



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

LIBERTY

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In Days Gone By

On Nov. 13, 1879, Herb Buffum died. He wrote 10,000 Christian songs including "When I Take My Vacation in Heaven," "He Abides," "I'm Going Higher Some Day" and "My Sheep Know my Voice."

A recent visitor to our country from India, after many weeks of travel through our great nation, was asked by a newspaper reporter to give his number one impression of America. His unhesitating reply was this: "The size of the American garbage cans."

WILL YOUR CHILDREN GO TO HEAVEN?

Elders all over the nation are concerned about the dropout rate of our young people. And well they ought to be. It is a tragic thing to see these precious boys and girls, who are so thrilled with Bible study as little people, grow cold and uninterested in the Lord's work as they grow older.

Lately, several congregations have made in-depth studies of all the factors available concerning all their young people, with an eye to learning what might be done to help solve this problem. What do we need? More youth programs? More rallies? Special teachers?

From the material that has been published on these studies it seems to me that one great central truth has begun to emerge. Faithfulness of the young person to Jesus does not have anything to do with special programs or teachers. It is not dependent on whether they are

members of a large congregation or a small one. The single most important value is their own immediate family.

One congregation found that where both parents were faithful to the Lord, and that includes active interest in the local congregation's programs, 93 percent of the kids remained faithful. On the other hand, if only one of the parents was faithful, that figure dropped to 73 percent. Where the parents were only what we would call reasonably active in the Lord's work, only 53 percent of the young people maintained their faith.

Now here comes the shocker: In those cases where both parents attended only infrequently, the percentage of their children who remained faithful to the Lord dropped to 6 percent. Want your children to go to heaven? Then make certain you are leading them. That is the only way they are going to make it.

Has Anyone Seen Miss Modesty Recently?

I miss her charm and winsome ways very much. I wonder where she is. I seldom see her on the streets and her visits to our church are becoming more infrequent. I know that others miss her, too. Just the other day Hal Wholesome and Calvin Cleanmind were asking about her. They liked Miss Modesty's company because she always put them at ease. That certainly isn't the case with Evelyn Exposed and Hilary Highhem who constantly embarrass them. These girls don't seem to care though, because they are quite popular with Larry Lear, Frank Foul, and Sam Smut. I understand that they are dating these fellows quite frequently now.

Someone said that they felt that one of the reasons why Miss Modesty is staying away is because many of our young ladies offended her by just ignoring her. When I made an inquiry, I was told by Mrs. Naïve and Mrs. Indifferent that they just assumed that their daughters would get to know her. It never occurred to them that you should have to introduce anyone to Miss Modesty.

There is someone in our church who frankly told me that she is glad that Miss Modesty doesn't come around much anymore. Apparently she never did care for her. I speak of Felicia Fashion. She considers Miss Modesty to be entirely too conservative and old fashioned. "After all," she said, "how are we going to attract the world to the church if we have unfashionable members like Miss Modesty around?" I've heard that there are others, such as Beverly Brazen and Francine Flirtation, who feel the same way.

One thing that does concern me greatly is that two of Miss Modesty's close friends, Pauline Purity, and Virginia Virtue are thinking of leaving our church also. What a loss that would be!

Well, if you see Miss Modesty, will you please tell her that the pastor misses her? And will you help bring her back to our fellowship? She is our friend and oh how we need her!

Wendell K. Grout
Sparks From the Fire

Remember the Miller's Donkey

The miller, son and donkey went to the market. The miller rode the donkey all the way, and people exclaimed, "Cruel man, riding himself and making his son walk." So he got down and his son rode; then people slanged, "What a lazy son for riding while poor old father walks." Then both father and son rode, and people said, "Cruelty to animals, poor donkey." So they got down and carried the donkey on a pole, but folks still complained. Then all three walked, and people said, "What fools to have a donkey and not ride it." So let's go ahead with our work for God and not care what folks say.

A JOB OR A MINISTRY?

Some people have a job in the church; others get involved in a ministry. What is the difference?

If you are doing it because nobody else will, it's a job. If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry. If you will do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job.

If you do it because you are convinced it needs to be done, it's a ministry. If your concern is success, it's a job. If your concern is faithfulness, it's a ministry. It is hard to get excited about a job. It's almost impossible not to be excited about a ministry for our Lord.

People may say, "Well done," when you do your job.

The Lord will say, "Well done," when you complete your ministry.

An average church is filled with people doing jobs.

A great church is filled with people who are involved in a ministry.

If God calls you to a ministry, don't treat it like a job. If you have a job in the church, give it up and find a ministry. God doesn't want us feeling stuck with a job, but excited and faithful to Him in a ministry.



Life is a book

Life is a book
in volumes three:
The past, the present,
the yet to be.
The past is written
and laid away,
The present we're writing
day by day,
And last and best,
volume three
Is locked from sight—
God holds the key.

—Margaret Schoby Hall

FOREVER

RUTH GIBBS ZWALL

We will be young forever in His presence
And gone will be the ravages of years,
The furrows plowed by life's supreme distresses,
The bending back, the memory of tears.

We will be young forever to behold Him,
To do His will with never-ending joy,
With every promise finding its fulfillment
And nothing there to hinder or destroy.

Take up your work, O Friend, and do not falter,
Earth is so short, eternity so long—
Give God your weariness and all your burden
And find in Him your never-failing song.

What will it matter that the tent is folding?
Go forth to serve while time and breath shall last
For He who maketh all things new in heaven
Will make us new, with earth forever past.

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



WHEN YOU LOSE YOUR TEMPER

When I have lost my temper I have lost my reason, too.
I'm never proud of anything which angrily I do.
When I have talked in anger and my cheeks were flaming red,
I have always uttered something which I wish I hadn't said.

In anger I have never done a kindly deed or wise,
But many things for which I felt I should apologize.
In looking back across my life, and all I've lost or made,
I can't recall a single time when fury ever paid.

So I struggle to be patient, for I've reached a wiser age;
I do not want to do a thing, or speak a word in rage.
I have learned by sad experience that when my temper flies,
I never do a worthy thing, a decent deed or wise.



The day seemed long, the burden I
had borne seemed heavier than I could bear.
And then it lifted; later I came to
know someone had knelt in earnest prayer.

They had taken me to God that very hour
and asked the easing of the load, and He,
In infinite compassion had stooped down
and taken it from me.

WHY DO PEOPLE EAT MEAT?

The *biblical* answer is because God gave it to them for food, intending for them to eat it. For example, as He told Noah in Genesis 9:1-3, "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things." The only restriction was that they could not eat the blood.

He later, in His instructions to Israel, limited the matter, giving them clean beasts, fowl, etc., which they could eat and listing "unclean" beasts, fowl, etc. which He forbade them to eat.

Christians, under grace, are no longer limited to those rules, but most of what we eat today would be considered clean meat, even to the Jew.