

TEXT: Luke 14:16-21 A reason will stand up, but excuses are lies. There is no excuse for: 1. NOT BEING SAVED
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Isaiah 45:22-"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for l am God, and there is none else." John 10:9; 14:6; l Timothy 2:4
II. NOT GOING TO CHURCH Psalm 122:1 — "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."
Psalm 26:8; Acts 11:26; Hebrews 10:25
III. NOT TITHING
Malachi 3:10 — "Bring ye all the rithes into the storehouse, that there may be mest in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." I Corinthians 16:2
IV. NOT KNOWING GOD'S WORD John 8:32 — "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." II Timothy 2:15; 3:16
V. NOT LOVING ONE ANOTHER
I John 4:11 "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one
another."
Romans 5:5
VI. GOING TO HELL Luke 19:10 — "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."
Romans 10:9-13
VII. MISSING HEAVEN
John 14:6 — "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unso the Father, but by me." John 14:1-5

It's Not a Home Run Unless You Touch All the Bases

I know the baseball season has given way to football and basketball, but for me a baseball story is always in season. So give me a minute and ponder this. If you hit a ball over the centerfield fence, that is called a home run. But if you do not touch all the bases during your "home-run trot," it will not count as a run; you will be called out instead.

You're still on the team, but the cheering crowd will stop applauding. They may even boo you because, even though you hit the ball well, you did not finish the job according to the rules.

Near the end of his life, the apostle Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Tim. 4:7). That's the way it ought to be, but far too many do not do so. They hit the home run but then they do not finish the task that allows them to put the run on the scoreboard.

Here are just a few thoughts.

1. You preach a great sermon, but that's all you want to do.

In public you are a hero, but in private you are a jerk.

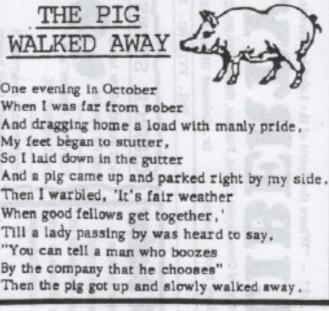
 You talk the talk about the Christian life, but your daily walk doesn't match up.

 You live for the Lord and serve Him twenty-five or thirty years, but then you drift off into the world.

Let me stop there; you get the idea. It is simple. Follow the rules. Touch all the bases. Come all the way around and make the score.

Don't just be a show-off. Stay at it until the scoreboard registers the score.

There is no good time to quit. Finish what you started. Amen! -Dr. Shelton Smith



"My dog was my

only friend. I told my wife a fellow needs at least two friends and so she went out and bought me another dog."

WHY VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL?

READ AND WEEP

It couldn't have been because we allow our children to watch, on average, seven hours of television a day filled with the glorification of sex and violence that isn't fit for adult consumption:

It couldn't have been because we allow our children to enter into virtual worlds in which, to win the game, one must kill as many opponents as possible in the most sadistic way possible.

It couldn't have been because we have sterilized and contracepted our families down to sizes so small that the children we do have are so spoiled with material things that they come to equate the receiving of the material with love.

It couldn't have been because our children, who historically have been seen as a blessing from God, are now being viewed as either a mistake created when contraception fails or inconveniences that parents try to raise in their spare time.

It couldn't have been because our nation is the world leader in developing a culture of death in which 50 to 60 million babies have been killed by abortion.

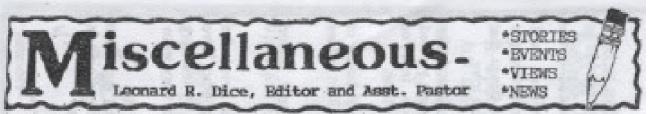
It couldn't have been because we give two-year prison sentences to teenagers who kill their newborns.

It couldn't have been because our school systems teach the children that they are nothing but glorified apes who have evolutionized out of some primordial soup of mud by teaching evolution as fact and by handling out condoms as if they were candy.

It couldn't have been because we teach our children that there are no laws of morality that transcend us, that everything is relative and that actions don't have consequences.

Nah, it must have been the guns.

-PROGRESS



EVERY PART OF THE BODY IS IMPORTANT

We don't realize how important every part is until We experience a sickness or an accident. Consider how the body reacts when you stub your toe. Your face shows it, your hands reach for your toe, your eyes look to see what you hit, your mouth opens to express your pain, and you hop around on one leg--all in an effort to comfort one hurting member: your toe! We should be thankful for every part of our body and the way God designed each to function.

So it is with the church, every member is important if the church is to function efficiently and effectively.

The Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 12:14-24 has compared the church to the human body. Church members have different roles, but the roles are equally important according to God's design. Those who play the instruments are as important as the song leader or soloist. The bus mechanic is as important as the bus captain or driver. The usher who receives the money is as important as those who count it. Those who pray are as important as those who teach or preach.

Whether seen or unseen, all are important. The unseen organs in your body such as the liver, kidneys, heart, lungs, etc., are vital to your health. So, in the church, those who work behind the scenes are just as important as those who are visible and on the platform.

So, whatever capacity that God has you working in, just be faithful and do it as unto the Lord, no matter how small it may seem. Remember, every member serving faithfully insures that the church will function efficiently and effectively. May the Lord receive all the glory. -copied

