



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

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ONE BY ONE

One by one our friends are leaving;
One by one are passing o'er.
But while we for them are grieving,
They are safe on Heaven's shore.

One by one our friends are falling;
One by one are called to die.
But we know 'tis God that's calling
Them to rest above the sky.

One by one the years are going;
One by one the seasons fly.
Springtime with its seed and sowing
Passeth, oh, how quickly by!

One by one the summer hours;
One by one the autumn days,
Passing quickly with the flowers,
Tell us time for no one stays.

One by one our days are numbered;
Each day brings us nearer Home.
Those who in their graves have slumbered
Shall be gathered 'round God's throne.

One by one from earth departing;
Death's dark river crossing o'er.
To the Home where no more parting
Shall be known forevermore.

—Composed by George Shaffer
January 12, 1863

**TRUE FRIENDS ARE THOSE
WHO, WHEN YOU'VE MADE A
FOOL OF YOURSELF, DON'T
THINK YOU'VE DONE A PER-
MANENT JOB.**

SELF GIVING

Do I hesitate when giving
Of myself, to those about?
When asked to teach on Sunday
Do I prefer to be left out?
When a sick friend needs a visit
When a sad friend needs a smile
Do I think first of what I need
And put off the visit for a while?
When one more voice is needed
In the Sunday morning choir,
Do I volunteer to be that voice
Or consider it a trial?
Am I following HIS example?
Am I giving of myself?
As on Calvary, for our sakes
Christ gave so much of self?

Days Gone By

On March 21, 1891, the
Hatfield/McCoy feud was
ended by a marriage be-
tween family members.

On March 21, 1963, Alca-
traz prison was closed.

Janie, a first grader from a big farm family, was excitedly telling her teacher all about her brand new baby brother. "Now," she added, "I've got seven brothers and three sisters."

"That's lovely, Janie," said the teacher, "but a big family like that must be very expensive."

"Oh, no," objected little Janie quickly. "You see, we don't buy them, we raise them ourselves."

I Reared a Criminal

In the August 1960 issue of the Ladies' Home Journal is an article entitled, "I Reared a Criminal." It is the true story of a heartbroken mother.

We quote:

"We loved him, but—his father was too busy to be with him when he was young.

"I couldn't bring myself to punish him for misbehavior.

"We sided against his teachers when they complained about his work (and conduct) in school.

"As he grew up he would hardly discuss the time of day with us.

"He was expelled from school.

"We gave him money so he wouldn't steal again.

"I wept when the police called and I had to turn my boy over to them. . . . As I watched them search him my life seemed to end." —*Allegheny Conference Messenger*

"FAITH."

I will not doubt, though all my ships at sea

Come drifting home with broken masts and sails;

I shall believe the Hand which never fails,

From seeming evil worketh good to me;

And, though I weep because those sails are battered,

Still will I cry, while my best hopes lie shattered,

"I trust in Thee."

I will not doubt, though all my prayers return

Unanswered from the still, white realm above;

I shall believe it is an all-wise Love Which has refused those things for

which I yearn;

And though, at times, I can not keep from grieving,

Yet the pure ardor of my fixed believing

Undimmed shall burn.

I will not doubt, though sorrows fall like rain,

And troubles swarm like bees about a hive;

I shall believe the heights for which I strive

Are only reached

by anguish and by pain;

And, though I groan and tremble with my crosses,

I yet shall see, through my severest losses,

The greater gain.

I will not doubt; well anchored in the faith,

Like some staunch ship, my soul braves every gale,

So strong its courage that it will not fail

To breast the mighty, unknown sea of death.

Oh, may I cry when body parts with spirit,

"I do not doubt," so listening worlds may hear it.

With my last breath

A Better Day

Your day will go much better if you start it out in prayer,

Just trusting and believing in a God of love and care.

Just laying all your burdens at the cross of Calvary

Your day will go much better try it once and then you'll see.

Your day will go much better if when rising from your sleep

You ask the Lord to shepherd you as flockmen shepherd sheep.

You'll find a solace perfect in His staff and in His rod,

Your day will go much better if you start it out with God.

Your day will go much better, if you'll say, "Hey, I love you,"

And lift a heavy burden from someone that's overdue.

Your pastures will be greener and your waters much more still

Your day will go much better when you yield it to His will.

Sally Purser Patton

HOBBIES, SPORTS, VACATIONS

Let me repeat what I have said over and over again, that I do not consider a hobby, or a sport, or golfing, hunting, fishing, or ladies shopping, a sin. Quite a list of things could be listed that Christians can do, without a twinge of conscience, so long as it is kept in its proper perspective. A hobby, a vacation trip, a day off from the heavy work schedule, a sport or recreation, a "change of pace," can all be good, SO LONG AS YOUR HOBBY OR PASS-TIME DOES NOT BECOME YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE, AND TAKE YOU OUT OF CHURCH AND CAUSE YOU TO "TURN BACK" IN YOUR WALK WITH CHRIST! Then, no matter how innocent the thing you are doing, that "thing" becomes your idol! Whatever becomes so important to you that you no longer have time to go to Church, worship God, read your Bible, and witness, YOU HAVE BUILT YOUR "HIGH PLACE" AND WORSHIPPED YOUR IDOL! And, God can become provoked and angry, and bring his hand of chastisement down upon you.

THE BAPTIST REPORTER
Pastor Bruce D. Cummons, D.D., Editor

THE PROVERBS.

A wise son maketh a glad father but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother. Proverbs 10:1

A LITTLE EXERCISE

Two women who were maneuvering their car into a tight parking space gave up after a valiant struggle when the driver shut off the motor and said to her companion: "This is close enough. We can walk to the curb from here."

Don't Drift

Live for something, have a purpose,
And that purpose keep in view;
Drifting like a helpless vessel,
Thou can't ne'er to life be true.

Half the wrecks that strew life's pathway.

If someone had been their guide,
Might have long been riding safely,
But they drifted with the tide.

...Whatever you do...
...do not drift with the tide...



WORDS OF WISDOM

There is nothing that will make a woman's day more than telling her that she is beautiful.

It really raises your face value when you smile.

You will never add to your size by "belittling" others.

Advice after misfortune is like medicine after death.

The clock that strikes the loudest doesn't always keep the best time.

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



THE KIND OF PREACHER EVERY CHURCH NEEDS

How can you know if your preacher is of God? Check out some of these following facts about God's true preachers:

1. He makes much of Jesus Christ. He attempts to draw men to Christ and not to himself. Christ has the help that people need.
2. He makes it very plain that people in their sin are lost and in need of salvation.
3. He preaches the Cross of Jesus. Paul said, "God forbid that I should glory save in the Cross of Christ."
4. He magnifies the Blood of Christ. The Bible tells us that the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin.
5. He preaches on the great doctrines of the Bible: Heaven, Hell, Judgment, Virgin Birth of Christ, Blood Atonement, Resurrection, Sinless Saviour, Eternal Salvation, Second Coming, etc.
6. He preaches the Word of God with love and a sincere desire to see people saved and Christians helped.
7. He preaches the truth without fear, favor or apology. Sin is sin and he is against it.

These are just some of the things that identify a real preacher of the Gospel. Real Christians love to hear the Word of God preached because of its effect on their own hearts and lives.

Love is the one treasure that multiplies by division. It is the one gift that grows bigger the more you take from it. It is the one business in which it pays to be an absolute spendthrift. You can give it away, throw it away, empty your pockets, shake the basket, turn the glass upside down; and tomorrow you will have more than ever.

