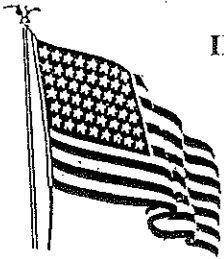


II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."



LIBERTY

A Ministry of Grace Baptist Church, Pittsfield, Illinois - 217-285-5230

Pastor Randy Love

Leonard Dice, Editor

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THINGS I NEVER EXPECTED TO LIVE TO SEE

A time when the morals of church members are as bad, or worse, than the unsaved world.

A time when you cannot tell the difference in the dress and manners of men and women.

A time when love for God and country is scorned by politicians and the press almost daily.

A time when the police and sheriff scarcely have enough authority to arrest a man, and when the courts generally protect the criminal and punish his victim.

The present assault on religious freedom in this country.

A time when people would attempt to justify the murder of unborn babies.

A time when churches become more social centers than religious centers.

A time when so few sinners are really being saved and so few men are being called into the ministry.

A time when men and women, boys and girls, live together without any thought of marriage or a home.

A time when our public schools and colleges would graduate people who cannot read or write.

A time when our country would engage in retreat after retreat before some of the weakest nations on earth. America once had the backbone of a saw log; now she has the backbone of a jelly fish.

I THINK THAT I SHALL NEVER SEE

I think that I shall never see

A church that's all it ought to be;
A church whose members never stray
Beyond the Straight and Narrow way.
A church that has no empty pews,
Whose pastor never has the "blues".
A church whose deacons always deak,
And none is proud, and all are meek,
Where gossips never peddle lies,
Or make complaints or criticize,
Where all are always sweet and kind,
And all to other's faults are blind,
Such perfect churches there may be,
But none of them are known to me.
But still we'll work and pray and plan
To make our own the best we can!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS AT
9:30 A.M. Don't Let
your teacher down!**

A time when prayer and Bible reading would be forbidden in our public schools.

A time when nearly all discipline and even church discipline would cease.

A time when there would be so much prosperity in material things and such poverty in spiritual matters.

A time when there would be so little interest in the second coming of Christ--an event soon to transpire and about which all true Christians should be greatly concerned.

THE MEASURE OF A MAN

Said the boy to his father,
"Tell me daddy, if you can,
I wonder, oh, I wonder
What's the measure of a man?
Is it beauty, is it talent,
Is it riches he accrues?
Is it popularity or strength
Or the knowledge he can use?
Is it education, good works,
Is it stature, muscles, tan?
Tell me daddy, tell me daddy,
What's the measure of a man?"

Said the father to his boy,
"Son, I'll tell you if I can,
What the Bible surely tells us
Is the measure of a man.
It's by his honest, godly living,
His intent to doing right,
It's his love, his faith, his wisdom,
His inspiration, day or night.
It's how he stands on doctrine
And his intercessory prayer,
It's his inward strength that matters,
His compassion and his care.

It's how he treats his family
And if his home is right,
Wife and children saved and serving,
Against sin and in the fight.
It is what he's done with Jesus,
If he's kept on from the start,
For man looks on the outside,
but God looks on the heart."
Said the boy to his father,
"You have helped me understand,
What is really so important
In the measure of a man."

-Sharon Dice

*An old story tells of a man's
approaching a slave about to be
sold and asking, "If I buy you and
take you to live and work in my
home, will you be an honest
man?"*

*The proud slave replied, "Sir,
I will be honest whether you buy
me or not."*

I try to watch the words I say
And keep them soft and sweet,
For I don't know from day to day
Which ones I'll have to eat.

JIM: "IF ATHLETES HAVE ATH-
LETE'S FOOT, WHAT DO ASTRO-
NAUTS HAVE?"

JOE: "MISSILE-TOE."

ONE LOUSY FLY

One lousy fly.
I chased him
more than ten minutes
and now he's
resting
peacefully,
on the third shelf
of the bookcase,
to the left
of the fireplace.
He's dead, of course,
just like my spiritual
life.
Life? I say life?
Oh, what a paradox;
what dreadfully
true paradox.
Ten minutes I chased,

swung,
put everything I had
into killing
one lousy fly.
But Lord,
I haven't spent
that much time
in your Word today,
or in prayer,
or in telling others
about my wonderful
Savior-
no.
I've been too busy
killing
one lousy fly.
Lord, have mercy.

ANDY STIMER

NOT QUITTING AT 65!

Growing old, but not retiring
For the battle still is on;
Going on without relenting,
Till the final victory's won.
Ever on, nor think of resting,
For the battle rages still,
And my Saviour still is with me
And I seek to do His will.

Years roll by, the body weakens;
But the spirit still is young;
Breath of God--it never ages,
Is eternal, ever strong;
Rather, year by year it strengthens,
Gaining o're the things of sense.
By Thy Spirit, lead my spirit,
Saviour, till Thou call me hence.

Things of earth decrease in value,
Brighter shines the light above;
Less the power of human hatred,
Sweeter far the Saviour's love.
Let me tell it to the needy,
Far and wide Thy worth proclaim;
That my closing years may praise Thee,
Glorify Thy blessed name.

Let me labor in Thy harvest
More than ever in the past,
Reaping in what Thou hast planted,
Till I dwell with Thee at last;
That before Thy throne eternal
I may have some fruit to bring,
Not my work--the fruit of Calvary,
All thine own, my Lord and King.

I WAS BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE!

For many years a young man
had suffered from a dreadful
disease which gradually made his
limbs immovable. One who had
witnessed many cases of severe
bodily suffering said that he had
never seen anything to compare
with this dear man's affliction.

Finally, when his sight also
failed, he called someone to write
down from his lips the following:

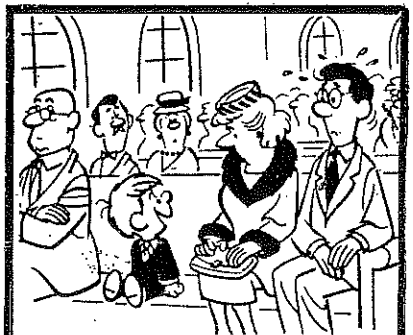
Once I could see, but ne'er again
Shall I behold the verdant plain
Jeweled with flowers of color bright,
Bathed in a flood of golden light.
The birds, the brilliant butterflies,
These all in thought before me rise;
The shining rivulet whose song
Comes sweetly murmuring along;
The sky, the clouds, the grass, the trees,
All waving, glancing in the breeze--
I see them pictured in my mind,
But there alone, for I am blind.
Blind, did I say? How can it be
Since I by faith my Savior see
Exalted on the throne above,
Beaming with mercy, grace and love?
A view like this is better far
Than sun or moon or glittering star,
Or glowing landscape, sunny skies,
Or sight that's fair to mortal eyes.
I thank my God that He has put
A veil before my eyes and shut
All earthly objects from my sight
And Christ revealed in glory bright.
Henceforth my word shall ever be--
Once I was blind, but now I see.

ROBIN AND SPARROW

Said the robin to the sparrow,
"I should really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so."

Said the sparrow to the robin,
"Friend, I think that it must be
That they have no heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me."

-Elizabeth Cheney



"HE'S TALKING ABOUT DADDY."

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



NIGH UNTO DAMASCUS ABOUT NOON...

These are the words of the Apostle Paul describing the where and when of his conversion to Christ. It's a wonderful thing not only to know you're saved, but also to know where and when it happened. In my case I was saved near Andersonville, Indiana on Tuesday, July 12, 1955 at about 8 p.m. at night. It took place in the kitchen of a home and a table chair was where I knelt before God, confessing myself as a lost sinner and asking God to forgive me through His Son who died for my sins. I didn't know much about it then, but ever since that time I have been learning of the magnificence of what the Lord did for me that night. Jesus totally changed my life and eternal destination that night. He never left me when at times I stumbled and blundered as a new Christian, but was patient with me as I began to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.

I realize, of course, that not everybody knows exactly when and where they got saved, but they do know it happened and Christ is their Saviour and Lord. Whether or not you can remember the place and time like Paul, you still need to know right now that Christ is your Saviour. If you have any doubt about being saved, talk to a good, dedicated, Godly pastor or Christian and get it settled once and for all. The Bible teaches us that we can KNOW we are saved and it's forever (I John 5:13). Knowing for sure that you are saved forever will help you through life more than anything I know. And, believe me, when you are facing death, it's the only thing that counts.

If you are saved and know it, then try to get others saved, too. They need Christ the same as you and I need Him. Somebody is waiting for you right now to tell them.

CHEAP, IGNORANT CRITICISM TOWARD LEADERSHIP

Criticism is always directed at those who are willing to lead and do the hard work. Whether in business, government, church or whatever, if you are a leader, expect criticism. Now, constructive criticism, given with the right motive, is the only kind to listen to. Don't spend time responding to cheap, ignorant criticism. That's all that some people have to offer. If you are a follower, stop criticizing, complaining and finding fault. Get in the battle for the Lord and become a leader, or at least pray for those in places of leadership.