

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

LIBERTY

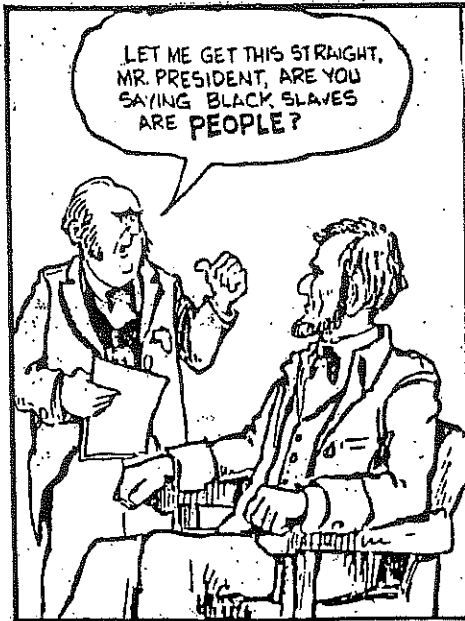
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Only Jesus

Him to know is life and peace
And pleasure without end;

This is all my happiness—
On Jesus to depend.

Daily in His grace to grow,
And ever in His faith abide,

Only Jesus will I know,
And Jesus crucified.

—Charles Wesley

I know not what may be the way
That I must take,
But I can humbly trust and pray
That I may never from Him stray
Nor Him forsake.

"IF MY PEOPLE WILL HUMBLE
THEMSELVES AND PRAY,
I WILL HEAL THEIR LAND"



(from I Chron. 7:14)



A LAUGH IN CHURCH

She sat on the sliding cushion,
The dear little girl of four;
Her feet in their shiny slippers,
Hung dangling over the floor.
She meant to be good; she had promised,
And so, with her big brown eyes,
She stared at the meeting house windows,
And counted the crawling flies.

She looked far up at the preacher,
But she thought of the honey bees
Droning away at the blossoms
That whitened the cherry trees.
She thought of a broken basket,
Where, curled in a dusky heap,
Three sleek, round puppies, with fringy
ears
Lay snuggled and fast asleep.

Such soft, warm bodies to cuddle,
Such queer little hearts to beat,
Such swift, round tongues to kiss,
Such sprawling, cushiony feet;
She could feel in her clasping fingers
The touch of a satiny skin,
And a cold wet nose exploring
The dimples under her chin.

Then a sudden ripple of laughter
Ran over her parted lips,
So quick that she could not catch it
With her rosy finger tips.
The people whispered, "Bless the child,"
As some woke from a nap,
But the dear little girl hid her face
For shame in her mother's lap.

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In The Presence Of God

An old minister of a small church in a country town had one day in his audience a very distinguished statesman. To the surprise of the congregation, the service went on as usual, and the old minister preached with his accustomed earnestness and plainness.

At the close of the service several members of the congregation gathered about him and asked:

"Did you notice that we had a distinguished visitor to-day? Why, that was a member of the cabinet, but you did not seem to be at all embarrassed."

Thereupon the old man replied:

"I have been preaching in the presence of Almighty God for forty years, and do you think that, with Him as one of my constant hearers, any man can embarrass me by his presence?"

The Alternative

A skeptic once derided a Christian man by asking him, "Say, George, what would you say if when you die you found there wasn't such a place as Heaven after all?"

With a smile the believer replied, "I should say, 'Well, I've had a fine time getting there anyway!'"

Then the Christian sent a boom-erang back to the skeptic—a question not quite so easy to answer: "Fred," he asked, "what would you say if, when you die, you found there was such a place as Hell after all?"

ACCOMPLISHMENT FROM DEFEAT

President Abraham Lincoln learned the meaning of building a lifetime of accomplishment out of defeat. He is a superb secular example of suffering as the path of true progress. James Keller writes: "You can learn from Lincoln that failure isn't fatal." Keller goes on to say in "This Week" that too often it seems to me people lose their courage because of past failures or fear they may fail in the future. One good way to cure such fears is to remember the story of a man who actually built a lifetime of accomplishments out of defeats. The litany of failures that punctuated his life throughout thirty years is a living and eloquent example of the successful use of defeat in achieving victory." Abraham Lincoln's record is as follows:

1. Lost job in 1832
2. Defeated for legislature 1832
3. Failed in business 1833
4. Elected to legislature 1834
5. Sweetheart died 1835
6. Had nervous breakdown 1836
7. Defeat for Speaker 1838
8. Defeated for nomination for Congress 1843
9. Elected to Congress 1846
10. Lost renomination 1848
11. Rejected for Land Officer 1849
12. Defeated for Senate 1854
13. Defeated for nomination for Vice President
14. Again defeated for Senate 1858
15. Elected President 1860



Let your light so shine before men, that
they may see your good works and glorify
your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere." — Chinese Proverb

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

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Forgive and let peace reign within.

Anyone can hold a grudge. but it takes a person of character to forgive. When you forgive, you release yourself from a painful burden. You move on to a clean spiritual and mental slate. Mercy given, as you forgive, is to set you free from the other person and they from you.

You don't wait any more for them to "receive what they deserve" or to reap what they have sown". God is the judge, not we. In that is the blessing of total freedom, to let go and let it all be in His hands.

Forgiveness doesn't mean what happened is okay though, and it doesn't mean that person should still be welcome in your life. But, depending on what happened, if there is true regret, repentance, and sincere apology, you have the choice to grant a second chance. All of us deserve at least that.

Loving your neighbor as you love yourself, means exactly what it says. You won't encourage someone else to keep putting themselves in harm's way of abuse and bullying, repeatedly. Not physically, nor mentally or emotionally. Don't do it to yourself either. Forgive and let peace reign within.



**"BLESSED are the
PEACEMAKERS,
for they be shall called
the CHILDREN OF GOD."** *Matthew 5:9*

Get some rest, chill, stay cool, eat and enjoy your life!

In case you feel bad about missing your exercise today, ponder this:

- The inventor of the treadmill died at the age of 54.
- The inventor of gymnastics died at the age of 57.
- The world bodybuilding champion died at the age of 41.
- The best footballer in the world, Maradona, died at the age of 60.
- James Fuller Fixx, credited with helping start America's fitness revolution by popularizing the sport of running, died of a heart attack while jogging at age 52.

BUT ...

- The KFC inventor died at 94.

How did smart people conclude that exercise prolongs life?

The rabbit is always jumping up and down, but it lives for only two years, and the turtle, that doesn't exercise at all, lives 400 years. Get some rest, chill, stay cool, eat and enjoy your life!