



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

Pastor Randy Love

Leonard Dice, Editor

January 17, 2021

Vol. XVIII, No. 3

The Hand You Hold

When a boy or girl in your home
Thrusts his small hand in yours,
It may be smeared with chocolate ice
cream

Or grimy from petting a dog,
And there may be a wart under the right
thumb

And a bandage around the little finger.
But the important thing about hands.

Is that they are the hands of the future.

These are the hands that may someday
hold a Bible...

Or a Colt revolver,

Play the church piano

Or spin a gambling wheel,

Gently dress a leper's wounds

Or tremble wretchedly uncontrolled by
an alcoholic mind.

Right now the hand is in yours;

It asks for help and guidance.

It represents a full-fledged personality in
miniature,

To be respected as a separate individual,
Whose day-to-day growth into Christian
adulthood is your responsibility.

—Mrs. A. H. Richards

Pocket-Watch Christians

Many Christians are
like wheel barrows: no
good unless pushed.

Others are like canoes:
they need to be paddled.

Some are like kites: if
you don't keep a string
on them, they'll fly
away!

Still others are like
balloons: full of wind
and just waiting for a
chance to explode.

Then there are others
like footballs: you can't
tell which way they will
bounce.



But praise the Lord,
many Christians are like
good pocket watches:
with open faces and
busy hands, they are
well regulated and full
of good works.

Christians like this are
the backbone of every
church.

In Days Gone By

On Jan. 16, 1944, General Eisenhower assumed the Allied Command in England. He was a great general.

THE ANCHOR HOLDS

An anchor is an iron weight used to hold the ship at rest in troubled waters. When it is dropped, it remains attached to the ship and anchors the ship from beneath the waters. Once as I was fishing from a small boat, I dropped my anchor and found that it was unattached. As others laughed, the anchor and rope both sank into lake. I quickly learned that an unattached anchor is useless.

Also while in the Navy, I learned that while the waves are raging on top of the water, deep beneath where the anchor holds it is serene and calm. Are you facing some storms in your life?

First, be assured that when you drop your anchor it is attached to the One who is unmovable. It will hold because all is calm and serene where it is anchored. It will hold! As Ruth Caye Jones wrote,

**In Times like these, you need a savior;
In times like these, you need an anchor.**

Be very sure, be very sure.

Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus; yes, He's the One.

This Rock is Jesus, the only One.

Be very sure, be very sure.

Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

These are troubling times. The government is divided, stock markets are unpredictable, the economy is like a yo-yo, churches are adrift, Christians are uncommitted, and the world is flowing at a fast pace away from God. During these stormy times, we can be thankful we have an anchor of hope in an unchangeable and unwavering Lord.

During the storms of life, we need an anchor that will hold until the storm passes over. Once during a raging storm at sea, a sailor noticed that a little girl remained calm and peaceful. He asked, "Aren't you afraid of the storm?"

She smiled and said, "No, because my father is the captain, and he has safely sailed through many storms worse than this one. My father will take care of me."

During our storms, we will also learn that the trusted anchor holds. So, during your storms of life, drop an anchor and trust your Heavenly Father who cares for you. The storm will pass, and the anchor holds because it grips the solid Rock.

I have also learned that even though the Lord may not still your storm, He can still you in the storm. The ship may be battered and tossed in the raging storm, but the anchor is both sure and steadfast. The anchor holds. "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" (Heb. 6:19).

Ted Camp

There's More! There's More!

We can only see a little of the ocean,
A few miles distant from the rocky shore;
But out there, beyond, beyond our eyes' horizon,
There's more—there's more.

We can only see a little of God's loving,
A few rich treasures from His mighty store;
But out there, beyond, beyond our eyes' horizon,
There's more—there's more!

—Springs in the Valley

The Intoxicated Cat

A letter to an editor written by an unhappy woman complained that her husband thought it funny to make their pet cat drunk by pouring gin in its milk. The woman said that the cat would dance like mad, stagger around in circles and finally fall in a heap in the corner and go to sleep.

Besides, the woman reported, the cat was now losing all of her hair as a result of the gin diet, and what did a cat look like without any hair?

Immediately letters poured in to the newspapers from aroused readers all over the country, denouncing the husband and suggesting various degrees of punishment for a man who would

be so cruel to animals.

The reactions of the readers struck me as ironically funny: Give a cat liquor and you are considered cruel. Give a man liquor, and you are considered sophisticated. Let a cat reel, act foolish, fall into a drunken stupor, and immediately it is an occasion for readers from coast to coast to protest. Let a man do the same thing and we simply ignore it.

We wouldn't give liquor to a cat. It is inhumane. Yet we give it to our sons and daughters, and with all the advertising media at our command we continually encourage them to drink it. How crazy can we get?

—Dr. W. A. Criswell

Bad News—Good News!

A Sunday school teacher was talking about a little boy who was being promoted from her class. She told the teacher of his new class, "I have some bad news and some good news. The bad news is he's the worst-behaved kid in Sunday school. The good news is he has perfect attendance!"

The 'Y' Generation

People born before 1946 are called - The Greatest Generation.
People born between 1946 & 1964 are called - The Baby Boomers.
People born between 1965 & 1979 are called - Generation X.
People born between 1980 & 2010 are called - Generation Y.
WHY DO WE CALL THE LAST GROUP - GENERATION Y?

- Y should I get a job?
- Y should I leave home and find my own place?
- Y should I get a car when I can borrow yours?
- Y should I clean my room?
- Y should I wash and iron my own clothes?
- Y should I help you?
- Y should I buy any food?
- Y should I pull up my pants?



While this may not be true for all who were born in this generation, it IS true for many; you see them every day. What's worse is that we have some grown-ups who act worse than the kids do. Won't leave home, work, help out, etc... but still demand they be taken care of. WHAT A WASTE of a generation. It makes most other's sick to have to look at them or especially deal with them.

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



JUSTICE MUST BE DONE AND THE LAW UPHELD

Two men who had been friends in their youth met years later in the police court of a great city, one on the judge's bench, the other in the prisoner's dock. Evidence was heard and the prisoner found guilty. In consideration of their former friendship the judge was asked to withhold sentence. "No," he said, "That cannot be; justice must be done, and the law upheld." So he gave sentence: "Fifty dollars fine, or 14 days in jail at hard labor." The condemned man had nothing wherewith to pay, so prison was before him. Then the judge, having fulfilled his duty, stepped down beside the prisoner, paid his fine, put his arm around him, and said, "Now, John, you are coming home with me to dinner." Not even God can overlook sin. He must be faithful; and just. But for us the Judge was crucified! Lo, guilt is gone, and I am free.

-Sunday School Times

A LIFE OF IGNORANCE AND APATHY

One man said to another man, "The trouble with this world is ignorance and apathy." The other man replied, "I don't know and I don't care!" There, my friends, is ignorance and apathy, proven too clearly to miss.

Do you live a life of ignorance and apathy, or do you live a life of wisdom and caring? Enough said.

Will History Repeat Itself?

The Roman Empire was once powerful and proud. People thought it would last forever. No one dreamed it would fall, but it did! It fell and it fell hard!

We in America should read the reasons listed below for the Roman Empire's fall, and then do some serious thinking about our own country.

In 1787, Edward Gibbon completed his masterful book, "The decline and fall of the Roman Empire." Listed below are the five reasons he gives for the fall of that Empire:

1. The rapid increase of divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.
2. Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public monies for free bread and circuses for the people.
3. The mad craze for pleasure. Sports becoming more exciting and brutal every year.
4. The building of gigantic armaments, when the real enemy was the decadence of the people.
5. The decay of religion... Faith fading into mere formalism, losing touch with life and becoming impotent to guide the people.

Shall we ignore the causes of the fall of other nations? Shall we go on and on to our national doom, without repentance, without a return to the God of our Fathers?

Dr. J Harold Smith