



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

May 6, 2018

Vol. XV, No. 18

In Days Gone By

On May 8, 1945, President Truman announced in a radio address that World War II had ended in Europe. It was marked with huge celebrations worldwide. Services of thanksgiving were held in churches all over our nation. Thousands of our servicemen began returning home.

Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change. And when we are right, make us easy to live with.

NOT GETTING YOUNGER

Hey adults, we aren't getting any younger, are we? I look around at some of you folks that I went to church with, and you're really getting old! You know you're not a kid anymore when your back goes out more than you do. You're not a kid anymore when you quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room. You're not a kid anymore when you're proud of your lawnmower. You're not a kid anymore when your arms are almost too short to read the newspaper. You're not a kid anymore when you sing along with the elevator music. You're not a kid anymore when you'd rather go to work than stay home sick. You're not a kid anymore when you enjoy hear-

ing about other people's operations. You're no longer a kid when you don't think of speed limits as challenges. You're not a kid anymore when your neighbors borrow your tools. You're not a kid anymore when people call at 9 pm and ask, "Did I wake you?" You're not a kid anymore when you can't remember the last time when you laid on the floor to watch the television. You're not a kid anymore when you have a party and the neighbors don't even notice. You're not a kid anymore when you answer your kid's questions with, "Because I said so." You're not a kid anymore when you take a nap to get ready for bed, amen? Some of us are there, aren't we?

Dr. Mike Hall

About Watching Three Old Friends Die

By Bruce Oyen

I have been watching three old friends of the church die slow deaths. In years past, they had a profound influence for good on the lives of many Christians. And so it has been especially difficult to see what has happened to them recently.

Previously, they encouraged discouraged Christians. They educated ignorant Christians. They comforted sorrowing Christians. And, when it was necessary, they even rebuked wayward Christians.

These three friends also influenced non-Christians in good ways, too. They had the privilege of planting the gospel seed in the soil of many hearts. And they saw to it that it was watered after it had been planted, believing that God would bless their efforts, and give the increase.

But all that has changed since these three friends got

old and became terminally ill. Their ability to do good no longer matches their desire to do so. They long to relive the "good old days."

Those who did not know these three in their prime don't realize how significant an impact they once had on both Christians and non-Christians.

What three friends of the church am I referring to? I will take the risk of embarrassing them, and will name them: Sunday School, the Sunday evening service, and the midweek service.

After thinking it over carefully, I have concluded that old age has not hurt them as much as their illnesses, which are many.

They are suffering from the deadly disease, lukewarm Christianity. They are afflicted with severe cases of wrong priorities. They are dying from spiritual laziness. They are

plagued by excuse-making. They are infected with the germs of moral shallowness. And they have been crippled by something called lack-of-commitment.

Unfortunately, the problem is not restricted to one church. Reliable sources have informed me that the entire United States is struggling with it. It has spread from coast-to-coast, like AIDS.

Fortunately, though, a cure has been found. This is a terminal illness only for those who refuse the cure. The cure has proved 100% effective. Proverbs 28:13 is the cure: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whose confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

But, like most cures for serious illnesses, this one is costly. If we want to restore these three friends to health, we must pay the price to do so.

Proverbs 28:13 requires that many Christians admit that the reasons they don't attend Sunday School, the Sunday evening service, and the midweek service regularly are these: spiritual lukewarmness, wrong priorities, spiritual laziness, excuse-making, moral shallowness, and lack of commitment. And these are the reason why many don't attend the Sunday morning service regularly, either.

Admittedly Proverbs 28:13 is a hard pill to swallow. But its curative power is amazing. It has never been known to fail. Do you have the courage to take it at once?

"He that covereth his sins (spiritual lukewarmness, wrong priorities, spiritual laziness, excuse-making, moral shallowness, and lack of commitment) shall not prosper: but whose confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." ■

Prayer of a Half-Hearted Christian

I love thy church, O God;
Her walls before me stand;
But please excuse my absence,
Lord;

This bed is simply grand!

A charge to keep I have;
A God to glorify;
But, Lord, don't ask for cash from
me;

Thy glory comes too high.

Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb?
Yes! Though I seldom pray or
pay,
I still insist I am.



Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
And all the world go free?
No! Others, Lord, should do their
part,

But please don't count on me.

Praise God from whom all bless-
ings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here
below!

Oh, loud my hymns of praise I
bring,

Because it doesn't cost to sing!



My Choicest Piece of Jewelry

In my jewelry box, blue velvet-lined, is a necklace unlike those you'll find in any smart shop or jewelry store. And it's the one I most adore.

Not wrought of silver nor fashioned of gold, no diamonds or rhinestones like those that are sold, this piece of jewelry that I most enjoy was made with love by a five-year-old boy. It has no pearls, either real or phony, but four different colors of dyed macaroni.



It is lamentable that we should live so long a time in the world and do so little for God, and that we should live so short a time in the world and do so much for Satan!

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR ANY PREACHER

The Bible is a book of instructions for men, women, teenagers and children. When we follow these rules we are happy and blessed of God. Just as God gives all of us instructions, He has also given some specific instructions for preachers. In I Timothy 5:1-3 we note some Standards of Conduct that the Apostle Paul gave to Timothy. Read these two verses: "Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; the elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. Honor widows that are widows indeed." Clearly laid out here is what he said:

1. Treat a man older than he is as if he were his father.
2. Conduct himself with a man younger than he is as if he were his brother.
3. Consider a woman older than he is as if she were his mother.
4. Treat any woman younger than he is as if she were his sister, with all purity.
5. Extend honor to those who are widows.

If these words have any meaning (and they do), they demanded that Timothy (and thus all preachers) treat church members and others as though they were members of his own family.

By following these Scriptural admonitions, no preacher should ever go wrong. A word to the wise is sufficient.

"In America's history, God has again and again saved the nation from ruin by sending spiritual awakening in response to the sincere prayers of His people."

WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

A class of third-graders was asked, "What is Heaven like?" The replies were:

A girl: "Heaven is where I will meet the man of my dreams."

A boy: "Heaven is where some very nice teachers and a nice principal will be found."

A boy: "Heaven is where you will get everything you want, but if you want everything, you might not go there."

A girl: "Heaven should be the happiest part of my dead life."