

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



LIBERTY

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In Days Gone By

On Feb. 10, 1846, the Mormons began an exodus west from Illinois.

On Feb 11, 1861, Lincoln left Springfield, Illinois for the White House.

IF YOU WOULDN'T WRITE IT AND SIGN IT, DON'T SAY IT.

—Earl Wilson

SORROW

I walked a mile with Pleasure;
She chattered all the way
But left me none the wiser
For all she had to say.

I walked a mile with Sorrow,
And ne'er a word said she;
But, oh, the things I learned
from her,
When Sorrow walked with
me!

What Would Be Your Name?

The Indians used to give their babies only temporary names. They waited until the boys and girls grew older and had earned some kind of name. Thus some good girl was named *Bluebird*, *Snowflower*, *Spring Wind*, *Sunshine*, or something else which showed how people felt about her.

Some boys, when they grew old enough to join in the hunt were named *Brown Bear*, *Running Wolf*, *Black Eagle*, or *Thunder Stone*.

Suppose boys and girls were left nameless today until they grew at least to junior age and had earned some name for themselves. Some boys might be called *Helping Hand*, *Brave Lad*, *Great Heart*, *Faithful*, or *Mouth of Truth*. There are girls who might be called *Sunny Smile*, *Blue Flower*, *Hope*.

There are, however, a few boys and girls who might not have such delightful names. There are some who might have to be called *Scowler*, *Shirk*, *Unreliable*, or *Cheat*.

What would be your name?



Today, it's not the children who need an old-fashioned trip to the woodshed.

It's The Parents!

SAFE SIN?

Sin has gone through quite an evolution down through the years. It use to be that sin was an offence against God and brought at least some fear of judgment of God to the hearts of those that committed sin. Today however, it seems to be different; quite different. It seems the sociologists, psychologists, comedians, and yes, even preachers have softened the awfulness or sinfulness of sin. Sin has become a disease, a disorder, a product of heredity, a problem stemming from unemployment, poor schools, single parents, a bad environment or any one of a number of excuses to cover what is blatantly SIN. It has become something for comedians to make jokes about, and something far too many preachers seldom preach against.

Hell has been relegated to the status of an old folk tale, and judgment from God will come on only those who commit the greater offences like an Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin or a Charles Manson.

It use to be a sin to worship anyone or anything but God. Today for the most part it seems everyone and everything but God is worshipped in one way or another. Movie stars, rock stars and other singers; sports heroes, war heroes, scientific heroes, national leaders etc. idolized by many.

Most people's lives are centered on getting FINE NEW HOMES, CARS, CLOTHES, FURNITURE and every new gadget that hits the market. Most of their time is spent working for, or procuring them any way possible and enjoying them. Whatever leisure time is left belongs to them to enjoy life a little or rest from their labors. Consequently there is little or no time for God or church worship. Many feel that Sunday is their day to sleep in or do whatever they do to relax; surely God understands.

Again it use to be a sin to take the Lord's name in vain, and those who did were called down for it. Today that's all you hear in one form or another. No one hardly ever gets called down for it because most do it.

As far as honoring thy father and mother; that sure has gone out of the window. It's partly the fault of parents for not bringing their children up in church where they learn of God and His ways.

Try to make children to obey by using discipline and you may end up in court for child abuse. Besides that the courts are continually taking away the parents rights to raise their children as they see fit. In some states kids can have an abortion without parental consent. Children can always count on the ACLU stepping in on their behalf to defend their rights. Is it any wonder there is so much rebellion on the part of children.

Then there use to be a sin called adultery. Just a few years ago it was one of the worst and unforgivable sins by society. In the Old Testament anyone caught in adultery was stoned to death. Boy that would sure thin out the population today.

Today adultery is becoming so commonplace and is being more and more accepted by society as just something that is a part of life. That is certainly the way it is portrayed on most shows on TV and in the movies. Why not, it's the way most in Hollywood live. If it's sin, it's a SAFE SIN. In other words it's excused behavior. Safe sin is that which we have excused and don't call sin anymore. If it is sin, it's certainly not worthy of judgment or punishment.

The rest of the commandments have pretty much gone the same way. Excuses are made to make them less sinful or not sinful at all.

We judge ourselves as just as good as anyone else basing our goodness on what I don't do. "Hey, I never hurt anyone." "I'm a good person, I know I'm not perfect but neither is anyone else."

Instead of repenting, they look at others who live a worst life, and that makes them feel good about themselves like the Pharisee Jesus spoke of in Luke 18:11. They feel safe in their sins.

The problem is the Creator in His Word has declared that "all are sinners;" (Romans 3:23) that all are guilty before HIM and have need for REPENTANCE; that there is NONE righteous, no not one (Romans 3:10).

The problem is God's not going to judge by society's standards, but by HIS Word.

So the wise person realizes that there is no such thing as "Safe Sin!" That all sin in God's eyes is worthy of judgment. They also realize that the only safety from God's Judgment is found in Jesus Christ who was judged for our sins and receiving Him in our lives clears us from ALL our sins as He was judged in our place for them. They also realize that the only righteousness that God accepts is His own and that those who come to Christ are not only forgiven of all sins but have the very righteousness of God placed on them. In this way they can walk into the presence of a Holy God as they are wearing His righteousness.

Another sad truth about so called safe sin is that while all believers at the time of their salvation, saw just how awful sin is in God's sight, repented and found safe haven in Jesus Christ, allow themselves to fall back into sin at times losing fellowship. In this state many times they go back to thinking as the world does that their sin is not so bad. God has supplied 1 John 1:9 to get rid of that sin as soon as possible so they won't go back to the world's way of thinking; that what they are doing is really not sin. That comes as they foolishly let sin creep into their life and remain without acknowledging it as sin as God commands in 1 John 1:9.

It's time for ALL to wise up and remember this is God's world, He created it, He sets the rules. We are His creations and are obliged to follow His rules or be judged for not doing so. If we don't we'd better be ready to suffer the consequences. The truth is; **THERE IS NO SAFE SIN!**

The Christian Encourager

Sin Is Expensive!

Sin is expensive. Incredibly expensive. But the price isn't paid in cash, it's paid in mental, emotional and spiritual pain. God didn't create an arbitrary list of do's and don'ts to see if we could follow them.

He laid out a set of essential guidelines for living. His anger towards lying, stealing, cheating, coveting, murder, jealousy, pride, etc... is because all of these behaviors destroy relationships. Everything that the Bible labels as sin is something that God is trying to protect us from.

His desire is love, peace, and harmony with Him and with all of His creation. Sin is our defiant rejection of this in an effort to satisfy our own selfish desires. -copied

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD; and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left. II Chron. 34:1, 2

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



BIGGEST DANGER FOR AMERICA IS COMING FROM WITHIN

A great concern for many Americans today is that our great nation is committing suicide. Disaster does not always come from the outside. One of America's best-loved presidents, Abraham Lincoln, recognized this long before the Civil War began. President Thomas Jefferson, one of our nation's founding fathers and principal author of the Declaration of Independence, also knew this and issued his own prophetic warning about this great nation of America. He said that we would only be secure if we remember that our liberties are a gift of God. He also said, "Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever."

From 1861 to 1865, during Lincoln's presidency, our nation almost committed suicide during the Civil War as brother fought against brother and state against state. The price was 60,000 young men dying in battle or by disease.

Today, the U.S. stands at a crossroads with battle lines clearly drawn. One part of our government wants to erase God from our past, rewrite history and change our future. We have become like Sodom and Gomorrah, rotting in immorality and murdering a million of our unborn babies each year for the sake of convenience.

God also knows nations can committ suicide. He has seen it by the thousands. Most nations and empires never went beyond 200 years. The Babylonian Empire lasted only 70 years. Our own great nation of America, founded on Christian principles, has been blessed of God and just celebrated 242 years. However, her people have turned from God and we are continuing downhill faster than we can imagine. American people could well be the "author and finisher" of their national destruction.

It's growing late! Do we choose suicide or turn back to God and live? If you have ever prayed for your country and lived for God, it needs to be now.

OBEDIENCE OR DISOBEDIENCE

God presents a simple choice, and each choice we make will bring its own consequences. Obeying and honoring God leads to life and blessings; disobeying and ignoring Him leads to curses and death. What do you choose? Read Deut. 30:19-20.

BEING A CHRISTIAN doesn't immunize us against temptation or insulate us from the painful consequences of our mistakes and sins.