



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

LIBERTY

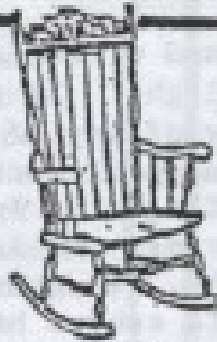
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Dr. Gary Dice, Pastor

Dr. Leonard Dice, Editor

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THE EMPTY CHAIR

This year when Christmas boughs are draped
And cards around the doorway taped,
And cookies baked, and green wreaths hung,
And carols in the crisp night sung;
This Christmas cannot be fair
In homes where there's an empty chair.

Dear God in heaven, bless with peace
Those whose Christmas joy has ceased,
For those who grieve and cannot bear
The stillness of that empty chair.

Instill in them a second sight
To see in death a lasting light
Which reassures that those who've died..

Now kneel before the manger side
To celebrate the blessed birth
More grandly than we can on earth.

And may those visions of your care
Bring hope enough to fill that chair
So Christmas carols may be sung
And Christmas bells still be rung
And Christmas peace replace all fears
And Christmas joy be felt through tears.

Debbie W. Parvin

A Sweet Christmas

Why shouldn't this Christmas be sweeter
Than ever a Christmas before,
When Jesus is tenfold the dearer,
Outpouring His grace more and more?

Why shouldn't the future be brighter
With glad expectations each day?
Why shouldn't each burden seem lighter
With Jesus our King on the way?

Why shouldn't our vision be clearer,
His last blest command to obey,
While ever His coming draws nearer,
And millions in darkness still stray?

Oh, thus can this Christmas be sweeter
Than ever a Christmas before,
If souls that are dying are dearer,
And on them Christ's love we outpour.

—Alice Reynolds Flower

In Days Gone By

On Dec. 17, 1797, Joseph Henry was born. He developed weather-tracking methods that led to the establishment of the U.S. Weather Bureau.

On Dec. 17, 1903, the first flight was made by the Wright brothers.

PUNCTUATION

MUCH IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN DEPENDS ON WHERE HE PUTS THE EMPHASIS OR PUNCTUATION.

The following articles were written by F. W. Emmons in 1873. As you read the articles, please note that each is exactly the same, yet note how different the meaning set forth by punctuation makes each one. Much in life depends on where we put the emphasis or punctuation.

THE GOOD MAN

"He is an old and experienced man. In vice and wickedness he is never found. Opposing the work of iniquity he takes delight. In the downfall of his neighbor he never rejoices. In the prosperity of any of his fellow creatures he is ready to assist. In destroying the peace of society he takes no pleasure. In serving the Lord he is uncommonly diligent. In sowing discord among his friends and acquaintances he takes no pride. In laboring to promote the cause of Christianity he has not been negligent. In endeavoring to stigmatize all public teachers he makes no exertions. To subdue his passions he strives hard. To build up Satan's kingdom he lends no aid. To the support of the gospel among the heathen he contributes largely. To the evil adversary he pays no attention. To good advice he gives great heed. To the devil he will never go. To heaven he must go where he will receive the just recompense of his reward."

THE EVIL MAN

"He is an old and experienced man in vice and wickedness. He is never found opposing the work of iniquity. He takes delight in the downfall of his neighbor. He never rejoices in the prosperity of any of his fellow creatures. He is always ready to assist in destroying the peace of society. He takes no pleasure in serving the Lord. He is uncommonly diligent in sowing discord among his friends and acquaintances. He takes no pride in laboring to promote the cause of Christianity. He has not been negligent in endeavoring to stigmatize all public teachers. He makes no exertions to subdue his passions. He strives hard to build up Satan's kingdom. He lends no aid to support the gospel among the heathen. He contributes largely to the evil adversary. He pays no attention to good advice. He gives great heed to the devil. He will never go to heaven. He must go where he will receive the just recompense of his reward."

THIS IS JUST A RESTING PLACE

Sometimes the road of life seems long as we travel through the years
And, with a heart that's broken and eyes brimful of tears.
We falter in our weariness and sink beside the way.
But GOD leans down and whispers, "Child, there'll be another day" —
And the road will grow much smoother and much easier to face,
So do not be disheartened — this is just a "RESTING PLACE."

— Helen Steiner Rice

DO YOUR NEIGHBORS SEE JESUS CHRIST IN YOU?

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day,
I'd rather one should walk with me, than merely show the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear.
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds.

For to see the good in action is what everybody needs.
I can soon learn how to do it if you'll let me see it done.
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.

And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.
For I may understand you, and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

WHERE DID IT HAPPEN?

Without consulting your Bible, see if you can identify from memory the places where the following events took place:

1. Where were the Ten Commandments given?
2. Where was the first garden planted?
3. Where was Jesus born?
4. Where was Paul stoned?
5. Where was Jesus baptized?
6. Where were the followers of our Lord first called Christians?
7. Where did Elijah conduct a "contest" between God and Baal?
8. Where was the apostle John exiled?
9. Where did Jesus perform His first miracle?
10. Where did Moses die?

1. Mount Sinai (Ex. 19:20; 20:1-17); 2. Eden (Gen. 2:8); 3. Bethlehem (Mt. 2:1); 4. Lystra (Acts 14:6, 19); 5. Jordan River (Mt. 3:13); 6. Antioch (Acts 11:26); 7. Mount Carmel (1 Ki. 18:20-39); 8. The Isle of Patmos (Rev. 1:9); 9. Cana (John 2:11); 10. Mount Nebo (Dt. 32:48-50). :SRMSNSV

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



DO YOU LIKE YOUR NAME? Did you know that many people don't like their names? I know that I don't like my name, but I like my wife's name, Sharon Ann. A survey indicated that 15 percent of us would rather have a different name. Interestingly, women tend to dislike their given names more than men.

Sometimes parents find it hard to decide, so they buy books and try to find a name that they like. JOSEPH and MARY had no such decision to make about the name of Mary's infant Son. He was named by the angel even before His birth. "Thou shalt call His name Jesus..." The name Jesus means "Jehovah is Salvation." What a beautiful name! What a blessed truth it conveys! This year as we remember His birth, let us rejoice in it afresh.

"The name of Jesus is so sweet,
I love its music to repeat;
It makes my joys full and complete,
The precious name of Jesus.
Jesus, O how sweet thy name!
Jesus, every day the same;
Jesus, let all saints proclaim,
Its worthy praise forever."



The Rest of the Story

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was filled with sorrow at the tragic death of his wife in a fire in 1861. The Civil War broke out that same year, and it seemed this was an additional punishment. Two years later, Longfellow was again saddened to hear that his own son had been seriously wounded as a lieutenant in the Army of the Potomac.

Sitting down to his desk, one Christmas day, he heard the church bells ringing and ringing. It was in this setting he wrote:

*I heard the bells on Christmas day,
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

*And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong, and mocks the
song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and
deep:*

*"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to
men!"*