

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

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Harmony

There is a unique harmony in the Bible. Compare, for example, the first two and the last two chapters:

In Genesis the earth is created; in Revelation it passes away.

In Genesis the sun and moon appear; in Revelation there is no need of the sun or moon.

In Genesis there is a garden, the home of a man; in Revelation there is a city, the home of the nations.

In Genesis we are introduced to Satan; in Revelation we see his doom.

In Genesis we hear the first sob and see the first tear; in Revelation we read: "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

In Genesis the curse is pronounced; in Revelation we read: "There shall be no more curse."

"If there are a million roads into hell, there's not one road out."

In Days Gone By

On May 23, 1498, Savonarola was burned at the stake for his faith and work for his Lord and Saviour.

On May 24, 1429, Joan of Arc was captured.

On May 24, 1739, John Wesley was converted to Christ.

SOMETIMES THE LORD CALMS THE STORM. SOMETIMES HE LETS THE STORM RAGE AND CALMS HIS CHILD.

Our hope is not in the White House, the State House, the courthouse, the schoolhouse, the warehouse, your house or my house; our hope is in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Young-uns are like puppies. A pup that knows a lot of tricks ain't smarter than others; it just had somebody spend time on it.



CHURCH ATTENDANCE REBUILDING SLOWLY ACROSS THE COUNTRY

All across the country I'm hearing that church attendance is presently about 75 to 80 percent of pre-COVID levels. Some people will have become sidetracked and never return. But I believe most genuine Christians miss being in church services and are eager to return.

Although the livestreaming has been a great emergency measure, it is not a full answer for our long-term needs. It may continue to be an outreach tool, but it does not meet the Bible definition of church.

Church was God's idea and He obviously always knows what is best. Remember it was Jesus who said, "That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18).

It is clear that Jesus intended for His people to "church" themselves in order to have the strength to move against "the gates of hell." Hell and its cohorts have fortified their holdings in this world, but they are no match for "church" as the Lord intended it.

For the sake of our families, our society and even for Heaven's sake, we need "church" to grow strong, stand tall and take a stand against the Devil's activity in each local area.

Although "church" has become a take-it-or-leave-it matter for a lot of people, that attitude can never be sustained from Scripture. Remember:

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."—Heb. 10:25.

Skipping church is easy to do, but you can't clip this verse out of the Bible. Since the word church

means "a called out assembly," we are faced with the duty of going to "church."

Here is another defining passage.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."—Eph. 3:20, 21.

The Book of Ephesians is in my Bible for me and in your Bible for you. Does the pastor have some responsibility to see that the Lord is glorified in the church? He certainly does. He has a big role in seeing to it. But you and I cannot put it all on the pastor. If we are never there when the church meets, then we are in no position to follow the mandate of verse 21.

So let's decide to get church back in the schedule. Let's not be just electronic spectators. Let's give the Lord what is due Him on "the Lord's Day."

Let's put our wants and our wishes on hold for a few hours and give the Lord the priority He deserves.

If you are in a good, solid, fundamental church, don't leave its well-being to someone else. Let's get on board with energy and with enthusiasm. Let's go to Sunday school. Let's go to morning service. Let's go to the Sunday evening service. Let's show up for the mid-week service. Let's go soul winning too.

The rebuilding after the damage done by the COVID crisis will take a while, but it will come much more quickly if all of us pitch in and help. Amen!

Dr. Shelton Smith, "Sword Of The Lord"

• If one man calls you a horse, pay no attention. If two men call you a horse, think it over. If three men call you a horse, buy a saddle.

• Not too long ago we used to wait until the price came down before buying something. Now we buy before the price goes up.

• Teenagers are people who express a burning desire to be different by dressing exactly alike.

• A friend is someone who takes you to lunch even though he doesn't have an expense account.

WORD PUZZLE. Find the names of these wildlife animals that God has made.

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|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Armadillo | P R A I R I E D O G R E T T O | | |
| Badger | R E G D A B R I G N I M M E L | | |
| Bear | O T B C E O M T B I S O N W L | | |
| Beaver | N O E I D L I I O E O O N O I | | |
| Bighorn | G Y V N G B G P N S A O T L D | | |
| Bison | H O O B B H O A E K O V G V A | | |
| Bobcat | O C D A O S O W E G T R E E M | | |
| Buffalo | R C R K S B E R C P I O T R R | | |
| Caribou | N Q P U N A C A N Z U O N I A | | |
| Coati | T U M I S U R A Z S L M R N W | | |
| Cougar | O G T E K X K L T E E E A E A | | |
| Coyote | M A L A N A Y S C B E A R I L | | |
| Deer | R R L Y I T A O C D W O L P R | | |
| Dove | A O L A F F U B C A R I B O U | | |
| Eagle | M U S T A N G L E R R I U Q S | | |
| Grizzly | Mustang | Prenghorn | Squirrel |
| Lemming | Ocelot | Puma | Walrus |
| Lynx | Opossum | Rabbit | Wapiti |
| Marmot | Otter | Raccoon | Weasel |
| Mink | Pika | Seal | Wolf |
| Moose | Prairie Dog | Skunk | Wolverine |

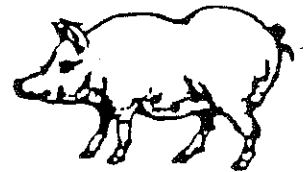
THE APPLE AND THE WORM

How does a worm get inside an apple? Perhaps you think the worm burrows in from the outside. No, scientists have discovered that the worm comes from the inside.

But how does he get in there? Simple. An insect lays an egg in the apple blossom. Some time later, the worm hatches in the heart of the apple, then eats his way out.

Sin, like the worm, begins in the heart and works out through a person's thoughts, words, and actions. For this reason, David once wrote, "Create in me a clean heart, O God." (Psalms 51:10)

THE PIG WALKED AWAY



One evening in October
When I was far from sober
And dragging home a load with manly pride,
My feet began to stutter,
So I laid down in the gutter
And a pig came up and parked right by my side.
Then I warbled, 'It's fair weather
When good fellows get together,'
Till a lady passing by was heard to say,
"You can tell a man who boozes
By the company that he chooses"
Then the pig got up and slowly walked away.

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



THERE ARE FIVE REASONS WHY YOU MAY NOT LIKE A GOOD BIBLE-PREACHING CHURCH

1. You May be lost.
 - a. Lost people hate light - John 3:18-20
 - b. Lost people hate truth - John 18:37-38; John 17:17.
 - c. Lost people hate preaching - I Corinthians 1:18-21
2. You may be carnal.
 - a. Not spiritual - I Corinthians 3:1-7
3. You may be worldly.
 - a. Matthew 13:22; I John 2:15
 - b. What Jesus said: John 14:30
 - c. What Paul said: II Corinthians 4:3-5
 - d. What Moses did: Hebrews 11:24-27
4. You may be ignorant of spiritual truths.
 - a. About salvation - Rom. 10:9-13; Acts 4:10-12
 - b. About Heaven - John 14:1-3; II Cor. 5:1
 - c. About eternal security - I John 5:13; John 3:36
 - d. About the second coming - I Thess. 4:13-18; John 10:27-29
 - e. About judgment - Romans 14:10-12; Hebrews 9:27
 - f. About Hell - Psalm 9:17; Proverbs 27:20; Luke 12:5
5. You may not like the stand we take.
 - a. About the Bible - Psalms 12:6-7
 - b. About the old paths - Jeremiah 6:16
 - c. About Godly music - Ephesians 5:18-19; Galatians 5:9
 - d. About soul winning - Psalm 126:5-6; Matthew 9:37-38
 - e. About faithfulness - Proverbs 20:6; Proverbs 27:6; I Corinthians 4:2; Revelation 2:10-11



THERE ARE MANY BUSINESSES, institutions and organizations in every town and area that are important and useful. However, none of them can even begin to compare with the Bible-preaching church. The church is so important to Jesus that He gave His life for it. The church is important to the Christian because he is spiritually fed and encouraged through it. We need her love, worship, warmth and fellowship. The church is important to lost people because she gives out the Gospel message of Christ, who alone is able to save and keep you. The church is the only institution that holds out a message of hope in the face of death. Grace Baptist Church here in Pittsfield, Illinois is one of those Bible-preaching churches.