

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

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## Keep Smiling

It is easy enough to be  
pleasant

When life flows by like a  
song,

But the man worthwhile is  
the man who can smile

When everything goes  
dead wrong.

For the test of the heart is  
trouble,

And it always comes with  
the years,

And the man who is worth  
the salt of the earth

Is the man who can smile  
through his tears.

## T O M O R R O W

I have nothing to do with  
tomorrow;

My Saviour will make that  
His care.

Should it be filled with trouble  
and sorrow,

He'll help me to suffer and  
bear.

I have nothing to do with  
tomorrow;

Its burdens then why  
should I share?

Its grace and its faith I can't  
borrow;

Then why should I borrow  
its care?

## Days Gone By

On Nov. 1, 1825, George  
Mueller, the famed orph-  
anage founder, was saved.

## GUESS MY NAME :

1. I am a man whom Balak called to curse the Israelites.  
(Num. 22:5)
2. God told me not to curse the Israelites, for they were  
blessed. (Num. 22:12)
3. Through my counsel the children of Israel committed  
trespass against the Lord. (Num. 31:17)
4. My donkey saved my life three times when the angel  
of the Lord stood in the way. (Num. 22:33)

## That's what Christians do now.

**I**N 1973 THE SUPREME COURT said it was OK to kill unborn babies. Since then, we have killed more than the entire population of Canada. And it continues. A woman's choice? Half of those who have died in their mothers' wombs have been women. They didn't have a choice. It is called abortion.

Me? I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now. First it was in dingy, dirty theaters. Then, convenience stores. Then, grocery stores. Then on television. Now it is in the homes of millions via the Internet. It is called pornography.

Me? I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now. They called it no-fault. Why should we blame anyone when something so tragic happens. Haven't they already suffered enough? Half of the marriages in America end this way. The children suffered. The family broke down. It is called divorce.

Me? I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now. At one time it was a perversion. We kept it secret. We secured help and hope for those who practiced it. Now it is praised. We have parades celebrating it, and elected officials give it their blessing. Now it is endowed with special privileges and protected by special laws. Even some Christian leaders and denominations praise it. It is called homosexuality.

Me? I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now. It used to be an embarrassment. A shame. Now a third of all births are to mothers who aren't married. Two-thirds of all African-American children are born into a home without a father. The state usually pays the tab. That is why we pay our taxes, so that government can take the place of parents. After all, government bureaucrats know much better how to raise children than parents do. It is called illegitimacy.

Me? I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now. At one time it was wrong. But then the state decided to legalize it, promote it and tax it. It has ripped apart families and destroyed lives. But just look at all the money the state has raised. No longer do we have to teach our children to study and work hard. Now we teach them they can get something for nothing. We spend millions encouraging people to join the fun and excitement. Just look at the big sums that people are winning. They will never have to work again! It is called gambling.

Me? I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now. Not long ago, Christians were the good guys. But now any positive image of Christians

in movies or on TV is gone. We are now depicted as the bad guys – greedy, narrow-minded hypocrites. The teacher can't have a Bible on her desk, but can have Playboy. We don't have Christmas and Easter holidays – just winter and spring break. We can't pray in school, but can use foul language. It's called being tolerant.

Me? I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now.

Yes, all these things came to pass within 30 years. Where were the Christians? Why, they were in church. All these things are for someone else to deal with. Times have changed. Involvement has been replaced with apathy.

But don't blame me. I didn't do anything. I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now.

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## THE MESSAGE OF THE EMPTY PEW

... thou shalt be missed, because thy seat  
will be empty. 1 Samuel 20:18

**A**N EMPTY church pew speaks with great eloquence. To the preacher it says, "Your sermons aren't worthwhile." To the visitor it whispers, "As you can see, we're not quite holding our own." To the treasurer it shouts, "Look out for a deficit!" To the stranger seeking a church home it suggests, "You'd better wait awhile." To the members who are present it says, "You might as well go fishing next Lord's Day too." The vacant pew kills zeal and smothers hope. Most of all, it displeases the Lord!

## GOD'S PORTRAIT OF YOU

Their throat is an open sepulcher. . . . Their feet  
are swift to shed blood. - Romans 3:13,15

**H**OW often have you heard people say, "I never take a good picture"? What they mean is that whenever they've had a portrait made of themselves, it didn't turn out to their satisfaction. Sometimes they take comfort in the fact that the lighting was not good, or that the photographer lacked experience. There is no basis for such consolation, however, when we look at the picture of mankind in the third chapter of Romans. God's camera, the Bible, is accurate and portrays everyone as hopelessly lost and spiritually disfigured by sin.

Tom M. Olson states, "A prominent photographer says that there are very few beautiful women or handsome men in the world. It takes careful lighting and posing to make most people appear attractive. Many do not know they have a crooked nose, one small eye, a lopsided jaw, or some other flaw. Unfortunately, when they look into a mirror, they are usually engaging in some type of activity like shaving or combing their hair. This is deceiving, for when a person is in motion, physical defects are not noticeable. But when he is still, as in a photograph, his undesirable features become obvious." In the spiritual realm, "motion" is also the great deceiver. As we busily go about trying to establish our own righteousness, we fail to see ourselves as lost sinners.

Friend, God's portrait of you in Romans 3 is ugly but accurate. After looking intently at the biblical picture of your heart, call on Jesus to save you. By trusting Him you can become a "new creature" in Christ. —H. G. B.

**THOT: God formed us; sin deformed us; Christ alone can transform us!**

# Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

\*STORIES  
\*EVENTS  
\*VIEWS  
\*NEWS



## HOW EVERY MEMBER SHOULD HELP THEIR PASTOR

Earlier a nephew of mine in Indiana retired from the police force for which he had worked for many years. When interviewed by the local newspaper, one of the things he said was this: "Even though I will no longer be on the police force, I will always think like a policeman." That spoke to my heart because it is also true about a pastor. Having spent the biggest part of my life as a pastor (40½ years), I still have a pastor's heart and think like a pastor when I deal with people. I know how a pastor feels, how he thinks, how he is helped, what encourages him, what strengthens him and what he needs to accomplish his work for God.

Every member of Grace Baptist Church, or any good Bible-preaching church, should be interested in knowing how to help their pastor. Here are some things for serious consideration:

1. Be on time for everything - Don't make others wait on you. Punctuality is a character trait; being late is a character fault. Plan to be there on time.
2. Be loyal to your preacher - Stand up for him and never let anyone speak negatively about him. It is a sin to talk about God's man (I Tim. 5:19). God does chasten for this!
3. Pray for your preacher - You never know the burden or the stress he is going through. He has to deal with anything and everything imaginable, besides taking care of his own family. Satan works harder on him than on you.
4. Let him know you are standing with him - Say "Amen"; nod your head; pay close attention; work at getting all you can from the message; tell him personally from time to time how much you really appreciate him.
5. Bring others to church - Introduce them to your pastor and tell him you have brought them to hear him preach.
6. Help your preacher carry the load - Volunteer; be involved; complete a task; don't burden him with things you are supposed to do; don't tell him discouraging things before the service.
7. Give God's tithe, offering and missions money faithfully each week.
8. Do whatever your preacher asks without complaining - Do all your work "as unto the Lord."
9. Never do anything that will cause your pastor to doubt your loyalty. Does he know he can always count on you? He should be able to know, and you determine that.
10. Remember, your pastor loves you, the church and lost souls. Determine with your heart to help him in this great work of love and winning others to Christ. —LRD