

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

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A Safety Tip. (1) Don't ride in cars. They are the cause of 20% of all fatal accidents! (2) Don't travel by air, rail, or water. 16% of all accidents are the results of one of these activities. (3) Don't stay home, either. 17% of all accidents occur there. (4) Don't walk on the streets. 14% of the accidents happen to pedestrians. (5) Only .001% of all fatal accidents occur in church, so it's obviously then, being in church is the safest place to be!

Monkey Business

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree,
Discussing things as they're said to be.
Said one to the others, "Now listen; you two,
There's a certain rumor that can't be true;
That humans descended from our noble race.
The very idea is a shocking disgrace.

"Never did a monkey desert his wife,
Starve her babies and ruin her life.
And you've never known a mother monk
To leave her babies with others to bunk
Or pass them on from one to another
Till they scarcely know who is their mother.

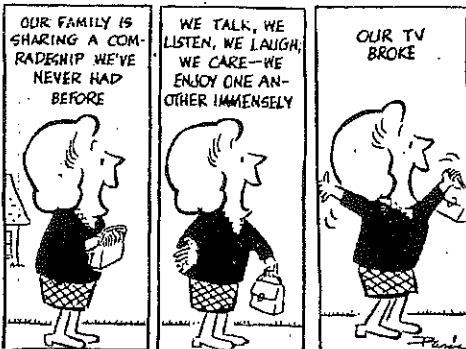
"And another thing you'll never see:
A monk build a fence 'round a coconut tree
And let the coconuts all go to waste,
Forbidding any other monks to taste.
Why, if I put a fence around a tree,
Starvation would force you to steal from me.

"Here's another thing a monk won't do:
Go out at night and get on a stew,
Living in sin, disgracing his life,
Then reel madly home and beat up his wife.
They call this all pleasure and make a big fuss,
They've descended from something, but not from us!"

In Days Gone By

On August 14, 1935, the Social Security Act was signed.

On August 14, 1945, Japan surrendered.



Home Run in the Last Inning

Many an underdog team has staged a rally in the ninth and won the game.

There is something thrilling about a man who makes the last chapter of his life his best and goes out with flags flying and bugles sounding in a glorious finale.

Paul wanted to finish his course, and his last letters are not pitiful laments of a defeated old man but shouts of victory from a battered veteran who, though in prison, is waiting with an unfettered soul for his crown.

Caleb, however, engages our thought just now. He is eighty-five and might well have retired on a pension. But this rugged old soldier had no intention of just fading away. He asked for a mountain with giants on it, a prize that might well have made a younger warrior hesitate before he dared to claim it.

Other Bible notables began nobly and ended sadly. Gideon rose to great heights with his immortal three hundred but came under a cloud in the final chapter. Not so with Caleb. He made a home run in the last inning. He finished his course with joy.

There is encouragement here for old soldiers of Jesus Christ. It does not mean, of course, that we are to act "youngish" and attempt to fill roles denied to age. When we are old, we are old, and we need grace to avoid childishness. Dignity is inherent in years of experience, and we sorely need to offset the epidemic of schoolboy amateurism now rampant among the junior set, as well as the silly clowning of overaged bobby-soxers, forty years too old for the part.

On the other hand, Caleb is a good antidote for the growing tendency among too many Christian veterans to step aside and let youth take over. Youth has never been and never will be qualified to take over alone. Youth always needs the wisdom of age.

Youth has fire without light, and age has light without fire, so we need both to produce a "burning and shining light." But age need not sit in a rocker and merely hand out advice. Caleb was not interested in being an armchair philosopher. He would claim a mountain and conquer giants, although he was past retirement. His example is worth more than a course of lectures.

Some of the greatest contributions to history have been made by the superannuated. A home run in the last inning is a tonic for all of us.

Caleb was not satisfied with less than all that God had for him. He had not possessed all his possessions as yet. He had been promised a mountain, and he would not settle for a molehill, even at eighty-five.

This home run in the last inning does not always take the form of a public triumph. This rally in the ninth may be staged on a bed of infirmity, but in his spirit the old warrior may be scaling mountains. And to end one's course with joy, keeping sweet and radiant, thrashing the giants of bitterness and churlishness that so often bedevil old age—that is a victory greater than taking Hebron.

A good batting average to the end of the season is a mighty testimony to the grace of God that is well able to see us through.

—Selected

TRUST IN PROVIDENCE

On a bridge I was standing one morning,
And watching the current roll by;
When suddenly into the water
There fell an unfortunate fly.

The fishes that swam to the surface,
Were looking for something to eat;
And I thought that the helpless young insect
Would surely afford them a treat.

"Poor thing" I exclaimed with compassion,
"Thy trials and dangers abound:
For if thou escapist being eaten,
Thou canst not escape being drowned."

No sooner the sentence was spoken,
Than lo, like an angel of love;
I saw to the waters beneath me,
A leaflet descend from above.

It glided serene on the streamlet,
'Twas an ark to the poor little fly;
Which, soon to the land re-ascending,
Spread its wings in the breezes to dry.

O sweet was the truth that was whispered,
That mortals should never despair;
For He Who takes care of an insect,
Much more for His children will care.

And though to our short-sighted vision,
No way of escape may appear;
Let us trust; for when least we expect it,
The help of "Our Father" is near!

—Author Unknown.

'TIS TRUE... a lot of people never had a chance, but the Wright Brothers never had an airplane until they made one. GET THE IDEA???

If you are interested in the hereafter,
remember that the **HERE**
determines the **AFTER!**

WHEN DO WE SEE THE FARTHEST? We may think we see the farthest in the daytime, but we don't. It is at midnight we see the stars. We would be dreadfully shortsighted if we always had to live in prosperity and never face adversity.

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO THE PASTOR

Dear Pastor, I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there. *Stephen. Age 8, Chicago*

Dear Pastor, I know God loves everybody but He never met my sister. Yours sincerely, *Arnold. Age 8, Nashville.*

Dear Pastor, Please say in your sermon that Peter Peterson has been a good boy all week. I am Peter Peterson. Sincerely, *Pete. Age 9, Phoenix*

Dear Pastor, I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the plate, but my father didn't give me a raise in my allowance. Could you have a sermon about a raise in my allowance? Love, *Patty. Age 10, New Haven*

Dear Pastor, I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland. *Loreen. Age 9, Tacoma*

Dear Pastor, I liked your sermon where you said that good health is more important than money but I still want a raise in my allowance. Sincerely, *Eleanor. Age 12, Sarasota*

Dear Pastor, Please pray for all the airline pilots. I am flying to California tomorrow. *Laurie. Age 10, New York City*

Dear Pastor, Please say a prayer for our Little League team. We need God's help or a new pitcher. Thank you. *Alexander. Age 10, Raleigh*

Dear Pastor, My father says I should learn the Ten Commandments. But I don't think I want to because we have enough rules already in my house. *Joshua. Age 10, South Pasadena*

Dear Pastor, Are there any devils on earth? I think there may be one in my class. *Carla. Age 10, Salina*

Dear Pastor, I liked your sermon on Sunday. Especially when it was finished. *Ralph. Age 11, Akron*

Dear Pastor, How does God know the good people from the bad people? Do you tell Him or does He read about it in the newspapers? Sincerely, *Marie. Age 9, Lewiston*