



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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Think Before Reacting

When judging someone else my friend,
 You never should forget,
 That there's, no doubt, at least one thing
 Not known to you as yet;
 'Bout circumstances of that one
 Which known, would temper you.
 And make you ask: if in his place
 I wonder what I'd do.

It may be someone crossed his path
 And ruffled up his day,
 And that is why he spoke those words
 He'd never planned to say.
 And you, because you did not know,
 A judgment harsh did make.
 If you'd but known, perchance a prayer
 You'd offered for his sake.

And he, no doubt, would then have felt
 A strange and pleasant glow,
 Think how it might have changed his day,
 Tho' you might never know.
 Nor pat yourself upon the back
 That something great you've done,
 Yet your regard for someone else
 Had turned him to the sun.

This world, no doubt, would sweeter be
 And we'd be more relaxed.
 If we'd remember that each man
 With problems great is taxed;
 And so he often says the things
 He later does regret.
 But if our hearts are filled with love,
 Those words we'll just forget.

Nels E. Stjernstrom

Another's Faults

In speaking of another's faults,
 Pray don't forget your own.
 Remember those in homes of glass
 Should seldom throw a stone.

So let us all, when we commence
 To slander friend or foe,
 Think of the wrong one word may do
 To those who little know.

Remember curses sometimes, like
 Our chickens, roost at home;
 Don't speak of others' faults until
 You have none of your own.

In Days Gone By

On August 6, 1945, the
 first atomic bomb was
 dropped on Hiroshima.

The Sparrow

I am a little sparrow,
 A bird of low degree;
 My life is of no value,
 But there's One who cares for me.
 I have no barn or storehouse;
 I neither sow nor reap;
 God gives my daily portion,
 With never a seed to keep.
 I fly through thickest forest;
 I light on many a spray.
 I have no chart or compass,
 But I never lose my way.
 There are so many sparrows;
 All over the world we're found;
 But our Heavenly Father surely knows
 When one falls to the ground.

SUNDAY MORNING

Came the Lord's day morn
at ten o'clock
And I was at home--
Of all places.
I hadn't offered to don
My frock
For to seek the Lord's
Good graces.
My thoughts went alone
to church that day,
I thought of both saint
And the sinner--
As upon my couch
At home I lay
And dreamed of a
Sumptuous dinner.

"My spirit was there," as
Folk sometimes say.
It sat in the pew by
My neighbor--
But bodiless spirits
No tithes can pay,
Nor bear any weight
Of the labor.
While my spirit was there
My soul wasn't fed,
Tho the flesh enjoyed
A big dinner,
But souls don't grow on
Common bread--
Nor by spending God's day
Like a sinner.

Come the next Lord's day
Very early a.m.,
I'll be ready in spite of
The weather,
Rejoicing I'll go to the
House of Him
Who said, "Assemble
Yourselves together."
-B.C. Jennings

WHAT I NEED

My trial seems a fearful blow:
It's what I need.
It's brought me down so very low...
It's what I need.
It's forced me to my Lord to go
With all my want and all my woe,
It's what I need.



I don't enjoy it - to be frank,
But it's what I need.
What child enjoys a well-placed "spank"?
It's what I need.
My Lord from His cup also shrank....
But at His Father's will,
He drank, and FOR HIS WILL, I too, will thank;
It's what I need.

So, in Thy mercy, Lord, chastise;
It's what I need.
I know each blow is kind and wise;
And what I need.
Thy purpose I'll not criticize...
Within me, Christ to realize,
For, Lord...I'm longing for that Heavenly prize,
It's ALL I need.

-Author Unknown.

A reputation, once broken, may perhaps be repaired; but the world
will always keep their eyes on the spot where the crack was.

NOT ON SUNDAY NIGHT

I love the church that Jesus
bought,
She is the dark world's
light;
I always go on Sunday morn,
But not on Sunday night.
I love to sing the Gospel songs
And worship in daylight;
That's why I come on Sunday
morn,
But not on Sunday night.
I love to hear the Gospel horn,
It gives me such delight;
It thrills me every Sunday
morn,
But not on Sunday night.
I'd go through storm or rain
or snow,
Do anything that's right;
To be at church on Sunday morn,
But not on Sunday night.
I hope the faithful few keep
on,
Engaging in the fight;
I'll do my part on Sunday morn,
But not on Sunday night.
Too bad someday we all must
die,
I hope the morn is bright;
For I want to die on Sunday
morn,
But not on Sunday night.
I know that Christ is coming
soon,
And He will find me right;
If He appears on Sunday morn,
But not on Sunday night.
The Holy Spirit sent this poem,
It set my heart aright;
You'll see me there next Sunday
morn;
And also--Sunday night.
--H. Snyder

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



OBSERVING 65 YEARS OF MINISTRY, 1958-2023

The month of August, 1958, holds special meaning for my wife and me. It was during that month, 65 years ago, that I surrendered to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was a huge decision for me, second only to my salvation on July 12, 1955.

My wife Sharon and I had two sons at the time and we both, with fear and trembling, set out on a journey completely new to us. She has been by my side, faithfully serving the Lord since we were married in 1956. Eventually we had seven sons, five of whom became Baptist preachers.

I remember the first sermon that I preached. It was entitled "False Hopes", emphasizing that salvation was by grace and not of works.

God privileged me to pastor 3 churches in Indiana for over 40 years. In my last church I became Pastor Emeritus for awhile and then came to Illinois to serve as Assistant Pastor at Grace Baptist Church in Pittsfield with my son, Pastor Gary Dice. I have been serving now in that position for 20 years.

At 90 years of age, with my wife still by my side, I teach the Senior Citizen's Sunday School class and publish the Liberty paper which I started in 1982.

At my age time is limited but I want to continue to go as far as I can go and still be as effective and useful as I can be. The Lord changed me in 1955 and that change is still in effect today. I love Him with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. To God be the glory!

I am thankful to God and all my friends and family who have helped me in my ministry down through the years. I hope to see each one in Heaven some day.

-Leonard R. Dice, Asst. Pastor

Turn it all over to God. He is able to keep everything you give Him and return them with His blessings!

Happiness... is when we realize how blessed we are for what we have.

THE NEW RELIGION OF "WOKEISM"

DR. SHELTON SMITH

I'm sure you've heard the term "woke" as it gets bantered all about these days. It is a definitive term that describes the chant and cry of a new crowd of revolutionaries.

They live here within the boundaries of "the land of the free and the home of the brave" (Francis Scott Key), but they are committed to something altogether foreign to the values of our founders. Rejecting all things Christian and despising the Jews, they are fermenting turmoil with the intent of "fundamentally transforming" (Barack Hussein Obama) America.

Who is the "woke" mob? Why are they so angry? What are they up to?

1. Newly Minted!

The term "woke" broke onto the stage of our society in the early 1960s, but only in the last two decades has it become an openly avowed movement in America. With pro-communist radicals like the founders of the phony Black Lives Matter group and other neo-Marxist revolutionaries, they have taken to the streets burning, looting and even killing to achieve their agenda.

Others of the same vintage are less violent but are fermenting discontent on college campuses and demanding time in front of the network cameras.

2. Satanic Agenda!

The "woke" mob is decidedly anti-Christian, anti-American and anti-Israel. They despise the Bible and the U.S. Constitution. They may profess atheism, agnosticism or some brand of liberal, false Christianity; in reality, they are humanists (totally focused on humanity, without God, no authority higher than man) and often hedonist (the pur-

suit of pleasure, sensual self-indulgence) as well.

In line with their neo-Marxist leaning, they are willing to do almost anything and everything to reach their goals. They are so amoral as to be immoral in that they will lie, cheat, steal, etc., to get their way.

They have mastered the art of *divide et impera* (divide and conquer) and constantly create straw man issues to divide the country.

Instead of free speech, freedom of the press and freedom of religion, the "wokesters" are the most intolerant players ever to be seen on the American stage. It is their way or no way at all. To them, freedom now means that you and I must agree with them and do whatever they demand.

Once they get a foothold, their intolerance quickly evolves into totalitarianism. If you speak up and stand up, they will do whatever it takes to muzzle you and control you. Their game plan is so despicably wicked that it has the fingerprints of Satan upon it.

3. "Woke" Details!

Building on the themes of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), the "woke" ideologies are pressing hard to force complicity on everyone. As innocent as DEI may seem, in actuality, it is a wicked agenda they are pursuing. Their radical ideals include:

1. Abortion (killing unborn babies).

2. Infanticide (killing born babies).

3. The normalization of homosexuality, which God calls an abomination (Lev. 18:22).

4. Same-sex marriage (men marrying men, women marrying women).

5. Men who "identify" as women competing in women's sports.

6. The transgender dyspho-

ria which says you can pick another gender if you don't like your biological gender.

7. Exposing children to sexual deviancy in schools as early as kindergarten.

8. Drag queens performing in front of children at libraries, schools and even some churches.

9. Intimidating corporations into supporting their organizations financially and otherwise.

10. Using legislative and judicial decisions to advance their radicalism.

11. Smearing conservatives and Christians in an effort to discredit them and diminish their influence.

12. Using the media to further their cause.

13. And numerous other related items.

4. So, What Do We Do?

On June 16th, Betty and I watched a Sean Hannity interview with Reince Priebus on the Fox Network. Priebus said, "The pulpits are too much cotton candy and ice cream. The clergy needs to step up and take a stand." That is from a political player, and he is so right. But whether you are a preacher, a politician, a plumber or a parent, all of us can use our influence to oppose this nonsense.

It is encouraging to see that there is starting to be a backlash against much of this. After several players spoke up, the National Hockey League said no more "pride uniform" promotions.

Even the MLB front office has said no more "pride uniform" displays.

The Texas Rangers baseball team has said "no" to the pride nights.

The Los Angeles Dodgers got major pushback over their honoring drag queens at their pride night.

There appears to be a growing rejection in which many people are saying, "Too much already; enough is enough."

This whole thing is a battle! It

is often messy, but it is a battle we must not fail to fight.

5. Is "Wokeism" A Religion?

For all practical purposes, it is exactly that. These people have rejected God and are hostile toward anyone who lines up with God. Instead, they have embraced this "wokeism" with a fevered advocacy tantamount to "a new religion."

6. The 21st Century Sodom?

Will America become the 21st-century version of Sodom and Gomorrah? If this "wokeism" continues to flourish and gain ground, it will, indeed. Sadly, we already have pockets of it in various places around the nation. Even though they are a small percentage of the population, if we allow them to have their way, our nation will indeed become another Sodom. If that happens, America, like Sodom, will collapse and wind up on the scrap heap of nations that once were but are no more.

We simply cannot survive such moral depravity and degradation.

7. Dear friends, let's not sleep through this revolution.

If these "woke-wackos" get their way, they will silence you and shut down your church. The homosexuals marching stark naked through the streets (June 2023) shouting, "We're coming for your children," are getting plenty of traction.

If we say nothing and do nothing, you can only imagine what will happen as the woke mob gets even more control.

Now is the time! Let's keep hoisting the flag of truth to the top of the pole every single day!

ROMANS CHAPTER 1.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness . . .

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections . . .

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind . . .