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## God's Serendipity

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GOD'S SERENDIPITY

630.

WYATT SAWYER

- I. UNIV. OF HOUSTON STUDY: PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSONALITY by Ross Stagner.
- II. STUDY: Basic needs for balanced and happy life.
- III. Serendipity: Realized God knew all this 2,000 years ago and Paul wrote ALL about it. Psychologists worked it out about 150 years ago. Johnny-come-latelys!!!
- IV. MAN'S BASIC NEEDS AND HOW GOD FILLS THEM IN CHRISTIAN WORSHIP AND SERVICE!!!
  - A. "MAN IS A GREGARIOUS ANIMAL AND MUST HAVE INTERACTION WITH FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS."
    - 1. God's provision. Hebrews 10:23-29 and 30-31. A serious matter?
  - B. "MAN HAS A STRONG URGE TO CONFORM - NEED TO BE LIKE OTHERS."
    - 1. God's provisions. I Cor. 11:1. Eph. 5:15-21. Col. 3:16-17. Total togetherness and full-conformity in congregational singing. Doing the SAME!
  - C. "MAN HAS TO HAVE SOME FORM OF EMOTIONAL RELEASE OR CATHARSIS FOR GOOD MENTAL HEALTH."
    - 1. God's provision: I Cor. 10:13. Philippians 4:4-7. PRAYER is our escape-valve and load-lifter.
  - D. "HUMAN BEINGS ARE NATURAL HERO WORSHIPPERS - MUST HAVE A HERO TO IDOLIZE!"
    - 1. God's provision: Phil. 2:5. Col. 3:17. I Cor. 11:23-26. Christians worship their Hero every Lord's Day in the Communion Service.
  - E. "PEOPLE MUST HAVE AN INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGE TO BE SATISFIED WITH LIFE."
    - 1. God's provision. II Tim. 2:15. II Tim. 3:16-17. II Pet. 3:18. Man can never learn it all. Always reaching for greater heights.
  - F. "MAN'S ALTRUISTIC NATURE MUST FIND EXPRESSION IF HE IS TO ATTAIN THE FULL LIFE."
    - 1. God's provision: Mark 16:15-16. Salvation, joy, relief, comfort and hope for all mankind - every creature. James 1:27. Relief for all widows and orphans. Gal. 6:10. Love and good-will toward all men in every way!

Inv. Jesus stands at the door of your heart! daily!  
 He's asking to be the Lord of your life!  
 Is He? Really!! If not, come now  
 and make Him your Lord & Master!

LWV 12/12/99 P.M.  
 Woodland Oaks TEX. 8/29/99 P.M. % James & Kathleen Thompson.

Defined: "the faculty for making desirable discoveries by accident." or GOD'S SERENDIPITY a surprise-benefit or blessing.

INT.: Ill. Several years ago: stopped at an Okla. rest-stop on I-40 between Checota and Muldrow. Found a \$20 bill in parking area. A SERENDIPITY: "the faculty of making desirable discoveries by accident." That's me! I'm always looking for \$20 bills. QUESTION: Do YOU think I stop at that place every time I pass it NOW. Always hopeful.

LESSON: A Serendipity from God, <sup>I found</sup> in the University classroom. Added to my appreciation of God's LOVE, WISDOM & GRACE, plus my appreciation of Christian Worship on Lords Days.

I. FIRST, a foundation for my beautiful story:

- \* II Pet. 1:1-4. Exceeding Great and Precious PROMISES!!!
- \* Matt. 6:33. What promised? Food, clothing & shelter? Anything else? Like what? Ans: Peace of Mind. Steady nerves. Balanced Emotions. Hope. Security. How about Physical good-health? Psycho-somatic benefits??? Mind-body. Spirit-body !!!
- PREMISE: Those who worship God regularly and faithfully on Lord's days are healthier in every way than those who don't !!! Skeptic: "I'll need proof of that one!"

LESSON:

II. PROOF THAT REGULAR CHRISTIAN WORSHIP fulfills ALL spiritual, mental, emotional and many physical needs of the Christian.

A. BASIS: Course on Psychology of Personality at U. of Houston. Text: By Ross Stagner.

B. STUDY: Basic NEEDS for happy and balanced human living. SIX NEEDS EXAMINED.

1. NEED #1: "MAN IS A GREGARIOUS ANIMAL AND MUST HAVE INTERACTION WITH FELLOW HUMANS." *God knew that!*

Prompts expressions like: "Inner Circle. The IN Group. Belonging. We-ness. The study of the "Herd Instinct".

QUESTION: Does Christ, in the Gospel, fulfill OUR need to satisfy the Herd-Instinct?

ANSWER: He does!!! HOW? How do you think He does it?

THE WAY: He calls His disciples TOGETHER regularly on His special Day: Sunday !!! (Elders have wisely and profitably call the Church together at other times for spiritual growth - Like MWS, BS, Sun. Eve. Meetings. Specials!)

WHERE DOES THE BIBLE SAY THAT? \* HEB. 10:24-29....30-31.

This is MORE than a mere suggestion!!! It is life-giving NOW & FOREVER. Stated as strongly as it is possible to state it. Only for our GOOD.

2. NEED #2: "MAN HAS A STRONG URGE TO CONFORM - to BE like others, (not odd, queer, /etc.) to HAVE what others have, and to DO what other people do. *God knew that!*

ODDITY: People during the 1929-41 Depression said, " I did not worry too much about what we DIDN'T have during that time - because others didn't have them either." Point: We can stand poverty or prosperity better if others are in the same boat with US!

QUESTION: Does Christ, in the Gospel, fulfill our need for CONFORMITY?

ANSWER: He does!! HOW? How do you think He does it?

THE WAY: He directs His disciples to do something TOGETHER! in Worship.

WHERE DOES THE BIBLE SAY THAT? \* I Cor. 11:1. (Eph. 5:18-21) Col. 3:16-17.

**HEALTH TIP:** Health-program on car radio: "Opra singers live 20 years longer than AVERAGE humans. Reason: Excellent lungs, abundance of oxygen, rich blood, strong muscles, clean organs. BUILT INTO GOD'S WORSHIP !!!

3. **NEED # 3:** "MAN MUST HAVE SOME FORM OF EMOTIONAL RELEASE: CATHARSIS !!! for good mental health !!!?"

**QUESTION:** Does Jesus, in His gospel, have a stress-relief-valve? Emotional-peace?

**ANSWER:** He does !!! **HOW?** How do YOU think He does it?

**THE WAY:** He lets mankind play the Game of Life on a Level playing Field.

**WHERE DOES THE BIBLE SAY THAT?** \* I Cor. 10:13. Where escape? \* Phil. 4:4-7.

4. **NEED # 4:** "HUMAN BEINGS ARE NATURAL HERO WORSHIPPERS, SO MUST HAVE A HERO TO FOLLOW.<sup>5</sup>  
(Current: Nolan Ryan. Garth Brooks. People go "nuts" in such pagan idolatry.)<sup>Quest:</sup>  
(Shame: Dallas Cowboys now CHARGING for their autographs - greedy heroes. Elvis...)  
Buddy Holly-Janis Joplin.

**QUESTION:** Does God have a response to this human need to worship a Hero? *Beatles - Worship boys!*

**ANSWER:** He does! **HOW?** How do YOU think He does it?

**THE WAY:** He provides a man, stronger than Arnold Swartzenager, wiser than Einstein and a more beautiful a person than John Wayne.

**WHERE DOES THE BIBLE SAY THAT?** \* Phil. 2:5. Col. 3:17. Follow your real Hero !!!  
\* A beautiful reminder: I Cor. 11:23-26.  
This Hero-worship O. K. !!!

5. **NEED # 5:** "PEOPLE ARE NEVER SATISFIED WITH THEIR EDUCATIONAL LEVEL.  
**FACTS:** 94% of Americans polled CRAVED MORE INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGE !! Gallup.  
Even Ph Ds, post-Ph Ds, LLDs etc. etc.

**QUESTION:** Does Jesus and the Gospel satisfy this Craving???

**ANSWER:** He does. **HOW?** How do YOU think He does it?

**THE WAY:** The Bible is Christ's intellectual-carrot dangling in front of super-smart human-rabbits.

**WHERE DOES THE BIBLE SAY THAT?** \* II Tim. 2:15. 3:16-17. II Pet. 3:18.

**Ill.** Agree with preacher at Charleston, Miss. 70 yrs. old. "Have studied the Bible 50 yrs. now and just now beginning to really understand its treasures." Worship services a contuing exercise of the Intellect !!!

6. **NEED # 6:** "MAN'S ALTRUISTIC NATURE MUST BE EXERCIZED IF HE IS TO ATTAIN THE FULL LIFE."

**Defined:** Regard for and devotion to others. Opposite of selfishness !!!

**Involves:** Caring. Sharing. Generosity. Pity. Compassion. Love.

**QUESTION:** Does Jesus, and the Gospel, provide for this Human Satisfaction?

**ANSWER:** He does. **HOW?** Think now.....HOW does Jesus do this?

**THE WAY:** If the Gospel of Christ were heeded universally, NOT ONE person on earth would suffer hunger, thirst, nakedness nor privation.

**WHERE DOES THE BIBLE SAY THAT?** 3 passages: \* Mk. 16:15-16. All! Every!  
\* James 1:27. All & Every. \* Gal 6:10. "All" again !!

**THE PLAN:** One Father. One Big Brother. One Spr. Family. One Spirit. One life-style: Enough for all !!! RUSSIA HAS JUST CAUGHT ON. CHINA NEXT !!!

**CLOSE & INVITATION:** These truths there 2,000 yrs. We synthesized them about 100 yrs. ago.

**THE GOSPEL IS THE TRACK FOR THE ABUNDANT LIFE:** All invited to jump on !!!