

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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## AGELESS SPIRIT

We tend to pine for  
Those good days of the past,  
And sometimes regret  
That childhood didn't last.  
The young are so carefree,  
Inexperienced ... bold,  
Then comes that dreaded day  
When they too become old.  
Aging is a normal  
Process we can't control,  
But it doesn't have an effect  
On our imperishable soul.

—Florence Szering Maerz

## Days Gone By

On Feb. 12, 1940, the adventures of Superman debuted on the radio.



"So long, Harry—sorry you weren't home to talk about your church pledge!"

## THE DEVIL'S BASKET OF BEANS

My friends, the other day I was going down the street, and I saw a drove of pigs following a man. This excited my curiosity so much that I determined to follow. I did so; and to my great surprise, I saw them follow him to the slaughterhouse.

Anxious to know how this was brought about, I said to the man, "My friend, how did you manage to induce these pigs to follow you here?"

"Oh! did you not see?" said the man. "I had a basket of beans under my arm; and I dropped a few as I came along, and so they followed me."

Yes, and I thought: *So it is the Devil has his basket of beans under his arm, and he drops them as he goes along; and what multitudes he induces to follow him to an everlasting slaughterhouse!*

Yes, friends; and all your broad and crowded thoroughfares are strewn with the beans of the Devil.

—Rowland Hill

# NOBODY TO BLAME!

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they did the same thing people have done ever since—they started making excuses. Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the serpent. Nobody stepped up and said, "It was my fault."

What if they had used some of the same excuses we use today?

- They could have said their sin was due to the environment in which they lived, but their environment was perfect.

- They could have said it was a lack of education that made them do it, but they were the most educated people on earth.

- They could have blamed it all on their in-laws, but they didn't have any.

- They could have claimed that their sin was due to a repressive government, but they only had one law. How repressive is that?

- They could have said poverty was the problem, but they had the whole world.

- They could have blamed injustices in society, but they were society.

- They could have blamed the influence of TV and video games, but those hadn't been invented yet.

- They could have said it was all because of an absentee dad, but their Father was with them every day.

- They could have pinned it on their upbringing, but they were created as adults and never had any upbringing.

- They could have blamed racial problems, but Adam was the only man and Eve was taken out of him, so I would imagine they were both of the same race.

- They could have said their sin was the only way to get ahead, but who was there to get ahead of?

No, none of these excuses would hold water and neither will any of ours.

*"So...they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

*"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools."—Rom. 1:20—22.*

When we sin and try to make excuses for it, all we are doing is showing what fools we are.

See you at church.

# "Legacy of an Adopted Child"



Once there were two women  
Who never knew each other  
One you do not remember  
The other you call Mother  
Two different lives  
Shaped to make you one  
One became your guiding star  
The other became your sun  
The first one gave you life  
And the second taught you to live it  
The first gave you a need for love  
The second was there to give it  
One gave you a nationality  
The other gave you a name  
One gave you a talent  
The other gave you an aim  
One gave you emotions  
The other calmed your fears  
One saw your first sweet smile  
The other dried your tears  
One sought for you a home she couldn't provide  
The other prayed for a child  
And her hopes were not denied  
And now you ask me  
Through your tears  
The age old question  
Unanswered through the years  
Heredity or environment  
Which are you the product of  
Neither my darling,  
neither  
just two different kinds  
of love.



**DISCOVERING** that your driver's license has expired greatly improves your driving habits!

# DID YOU KNOW

Did you know? As you walk up the steps to the building which houses the U.S. Supreme Court you can see near the top of the building a row of the world's law givers and each one is facing one in the middle who is facing forward with a full-frontal view. . . It is Moses as he is holding the Ten Commandments.

Did you know? As you enter the Supreme Court courtroom, the two huge oak doors have the Ten Commandments engraved on each lower portion of each door.

Did you know? As you sit inside the courtroom you can see the wall, right above where the Supreme Court Judges sit, a display of the Ten Commandments.

Did you know? There are Bible verses etched in stone all over the Federal Buildings and Monuments in Washington, D.C.

Did you know? James Madison, the fourth president, known as "The Father of Our Constitution" made the following statement: "We have stacked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for Self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to The Ten Commandments of God."

Did you know? Every session of Congress begins with a prayer by a paid preacher whose salary has been paid by the taxpayers since 1777.

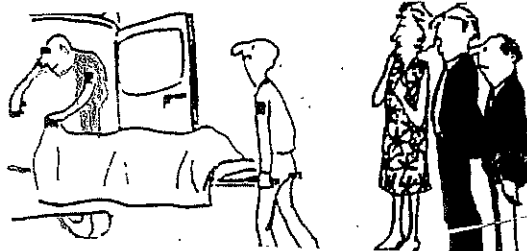
Did you know? Fifty-two of the 55 founders of the Constitution were members of the established Orthodox churches in the colonies.

Did you know? Thomas Jefferson worried that the Courts would overstep their authority and instead of interpreting the law would begin: the rule of few over many. **How then, have we gotten to the point that everything we have done for 247 plus years in this country is now suddenly wrong and unconstitutional?**

Let's put it around the world and let the world see and remember what this great country was built on **The Holy Bible and belief in God!**  
- Selected

"Will you marry me?" the young man asked.

"No," the young lady replied, "but I must congratulate you on your excellent taste."



After 34 years in the ministry it was bound to happen. He OD'd on fried chicken!

# Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

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



## Just For Today...

Smile at a stranger.

Listen to someone's heart.

Drop a coin where a child can find it.

Learn something new, then teach it to someone else.

Tell someone you're thinking of them.

Don't hold a grudge.

Don't be afraid to say, "I'm sorry."

Look a child in the eye and tell them how great they are.

Look beyond the face of a person into their heart.

Make a promise and keep it.

Call someone, for no other reason than to just say"

"Hi."

Show kindness to an animal.

Stand up for what you believe in.

Smell the rain, feel the breeze, listen to the wind, enjoy the sun.

Use all your senses to their fullest.

Cherish all your TODAYs!

**DO  
SOMETHING  
NICE  
FOR  
SOMEONE  
TODAY**

## Direction Please

In fifty years as a pastor, the only time I ever laughed during the invitation was when eight-year-old Andy came down the aisle. Andy had been in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School almost from birth but had never made a profession of faith.

Recently, at an invitation, when Andy came down the aisle, I rejoiced and thanked God that, finally, Andy had come forward. I bent down and said, "God bless you, Andy. Do you want to accept Christ and be baptized?"

He replied, "No, I want to go to the bathroom."

I burst out laughing and so did the entire congregation.

*Pastor John T. James, Sarasota, Florida*

## Painting the church

A cheating painting contractor had been skimping by thinning his paint excessively. Nevertheless, he landed a big job painting a church. He was almost done when a major storm blew up. It washed all the paint off. Amid the thunder and lightning, there came a loud voice...

"REPAINT," it boomed. "REPAINT, AND THIN NO MORE!"