

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

February 24, 2019

Vol. XVI, No. 8

If You're Going to Heaven

(A child's response brings a knowing smile from all of us.)

"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?" I asked the children in my Sunday school class.

"No!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?" Again, the answer was, "NO!"

"Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children and loved my wife, would that get me into Heaven?" I asked them again.

Again, they all answered, "NO!"

"Well," I continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD!"

—Source Unknown

Mother, having finally put a small boy into bed after an unusually trying day: "Well, I've worked today from son-up to son-down."



In Days Gone By

On Feb. 25, 1793, the department heads of the U.S. government met with President Washington at his home for the first Cabinet meeting on record.

On March 2, 1830, the first school for the blind started.

On Mar. 2, 1791, John Wesley died.

ABOUT MAKING MISTAKES

Be not concerned nor be surprised,
If what you do is criticized;
There'll always be some folks who can,
Find fault with every man.
Mistakes are made, we can't deny,
BUT ONLY MADE BY THOSE WHO TRY!



COUNTING ON YOU

No matter what others are doing my friend,
Or what they are leaving undone,
God's counting on you to keep on with the job
'Til the very last battle is won.

He's counting on you to be faithful;
He's counting on you to be true.
Yes, others may work, or others may shirk,
But remember — God's counting on you.

Grandpa's Hands

Grandpa, some ninety years plus, sat feebly on the patio bench.

He didn't move, just sat there with his head down staring at his hands. When I sat down beside him, he didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat, I wondered if he was ok.

Finally, not wanting to disturb him but wanting to check on him at the same time, I asked him if he was ok.

He raised his head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine. Thank you for asking," he said in a clear strong voice. "I didn't mean to disturb you, Grandpa, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were ok." I explained to him.

"Have you looked at your hands?" he asked. "I mean really looked at your hands?" I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. "No, I guess I have never really looked at my hands" as I tried to figure out the point he was making. Grandpa smiled and then related this story:

"Stop and think a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout the years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out, grab and embrace life. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back.

As a child, my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent.

They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn sons. Decorated with my wedding band, they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. They trembled and shook when I buried my parents and my spouse and when I walked my daughter down the aisle.

They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day, when not much of anything else of me works real well, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again to fold in prayer. These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life.

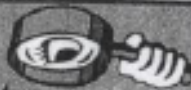
But more importantly, it will be these same hands that God will reach out and take when He leads me home. And with my hands, He will lift me to His side and there, I will use these same hands to touch the face of Christ."



It takes more grace than I can tell to play the second fiddle well.

-Charles H Spurgeon

If Everything seems to be going well, you've obviously overlooked something



Don't Find Fault, Find A Remedy.

-Henry Ford

The person who says, "It cannot be done" should not interrupt the person who is doing it.

Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

-Mark Twain

Universal Laws

- Law of Mechanical Repair - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch.
- Law of Gravity - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.
- Law of Probability - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
- Law of Random Numbers - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal; someone always answers.
- Variation Law - If you change lanes (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.
- Law of the Bath - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.
- Law of the Result - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, IT WILL!!!
- The Coffee Law - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, someone will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.
- Law of Physical Surfaces - The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.
- Law of Logical Argument - Anything is possible IF you don't know what you are talking about.
- Law of Physical Appearance - If the clothes fit, they're ugly.
- Law of Public Speaking -- A CLOSED MOUTH GATHERS NO FEET!
- Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it OR the store will stop selling it!
- Doctors' Law - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there, you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



LET'S SAY GOOD-BYE TO JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Needless to say these last two months have been very trying for everyone around here including churches, schools, businesses, etc. With bitter cold, snow, and especially icy road conditions, we have had to cancel many church services, including the last two Sundays, February 10 and 17. And, that's not counting the times we had to cancel services in January. Many of our members live in the country, and some live many miles away, and ice on the road makes for dangerous travel. But, take heart! Spring is just a few weeks away, March 20 to be exact.

In the meantime, God's work goes on, and Pastor Dice is now planning for our Annual Faith-Promise Missions Conference with Dr. Ray Young as the special speaker.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS "TRISKADEKAPHOBIA?"

We know about hydrophobia, the fear of water; claustrophobia, the fear of being closed in; and acrophobia, the fear of heights. Then there is phobophobia, the fear of your own fears! Many people consider many things as bad omens such as walking under a ladder, stepping on a crack in the sidewalk, or breaking a mirror, etc.

But what is triskadekaphobia? This is the fear of the number 13. This is the uneasy feeling people have on Friday the 13th, or being on the 13th floor of a building, or staying in room number 13 in a motel, etc.

Irrational fears and "hangups" need not plague Christians. God's purpose for our lives transcends any power or influence that can be brought to bear upon us. Your life and times are in God's hands. With the Psalmist we can say, "I will fear no evil." (Psalm 23:4). Let Friday the 13th be one of special blessing!

A MISSIONARY'S BILINGUAL BLOOPER

The new missionary in Bolivia told his congregation the story of the man with 100 bees. (They were puzzled... they had never read this story!) One bee was lost so the man left 99 in the fold and searched for it. The man found his beloved bee with a hurt leg. He carefully wrapped it, gently placed the bee on his shoulder, and carried him home! (Realizing the missionary's mistake, they all smiled as they pictured the man carrying his abeja "bee" instead of his oveja "sheep.")

As a lost man, Saul sought to kill Christians. As a saved man, he sought to save them. What a difference Jesus makes!