold Masters - Larry, Jerry, (Greg & Chuck almost).

a.) Greg almost there.

b.) Jerry desires doctorate.

c.) Chuck has it in sight.

3. I'm the only uneducated in the lot!

4. Our works are to cover every age, every education, facet; hopefully, needs of every home.

5. I miss the Apprentice program - we await elders' action on application.

## II. We've all strengths & weaknesses & better than any of the staff I know West End's charity & elders' patience.

A. But what is the thrust of the teaching - this I know & here as we start another year I can tell you the united faith & drive of us all!

B. Sometimes we learn by contrasts, i.e.

1. He's a poor father - husband.

a.) Doesn't love his wife.

b.) Doesn't support his children.

c.) Provides no strong spiritual leadership for the family.

2. Opposite is true - a good husband, then --

- a.) Does love his wife.
- b.) Does provide for his children.
- c.) Does grant strong spiritual leadership.

3. Explain counter-clockwise to digital kid.

III. So it was with Paul & his Corinthian battle. I'll see what he despaired of as being what should be - and via contrast learn what was idea.

2 Cor. 11:1-4 (Read)

- A. Paul pleads his humanness.
- B. V. 2 states his love for that church.
- C. Faces the reality of corruption.

- 1. Serpent.
- 2. Subtlety.
- 3. Simplicity.

- a.) Cornell article.
- b.) Newsweek article.
- c.) Standard editorial.

D. Then verse - 4 - he fears:

- 1.) Preaching another Jesus.
- 2.) Receiving another spirit.
- 3. Accepting another gospel.

E. We are committed to:

- 1.) Preaching the true Jesus.
- 2.) Receiving the Holy Spirit.
- 3.) Preaching the ancient gospel.

IV. Why is this so important?

A. Preaching the true Jesus.

- 1. Flesh & blood - a man.
- 2. Crucified - yet w/o sin.

3. Rose.

(Sangster)

4. Reigns.

Matt. 16:15 "Who do you say that I am?"

B. Preaching another Jesus?

1. A teacher?

2. Moralist?

3. Philosopher?

4. Reformer? Vaughan Article

5. We cannot preach our own version.

6. Some, says Barclay, did & tho't they were super apostles.

7. We must not alter his true work & nature.

(McGavran)

C. Preach him as Savior - Son of God.

1. Strip him of his glory & he can't ans. qt. of life

D. Receive another Spirit?

1. A different Jesus creates a different spirit -  
(Interpreter's)

2. Freedom vs. shackles.

3. Coffman says we don't know what they preached specifically but pointed to unsound, immoral, denied essential truths.

4. But if you received the Holy Spirit there is fruit.

Gal. 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, pe

1 Jn. 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try

2 Tim. 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of  
fear; but of power, love, sound mind."

Rom. 14:17 "For the K. of God is not meat and drink  
but rt., peace, joy in the Holy Ghost.

Rom. 8:15 "Ye have rec. the s. of adopt.

1. Jackson Card.

E. Accepted another gospel?

1. Is it advice, or

2. Is it good news

3. Is it blood bought redemption - or slum clearance

4. Is there sin & salvation?

5. Calhoun card.

*Next End 10-16-83*

# Pick-and-Choose Christianity

Jesus insisted that his kingdom was not of this world and bade his disciples to act accordingly. Until very recently, most U.S. Christians assumed that by joining a church they could at least distance themselves from the corrosive influences of secular society. Now comes compelling evidence that churches are no longer secure sanctuaries—if they ever were—against moral confusion, theological ambiguity, social conflict and family disintegration.

The source is a unique three-year study of Minnesota Christians, "Faith and Ferment,"\* published this month under the auspices of the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research in Collegeville, Minn. Although limited to a single state, the research is of such depth and breadth that it

thing, you are taught the basics. From those basics, you sort out what you want or pick it apart as you see fit."

What many have left behind is a pervasive sense of sin. Although 98 percent said they believe in personal sin, only 57 percent accepted the traditional notion that all people are sinful and fully one-third allowed that they "make many mistakes but are not sinful" themselves. Said one typical respondent: "The day I die, I should only have to look up at my Maker and say, 'Take me.' Not 'Forgive me.'" In short, Minnesota Christians tend to attribute sin to others.

The pick-and-choose approach also affects attitudes toward prayer. Less than one in 10 cited worship as the primary reason they attend church, and the returns also

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Minneapolis Star

*Lutherans praying in Minneapolis: Free-form communication with a responsive God*

raises serious questions about how all U.S. Christians interpret and practice their faith. "This report," says theologian Richard J. Mouw, one of a half-dozen experts invited to appraise the results, "gives us all reasons to be disturbed."

If Minnesotans are any measure, American Christians have lost their sense of group identity. Instead, says church historian Martin E. Marty in his analysis of the data, they have developed a "'pick-and-choose' Christianity" in which individuals take what they want from church tradition and pass over what does not fit their own spiritual goals. Two-thirds of the 1,017 respondents saw no harm in rejecting some of their church's doctrines; as one woman put it, "I feel that in religious training, as in any other

showed a strong preference for free-form over formal communication with God. A harried respondent acknowledged, "I do a lot of—what do you want to call it—quickies: 'O God, let us get there.'" For most, the God they pray to is a God who responds. Eighty-six percent of Minnesota Christians insisted that God intervenes in their lives and directs them in their vocations.

**Adultery:** Minnesota's large Lutheran and Roman Catholic populations have traditionally been conservative in sexual morality. But the survey shows that they, like other U.S. Christians, have adjusted their moral standards. Only 15 percent consider divorce "always wrong or sinful." More than three-quarters—including 40 percent of Roman Catholics—approve of contraception. On abortion, only Catholics show a majority (65 percent) against it under any

\*352 pages. Augsburg Publishing House and The Liturgical Press. \$14.95.

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circumstances, although 85 percent of all respondents reject abortion on demand. More than a third tolerate premarital sex under special circumstances, but adultery is condemned by a margin of six to one. These figures may be conservative by contemporary secular standards but Marty insists that they represent a major revolution: "... In two or three decades in the Minnesotas of America, there has been more sudden change than in the previous two millennia of Christian history."

In an essay summarizing the data, Benedictine Sister Joan D. Chittister, a sociologist, points to other recent shifts. She notes a majority opposed to using war to defend vital United States interests overseas and that less than a third say they find the Bible clear on the morality of war itself. Thirty percent believe that Christians have an obligation to enhance the economic growth of the United States, while an almost equal number—27 percent—believe that Christians are required to simplify their lifestyles in this era of gross economic imbalance between rich and poor.

**Salvation:** The survey yields intriguing differences between denominations. Catholics—once known for law-and-order patriotism—are now the strongest advocates of civil disobedience, though they are also far more likely than any Protestants to vote their church's values. Baptists are much more certain than other Christians in the survey of their own salvation, and members of the United Church of Christ are the most apt to experience God as a distant deity who plays a minor role in their daily work.

But the real differences among Minnesota Christians lie not between denominations but within them. Marty sees two "clusters": mainline Protestants and liberal Catholics versus conservatives with diverse affiliations and agendas. A second major fault line separates the clergy from the laity: Christians in the pulpit are far more likely than those in the pews to read the Bible critically, to want the church—themselves?—to take the lead in social action and to acknowledge their own sinfulness.

Reactions by experts indicate that the survey itself may prove to be divisive. Marty stresses the ability of Minnesota Christians to live with ambiguity and devise painful adjustments between faith and life, while Chittister wonders how long churches can tolerate such inconsistencies. Dr. Robert Bilheimer, the Presbyterian minister who directs the institute, believes the survey confirms a dangerous loss of identity, not only by denominations but by American Christianity itself. What Minnesota church folk make of it will become evident in a series of ecumenical gatherings over the next 18 months. But if what they have revealed about themselves has national resonance, one thing seems clear: church is now less a place where Christians worship God than an arena where they wrestle with him—and with each other.

KENNETH L. WOODWARD

## TWO STEPS FORWARD, ONE STEP BACK

by Paul Harvey

During the 1960s the Beatles were reshaping music and young people were seeking a substitute religion. The Beatles turned them on to Transcendental Meditation by their endorsement of TM's founder, the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. Today that pint-sized guru speaks of that time two decades ago as "the passing days of ignorance."

Hindsight is better.

George Leonard was in the vanguard of the so-called "sexual revolution" of the '60s. As editor of *Look* magazine he wrote articles and books on the changing attitude toward sex and generally approved it, helped it along. He's sorry now. He says the glorification of recreational sex had Americans keeping score on what would have remained unique and sacred. Now he has written another book called *The End of Sex*. Now he says it was a mistake to separate sex from love and marriage.

He says all that freedom led to trivialization, that the powerful act of love became just something mechanical, casual, obligatory as a goodnight kiss. And he sees that the philosophy of the hedonists: "If it feels good, do it..." also resulted in the emaciation of a whole generation with sex-related disease.

Hindsight is better.

What are we doing now for which we will have to apologize 20 years from now? When we look

back upon 1983 from the year 2000 what will embarrass us. That we persisted, despite the law, to pay women workers less than men...

That we taught children to calculate electronically without teaching them why... taught them the language of the computer to the neglect of spelling...

And will we remember "busing" and blush? And with chagrin will we remember that—in violation of the law—we allowed a continuing avalanche of illegal immigration resulting in higher taxes, fewer jobs, more crime and new-to-us diseases?

Hopefully, more civilized by then, we will reflect with shame on the hypocrisy of waging war on "human" suffering while contributing to the unspeakable agony of animals. We will remember that in our proper preoccupation with remedying white-black discrimination we allowed black-white discrimination.

For civilization at its swiftest is two steps forward, one step back. Hindsight is clearer.

But will we be able to look back—if we have talked ourselves out of nuclear peace-keeping and left ourselves helplessly outnumbered? In the from-here-on future the nation that endures may be the one that can learn from its mistakes—before making them.

How do you explain counter-clockwise to a youngster with a digital watch?

## ecumenical dialogue



A currently popular idea is that mixed values are essential to democracy and that moral absolutes are out of place. But the Rev. Carl F.H. Henry, widely influential scholar, says that view could destroy democracy itself.

"The perverse notion that democracy is incompatible with moral absolutes spells inevitable collapse and chaos for democracy," says Rev. Henry. "On that issue, American culture is at a fateful crossroads."

He said a "new secular mindset" in American society seeks "social escape from all the ethical demands of civilized existence" and holds that the only rule of action is "private decision and personal creativity."

"In earlier generations, Americans judged themselves by Judeo-Christian principles," Henry said, "but now a growing vanguard of society regards those standards as a threat to self-fulfillment."

Today's narcissistic philosophy considers biblical imperatives a barrier to self-realization and the church an impediment to free and creative selfhood," he said. "Human existence is deliberately and routinely collapsed into a me-first philosophy... in all dimensions of life. Compound this with sexual fulfillment and total bliss and one caters completely to the worldly agenda of self-satisfaction."

Henry said such evangelical

appeals "to be born-again and God will put you in clover" need divine editing to read, "get right with God and He will show you how many excesses you can really do without."

He said some modern sociologists maintain that the special distinctive of democracy is tolerance of divergent views. Tolerance thus becomes a rationale for uncritical public acceptance of any and all deviation. But he said that "by itself tolerance destroys even itself in destroying all norms. It deprives personality of ultimately real status and thus jeopardizes the transcendent nature of personal and social values."

Declaring that human dignity and genuine human rights "cannot long survive on the basis of a merely naturalistic theory of man and the world," Henry said, "man is perceived as an animal oddity of nature, a mammalian masterpiece; his sex life is reduced to a series of stimulating encounters between biologically different mates, events with no moral significance or religious answerability. Chastity is considered prudity and unchastity is a virtue. Not hell but herpes is what these moral rebels fear."

He said, "The fact that human liberty is divorced increasingly from supernatural accountability may well become our national undoing."

George W. Cornell



vv

*the  
cuff*

*John R. Vaughan*

In a recent article, **Chris Bullard** pointed out that the World Almanac and Book of Facts polled 2000 eighth graders to discover whom they most admired and wanted to be like.

Each child was asked to name 30 heroes. Their number one choice as a role model was Burt Reynolds. Next in line were Richard Pryor, Alan Alda, Steve Martin, Robert Redford and the Late John Bulushi.

Not one person was named who was not either an entertainer or sports figure! No doctor, no minister, no statesman, no author, not even an astronaut in these days of the Challenger space program was on the list.

These kids have grown up in the greatest age of technological advance the world has ever known, yet their list does not include one person who has made a substantial contribution to the world.

Parents, there is a message here for us. We need to ensure that our kids have role models who are examples of more than just competition, fame, wealth and success. We must balance the picture for our kids with examples of concern, of caring and of compassion. Heroes and heroines must be more than people who have made it big. . .they need to be folks who have done big things."

Above all else our children need examples of people who have the mind of Christ and are following in His footsteps.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

# "They Met at Calvary" - By H. E. Sangster

## I WAS THERE TOO

doesn't matter—or not much. If you are sorry, let us forget it!" But cancer is still cancer, even when you have forgotten it, and no amount of forgetting hinders it in its deadly course. We cannot, as sinners, even recognize sin by ourselves, and a sin not fully recognized is a sin of which one cannot repent. To suppose that the sin of the world could be met, exposed, and defeated, on the analogy of a human father forgiving the delinquencies of his wayward son, is to misconceive the greatness of the problem and to fail completely in the quest for a cure.

"But couldn't God find a way to deal with sin without the Cross?" people ask. "After all, God can do anything. Surely almightiness could have devised a method of bypassing Calvary."

It might be sufficient to reply by saying that God *couldn't* find a way, but it would be better to point out that God cannot do *anything*. A great deal of muddled thinking lies behind the use of that repeated phrase. God cannot contradict his own rationality and make a square circle, or an aged infant, or a one-sided sheet of paper. He cannot deny his own nature and be vindictive, or evil, or unkind. Nor can he ever tolerate sin. Between the holy God and sin there can never be compromise, or indulgence, or neutrality. Its deadly nature does not allow even the Divine to say, "It does not matter." The central evil of sin must be met and overcome.

Sin always takes its price and someone must pay it. Yet even the paying of the price is not enough. The foul principle of the thing had to be broken. It had to be met in its innermost nature and the life taken out of it.

The consequence of sin is death—not just the punishment of it, the consequence of it. Death is in it. It carries

The Republic is safe, the main pillars - virtue, religion, and morality will be fostered by a majority of the people, the designing demagogues who have attempted to retain power by the most corrupt means will be driven by the indignant frown of the people into obscurity.

Andrew Jackson

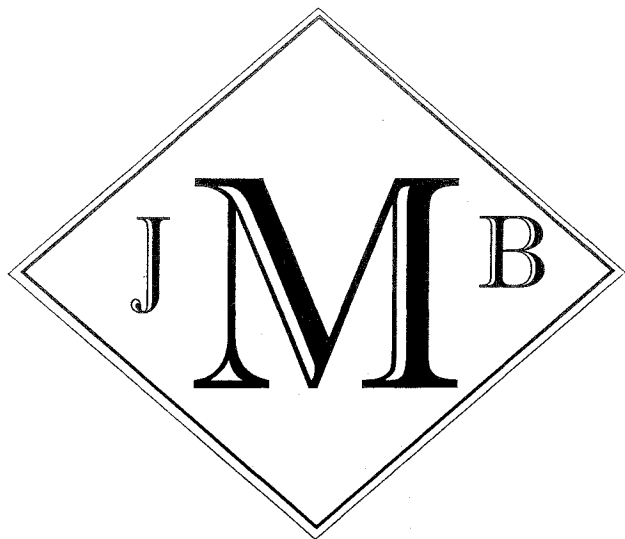
We all agree that those in the early church believed in the mighty Name of Jesus. But weren't they rather simple people? Today, people are sophisticated and educated. Can modern man, filled with scientific knowledge, believe that God did in fact reveal himself in a carpenter from Nazareth, raise him from the dead, and give him the Name which is above all names? We live in the last decades of the twentieth century. Occult, mystical, and Eastern religions have swept across the United States. The sacred books of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam are studied on many university campuses. Some Americans make spiritual pilgrimages, leave the Christian faith of their forefathers, and journey into emergent Eastern denominations such as Zen, Hare Krishna, and Self-Realization. Can modern Americans, knowing all about comparative religions, believe that God has made a definitive revelation of himself in one person? Is the reality not that of many

I believe that the law of pardon for an alien sinner is that he must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ with all his heart; that he must truly repent of all past sins; that he **must** confess with his mouth his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; that by the authority of Jesus **Christ** he must be baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; that when he has done these things, then, and not before, he has the promise that his sins are pardoned or that he is saved. I believe that such a **person**, as a Christian, must add to his faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, to patience godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love, and that should he do so, there will be ministered unto him an abundant entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I believe that such a Christian receives the gift of the Holy Spirit, and that if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of His, and that possessing that spirit, he should bear its fruit, which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance, and that against one whose life is filled with these things God's law have no **accusation** to bring. I believe that such a person should reflect in his daily life and character the teachings of Christ as made known to us in the beatitudes. I believe that all true science and sound philosophy and Christian faith are in perfect harmony, each one perfectly proper in its own sphere,

neither trespassing upon either one of the others and  
in no single point conflicting.

"Abilene Christian College Bible Lectures 1926-1927"

"The Indwelling Christ" - By H. L. Calhoun  
pp. 9-10



## THE INTRUDERS

II Cor. 11:4-6

- I. You've heard imitation is the purest form of flattery.
- II. You have also noticed some cheap stealing.
  - A. We counterfeit Rolex watches & \$20 bills.
  - B. We make inferior products look like the real thing.
  - C. Motive: not for my betterment but for the perpetrators' greed.
- III. It is not strange that there comes counterfeiters in religion. So now we look at these Intruders.
- IV. Their Preaching Contrasts the Truth often in 3 major points: The Jesus presented, the Spirit engendered, and the Gospel obeyed.

II Cor. 11:4-6

A. Those that come Preach Another Jesus.

1. They are "super apostles" who bring you the new and better religion.
2. They are self-appointed and sadly always get a hearing.
3. Tragically they bring Another Jesus.
  - a) Sentimental Jesus who makes no demands.
  - b) Legalist Jesus who rules with no grace.
  - c) Make your own Jesus--it's go to the salad bar idea--pick & choose. (Duduit)
4. Note they do not use "Christ"--evidently they accept Him as the Messiah, the Son of God.

5. Wrong for me to say specifically what they said since the Holy Spirit doesn't tell us.

a) Some Gnostics.

b) Some Judaizers

6. Think of today the things we falsely lay at the feet of Jesus.

B. Another Spirit is Received

1. Some doubted the Holy Spirit.

2. Some have a caustic, ugly spirit.

3. Some today have no confidence in Self or Savior.

4. Some today see no sacrifice--the gospel is gain.

C. Another gospel.

1. They warped the good news.

2. They changed its power.

3. The word also is sufficient.

Isa. 55

D. We see 3 essentialities: Jesus, Spirit, Gospel

1. What have you heard?

2. They "beautifully bore" a perverted message.

3. Folk today still listen to anything from Bakker to Rev. Ansley!

V. Strange Corinth would hear Intruders rather than their Father in the Faith, who:

A. Is not one whit behind chiefest Apostle.

1. All Apostolic doctrine is important.

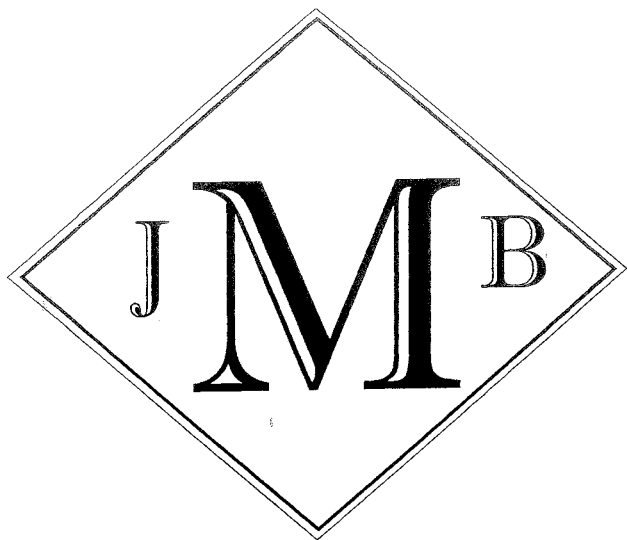
2. Of the 12, I know 5.

3. Though this has nothing to do with Peter, James & John because he's saying your "chiefs" have nothing over me, we do recognize tho there is equality (Peter stood up with the eleven), there varies personality traits that makes us know some men better than others.

B. Rude in Speak yet not in Knowledge.

1. Surely Paul not ignorant--one of best educations of day.
2. He is not low rating training but as Ellicott says, does lambast the aristocracy of scholarship attitude.
  - a) PhD--piled high & dry VS PhD--perception, honor, doctrine
  - b) "How can a man who is cutting & stitching all day be a doctor of the law?" Attitude.
3. Criticized for lacking the polished Greek rhetoric.
  - a) Untrained, private individual as distinct from the expert.
  - b) Tyndale "unskilled in speaking" and Burton Coffman blows a fuse over it--read his commentary.
  - c) Tyndale--he's an apostle not an orator???
  - d) He's a common man--you understood him--he was not William Buckley--26,000 words known only to Dictionary & Buckley.

4. His message the difference--he had the knowledge.
  - a) Importance lay in content not trappings or style.
  - b) It was the truth he taught that mattered most.
  - c) He led them to know deeper truths than the "Supers."
  - d) In all other skills it was manifested he was an apostle.
- C. Let's respect the Apostles and the Pioneers.



## SUPPOSE I WAS A MINISTER OF SATAN?

II. Cor. 11:12-15

- I. Seems like I've been in a pulpit somewhere in the church all my life.
  - A. Preached funerals of neighbors and kinfolk when in teens.
  - B. I won oratorical contests in H.S. quoting Matthew 28.
  - C. Though today, I'm nobody's preacher, I hope I still serve the Lord.
- II. Paul did not have an easy time at Corinth.
  - A. May I read II Corinthians 11:12-15?
  - B. I heard Don Readhimer do a worthy sermon on this.
  - C. What was Paul's concern?
    1. First, though accepting needed support from other churches, he took none from Corinth. Accepted help after he left them.
    2. He cut off the opportunity for false apostle to trap him.
    3. He allowed no individual or group to buy him.
    4. In the assembly were false apostles.
      - a) They took the title.
      - b) They preached errors.
      - c) "Deceitful workers."
      - d) Transformed themselves into apostles of Christ.

5. No marvel--Satan even presented himself as an angel of light.
  - a) Never wants you to see who he is.
  - b) Only here in New Testament is he an angel of light.
  - c) Thus didn't look like an adversary even as liquor sparkles and looks inviting--never shows you what it does to you.

D. Not alone is the Devil--he has his ministers -- Read V-15.

1. Know they abound.
2. Also know they have a wretched end.

III. But what if I became one of his preachers? -- Just what would I preach (and it may sound a little like today).

- A. I'd take my text from religious success stories.
1. Anything for a crowd.
  2. Entertainment with music, shows, performances.
  3. Nothing spoken over 10 minutes.
- B. I'd attack authority.
1. Bible is 2,000 years old--what does it know about Ipods, cell phones, new planets?

2. Your opinion is as good as mine  
and there is no foundation  
document.

- C. I'd major on your troubles--how  
could God love you--(if there is a  
God or did you invent one), and let  
bad things happen?
- D. I'd lead you to doubt God's provi-  
dence, use of little things--cup of  
water and pencil story by the van  
loads--do not gell this.
- E. I'd tell you to keep your money--  
some preachers just want your  
pocketbook.
- F. The way is too hard--it's against  
nature--strike back.
- G. I'd beguile you about human drives--  
hunger and sex--flesh is good.
  - 1. Alcohol:
    - Try a new brand.
    - Enlarges intellectual culture.
    - Why waste what's poured out.
    - Others drink.
    - Jesus made water into wine.
    - Churlish to refuse drink.
    - I'll sleep better, get through my  
job.
  - 2. Sex:
    - Indulgence made to want it.
    - Natural appetite.
    - Expression of romantic life.

Enlarges experience.

H. I'd try to discourage you and doubt legitimacy of everything.

I. If you began to get religious I'd try to get you to postpone everything righteous.

J. I'd tell you life is now--that's it--no more--just live for today and stop all this benevolence.

IV. Now example my own ministry.

Have I encouraged you into any of these ways?

# IS SATAN EQUAL TO GOD?

## I. He has man identities.

### A. Names

1. Devil - slander.
2. Serpent
3. Belial
4. Evil one

Eph. 2:2-7 Prince - Spirit

6:12 Wrestle

John 12:31 Prince

### B. Origin

Rev. 21:8 End

I Chron. 21:1 Stood up

### C. Personality

Job 1:6-12 Whence come

Job 2:1-7 Save life

## II. Origin

### A. Created only good

### B. Good can go bad

1. Fell

Ezek. 28:11-19

2. Is that a king described?

3. Fell upon man thus the reason this earth in such a mess--see Gen.1:1.

Isa. 14:12-14 Lucifer

Neh. 9:6 God

4. Not all knowing

Matt. 24:36 Knows no man

5. Created

I Peter 1:12    Angels desired to look into  
James 4:7        Resist

C. Guardian angel

1. No reference of one assigned me.
2. Don in 7/31/05 sermon listed  
these Scriptures.

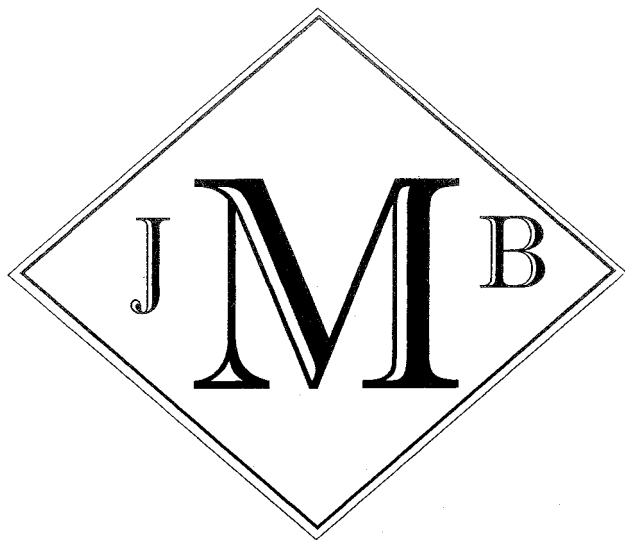
Ps. 91:11        Charge                      Job 38:7

Matt. 18:10    Angels

Acts 27:23     Stood by me

D. Created        Ps. 148:2-5

1. Cannot be equal to Creator
2. Illustration--born of water--  
cannot be in pool smaller than  
that being born.
3. Satan cannot be equal to God.



## WE NEED MORE BASKET CASES

2 Cor. 11:32-33 Acts 9:23-25

I. "If I have one more day like this one I'll be a basket case!" *we pick it up and jump together*

A. Who has not said & felt it?

B. Physically Paul was one and it comes almost anti-climatical at the end of reciting all his sufferings.

1. Difference between elocution and electrocution as a boy got it confused: "The means by which many innocent people are put to death"--maybe so!
2. But why this event being where it is contrasting events like these?

2 Cor. 11:23-27

### II. What Happened?

A. From Acts 9.

1. Jews decided to kill Paul.
2. Laying wait known to Paul.
3. Watched gates day and night with desire to kill him.
4. Disciples took him by night.
5. Over the wall in a basket.

B. Paul Adds *IV* → *AIR-ee-tus King (one who pleases)*

1. Governor kept city of Damascus with a garrison to apprehend him.
2. Aretas was King.
3. Ethnarch lit. ruler of a tribe or race--deputy gov. for a particular racial section of the population.
4. Basket through a window down the wall, escaped.

C. How would this event disarm his critics?

Remember--he says "as a fool receive me--I may boast myself a little"--v.15 "I glory also" -- v.16.

1. Kent says the critics were saying his departure was not dignified like an apostolic action, therefore he's false.
2. He's honest--hides nothing--open book.

D. What would it do for him?

1. Maybe vivid as it was his first suffering for Christ as an imprint left above all others.
2. His apprenticeship in persecution--the initiation of a new recruit into the front line of gospel warfare--Hughes.
3. It emphasizes early his own abject weakness & frailty--the man who came with letters of authority goes over the wall in a fish basket--made of rope or wicker.
4. Reminds him of the ill treatment he'd extended others--what goes around comes around.
5. Medals in the military were given to the first man up the wall in the face of the enemy--Paul the opposite, first one down.
6. Some Christians were loyal to him--even at risk.

## E. What Does This Say to Us?

1. Jenson wrote, "I've been treated like a bag of cloth for the sake of Christ."
2. We will experience some humiliating things lest we get puffed up. Funny to see a man in a basket. (Credit card story).
3. We may rob our friends of much boasting as this leader left in "grand style" over the wall! Not very impressive.
4. In our success oriented society would we put this on our resume? Or do we tabulate achievements?
5. How much will we suffer for the cause of Christ?
6. This going "down" was a prelude to his going "up to the 3rd heaven" (2 Cor. 12:2)--we are ever in the hands of the Lord.

Harding Grad. School Chapel - 4/22/93

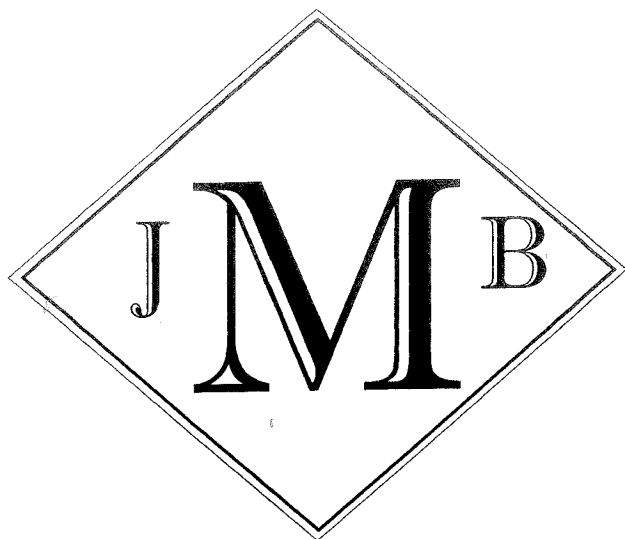
Paragon Mills (BC) - 6/27/93

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Jefferson Ave., Cookeville, TN (BC) - 9/19/93

Schochoh, KY - 10/10/93 (BC)

Radcliff, KY (BC) - 10/24/93



# TROUBLE & HOW TO HANDLE IT

2 Cor. 12:7-9

- I. Trouble! It's a word that plagues us all.
  - A. Engine--even the astronauts have a dead battery in space--I saw rocket take off.
  - B. Heart--disease that touches many--cholesterol on every mind.
  - C. Marriage, Mid-life crisis, lay-offs, retirement. *Beethoven statement*
  - D. Church trouble. *Blvd Church Study*
- II. Since we won't avoid it, how will we handle it? May I tell you how one man did.
- III. In Paul's Painful Letter to Corinth, he:
  - A. Met charges of false apostles.
  - B. Countered their boasts with evidence he was better--served by authority of Christ and for their edification, not destruction.
  - C. Received that great trip to the 3rd Heaven as "a man in Christ" (v-2).
- IV. Now he deals with trouble.
  - A. Ran risk of exaltation above measure.
    - 1. He did not want superhuman exaltation.
    - 2. He knew who he was in all weaknesses.
    - 3. Might have a pride that would be his ruin, even if he tried to resist the acclaim.
    - 4. Danger was some may think of him more highly than they should because of his visions.

## B. Gift of Thorn in the Flesh.

## 1. Given

- a) Did he think of it as a gift?
- b) Nothing must hinder the work,  
so workmen must be kept in line.

## 2. Thorn

- a) Stake
  - b) Something pointed.
  - c) In O.T. anything that frustrated or created problems.
  - d) May imply excruciating suffering--like one driven into the flesh.
  - e) A palisade--used to impale victims.
3. Note it came after the vision.
  4. It was humiliating.
  5. It reminds him he is human.
  6. Laurin said, "from clouds to clods; glory side to gory side."
  7. It reoccurred frequently.
  8. What was it? Men guess:  
Epilepsy (disease to spit at as they said), malaria, ophthalmia, speech impediment, physically different, earache, headache, persecution, failure to convert Jews, impulsive to temptation, all types of ailments--never told!
  9. In the flesh
    - a) Physical
    - b) Mental
    - c) Spiritual
    - d) Thing seen--not just in the mind but in the body.

- e) In OR for the flesh.
- f) Spiritual temptations.
- g) Whatever, he does not have it now.

C. Messenger of Satan to Buffet.

- 1. Slap
- 2. Strike with fist.
- 3. Strike blow with hands or fists repeatedly, continually.
- 4. Suggests trouble was permanent.

V. How Did He Handle It?

A. Prayed 3 times for it to depart.

- 1. This is prayer to Jesus.  
Hokyrios is Jesus.  
Kyrios is God.  
Acts 1:24 prayer to Jesus.

2. Thrice

- a) Not 3X but Hebrew figure for ceaselessness.
- b) Persevering prayer is of great value.

3. Lessons:

- a) Prayers are never unheeded or unheard.
- b) Delayed answer tests our earnestness.
- c) We must wait in utter dependency.
- d) We must not try to force God's answer after our pattern.
- e) He does not always grant healing in response to prayer.

## B. God's Answer

## 1. My Grace is sufficient.

- a) Grace shows there is a meaning to his life.
- b) Sufficient--lifts, bears, carry.
- c) Man's weakness & God's grace go hand in hand.
- d) Sufficient shows continually available.

## 2. My strength made perfect in weakness.

- a) What pleases God is man's strength.
- b) He ever continued to comfort Paul.

## 3. Perfect--to end, limit, finish, complete.

## 4. Strength for timely succor.

## C. Paul's Acceptation.

## 1. Glory in infirmities.

- a) Wholeheartedly accepts.
- b) Answer came many years ago--still in effect.
- c) Afflictions in line of duty he can readily accept--oil magnet & loss of son's finger in oil field--proud of this.
- d) God's answer without end.
- e) Clock weights keep clock ticking.

## 2. Presence of God satisfies.

## D. Power of Christ Rests Upon Me.

- 1. Divine power available in time of human need.

*Altho God demands a whole heart, He will accept a broken one if He gets all the pieces.*

2. Best answer to prayer is consciousness of support of unseen hand.
3. "God does not withdraw his favor from his elect until they have accomplished the work he has assigned them." (Tyndale)
4. He rejoices not in his pain but that he is ever protected by God--overshadowed with this power.
5. Rests = pitch his tent on me.
6. Cover me like a tent.

Silver Point, TN - 2/6/94

Maryville, TN - 2/13/94

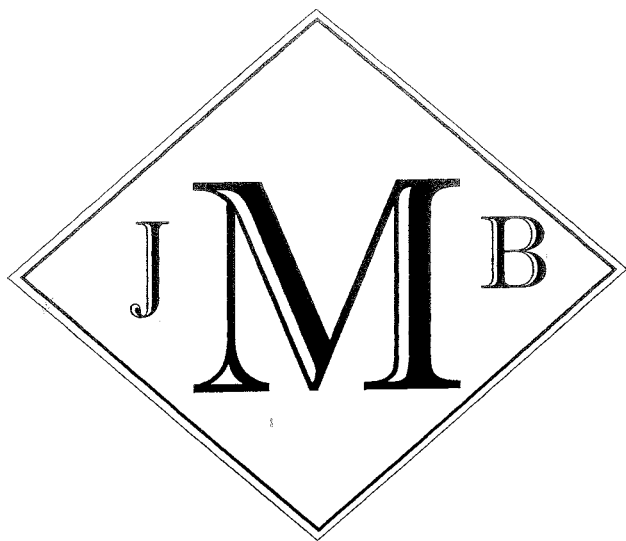
## Blvd Church - Boston Regie Study

1. Hearing 38% youth
2. One yr lost 43%
3. When both parents are faithful  
& active 93% kids are
4. When one parent is 74% are
5. When both parents attend but  
inactive in work 54% kids  
continue
6. Parents attend occasionally  
6% kids do.

Ludwig van Beethoven

In 1802, a year before the completion of his third symphony, Beethoven privately wrote of his terrible feelings about his growing deafness: "What a humiliation when one stood beside me and heard a flute in the distance, and I heard nothing or someone heard a shepherd singing, and again I heard nothing; such incidents brought me almost to despair, I almost reached the point of putting an end to my life -- only art it was that held me back, ah, it seemed impossible to leave the world until I had brought forth all that I felt called upon to produce, and so I endure this wretched existence..." Much has been made of the composer's dedication of the ensuing symphony to Napoleon, and of his withdrawal of the dedication after becoming disillusioned with the self-proclaimed emperor. But the real hero of the "heroic" symphony may be Beethoven himself, with a triumph of spirit that resulted in one of the greatest artistic breakthroughs in history.

The third symphony, twice as



# A PATTERN FOR LEADERSHIP

II Cor. 13:1-10

I. None of us are apostles but we can accept an apostolic example can we not?

A. I want us to see Paul and the Problem Corinthians.

1. They had sinned.

2. They remained in fellowship.

3. They made light of their corrector!

B. We'll see how Paul dealt with it, noting the methodology he employed.

II. Leadership Personified. *9 Qualities*

A. He does not let the matter "go away" or drift.

1. This is the 3rd time I am coming.

a) Most of us put off duties.

b) "Maybe it will correct itself."

2. He is fair in his warnings.

3. He is patient--but they must not remain impenitent.

4. Paul will act.

B. He does not go without facts.

Deut. 19:15 *mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses*

~~Deut. 18:16~~

Nu. 35:30 *One is not enuf*

Deut. 17:6 *mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses*

1. Mistake for anyone, even an apostle to decide matters without hearing the evidence. (DeHoff)

2. He calls for a plurality of witnesses.

3. He would not take matters into his hands alone but would make certain strict propriety was maintained. (Kent)

C. He is specific about the matter--we know what he is talking about.

II Cor. 13:2 "I write to them which heretofore have sinned." *What want me to say?*

D. His leadership had backbone. *Consistent*  
v-2 "to them" sinned & to all others

v-2 "I will not spare" *Not dealing a surface but*

1. His 3rd coming will do this. *by sinners*

2. We are not certain the kind of punishment he'd use in correction. *Public*

3. He'd give them a demonstration of his apostleship they might not want to see or enjoy. *Private*

4. Gentleness goes only so far--there comes a time sin must be dealt with the way sin deserves. (J.D. Thomas)

E. He is aware of their challenging Him--

V-3 "seek proof". *We jump on our corner & dodge*

1. Evil does not die easy. *What about yourself?*

2. We need to know the opposition but remember they are brethren.

3. Christ his example. *Soldiers fed to grd. Dilemma posed but by me*

a) Crucified in weakness. *12 lesson angels*

(1) Does not mean he was too weak to help himself--rather He deliberately humiliated himself to become a human being.

(2) Weakness of non-retaliation.

(3) Weakness of passive endurance.

(4) Weakness of humble service.

(5) Not physical or moral, rather non-aggressiveness.

KANT-CRATT-KA

His fd. in Jesus - Christ seen in him

Will show his leadership better for them than "super" post.  
Dog-Speak

b) Lives by Power--God raised <sup>3</sup>him  
from dead (Rom. 6:4).

F. Pleads for Fairness--Examine Yourself.

1. Need to be more concerned about  
proving themselves than Paul.
2. What a tragedy if we do not know  
we are Christians.
3. Examine self--not someone else.
4. Demanded proof Paul was an apostle--  
and he gave it--now do the same for  
yourself. *Present imperative "Keep examining"*
5. Guideline we use today is the  
Scripture. *Test 29 for metal purity*
6. But in all cases, we examine to  
improve.

7. Question: *2 Cor 10:18 whom Lord commands*

- a) Are you in the faith?  
b) Can I prove myself?  
c) Is Christ in me?  
d) Am I doing his will?  
e) Am I a reprobate?

*Feed the  
men by*

- (1) Means disapproved on trial.  
(2) Stillborn Christians. (Lauren)  
(3) Implies if they are genuine,  
Paul is too because he is  
their father in the gospel--  
thus don't forget forebearers.  
(4) Does not want them to be  
found wrong just to prove he  
is right, thus see Paul is in  
Christ.

*Luke 11:46 why call me Lord if do not things I see  
"Truth like a torch - more shone the brighter it burns  
Illusions become delusions"*

*v-7* → G. Had an Agenda for Their Spirituality.

1. Prayed for them--wanted them to improve.
2. Do no evil.
  - a) Abstain from all evil.
  - b) Conduct self in honorable manner befitting follower of Christ.
  - c) But don't do it just for me--rather for Jesus.
- 3. Do that which is honest.

H. Sacrifices Self for Them.

v-7 "Tho we be reprobates"

1. Aim was their spiritual development irrespective of what it might imply for Paul. *clips Ike & Boss*
2. Paul was submitting to anything if it advanced the truth. *BURNS*
3. It was truth not his reputation he most wanted--even in them. *opposite of approved*
4. Thoughts of personal eminence was far from his mind.
5. Know the winner--truth. *Maple's Page 11*
  - a) It will eventually win. *let-know who I am*
  - b) It will run its way.
6. Accept weakness for your being strong--your perfection.
  - a) Kent says only NT usage.
  - b) He says its completion.
  - c) Hughes says it denotes a correct articulation of limbs and joints, a resulting of the broken and dislocated. Thus restoration of harmony & effectual functions.

*No elder serves for money! (Total 50)* 5.

*James Byrnes*  
d) Paul does not expect to be shown reprobate but even at such a price would be worth paying it, if it guaranteed that the Cor. church would do good. Shades of Rom 9:3.

I. I will discipline for Edification's Sake.

1. I have power. *forbearance has a limit*

*V-10*  
2. I can be sharp.

a) If severe treatment is demanded and it is only way then for future growth I'll use it.

b) Evidence they did repent.

3. What blesses the obedient punishes the disobedient.

4. I want to build not destroy.

a) Sometimes have to tear down before you can build.

b) He finds no pleasure in wielding a club.

Main St., Manchester, TN - 4/4/93

Smyrna, TN (Leadership Workshop) - 5/7/93

Ohio Valley Lectureship, Parkersburg, WV - 4/6/94

1. Does not let a matter drift  
but patiently brings to a head
2. Does not go w/p facts - v-1
3. Specific about the issue - v-2
4. Leadership has Back bone - v-2
5. Awareness of challenge - v-3
6. Asks for self examination - v-5
7. Method for betterment - v-7
8. Sacrifices Self - v-7
9. Courage to discipline  
in edification, not to  
destruction. v-7

-SUZANNE BLACKMON (APO, San Francisco, Calif.)

FROM AN ARMY MANUAL: "Tent pegs, aluminum, 9-inch, NSN 8340-00-261-9749, must be painted orange. The bright color provides an easy means of locating the pegs under various light and climatic conditions during field use.

"When bright-orange pegs are used, they must be driven into the ground completely out of sight."

WHILE WORKING in the base dispen-

The boss drives his people; the leader coaches them.  
The boss inspires fear. The leader inspires enthusiasm.  
The boss says "I"; the leader, "we."  
The boss fixes the blame for the breakdown, the leader fixes the break-down.  
The boss says "go"; the leader says "let's go!"

PAGE 20

CHRISTIAN CLIPPINGS

**G**ENERAL EISENHOWER used to demonstrate the art of leadership with a simple piece of string. He'd put it on a table and say: *Pull* it and it'll follow wherever you wish. *Push* it and it will go nowhere at all. It's just that way when it comes to leading people.

Leadership isn't something that comes automatically just because you have people working for you. Leadership depends on followers. If people don't follow a manager's lead voluntarily—if they always have to be forced—that person is not a good leader.

What do you think the "job" of leadership really is? Is it to tell those who work for you exactly what you want done . . . and to stay on top of them until they do it? If that's how you see your job, you don't have the viewpoint it takes to lead successfully. Leadership depends on the ability to make people *want* to follow—voluntarily.

**James E. Byrnes**, Secretary of State from 1945 to 1947, on greatness:

I discovered at an early age that most of the differences between average people and great people can be explained in three words—"and then some."

The top people did what was expected of them, and then some. They were considerate and thoughtful of others, and then some. They met their obligations and responsibilities fairly and squarely, and then some. They were good friends to their friends, and then some. They could be counted on in an emergency, and then some.

—Bob Talbert in *Detroit Free Press*

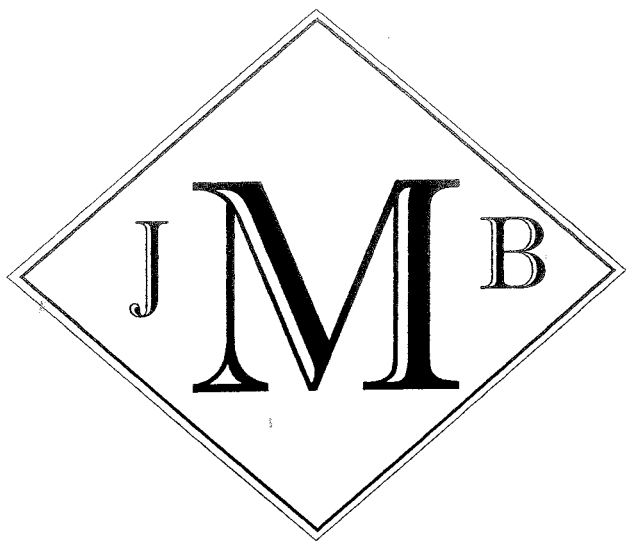
## Newfangled dangers

In 1597 a young sailor returned to his home port in Madrid, Spain. Juan Combe had been to the New World, and he was quite a celebrity. People flocked to hear stories of his ventures among the Indians. He was wine and dine, the toast of the town, until it rained one day. Juan walked through the streets of Madrid wearing a wonderful cape that kept him and his clothes dry.

The superstitious folks thought this cape must be magic. Juan explained that such "rubber coated" capes were widely used by the Indians in the New World. But his explanations did not satisfy the authorities who arrested him.

A judge examined the curious garment, questioned Juan at length, and then gave his verdict. Juan was declared guilty of wearing a cape through which water would not pass. Juan was obviously interfering with the Will of God, who sent the rain to drench "the just and the unjust." (Matt. 5:45). Such evil interference was witchcraft punishable by death.

Illustration Digest



## THE FINAL WISH

II Cor. 13:11-

I. When you come to the very last of anything it keenly touches you.

A. This was Paul's last letter to Corinth.

1. One perhaps lost.

2. He plans to come see them but the type reception he'll have is questionable.

B. He's closing his harshest letter unless it be Galatians & it was to several not one church.

1. He drew a bead on this church like no other.

2. He even questions the reaction the letter will bring.

3. Singlehandedly he's taken on the whole church, their super apostles and their insults about his authority.

4. Yet at end he's poised and calm.

5. He will show he is ever for edification not destruction.

6. He'd be happy if they were strong and he weak.

7. The sun sets in a sky the storm has purified--see now the holy stillness.  
(P.C.)

C. There comes a Finally.

1. He's said all that needs be said.

2. McGavey calls it a great close, saying there have been flashings of lightening now comes showers of blessings.

3. Clip on Bible society #1

## D. He speaks to Brethren

1. Earlier he used irony, harshness--now gentleness.
2. Brothers--who likes one lording himself over another--strive for equality.
3. It takes a big man to listen to advice of others. *Clip on A/C only #2*
4. He mentions no names here tho he does with other letters--conditions vary a situation.

## II. Now begins 5 Staccato Injunctions

## A. Farewell

1. Most all think it means rejoice--but could they in the licking he gave them.
2. Think of Rejoice a bit.
  - a) God wants us happy.
  - b) He wants us to respond to apostolic injunctions.
  - c) He wants things to go well with us.
  - d) Wants us to go on prosperously. (Clark)
  - e) Rejoice--an imperative.
  - f) Reoccurring theme--rejoice in ministry.

## B. Be Perfect.

1. This is continuous growth in grace that will lead to perfection. (Lauren)
2. He further says no verbal wand of holiness passes over them--nor any negative perfection.

*See de Vinci quote #2 1/2*

3. Mend the nets, mend the faults, go on in progress & perfection.
4. Make the definite decision to grow in the Lord.
5. One said this was the readjustment of your disordered elements.
6. Make up what is lacking.
7. Correct the evil he's pointed out--he believes they'll do it.
8. Be steadily perfected--keep encouraging each other. (Interpreters)
9. Compact--be in joint again.
10. Go onward--don't stand still.
11. Christian is ever on his way to God in perfection.
12. Aim for perfection--mend, repair, fix, cross the line from plans to performance. (Duduit)

C. Be of Good Comfort

1. Not from sorrow but encouragement in above attainment.
2. Lit. stimulate one another.
3. Heart--interest in another's progress.
4. Stimulate not stifle. (Lauren)
5. Receive admonition.
6. Take advice. *Reprovers & Prayed Back #5*
7. Don't lose heart over past matters--it will work out.

D. Be of One Mind

1. Unison of unbroken communion.
2. Corinth divided over personal preferences.
3. Real unity--not artificial uniformity. (Hughes)

*Heart  
Collector  
#3*

*British  
Story #4*

4. Our warfare is with the enemies of darkness, not fellow believers.
5. Think the same thing.
6. One mind will suppress all selfishness and partisanship.
7. Cultivate unity.
8. Divisions do not belong to Jesus.
9. Harmony not easy to have--chorus at church.
10. Closer we live to each other the harder.
11. A united church has a vital message to a divided world. (Interpreters)
12. Lit. "be minding the same thing."
13. Harmony's achievement is a continual process.

#### E. Live In Peace

1. Let outward life show the unity.
2. Tolerate or love brethren--which?
3. Christian life not passive but active.

### III. The Promise--The God of Love & Peace be with you.

#### A. Be blest of God

1. True blessings have more than earthly friendship--we need God.
2. Be conscious of divine relationship.
3. Everything of value is in the Lord.

#### B. God of Love

1. Used only here.

#### C. God of Peace

Rom. 15:33

Phil. 4:9

I Thess. 5:23

Teen  
ager  
Civilization  
#6

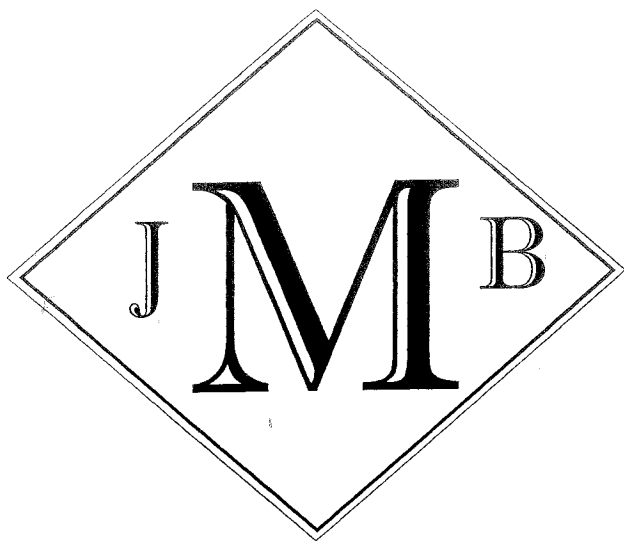
Day  
Pursue  
#7

1. Peace--continuous & uninterrupted.

2. Be at war only with Satan & Sin.

Charlotte Ave. - 10/4/89

Quince Rd., Memphis, Tn - 10/18/89



# GLORIFYING GOD THRU CALL TO COMMITMENT

II Cor. 13:11

I. In our world of brilliance there is still a premium placed on those on whom you can always count.

A. Faithfulness is superior.

1. Who wants an erratic?

2. Who wants a great daddy when he's home?

3. Who wants a generous Chr. when he's there.

B. Give me someone you can count on - this is commitment. I want somebody c skin on.

II. Commitment is not an intangible - it's easy to spot

A. I want to give you a four plank platform of Commitment, first an introductory phrase.

II Cor. 13:11 "Finally, brethren, farewell.

1. Farewell = rejoice.

2. Is our last word to someone "rejoice"?

3. Same word as Phil. 4:4.

Phil. 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always

4. He means "may things go well" - he's not saying goodbye. Should be optimistic.

B. Now we see 4 planks in commitment's platform-- w/o possessing such, I do not magnify God.

1. "Be perfect" //

(a) Same word as to mend your nets.

Mk. 1:19 "And when he'd gone a little

(b) Free self from all that destroys spiritual life.

(c) RSV has "mend your ways" - make good your deficiencies. Not entwined. //

(d) Laurin: Let the reformation continue.

(e) See the appeal for continuous growth.

(f) Are we interested in each other's growth?

(1) "Soul erosion is as real as soil erosion."

(g) Do I stimulate or stifle?

(h) Am I a force for progress or retardation?

(i) Am I being steadily perfected?

(j) Do I fill up what is lacking?

Eph. 4:18 "Having the understanding darkened, being <sup>21</sup>

(k) Our goal - on to perfection, no standing still, "Christian is one who is ever on his way to God" (Barclay) and he knows God will inspect him.

(l) Restore yourself to completeness. <sup>2)</sup> *Mentle*

2. Plank Two "Be of Good Comfort".

(a) Literally this means "be counselled." *quote snobell*

(b) Its tense means keep on being.

(Card "When Things Go Wrong")

(c) Listen to advice given - it takes a big man to accept hard advice. *Doing nothing is the*

(1) Banowsky article. *most tiresome job in the*

(2) ~~Current statistics.~~ *world - because it is*

(3) Tertullian Card. *im possible to quit & take a rest or know when*

(c) God is God of all comfort. *you go thru.*

II Cor. 1:3 "Blessed be God, even the Father

II Cor. 7:13 "We were comforted in your comfort; yea

I Thess. 4:18 "Wherefore comfort one an.

3. Plank Three "Be of One Mind"

(a) Bible says much about this unity. *from God*

Rom. 15:6 "That ye may with one mind & one mouth

Phil. 2:2 "Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be *like minded*

Phil. 3:16 "Let us walk by the same rule *Some feel 1 receive 1 mind*

*let us mind the same thing*

MICKEY MANTLE, on his baseball career: "During my 18 years I came to bat almost 10,000 times. I struck out about 1,700 times and walked maybe 1,800 times. You figure a ball-player will average about 500 bats a season. That means I played seven years in the major league without even hitting a

Quote a ball.

When was the last time you spent an hour alone with God? If a friend asked you to join him in an hour of prayer or Bible reading what would be your first reaction? Do you mean it when you sing "Sweet Hour of Prayer"?

The results of a questionnaire given to 75 evangelical Christians indicated that these believers spent about 13 minutes a day in prayer. This hardly indicates a consuming love for our privilege of seeking His face in communion.

"Enjoy the Christian Life" - By Don Mainprize - Page 79

*Prayer*

#17

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you are trudging seems all up hill;  
When the funds are low the debts are high  
And you want to smile but you have to sigh;  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.  
Success is failure, turned inside out;  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.  
And you can never tell how close you are  
It may be near when it seems afar;  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit--  
It's when things seem worst that you musn't quit.

Unknown

Quoted in Pulpit Workshop  
Vol. VI, #15, 9/7/69

**TERTULLIAN:** We are a body with a common feeling of religion, a unity of discipline, and a covenant of hope. We meet together in an assembly and congregation so that praying to God we may win him over by the strength of our prayers. This kind of force is pleasing to God. We pray also for emperors, for their servants and those in authority, for the order of the world, for peaceful circumstances, for the delay of the end. We meet together in order to read the sacred texts, if the nature of times compels us to warn about or recognize anything present. In any case, with the holy words we feed our faith, we arouse our hope, we confirm our confidence. We strengthen the instruction of the precepts no less by inculcations; in the same place there are also exhortations, rebukes, and divine censures. For judgment is administered with great authority, as among those in the presence of God, and it is the supreme anticipation of the judgment to

come if any has so sinned that he is banished from participation in our prayer, our gatherings, and all holy fellowship. (Church discipline, when called for, was administered in the context of the congregational assembly. See Chapter XV.) Elders who are proved men preside over us, having attained that honor not by purchase but by attestation. For not anything of God's is determined by purchase. Although we have a kind of money-chest, it is not gathered from the fees of our leaders as if religion were a matter of purchase. Every individual puts in a small contribution on the monthly day, or when he wishes and only if he wishes and is able. For no one is compelled, but he contributes voluntarily. These contributions are trust funds of piety. ("Apology" xxxix: 1-5 (Tertullian, as Justin, proceeds with a description of the benevolent use to which church funds were put (XVII.16).

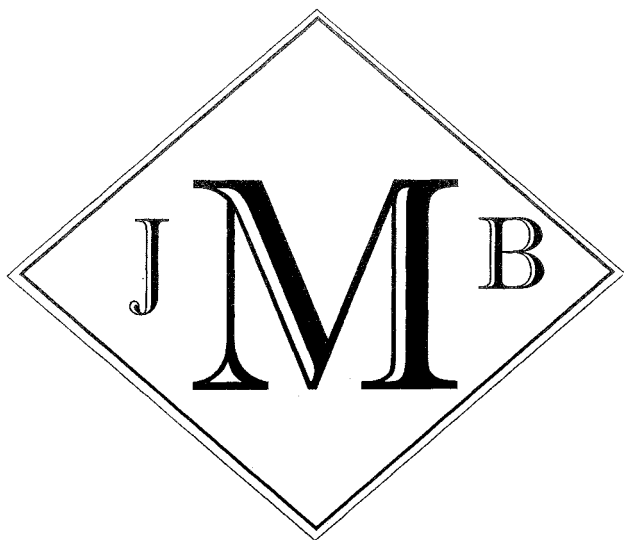
"Early Christians Speak" - By Everett Ferguson - Page 82

Understatement, as well as overstatement, may yield humor.

"To hide the shameful fact that his father had been hanged for cattle stealing, a lawyer rewrote his own family history thus: 'Father died while taking part in a public ceremony when the platform gave way.'"

"Discovering her uncle had died in the electric chair, a New England aristocrat told her fine friends, 'Great Uncle Ezekiel occupied the chair of applied electricity in one of the great institutions of this country. He died in harness.'"

"Serve Him With Joy" - By Leslie B. Flynn - Page 40



# JUST HOW WOULD YOU SAY IT?

II Cor. 13:11

I. Paul has made 2 visits to Corinth, now anticipates a 3rd. With this letter he has most voluminous correspondence with a church (maybe one letter lost).

II. He's now closing--what will he say--and what would be your wish for the church--good attendance, new preacher, meet budget, grow?

III. Let's see his:

2 Cor. 13:11

A. Finally

1. All that remains to be said.
2. He will be true to earlier desire--build up, construct, not destroy.

B. Brethren *Branz leaves bunch gets skinned*

1. Who wants a lord over us--we are brethren--strive for equality.
2. Tolerate--or Love, which is it for me for the church?

C. Farewell

1. Really "Rejoice".
2. Not goodbye but rejoices that things go well.
3. Go on prosperously.

D. Be Perfect

1. Perfect union. *House untidy-evidence of a struggle*
2. Readjust your disordered elements. (P.C.)

3. Same as mending nets.
4. For edification not destruction.
5. Make up what is lacking.
6. Correct the evils pointed out.
7. Keep encouraging each other.

8. Be in joint again.
  9. Press on to perfection--many deficiencies to be made good.
  10. Aspire to highest degree of holiness. *Never lose temper - misty*
  11. God "sets" us as a skillful surgeon.
  12. Properly jointed, articulate.
- E. Good comfort
1. Be counselled. *let word run - bring*
  2. Listen to me. *they*
  3. Receive admonition. *in*
  4. Take advice.
  5. Takes a big man to listen to advice of others.
- F. Be of One Mind
1. Think the same thing.
  2. Suppress all selfishness & partianship.
  3. Cultivate unity.
  4. Harmony not easy to have.
  5. A united church has a vital message for a divided world. (Interpreters)
- G. Live In Peace
1. Divisions do not belong in Jesus.
  2. Peace a condition of prosperity.
  3. Continuous & uninterrupted.
  4. Be at war with only Satan & Sin.
- H. God of Love & Peace Be Yours.
1. Have God's blessings above all else.
  2. Above earthly friendship we need God.
  3. Be conscious of divine relationship.

Exo. 33:15

OH Valley Lectures (Elders Dinner) 4/7/94

Central, Tuscaloosa, AL (Noon) - 4/13/94

IN 1963, Adlai E. Stevenson spoke to the students at Princeton University. "I understand I am here to speak and you are here to listen," he said. "Let's hope we both finish at the same time."

—Contributed by Pat Herrington

### **Hop-a-long**

What happens when you park  
frog illegally?

It gets toad away.

Paris, Texas

Mary

### **Getting Along**

It's best to cooperate with  
others. Every time a banana  
leaves the bunch it gets skinned.

Marshall, Ill.

Florence

### ***Jeering Section***

**I** WAS SITTING in front of the TV one day, watching a football game, when my wife joined me. As the time clock showed 1 minute, 42 seconds left in the game, she began cheering enthusiastically: "Come on—get going!" Since she had never been an avid football fan, I looked at her in surprise and asked which team she was rooting for. "Neither," she replied. "I'm cheering the time clock on."

—Contributed by S. F.

Some even argue that modern American religion has taken on the aura of pop psychology. Many congregations have multiplied their membership by going light on theology and offering worshipers a steady diet of sermons and support groups that emphasize personal fulfillment. The hottest-selling religious books offer advice on how to become better parents, spouses, employees, bosses, lovers and friends, how to overcome substance abuse and lose weight. "People are looking for help and companionship in life's troubled journey," says Campbell of the National Council of Churches. Too often in the past, she says, "they weren't finding it in the churches."

Yet Campbell and others worry that

| How do you feel about the following statements?       | Agree | Disagree | Our government would be better if policies were more directed by moral values | Agree | Disagree |
|---|-------|----------|---|-------|----------|
| We have to keep church and state completely separate  | 53%   | 42%      | Individual freedom is critical to democracy in this country                   | 84%   | 9%       |
| There is no one set of values that is right           | 48%   | 44%      | God is the moral guiding force of American democracy                          | 91%   | 4%       |
| Each individual must determine what is right or wrong | 70%   | 25%      |   |       |          |
| The president should be a moral and spiritual leader  | 78%   | 17%      |   | 55%   | 35%      |

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, APRIL 4, 1994

U.S. News poll of 1,000 registered voters with an oversample of 45 At Lake of Mellman-Lazarus-Lake and Ed Goetas of the Tarrance Group M minus 3.1 percent. Percentages may not add up to 100 because some

