



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

LIBERTY

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"Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian."

U.S. Supreme Court - 1892 decision

Record 86,248 People Are 100 or Older

The number of people in the United States who were 100 years old or older also hit a record in 2017, according to the Census Bureau data, climbing to 86,248....The number of people 100 years or older in the United States has risen significantly in the last eight years....Of the 86,248 centenarians, 68,354 were women; and only 17,894 were men.



"Why didn't you stop when I blew my whistle?" demanded the cop.

"I'm a little deaf," the lady driver explained apologetically.

"Well, don't worry," the officer reassured her. "You'll get your hearing tomorrow."

In Days Gone By

On Jan. 13, 1777, the Virginia Statute for Religious Liberty was drawn.

On Jan. 15, 1870, the Democratic party was represented as a donkey for the first time in a cartoon by Thomas Nast in Harper's Weekly.

Don't preach because you have to say something, but because you have something to say.

Come to think of it, why are there no hospitals (like Baptist Hospital, St. Thomas Hospital, Methodist Hospital, etc., etc.) named Atheist Hospital in your community or mine? The simple answer is that atheists are not interested in helping people (only fighting God), especially if spending their money is involved...

EITHER WAY WORKS!

Behold, God is my salvation: I will trust, and not be afraid. *Isaiah 12:2*

THE Christian need not be plagued by fear. God has made adequate provision for overcoming anxiety, and we can take steps to keep from being controlled by it.

Two goodly men met one day on a city street. After greeting each other, they proceeded to walk together for some distance. In the course of the conversation, one said to the other, "I got a wonderful text when I read God's Word today." "Oh," said his friend, "what is it?" "Well," he responded, "the verse is Psalm 56:3. It says, 'When I am afraid, I will trust in Thee.'" "That's very good," said the other with a smile on his face. "But I found an even better text in my reading today. It's Isaiah 12:2, 'I will trust, and not be afraid.'"

NO NEED FOR BOTH TO WORRY

Two elderly gentlemen lived in a home for senior citizens. One day one of them said to the other, "You know, there is something I can't understand about you. You go to bed at night and sleep until morning as soundly as a baby. I wake up several times and am restless and fitful. How in the world do you do it?" I wish I could relax like that." His companion replied, "I'll tell you. Many years ago I used to worry a great deal, and found sleep difficult; then I read that the Lord never slumbers, but constantly cares for His own. I decided that it didn't make much sense for both of us to be up all night, so I decided to go to sleep and let Him take over." Knowing that God never slumbers but ever watches over His own should help all of us to sleep better tonight.

TRIALS THAT LEAD TO TRIUMPHS

... thou hast tried us, as silver is tried. ... but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place. *Psalm 66:10,12*

WHEN God tests us, He has more sympathetic care and thought in His wise designs than we have faith to see. The Lord knows we cannot do without the refining furnace if the dross of our carnality is to be burned away. He may send us through the "fire"; but if we accept adversity with spiritual discernment, we have the joyous promise that the experience will lead to the "wealthy place" of a more abundant life.

An unknown poet has written: "I'm thankful for the bitter things; they've been a 'friend to grace.' They've driven me from paths of ease to storm the secret place. I thank Him for the friends who failed to fill my heart's deep need; they've led me to the Savior's feet, upon His love to feed: I'm grateful too, through all life's way, no one could satisfy; and so I've found in Christ alone my rich, my full supply."



Parents
Or
"Sparents"

A little girl, who was disciplined by her mom, was overheard as she prayed, "Please, Lord, don't give her any more children, for she doesn't know how to treat the ones she's got now."

We may smile at this, but the Bible contains numerous examples of the tragic results of undisciplined homes.

Adonijah, David's rebellious son, sought to take his father's throne. Reason—"And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, 'Why hast thou done so?'" (*1 Kings 1:6*). Judgment fell on the house of Eli due to his failure to give strong parental direction. "... his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not" (*1 Sam. 3:13*).

Proper discipline, whether instruction or punishment, is an attitude of love (*Heb. 12:6, 10, 11*).

Many of America's homes are suffering from a lack of discipline. Some feel that to refuse a child's request or to punish misconduct shows a lack of love. However, scriptural discipline and true love go hand in hand.

How is your home?

"Sparents" are those who "spare the rod"

When offspring need attention.

They find their troubles multiplied.

In ways too sad to mention! — *Rich Liechly*

When a frazzled mother sent her little boy to bed, she heard him grumbling to himself, "Every time she gets tired, it's me that has to take a nap."



DO YOU EXAGGERATE?

BOASTING is sin. It is listed among the sins of selfishness, covetousness, pride, blasphemy, etc., etc., (*see II Tim. 3:2-4*). Are you given to boasting and bragging? Some people boast about their wealth (*Ps. 49:6*); others boast about their sins (*Ps. 94:4*), while still others boast about what they are going to do (*Prov. 27:1*). A sin closely allied to boasting is "exaggeration." To willingly exaggerate either your own accomplishments, or another's failures, is sin. It is really lying. Yet how common this sin is. How pleasing to the flesh to exaggerate the things we do. And many times there is nothing behind it. It just becomes a habit—but a sinful one. One peculiar thing about exaggeration is this—we can see it in others—but unconsciously practice it ourselves. "Oh mamma," said little Johnny, "I saw a snake today a hundred feet long." "Now Johnny," said mamma, "you must not exaggerate like that. I have told you a MILLION times not to do it; but it doesn't seem to help a bit." Yes, exaggerating is downright sin.

An Englishman had been boasting about his wonderful country when the American said, "In the United States, we have lilac bushes a hundred feet high." Replied the Englishman, "Do all Americans LILAC that?"

PASSING THROUGH DEEP WATERS

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee;

...they shall not overflow thee. *Isaiah 43:2*

OFTEN in life the floodgates of distress are suddenly opened and we are overwhelmed by trials. We echo with new understanding the words of the psalmist as he exclaimed in anxiety, "Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul" (*Psalm 69:1*). Yet we need not fear, for our loving Heavenly Father holds the waters in the hollow of His hand. He measures them out in sufficient quantities to cleanse us, but He will never allow them to drown us. In our time of grief, we are never without His abiding presence and constant help.

Not long after arriving in the New Hebrides as a pioneer missionary, John G. Paton and his wife rejoiced in the coming of a baby son to gladden their home. But the joy was short-lived. Soon death took both his wife and child, and Dr. Paton had to dig their graves and bury his loved ones with his own hands. In writing of this experience, he testified, "If it had not been for Jesus and the fellowship and grace He afforded me, I am certain I would have gone mad or died of grief beside their lonely graves." Marvellously strengthened from above, the bereaved servant of God found that the promises of the Word were able to sustain him through the heartache and sorrow of his tragic loss.

Have you been going through deep waters, Christian? The Lord is near, and He beckons you to walk close to Him. His sovereign purpose in these trials is not to let you drown but to help you pass through the waves of woe and on to higher ground!

—H.G.B.

Miscellaneous-

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



THE "FIRST DEATH" AND THE "SECOND DEATH"

There is a misunderstanding of the meaning of death in the Bible. Death has to do with the SEPARATION OF THE SOUL. Death is not a state of being unconscious.

In the FIRST DEATH, the soul is separated from the body but is still conscious. This is when you die physically.

In the SECOND DEATH, the soul is separated from God. This is the spiritual death. The soul is still conscious. Your soul never loses consciousness whether it goes to Heaven or Hell.

Before the first death, the physical death, salvation can be received by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. At the Christian's physical death, the soul is separated from his body. Christians will never experience spiritual death because we are never separated from God.

If you are not saved before you die, you will not only experience physical death but also spiritual death, the second death, when you are separated from God eternally. If you die unsaved and still lost, you have no hope. Your destination is eternally sealed. What a horrible thought to be cast into the lake of fire forever. Revelation 21:8 describes what it means to be separated from God forever: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolators, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the SECOND DEATH."

Whether you fully understand or not, the Bible says that you need to repent of your sins, seek God's forgiveness by calling upon Him and receive Christ as your Saviour...today! Read Romans 10:9-13. This is so important you need to talk to a good pastor or Christian friend to make sure of your salvation. Don't put it off!

One of the biggest lies ever uttered is that the Devil is an easy master and God is a hard Master. Go to the prison and ask the prisoner if it is easy or hard. Go to the gamblers, drunks and thieves who have lost their reputations, families and even their freedom and ask if the Devil's way is not hard. Then go to those who have been serving God for the last 20 or 30 years. You'll get a different answer.

A distraught senior citizen called her doctor with this question: "If this medicine you prescribed has to be taken the rest of my life, why does it say on the bottle 'no refills'?"