



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 Dice, Pastor

Dr. Leonard Dice, Editor

January 6, 2019

Vol. XVI, No. 1

Mom's Just Perfect"

A small boy invaded the lingerie section of a big California department store and shyly presented his problem to a woman clerk. "I want to buy my mom a present of a slip," he said, "but I don't know what size she wears."

"Is she tall or short, fat or skinny?" asked the clerk.

"She's just perfect," beamed the small boy.

So she wrapped up a size 34 for him.

Two days later, Mom came to the store herself—and changed it to a 52.

Days Gone By

On Jan. 1, 1735, Paul Revere was born in Boston.

On Jan. 1, 1892, the Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened.

On Jan 1, 1752, Betsy Ross was born.

The Voice of God

To hear the Voice of God,
You need not climb a steeple;
Look around you everywhere,
He dwells among the people.

What would you take
for your Bible if you
knew you could not ob-
tain another?

When God Grew Mushrooms

- Art Rakestraw



Many years ago Major and Mrs. Clark started the mission work which has now developed into the widely known Pacific Garden Mission in the heart of the Chicago Loop. The early days of this work were beset with difficulty. The Clarks had brought a property and were having a struggle in meeting the financial obligation. The time came when they were in immediate danger of losing it for the want of a comparatively small sum of money.

As was their constant custom, they made their need the subject of earnest prayer and received the assurance that a way would be made for them.

The next morning when the Major and his good wife looked out of their front window, they were surprised to see their lawn with a white covering—of mushrooms, prime quality! At that time there was a great demand for mushrooms in Chicago's swank hotels and restaurants. It was not the season for them, and the Clarks disposed of their "Heaven-sent" crop at the highest prices, and saved their mission property from foreclosure.

And, there never appeared a single mushroom on that piece of ground before or since! God surely works in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform!

The "UNSTOPPABLES"

When you look at that crowd of folks who constituted the first-century Christians, you may be struck, as I am, by the recognition of the fact that they just would not be stopped.

Consider:

(1) When leaders failed, as did Simon Peter, they did not collapse in disappointment and disillusionment.

(2) When professing Christians turned out not to be Christians at all, as did Simon Magus (Acts 8), they did not leave the church in anger and disgust.

(3) When accusations misrepresented them, as happened repeatedly (Acts 2:11-13), they did not leave their post of duty.

(4) When their authority was called into question, as it was (Acts 4:6,7), they did not give over to their detractors!

(5) When the government opposed them harshly and unmercifully, as happened often (Acts 5:17,18; 6:12,13), they rejoiced that they were "counted worthy to suffer" for Christ (Acts 5:41).

(6) When one of their star players, Stephen, was brutally murdered (Acts 7), they grieved (Acts 8:2), but they did not quit.

(7) When they were persecuted (Acts 8:1), driven from their

jobs and homes and forced to flee to other cities, they kept on giving strong witness, "preaching the word" (Acts 8:4).

They were an amazing people because, obviously, the amazing grace of God was fully operative in them.

Consequently, they kept on the right message and at their God-given task.

Despite disappointment, disillusionment, despair, defeat, disrepute, dysfunction and other such Devil-induced dilemmas, these good men could not be silenced.

They stood their ground! They withstood every assault! They refused intimidation! They kept their heart and their mission.

"Daily" they were on the job. They just simply would not be stopped. "They ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (Acts 5:42).

Now how about us? Do we not have some twenty-first-century servants of God who will take heart from their New Testament forefathers? I believe we do!

I do hope you will be one of the "unstoppables" in these critical days!

-Dr. Shelton Smith

A LAUGH IN CHURCH

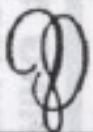
She sat on the sliding cushion,
The dear little girl of four;
Her feet in their shiny slippers,
Hung dangling over the floor.
She meant to be good; she had promised,
And so, with her big brown eyes,
She stared at the meeting house windows
And counted the crawling flies.

She looked far up at the preacher,
But she thought of the honey bees
Droning away at the blossoms
That whitened the cherry trees.
She thought of a broken basket,
Where, curled in a dusky heap,
Three sleek, round puppies, with fringy ears
Lay snuggled and fast asleep.

Such soft, warm bodies to cuddle,
Such queer little hearts to beat,
Such swift, round tongues to kiss,
Such sprawling, cushiony feet;
She could feel in her clasping fingers
The touch of a satiny, skin,
And a cold, wet nose exploring
The dimples under her chin.

Then a sudden ripple of laughter
Ran over the parted lips,
So quick that she could not catch it
With her rosy finger tips.
The people whispered, "Bless the child,"
As some woke from a nap,
But the dear little girl hid her face
For shame in her mother's lap.

**THE CROSS WAS MEANT TO BE A
THING OF DEGRADATION, BUT JESUS
MADE IT A THING OF DIGNITY.**



*In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers 'round its head sublime.*



THE PROVERBS.

Righteousness exalteth a nation:
but sin is a reproach to any people.
Proverbs 14:34

Two little lines I heard one day,
Traveling along life's busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart,
And from my mind would not depart;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

C.T. Studd.

GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL BECAUSE...

- The BEST BOOK is studied and I want to know and follow it.
- The BEST DAY of the week is utilized and observed and I want to honor that day.
- The BEST PEOPLE in the world are assembled and enlisted and I desire their fellowship and friendship.
- The BEST INSTITUTION on earth is awake and at work for our Master and I wish to do my utmost for Christ and His Church.
- The BEST DEVELOPMENT for my spiritual life is taking place in Sunday School and I want to grow more for Him, mentally, morally and spiritually.

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



SOME QUESTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR - What will you do with a whole new year if God gives you one? What did you do with the one He just gave you? Did you worship, serve and honor Him? Do you think that God ought to give you another chance? I think these are fair questions since He is the One who gives you the very breath you breathe and the very life you live.

For those who are true (born-again) Christians (not just in name only), we should try to please the Lord more than ever (Romans 12:1-2). For those who are not Christians, the very first thing you should do is accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour. You will not only have a new year ahead of you, but you will also have a new hope and a new life.

As we journey through 2019, the Lord willing, there are several resources available that God provides that will help us if we will allow them to do so. First of all, His marvelous grace is abundant and free; the Holy Spirit will lead and guide us along the way; the Word of God will give us strength for the journey; prayer will sustain us and our pastor and church (and many other Christians) will pray, encourage and help us as we walk with Him day by day.

If we use the resources as God gives them to us, we can expect great blessings from God, have better relationships with others (including our family), see others saved and see ourselves and our church grow and prosper in the things of the Lord. There is no reason that we cannot be successful, useful and obedient Christians, and have the blessings of God on us.

Now, again, if God gives you a whole new year without a single stain upon it, what will you do with it? Will you worship, serve and honor Him? When you look back upon the year He just gave and what you did for Him, would you give yourself another chance?

Give it some serious thought. Life at its longest is really very short, and the only thing that will last is what we do for Him. Make this new year really count!

**WILL THE NEW YEAR BRING A "NEW ERA",
OR "NEW ERRORS"? ENLIST GOD'S HELP!**