



II Cor. 3:17 – "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."

LIBERTY

A Ministry of Grace Baptist Church, Pittsfield, Illinois - 217-285-5230

Dr. Gary L. Dice, Pastor

Dr. Leonard Dice, Editor

January 28, 2017

Vol. XV, No. 4

EASIER TO BE GOOD AROUND HER

In a cemetery, a little white stone marked the grave of a dear little girl, and on the stone were chiselled these words—

*A CHILD OF WHOM HER
PLAYMATES SAID, "IT
WAS EASIER TO BE GOOD
WHEN SHE WAS WITH US."*

—one of the most beautiful epitaphs ever heard of.



Where to Find Gratitude

A businessman said, "People are ingrates. It took me 61 years to find it out. I have 175 employees, men and women. At Thanksgiving, I sent them 175 choice turkeys. Only four thanked me. Two thanked me by notes, and two said 'Thank you' when they chanced to meet me in the hall. Because of their thanklessness, I've decided never to go out of my way to be nice again."

Someone has said, "If you want to find gratitude, look for it in the dictionary. The reward of giving comes from the good feeling it gives the giver. Don't expect any other returns."
—W. B. Knight

She Did What She Couldn't

John Henry Jowett once told of a little graveyard beside a church in a small village where the memory of a devoted soul, who had spent herself freely and untiringly in the service of that small community, is enshrined in this brief and touching epitaph:

**SHE HAS DONE WHAT
SHE COULDN'T.**

Days Gone By

On Jan. 31, 1892, C.H. Spurgeon died. He was known as the "Prince of Preachers."

Live every day as if it were your last. Do every job as if you were the boss. Drive as if all other vehicles were police cars. Treat everybody else as if he were you.
—Phoenix Flame.

"I didn't come to see you to be told I'm burning the candle at both ends," said the lady patient to her doctor; "I came for more wax."



PASTOR AND MRS. DICE AND FAMILY



Pastor Dice's family met over the holidays recently and posed for this picture. He is pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Pittsfield, Illinois. Pictured left to right, front row: Kaden, Kinley, Mrs. Pam Dice, Pastor Dice and Adlin. Back Row: Micah, Joshua, Tara, Amy, Ryan and Jeremiah. Pastor Dice continues with medical complications from open-heart surgery and has been in Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota three times. He is now much improved since his last visit.

SOON

-Ada Habershon

Soon will our Saviour from Heaven appear,
Sweet is its hope and its power to cheer;
All will be changed by a glimpse of His face,
This is my sure hope at the end of the race.

IS IT BIBLICAL?

Many expressions attributed to Scripture are not found there, while others taken directly or indirectly from the Bible are not recognized as such by the average person. Take this "true or false" quiz and test your knowledge regarding these phrases and famous sayings — the results may surprise you.

1. "Cleanliness is next to godliness."
2. "Grapes of Wrath."
3. "He took his life in his hands."
4. "My hair stood on end."
5. "A little bird told me."
6. "The end justifies the means."
7. "A little child shall lead them."
8. "All men are created equal."
9. "I escaped by the skin of my teeth."
10. "Can a leopard change his spots?"

ANSWERS:

1. False. 2. True. (A condensation of the words found in Revelation 14:18, 19.) 3. True. (Compare Job 13:14.) 4. True. (See Job 4:13.) 5. True. (See Ecclesiastes 10:20.) 6. False. 7. True. (See Isaiah 11:6.) 8. False. 9. True. (See Job 19:20.) 10. True. (See Jeremiah 13:23.)



THE DANGER OF RICHES

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare.

1 Timothy 6:9

MONEY is a good servant but a poor master. If the desire for riches becomes an obsession and an end in itself, men soon lose all spiritual perspective and fall into many "foolish and hurtful lusts."

The emperor Nero reveled in earthly possessions and set his heart upon them. From his splendid throne as the ruler of the Roman Empire, he commanded that gorgeous porches a mile long be built around his palace. The ceiling of his banquet hall was equipped at great expense with hidden showers that lightly sprayed perfume upon all who came to visit him. His crown was worth a half million dollars, and his mules were shod with silver. Whenever he traveled, a thousand chariots accompanied him, and he refused to wear the same garment twice no matter how costly and beautiful it was. Taxing the people unmercifully, he was able to pay extravagant sums of money to anyone who could devise new methods of entertaining him. Yet with all his riches and splendor he was a peevish, gloomy, dissatisfied man. The immense wealth he had amassed could not satisfy his soul. Not being rich toward God, he died a suicide.

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE!

One of the things I've noticed that causes concern among some believers in Christ is that of not knowing for sure they are really saved. They don't doubt that you can be saved, or doubt that you can know for sure that you are saved, but they struggle with whether or not they have personally exercised sufficient faith to be saved. By not having the assurance of salvation it often prevents them from living a successful, happy Christian life. Fear and doubt torments them and destroys their effectiveness for the Lord.

On the other hand, assurance of salvation brings great peace and joy to those believers who know for sure they are going to Heaven when they leave this world.

The problem for people who lack assurance is that they look to themselves and not to Jesus and His Word. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith, and not us. The basis of assurance is in His faithfulness, not ours. If you put your confidence in how you feel, what you understand, or what you accomplish or don't accomplish, you will never have assurance. How you feel, fail or succeed has nothing to do with salvation or assurance of salvation.

The Calvinists, who believe you are either predestinated to Heaven or Hell, have no assurance of salvation. They don't know until they die whether they went to Heaven or Hell.

The Armenians, who believe you can be saved and lost, saved and lost, etc., don't know either...until they face their final test to see if they made it or not. Both of these beliefs produce the curse of insecurity.

But, those of us who have put our trust and faith in the shed blood of Christ, have assurance of salvation because He alone can save and keep us saved. Our salvation is not found in our faithfulness, but His faithfulness. Your faithfulness and good works, big or little, do not take you to Heaven. Your security and assurance is found in Jesus Christ alone. We work for Christ because we are saved, not to be saved. Read Ephesians 2:8-9, I John 5:13 and John chapter 10.