



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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A BAG OF TOOLS

Isn't it strange

That princes and kings,

And clowns that caper

In sawdust rings,

And common people

Like you and me

Are builders for eternity?

Each is given a bag of tools,

A shapeless mass,

A book of rules;

And each must make,

Ere life is flown,

A stumbling-block

Or a stepping-stone.

R. L. SHARPE

DOES IT REALLY PAY?

Does it pay, I wonder, to toil for gold

Till the back is bowed and bent;

Till the heart is old and the hair is white

And life's best days are spent;

Till the eyes are blind with the yellow dust

That we strive for day by day;

Till all we hear is the coin's dull clink—

I wonder, does it pay?

Does it pay, I wonder, never to stop

In the ceaseless rush and care

And list to the songs of bird and brook

Or wander through woodlands fair;

To never think of what lies beyond

The narrow sphere of today

Till the new life dawns on our untried souls—

I wonder, does it pay?

In Days Gone By

On March 28, 1895, the first U.S. Subway was opened in Boston.

On March 30, 1981, President Reagan was shot and seriously wounded outside a Washington, D.C. hotel.

Show me a thoroughly satisfied man; and I will show you a failure. THOMAS A. EDISON

**Whatever we face,
We are never alone. . .
For GOD in His love,
Makes our problems His own.**

Even the woodpecker owes his success to the fact that he uses his head and keeps pecking away until he finishes the job he starts.

Has Anyone Seen Miss Modesty Recently?

I miss her charm and winsome ways very much. I wonder where she is. I seldom see her on the streets and her visits to our church are becoming more infrequent. I know that others miss her, too. Just the other day Hal Wholesome and Calvin Cleanmind were asking about her. They liked Miss Modesty's company because she always put them at ease. That certainly isn't the case with Evelyn Exposed and Hilary Highheim who constantly embarrass them. These girls don't seem to care though, because they are quite popular with Larry Lear, Frank Foul, and Sam Smut. I understand that they are dating these fellows quite frequently now.

Someone said that they felt that one of the reasons why Miss Modesty is staying away is because many of our young ladies offended her by just ignoring her. When I made an inquiry, I was told by Mrs. Naïve and Mrs. Indifferent that they just assumed that their daughters would get to know her. It never occurred to them that you should have to introduce anyone to Miss Modesty.

There is someone in our church who frankly told me that she is glad that Miss Modesty doesn't come around much anymore. Apparently she never did care for her. I speak of Felicia Fashion. She considers Miss Modesty to be entirely too conservative and old fashioned. "After all," she said, "how are we going to attract the world to the church if we have unfashionable members like Miss Modesty around?" I've heard that there are others, such as Beverly Brazen and Francine Flirtation, who feel the same way.

One thing that does concern me greatly is that two of Miss Modesty's close friends, Pauline Purity, and Virginia Virtue are thinking of leaving our church also. What a loss that would be!

Well, if you see Miss Modesty, will you please tell her that the pastor misses her? And will you help bring her back to our fellowship? She is our friend and oh how we need her!

Wendell K. Grout
Sparks From the Fire

Remember the Miller's Donkey

The miller, son and donkey went to the market. The miller rode the donkey all the way, and people exclaimed, "Cruel man, riding himself and making his son walk." So he got down and his son rode; then people slanged, "What a lazy son for riding while poor old father walks." Then both father and son rode, and people said, "Cruelty to animals, poor donkey." So they got down and carried the donkey on a pole, but folks still complained. Then all three walked, and people said, "What fools to have a donkey and not ride it." So let's go ahead with our work for God and not care what folks say.

A JOB OR A MINISTRY?



Some people have a job in the church; others get involved in a ministry. What is the difference?

If you are doing it because nobody else will, it's a job. If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry. If you will do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job.

If you do it because you are convinced it needs to be done, it's a ministry. If your concern is success, it's a job. If your concern is faithfulness, it's a ministry. It is hard to get excited about a job. It's almost impossible not to be excited about a ministry for our Lord.

People may say, "Well done," when you do your job.

The Lord will say, "Well done," when you complete your ministry.

An average church is filled with people doing jobs.

A great church is filled with people who are involved in a ministry.

If God calls you to a ministry, don't treat it like a job. If you have a job in the church, give it up and find a ministry. God doesn't want us feeling stuck with a job, but excited and faithful to Him in a ministry.

Life is a book

Life is a book

in volumes three:

The past, the present,
the yet to be.

The past is written
and laid away,

The present we're writing
day by day,

And last and best,
volume three

Is locked from sight—

God holds the key.

—Margaret Schoby Hall

FOREVER

RUTH GIBBS ZWALL

We will be young forever in His presence
And gone will be the ravages of years,
The furrows plowed by life's supreme distresses,
The bending back, the memory of tears.

We will be young forever to behold Him,
To do His will with never-ending joy,
With every promise finding its fulfillment
And nothing there to hinder or destroy.

Take up your work, O Friend, and do not falter,
Earth is so short, eternity so long—
Give God your weariness and all your burden
And find in Him your never-failing song.

What will it matter that the tent is folding?
Go forth to serve while time and breath shall last
For He who maketh all things new in heaven
Will make us new, with earth forever past.

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

- *STORIES
- *EVENTS
- *VIEWS
- *NEWS



I thought our readers might like to see a picture of this old editor of the "Liberty" paper, and my wife Sharon, as we celebrated my 89th birthday recently at Grace Baptist Church in Pittsfield, Illinois. I started the "Liberty" in 1982, almost 40 years ago. Some readers have been on my mailing list for that long! I've mailed it to pastors, evangelists, missionaries, family, friends and even an enemy or two! I'm trusting that it has been a blessing to your ministry. We plan to keep it going as long as possible. It has always been a labor of love for me. We are thankful to the Lord for the good health He has given to us. Also, many thanks to those ladies who made that big beautiful cake.

-Leonard & Sharon Dice