

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

LIBERTY

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Life's Illustration

In the days of the pioneers, when men saw a prairie



fire coming, what would they do?

Since not even the fastest horses could out run it, the pioneers took a match and burned the grass in a designated area by them. Then they would take their stand in the burned area and be safe from the threatening prairie fire.

As the roar of the flames approached, they would not be afraid. Even as the ocean of fire surged around them there was no fear, because the fire had already passed over the place where they stood:

When the judgment of God comes to sweep men and women into hell for eternity, there is one spot that is safe. Over two thousand years ago the wrath of God poured out on Calvary. There the Son of God took the wrath that should have fallen on us. Now, if we stand at the cross, we are safe for time and eternity.

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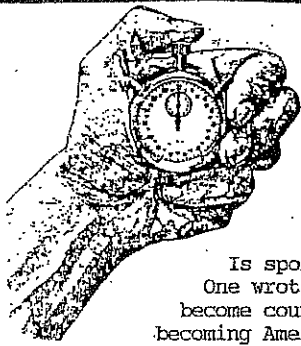
A DECISION TO ACCEPT CHRIST

Do not put off this important decision any longer. God cares for you and loves you. He wants to see you saved so you can go to Heaven to live with Him forever. Will you call upon Him now? From your heart say this prayer sincerely and with a repentant spirit.

Dear God, I'm a sinner headed for Hell and I need to be saved. I cannot save myself, but I know You can do it for me. I do believe that Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection paid my sin debt and purchased salvation for me. I believe it and right now I submit myself in full trust to Him. Please, God, forgive my sin and save me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

In Days Gone By

On Sept. 4, 1609, Henry Hudson, sailing his vessel the "Half Moon", discovered the island of Manhattan. In 1781, the community of Los Angeles, California was founded by Spanish settlers and named El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula.



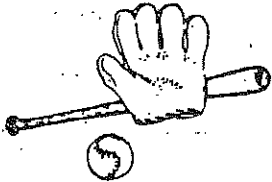
The New Religion!

The New Religion?

SPORTS

Is sports actually a religion? Some sports writers think so. One wrote: "Our passions, our obsessions and our recreations have become counterfeit religions." Another writer wrote: "Sports is fast becoming America's newest folk religion."

Most sporting events are attended by people with "religious" regularity and devotion. For many people sports has become an addiction, especially with the trusty cable hook-up bringing to people every sport under the sun. Sports as such are not evil but multitudes have been overcome by the vainglory, egotism and idolatry that poisons much of modern sports.



The original Saints didn't play in New Orleans, they prayed in Jerusalem. Their zeal for Christ made them known as fanatics, from which we get our word "fan." Our word "enthusiasm" comes from the extreme devotion of the early Christians and originally meant "God within." Their great champion, the Apostle Paul, often figuratively used the word arena and compared the Christian life to a great athletic endeavor.

A Christian should be a fan (fanatic) for Jesus. Every Sunday should be a Super Bowl for saints as they stand up to battle Satan with all the zeal of Christ and the first-century church. Look at some of the characteristics of a "fan" and compare that with the Christian life.

FANS ARRIVE EARLY. They seldom wander in during the third inning or the second quarter. In church, some seem to straggle in and straggle out.

FANS DON'T CARE WHEN THEY GET HOME. They love extra innings and sudden death overtime. They're not pew warmers worried about pot roasts and beating other church-goers to Ponderosa or Bonanza.

FANS ARE VOCAL. They don't sit and spectate. They participate.

FANS CAN ENDURE ANYTHING. Football at 40 below zero. Basketball when it is hot enough to boil a bat's brain. Some spectators at Sunday services are too much like the farmer's pump: froze up in the winter and dried up in the summer.

FANS WANT THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE. The closer to the action, the better. But at the house of God it is a different story. The farther they are from the action the better they like it.

FANS NEVER MISS A GAME. They'll see it in person, watch a replay on television and then read about it in the newspaper. And they can't wait to get to work to talk about it again. Sunday saints arrive grudgingly, listen sparingly and leave hurriedly. God knows they're not fans.

FANS KNOW ALL THE STATISTICS. Listen to the radio talk shows and you'll find that fans know all the trivia statistics about hundreds of ball players. Some of God's most loyal onlookers can't name three of the 12 apostles.

Something is seriously wrong when you can get excited about a ball sailing over a fence, but wish you could find an excuse to miss church. If following Christ means less excitement than a field goal, you're not a fan. The world can be reached for Christ but not until some long-standing members of the church convert into real fans. How about you?



Just So You Know:

If my body is ever found on a jogging trail, just know that I was murdered somewhere else and dumped there.

Respect your elders. They graduated from High School without the internet.

I've decided that I'm not old, I'm 55 plus shipping and handling.

Behind every angry woman stands a man who has absolutely no idea what he did wrong.

Sometimes my decision making skills closely resemble those of a squirrel when crossing the road.

Some things are just better left unsaid -- and I usually realize it right after I said them.

Camping: Where you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person.

I thought getting old would take longer.

A wise man once said -- nothing.

Timely Thoughts for Senior Adults

- Today it costs as much to amuse a child as it did to educate his father.
- Before credit cards, we always knew how badly broke we were.
- You have to be quite a juggler if you have a reputation to keep up and one to live down at the same time!
- The promises of God are certain, but they do not mature in ninety days.
- God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves (D.L. Moody).
- The first prize for being the laziest man in the world has to go to the fellow who sits and whittles with an electric knife!

**IF IGNORANCE
IS BLISS.....
WHY AREN'T
MORE PEOPLE
HAPPY?**

Along the Road

I walked a mile with Pleasure;
She chattered all the way
But left me none the wiser
For all she had to say.

I walked a mile with Sorrow
And never a word said she;
But, oh, the things I learned from
her

When Sorrow walked with me!
—Robert Browning Hamilton

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



IS EVERYBODY HAPPY? The answer is a resounding "NO!" However, a survey was taken recently to find who the happiest people in the world are. If you think that it's the rich, the powerful and the famous, you are wrong. The survey revealed that the happiest people in the world are evangelical Christians. There are many reasons for this because the true Christian knows and has things that the world knows nothing about. Listen to these things and you will understand why a Christian has joy and happiness in his heart and expresses it outwardly:

1. We know that Jesus Christ has come - I John 5:20.
2. We know that we have eternal life - I John 5:13.
3. We know that all things work together for good to them that love God - Romans 8:28.
4. We know we have a home in Heaven - I Cor. 5:1.
5. We know that Jesus is coming again - Acts 1:10-11
6. We know we have access to God through prayer - Ephesians 2:18.
7. We know that we have a Mediator - I John 1:1-2.
8. We know that we will be like Christ - I John 3:2.
9. We know that we shall reign with Christ - Rev. 20:4-6.
10. We know that we shall be with the Lord forever - II Thess. 4:17-18.

These are just a few of the marvelous, wonderful truths that Christians know. There are many, many more. It is no wonder, then, that truly born again people are the happiest people of all. We have a hope that is steadfast and sure. God's grace is sufficient for every day that we live, for every mile that we travel and for every trial that we endure. Without Him we have nothing; with Him we have everything!

GUESS MY NAME:

1. I am a man who was anointed by Elijah to be a prophet. (I Kings 19:16-19)
2. Because I saw Elijah go into heaven, I received a double portion of his spirit. (II Kings 2:9-12)
3. I caused the iron to swim by cutting a stick and casting it into the water. (II Kings 6:6)
4. I multiplied the widow's oil so that she was able to sell it and pay her debt. (II Kings 4:1-7)