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BULLETIN DIGEST



Gleanings of the best from church bulletins
throughout the brotherhood

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

JANUARY 1984

VOL. III NO. 1

*"Count it all joy...when
you meet various tests..."*
James 1:2

ON HANGING IN

Quitting is the easiest thing to do in the world. People quit all the time. Students drop tough courses. Workers bored with a job change careers. Spouses who find marriage difficult ditch their mates. Church members looking for a new spiritual high change congregations.

Hanging in is tough. It takes patience. That is no soft virtue. It is not a passive pliability that sits quietly, upset by nothing.

James commended the patience of the prophets (5:10) and of Job (5:11). If you read about Elijah or Jeremiah, or listen to the rantings of Job, you know that they were not quiet, take-it-all-and-like-it guys.

Patience is steadfastness. It is persistence. It is stability. It is sticking to it. It is not quitting. There are good reasons why James would urge us to pass the patience test.

■ *Hanging in accomplishes good things.* Few worthy goals are reached by flash-in-the-pan sparks of genius. Most lofty achievements are attained by persistent plodding. We'd still be in the dark if Thomas Edison had quit trying to find a light filament.

■ *Hanging in develops good character.* "Quitters never win" may not always be true, but it's true enough that it formed that proverb. The world knows the name of Gandhi because he grew a great soul. He did it by persevering, not by throwing in the towel.

■ *Hanging in makes us more like God.* We'd all be in rough shape if God quit on us as easily and quickly as we quit on him. Praise the Lord! that patience is one of his perfect qualities. If we want to look like our Father, reliable loyalty to our commitments is not a bad place to start.



Dan Anders
Houston, TX

BULLETIN DIGEST

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From The Editor...

Spiritual lessons can be gleaned from so many sources. Recently I had the reality of Hell impressed upon me indelibly by a simple thing as a stick of wood.

The wood had a rotten center and ants had made their home in it. I placed the wood in our woodburning stove unaware of the presence of ants. Soon, the little creatures began to come out, and upon feeling the intensity of the flames, began to rush frantically about in an effort to avoid the heat.

But there was no escape. One by one (and there must have been four or five hundred) they dropped into the red hot coals to an almost instant death. As death overtook them it was all over for them—no more pain, no more fleeing from the intense heat, no more suffering.

I called for my wife to come and witness the terrifying scene of these innocent little victims. While watching their destruction we considered how similar will be the destruction in Hell and also how dissimilar. We thought of how terror stricken will be the lost when the pronouncement "Depart from Me" is given, how intense will be the heat, how futile will be the efforts to escape.

While these similarities made quite an impression upon us, the one dissimilarity made the greatest impression—WHEN THE ANTS MET THE FIRE IT WAS ALL OVER INSTANTANEOUSLY...WHEN THE LOST MEET THE FIRES OF HELL IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THAT WHICH WILL AFFLICT THEM FOREVER AND EVER WITH NO POSSIBLE RELIEF SINCE THE SOUL CANNOT DIE... *"Where the worm dieth not and fire is not quenched"* (Mark 9:43-48).

"Go to the ant...consider her ways and be wise!" (Proverbs 6:6).

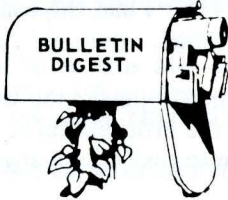
Our clip-art packet for 1983 is now available. Like the 1982 packet, it contains eighteen pages of clip-art in three sizes. It's the art which has appeared in our clip-art section of each issue during 1983. Our 1982 packet is still available and at a reduced rate. See page 21 for complete details. Our 1982 packet has been a popular item and we expect the same for the 1983 packet.

If you are lacking any back issues now is the time to stock up on them. For two months we are offering them at a reduced rate as long as they last. On page 11 you will find all available issues and the special prices.

We send this issue to you with the prayer that it will be a positive spiritual force in your life. Thank you for your support and encouragement during these first two years of publication. *"Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus"* (1 Peter 5:14).

—JMS

From Our Mailbox...



Dear Mr. Sampson,

I received the (12) back issues today that I had ordered.

I want you to know that I really enjoy the Bulletin Digest! I do not know how long you have been in business—if I did, I might order more back issues.

You see, I put out a paper every week for our Bible Class, so I'll be using a lot of the material in your Bulletins.

My Bible class teacher gave me a sample copy (June 83). I liked it so well I sent in a subscription and then I decided to send for 12 more copies.

Once again, I really enjoy Bulletin Digest.

Lela Gillmore
Oklahoma City, OK

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is my check for \$7.00 for one year subscription to the Bulletin Digest. I was not aware of this publication until our local minister, brother Eddie (H.E.) Johnston passed several on to me.

Your publication is the best I have found published by the brotherhood.

Ray DeBusk
Sanderson, TX

RETURN OF JEDI OR RETURN OF JESUS

The most popular movie in the history of cinema (as determined by box-office receipts) was this summer's blockbuster—"THE RETURN OF THE JEDI." The respective successes of its predecessors STARWARS, and THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK made "JEDI" a sure-fire success even before it hit the movie screens.

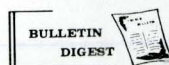
There seldom was heard a discouraging word in ticket lines as patrons shelled out \$4.50 or even \$5.00 per person to witness the continuing saga of Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia and Han Solo. Everyone wanted to see the smashing finale as the Jedi returned.

It is not my intention to minimize the indubitable success or the generally wholesome nature of this film. I can't help but marvel, however, at how enthralled we are in the lives and escapades of fictitious characters while matters of *supreme importance* are regarded at best with a collective shrugging of the shoulders.

I'm saying how much more beneficial it would be if we were as interested in THE RETURN OF JESUS as in the RETURN OF THE JEDI. The fate of Han Solo is of infinitesimal importance as compared to OUR FATE when Jesus returns to judge the world.

From the first, it seems, men grew weary of the Lord's delay and gave up on Him. Peter writes that scoffers will say: "*Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation*" (II Peter 3:4). Yet Peter firmly denies this premise and emphatically reaffirms the Lord's return and the destruction of the earth (vs. 10). There's no question HE IS COMING BACK. The only valid question is: WILL YOU BE READY?

Which interests *you* most: THE RETURN OF THE JEDI OR THE RETURN OF JESUS?



Randall Medlin
Flinestone, GA

WORRY

The story is told of a preacher who one morning rushed to keep a preaching appointment. To catch a ferryboat on time, the preacher rushed through his breakfast. The preacher ran out the front door and jumped into his car, only to realize that he had forgotten his keys and his sermon in the house. When the preacher finally arrived at the ferryboat, it was a short distance off the shore. "I have missed the ferry," thought the preacher.

Immediately an idea popped into the preacher's head. So he parked the car, jumped out and ran toward the ferryboat, only to realize that he had left his car keys and his sermon in the car. When the preacher reached the bank of the river he frantically jumped onto the ferryboat. Bent over, hands on his knees, the preacher was completely exhausted.

"Out of breath?" asked a stranger.

"Yes," replied the preacher. "I had to rush to catch this ferry."

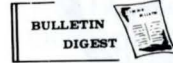
"Why," responded the stranger, "This ferry is coming into shore, not going from shore."

Preachers are not the only people who have to cope with anxiety and worry. In today's world, it seems worry is a national pastime. Usually, we worry about the things that happened yesterday, or things that will happen today, or the things that could happen tomorrow. No matter what we worry about, like the preacher rushing to catch the ferry, in the end we will realize just how silly it was to worry.

To a group of Christians who were anxious about their yesterdays, anxious about their today's, and anxious about their tomorrows, the Hebrew writer said, "*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever*" (Heb. 13:10). Remember, it was this Jesus who said, "*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things* (the

things you need vs. 31,32) *shall be added unto you.*" (Matt. 6:33).

The next time we worry about anything, we should stop to pray, and take the time to remember the words of our Lord. In doing these things, we solve our anxiety and we do the will of our Father.



David Powell
via Childersburg, AL

DEATH

Sometime back I was given a business card which had a picture of a hearse on one side. The caption read, "You may tie your shoestrings in the morning, but the undertaker may untie them before night."

I know. You don't have to say it. You don't like to think about death. The thought leaves you cold. You view death as morbid, distasteful at best. If the thought of dying makes you feel somewhat uneasy, you are in royal company. Louis XV, King of France, feared death so intensely he decreed that the word should never be spoken in his presence. He further ordered that every effort should be made to avoid his seeing a place or monument that might remind him of death. And yet, for all his fear, Louis XV died of smallpox on May 10, 1774.

We might as well be honest and face the facts. Though, as Edward Young observed, "All men think all men mortal but themselves," we are still forced by observation and common sense to confess our own mortality. Should the Lord tarry his coming, death is an unavoidable, undeniable appointment we will all keep. "*It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*" (Hebrews 9:27).

There is no doubt about it. Our days on earth are numbered. The question is not, "Will I die?" but rather, "Am I prepared?" Think about it.



Dalton Key
Liberal, KS

"WHAT DID YOU THINK OF CHURCH, DADDY?"



Every Sunday, just about noontime, families walk out of church, get in the family car, and begin the drive home. *Crucial religious instruction takes place then.* Here are some of the positions a parent can take as these minutes tick away:

Act like you have never been to church. Do not mention anything that happened. Make no comment upon song or sermon. Ask no questions; risk no opinions. The whole church experience was lived in another world; now you are back to the real world.

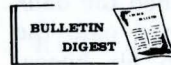
Be the devil's advocate. Take the opposite side from the preacher. Punch a few holes in the sermon...and every sermon has some weak spots. Take the very objective stance that one would expect of a detached mind.

Support the things that took place at church. I know there will be times when that will be easier to do than other times. But be supportive.

I have a theory. Most children take the point of view of their parents about the preacher, God, the Bible, Sunday School...church. When I see a youth who has a sour attitude about church, I figure that child has watched the response of the parent for several years. The child (not a child any longer) has caught the parent's real attitude.

No reasonable preacher wants a congregation of "yes people." I am not above criticism, and often my sermons need criticism. But children do not come to a poor attitude about church over my poor sermons. Children catch

the prevailing, year-in and year-out, continuing disposition of the parent toward what happens at church. Every day you leave the "big church," your child is really asking, "What did you think of church, Daddy?" The answers you give could have more to do with the future of your child than any grade that child will make in school this year. When your conscience will let you, say a good word for God's house, your child's Sunday School teacher, the worship experience...try to put a good face on the sermon. If you have roasted preacher every Sunday noon (or roasted Sunday School teacher), you could make a youth to have spiritual indigestion. There is a teachable moment right after church each Sunday. Give some thought to what you make of it.



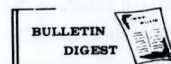
Cecil Sherman
Ashville, NC

OUR POWER TOO

"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and look up."
—Psalm 5:3

Prayer is very difficult. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. "Praying families" are the result of "praying teachers." Teachers must model prayer. The request of the disciples to Jesus was, *"Teach us to pray."*

Someone shared a tape with me. This tape featured an older person who had given God the first hour of the day for over 50 years! His voice trembled, and my knees knocked! Thirty minutes in Bible study, then thirty minutes in prayer! I cannot say that! Herein is my greatest failure. This man saw God before he met man. He solved his daily problems before they arrived. To him, this was the most important hour of the day! **FIND GOD FIRST!** This was the power of Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Samuel, Paul, and Jesus. It can be our power, too!



Charles Hodge
via Elmore City, OK

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IT'S YOUR MOVE

At one time in your life, or another, I'm sure that you have played a game such as checkers or chess, where the action of the game is dictated by reaction. Once you move, it becomes the other player's move. You are not allowed by the rules to move until he has completed his move.

Unfortunately, we use these same rules many times in our daily lives. If someone is good to us, we're good to them. If someone treats us badly, we return with the same behavior. We live lives of reaction. Rather than doing unto others as we would have them do unto us, we rewrite the script to say, "As you do unto me, so will I do unto you!"

Isn't it wonderful that we have a Savior who didn't live that way, who gave us an example of the exact opposite approach to life. Jesus lived a life of action. He saw the sick, He acted. He saw the poor, He acted. He saw those needing attention, He had compassion. Jesus taught us to act as he did, to act without motivations. Jesus teaches us a great lesson in Luke 17:12-19. We see Jesus healing ten lepers from their terrible disease, in effect giving them a new life physically. Only one of the ten comes back to thank him. 10% is not a very successful reap of the Lord's efforts. It was enough for the Lord to stay in the people's business, however. Perhaps we would have quit, yet I believe that Jesus would have kept on even if the one hadn't thanked Him.

Too often we're not that way. We help someone and they don't thank us or we're not recognized for our work, we take the attitude, "Well, just see if I do that again!" We need to be like Jesus taught us, to give without expecting a return. To help others even when we're not thanked or recognized. Not only was the Lord often unthanked, he was often persecuted in the face of good works.

What will it be for you and me? Are we willing to do the thankless work that many times Christians are called on to do? Are we willing to do work in which sometimes causes us not only a lot of work, but also brings criticism from some of our brothers and sisters in Christ? Think about the example that Jesus gave us. It's your move!



Mark Young
Ada, OK

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YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN

I read in this morning's paper that Barbara McClintock, an 81-year-old botanist, had won the Nobel prize for medicine. She was awarded the prize for work she did with corn plants over 30 years ago, discovering migration of genes. Why the award 30 years late? Because genetic theory was not then advanced enough to appreciate the importance of her findings. Her work for decades was greeted with silence from the medical community. But, the aged researcher told an interviewer, she knew the value of her experiments and continued them, knowing that some day their worth would be recognized.

Most people would have quit. The intrinsic worth of what we do or who we are becoming is not enough for us; we want recognition, too. Praise can become more important to us than whether we contribute to life. And at times they may be mutually exclusive. For Miss McClintock it was precisely because her contribution was so valuable that it was ignored, even ridiculed. In her work she had to choose between value and advancement in her field. She made the rare choice and worked alone in obscurity, missing all the large grants and promotions.

Christians nowadays, may often be faced with Miss McClintock's quandry. In our jobs, in our life choices, in our conversations, even at church, we may wrestle with the dilemma of choosing between pats on the back and being a responsible person of integrity and of rich investment in life. Vision of the kind shown by this botanist—and incidentally also by Paul, Jesus, Jeremiah and others—is unusual. May God give us all the hope and courage to know how priceless is one person living righteously and energetically and lovingly whether another living soul ever appreciates one of the the wonderful things he does.



Wayne Dockery
via St. Petersburg, FL



...on
the
lighter
side

How Else Will You Learn

One day a small boy was taking a walk with his father. When they passed an unusual looking truck, he said, "What's that Daddy?"

"I don't know," his father said.

Then they came to a large, old-fashioned warehouse. "What's in there, Daddy?" the little boy asked.

"I don't know," his father said.

Then they saw a man with a pneumatic drill breaking up the pavement. "What's that man doing, Daddy?" the boy asked.

"I don't know," his father said.

After they had walked on a short way in silence, the little boy turned to his father and said, "Daddy, do you mind me asking you so many questions?"

"Of course not," said his father. "How else are you going to learn anything?"

Now I Trust You

A young lady was vacationing in Florida, when a little boy approached and asked:

"Do you believe in God?" The girl nodded, considerably surprised.

"And do you always go to church on Sunday?"

"Yes, I do," replied the girl, getting more interested.

"And read the Bible?"

"At every opportunity."

The little boy was noticeably relieved. "Well, then," he said, "Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"

So That's Where It Came From

The idea for daylight-saving time came from an old Indian chief who cut off one end of his blanket and had it sewed on the other end to make the blanket longer.



HEALTH AND WEALTH THEOLOGY

It has finally happened: A church paid its folks \$1.00 each to attend services recently. A Lutheran church in Rochester, New York gave each member and visitor a Susan B. Anthony dollar "for their trouble when they arrived for services." One of the church officers commented, "Maybe some of them will choose to give us the dollar back on the offering plate, but if they don't that's all right."

My first reaction to this news story was to shake my head in disbelief. But as I thought about this incident later, it occurred to me that our Lutheran friends in New York have only done more boldly what other religious leaders do more smugly—connect religion with financial rewards.

How many times have you heard someone stand up to give testimony that went something like this? "I was in trouble in my marriage, going bankrupt in my business, and losing my health. Then I gave my life to the Lord, and all my problems vanished. My marriage is now stable, my health is perfect, and I am making more money than I ever have in my life. Praise God!"

This is the regular diet on some of the most popular religious television shows in the country. Consider, for example, Jim Bakker's *PTL Club*. Bakker consistently holds to a

"health and wealth theology," believing that God will bless Christians materially whenever they are fully committed to Him. Not long ago Bakker affirmed that in Africa and India, the Christian's homes are better and more comfortable than non-Christian. He jubilantly reported an incident of a man who prayed for a brown Winnebago, and got it.

The "health and wealth theology" lathers good on television, but there is no Bible in it. Material blessing or the lack of it says nothing about one's spirituality or commitment to God. The Bible presents a realistic picture of the Christian life, including humiliating failures, pain and struggle.

Those who paint the Christian life as one continuous success are doing a tremendous disservice to their listeners. When a person's experience is different, and illness, failure, and financial reverse are a fact, he will reject the whole "faith package," and decide that God, if he exists at all, has no concern for His people. Faith tied to a money-back guarantee of God's protection is exactly the bargain Satan wrongly accused God of sealing with Job. That isn't how God dealt then...or now.

Religion is not a mere business enterprise. The final reckoning is not until judgment and the "living happily ever after" mentality is not the Biblical pattern. On the contrary, Jesus warns his disciples, "*In this world you will have troubles.*" But He quickly adds, "*But take heart! I have overcome the world.*" (John 16:33).

Christians worship and serve Jesus, not because when they do everything comes up roses, but because He is Lord. Our faith is that of Job's who affirmed, "*Though he slay me, yet will I trust him*" (Job 13:15 KJV). A faith based on any other consideration will backfire.



Joe D. Schubert
via Richmond, VA

THE OLDER I GET

Growing older has its disadvantages. Someone has quipped that it's better than the alternative, even so. Now, I don't consider myself to be elderly yet, by a long shot. In fact, I've never met anyone who did! After all, I'm planning to live to be 120, at least. While I am not yet old, I am growing older. As I do I find myself changing my attitudes and thinking about a variety of things. For example:

The older I get the more I think of heaven. Life on earth provides many rewarding experiences. There are times of exuberant joy and soul-satisfying happiness. There are wonderful relationships with family and friends and with God's people. But there is one thing all of these have in common: on earth they last for a short while only. The joy and bliss of heaven will not be interrupted. Besides that, I grow more anxious to visit with the Lord and with such persons as Noah and Abraham and Moses and Paul and numberless others.

The older I get the less I care for this world. At its best it still is an imperfect place and at its worst it is a sample of hell itself. The world entices us through wealth, popularity and self-indulgence, promising to give us happiness, fame and pleasure in return. But whatever happiness it gives is not found in these offerings and its pleasure and fame are jaded, at best. I grow weary of living among evil, blasphemous, dishonest people who live only for self. Thank God this world is not my home!

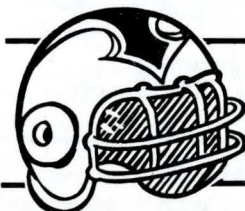
The older I get the more I look forward to Sundays and Wednesday nights. Yes, there are some hypocrites in the assembly everytime we come together. Even so, for the most part the people who assemble are the finest on earth. And it is exceedingly precious time to me when we can take a special kind of shelter from the world and its evils and anxieties and get just a little taste of heaven as we worship God. I can't understand the attitude that claims fellowship with Christ, but intentionally shuns the assemblies of the church.

The Lord's day is always the best day of the week to me.

The older I get the more I say, "I love you," to family, friends and brethren. I've discovered that it not only does others great good, but it gives me great joy!



Dub McClish
Denton, TX



SECOND CHANCE

It was New Year's Day in 1930 in the Rose Bowl. Roy Reigels of Southern Cal picked up a Georgia Tech fumble—but began to run in the wrong direction toward his own goal line.

One of Reigel's own teammates finally tackled him—but Tech took the ball and scored right before halftime.

Reigels cried like a baby in the locker room. Coach Price quietly said, "The same men who played the first half will start the second."

The team trudged out—all but Roy.

"Coach—I can't do it! I've ruined you. I've ruined Southern Cal. I can't face the crowd."

The coach touched Reigel's shoulder and said, "Get up and go back—the game is not over yet."

Reigels went back and Tech players say they never saw a man play football like Reigels did in the second half.

Perhaps some of us are discouraged, confused, have run the wrong way. Jesus says, "Get up and go back—the game is not over yet."



John Scott
Ft. Worth, TX

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FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...' " (Acts 2:38).

Does baptism come before or after forgiveness? A lot of religious teachers say that *"for the forgiveness of your sins"* in Acts 2:38 means "because your sins have been forgiven". Are they right? Just what do these words *"for the forgiveness of sins"* mean?

The phrase is used five times in the Greek New Testament. Twice (Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3) it identifies the purpose of John's baptism. Once (Luke 24:47) it gives the goal of repentance.

Besides Acts 2:38, the only other time the phrase is found it comes from the lips of Jesus at the Last Supper. *"He took a cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is to be shed on behalf of many for forgiveness of sins' "* (Matthew 26:27f).

What did Peter mean in Acts 2:38? Whatever it was, he meant the same thing as Jesus in Matthew 26:28. Consider this:

1) If Peter meant baptism comes after forgiveness then Jesus meant his blood was shed after-the-fact, as well. That would mean Christ died needlessly. But the scripture says: *"God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him"* (Romans 5:8f).

2) Since Jesus meant his blood was shed so that sins would be forgiven, Peter must have meant the same thing about baptism. Baptism is not "because sins have been forgiven"; it is "so that sins may be forgiven". Williams translates the phrase in Acts 2:38 *"that you*

may have your sins forgiven"; Goodspeed renders it *"in order to have your sins forgiven"*; and Phillips writes it *"so that you may have your sins forgiven"*.

So the New International Version does an exceptional job on Acts 2:38: *"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven.' "*



Dale Wells
Dimmitt, TX

Just a moment...

Two men who knew well the scripture once had a heated discussion. They became very angry with each other and both stormed off in a deep rage. Just before sunset one of them went to the house of the other and rang the doorbell. His offended friend came to the door, opened it, and seeing his antagonist, drew back in astonishment and surprise. It was an astonishment that rapidly disappeared, however, when the man on his porch extended his hand and said, "The sun is almost down." With instant warmth, the other man took his hand, and placing his other arm around his shoulders, he drew him into his house.

A mystery, you say? Not so at all! At least to those who know the scripture!

"Be ye angry, and sin not: Let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil." (Eph. 4:26-27)



Olden Cook
Kerrville, TX

Not one objects to how much you say if you say it in a few words.

MEDIA TWISTS TERMS; MAKES SIN ACCEPTABLE

People do not have "affairs." They commit adultery.

People do not "live together" before marriage—or "swing." They commit fornication.

People do not have "gay" lives. They commit homosexual acts.

In Revelation 2:20, God indicts the church at Thyatira saying *"But I have this against you...you allow that woman Jezebel to teach that sex sin is not a serious matter."*

In the same Way, God indicts America... including Christians in America. How many times—at workshops, in Christian homes on Christian campuses—one hears Christians (ignorantly) capitulate to the sins of the world by using the beat-around-the-bush words of the world.

And when we use the words of the world we, too, "teach that sex sin is not a serious matter." What, after all, is so serious about "having an affair?" An "affair"—a sin? Come now! It not only sounds innocent, it sounds attractive. "Having an affair"—care-free, flamboyant and romantic.

But God calls it adultery. And adultery is God's name for the sin of sexually using another's mate.

"Living together" sounds innocent enough, and "swinging" sounds inviting. "Swinging" is cool and classy; the swingers have their act together; the non-swingers are out-of-date and stodgy.

But God calls it fornication and fornication is God's name for the sin of sexually using anyone.

Who wouldn't want to be "gay"? Preachers and elders and deacons talk worriedly about

the "gay movement" and "gay rights"—not realizing they help "gays" just by calling them "gay." God calls it homosexuality. And homosexuality is God's name for the sin of sexually using another of the same sex.

Let's call popular sins by God's names. That's not only true to Scripture, but helps slap sense into people. When they hear that adultery, fornication and homosexuality are sins, they'll see they're caught up in something that ravages. And the only way they'll hear God's names for popular sins is for Christians to scuttle the habit (even at home) of echoing the words "affair," "swinging" and "gay."

We're fooling ourselves.

We're failing the pitiful people caught up in these sins.



Neil Gallagher
via Lake Charles, LA

ALWAYS A CRITIC

One of the principal steps of progress is for the individual to realize that he is his own greatest problem. It is so easy for me to say this from the top of my head but not really to acknowledge this from the bottom of my heart.

A very destructive habit is that of always finding fault. Nothing will fray your nerves, lose friends, and promote ulcers more than this silly habit. It is a habit that sort of creeps up on you. When it has complete domination, it has alienated you from those that love you the most as well as society in general.

Take a careful look at yourself today. Was your first statement this morning one of criticism? Have you expressed appreciation for anyone or anything today? Would you have enjoyed associating with someone just like you are today?

Habits become "trait" jackets. Don't allow the habit of always being critical to ruin your possibilities for happiness.



Virgil Trout
via Palestine, TX

A SECOND LOOK

Years ago a young college student spent a summer vacation looking for what he called "local color" for use in a book he planned to write. The main character was to be drawn from an impoverished, shiftless community. Soon he came to a place, made to order, with rundown farms, seedy men and washed-out women. To top it off, the epitome of the shiftlessness he had envisioned was waiting for him near an unpainted shack, in the shape of a scraggly-bearded old man in faded overalls who was hoeing around a little patch of potatoes while sitting in a chair.

He could hardly wait to get back to his rooming house and his typewriter. As he made the turn in the dirt road which ran past the cabin he looked at the old man from another direction and saw something that stopped him cold in his tracks. From that view there was visible a pair of crutches leaning on the chair. He also noticed one empty overall leg hanging limply to the ground. In that instant the lazy shiftless character he had first seen was transformed into a figure of dauntless courage.

The young man said, "Since that hour, I have never judged a man after only one look or one conversation with him. And I thank God that I turned for a second look."

There is room for strong suspicion that we are often guilty of cruelty by making a snap judgment after we have seen only a small part of the whole picture in certain situations.

While attending a meeting recently in which Flavil Nichols was present, he gave his account which involved his beloved father, Gus. Brother Nichols had a preacher visiting him, which was not unusual. In the visitor's presence he told his secretary to "take this article out of the Gospel Advocate and turn it in to the local newspaper for his 'Article of the Week.'" The guest became very upset and finally said, "Brother Nichols, I'm surprised that you would do a thing like that—copy an

article written by someone else and sign your name to it." Brother Nichols at this point showed him the Advocate article—which *he had written*. The guest said that he was glad to know this, otherwise he would have never had any more confidence in Brother Nichols. He thought he knew exactly what had happened but had arrived at a very unjust conclusion.

How easy it is to hear a part of a conversation or see a part of an act and jump to a cruel conclusion. (They say that's the way some people get their exercise.) There may be something we did not hear or see that would change the picture completely—into a favorable light. It just might be a good policy to forego judgment until we know the "rest of the story."



Elbert Henry
via Hohenwald, TN

A good man being asked during his last illness whether he thought himself to be dying replied, "Really, friend, I care not whether I am or not; for if I die I shall be with God; if I live, He will be with me."

The Country Preacher.

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When your thoughts run riot your tongue is apt to join the crowd.

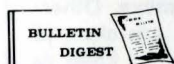
TALK IS CHEAP

An often heard expression is "Talk is cheap." Is it... It is true that the supply often exceeds the demand, but does this make talk cheap...How can talk be cheap when we must give an account to God for every idle word... (Matt. 12:36). How can talk be cheap when by our words we will be justified or condemned? (Matt. 12:37).

Because so many people talk of what they intend to do, without any action, we have gotten the idea that words are not worth much. However, when we consider the damage of one careless word, we are made to realize that what we say is important. How much trouble has been caused in our world by the tongue...Homes have been broken, churches have been divided and lives have been destroyed by the wrong kind of talk. Talk has produced hate, envy, malice, confusion, and even murder. How can a commodity be cheap that has caused so much hurt—that has power to destroy?

There is a song that asks the question, "Have you counted the Cost..." We fail to count the cost of the words we use so freely. We shall give an account for the unkind things we have said, the harsh criticism we had no right to give, the untrue gossip we repeated. Talk is not cheap; we will pay dearly for the things we should have left unsaid. *"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."* (James 1:26). Watch what you say!

It is also true that few things are as valuable as words. *"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."* (Prov. 25:11) What else can give so much comfort and pleasure? What else can teach so effectively? God bless our tongue to His service.



Bobby Key
via Muscatine, IA

THIS IS IT!

In 1980, when my family and I lived in the state of Washington; Mt. St. Helens blew her top. Never in my lifetime had I seen anything so exciting or devastating. At the sight, over one square mile of rock, top soil and forest had been blown ten miles into the sky and scattered over more than 300 miles of the earth's surface.

Several scientists and geologists had been studying and monitoring the imminent explosion. Just as she blew, one man was caught up in the explosion. His last words were recorded, "This is it," he screamed! He knew an explosion was imminent, but he had no idea how terrifying it would be. He was unprepared for what happened. He never uttered another word.

Just so it will be when Jesus comes again; things will seem so normal. And then suddenly, without warning someone will shout, "This is it!" and time will be no more. (At least as we know it). Listen, *"The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are therein will be burned up."* (II Pet. 3:10).

Yes, the day of the Lord is coming and we do not know just when, but it will come. Will we be ready? Are we prepared? Are our friends and family ready?



Doug Tackett
Midlothian, TX

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A TIME TO KEEP SILENCE, AND A TIME TO SPEAK Ecclesiastes 3:7

"I have for a long time held my peace; I have been still, and refrained myself: Now I will cry like a woman in childbirth; I will destroy and devour at once" (Isa. 42:14). The preceding verse says, "The Lord shall go forth as a mighty man... he shall cry, yea roar; he shall behave himself mightily against his enemies" (he shall prevail)...(V.13).

These are the words of Jesus Christ, master teacher, who *lived up to the prophecy, "For he taught them as one having authority, as not as the scribes" (Matt. 7:29). As the saying goes..."Like father, like son!" God said, "I will not keep silence" (Isa. 65:6).*

Jesus was gentle, kind, compassionate, never unnecessarily harsh. But he was *not* wishy-washy. He would neither *compromise* the truth, nor *concede* to error. It was he who asked the scribes and Pharisees...*"how can you escape the damnation of hell?" (Matt. 23:33)*

The *truth* will always be tested—and *advocates* of truth along with it. There is *"a time to keep silence"*; but there is also *"a time to speak"* (Eccl. 3:7). There is always the temptation to opt for *silence* over *taking exception* just to *"keep the waters calm"*. There's an often overlooked definition of defeat: to postpone a response until silence becomes acquiescence. There is a point beyond which silence becomes consent.

"For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ" (Phillipians 3:18). Notice that this verse is a parenthetical expression to support the previous verse in which Paul said "be followers together of me."

Look at Paul's example when it came to

opposing error and defending truth: he called Elymas the sorcerer *"enemy of all righteousness,"* and asked, *"will you not cease to pervert the right way of the Lord?"* (Acts 13:10)

Such a question was not always directed to a false prophet like Barjesus (Acts 13:6). Paul asked the *church*, *"Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?"* (Galatians 4:6).

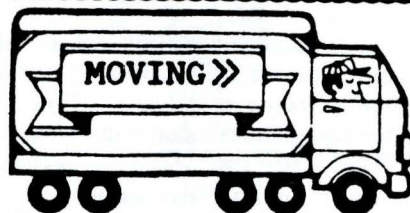
What, exactly, was the problem with the Christians in Galatia? They loved Paul dearly—would even have plucked out their eyes for him (Gal. 4:15). But they were *more* inclined to *listen to* and be *affected by* some recent comer(s) who came in teaching some very di-
gressive ideas (Gal. 3:1-3, 5-29; 4:1-2). Read (II Cor. 11:4-6, Phillips or NEB).

"I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you" (The marginal reading is, *"I am perplexed for you"* Gal. 4:20).

"You were running well; who was it hindered you from following the truth? Whatever persuasion he used, it did not come from God who is calling you; A little leaven; remember, leavens all the dough! United with you in the Lord, I am confident that you will not take the wrong view; but the man who is unsettling your minds, whoever he may be, must bear God's judgment." (Galatians 5:7-10 NEB).



Harold Poland
Arvada, CO



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THE UNHAPPY CHRISTIAN

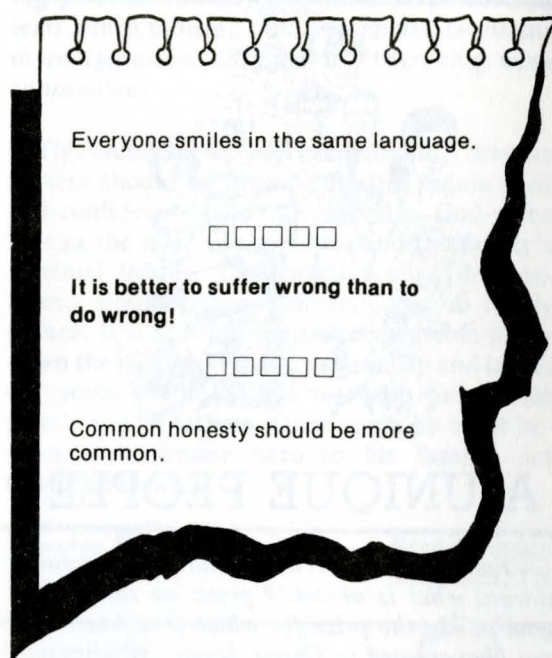
In the past few years I have come to know some of the most unhappy people on earth. They were not victims of flood or other natural disaster, they were not starving or destitute of necessities, they were not in trouble with the law or confined to a hospital nor were they discriminated against or robbed of their freedoms. They were "Christians" or so they said. To them, life was a dull grind, a totally uninteresting, tasteless experience. They were inspired by nothing and they forecast a bleak future. Their typical day involved waking, getting up, eating, going to work (or school), eating, going back to work (or school), going home, eating, watching TV and going to bed and sleep. Now, that really is a day about which a person could get excited, isn't it?

When a person is as miserable after conversation as before, it is obvious that he was not converted. It is incongruous to speak of an "unhappy Christian." The fact that he has been forgiven of sins and has the hope of life eternal should bring a smile to his face and a radiance to his personality which continues through tear and trial. Christ cannot live in a person and not make him happy. If the unhappy Christian were the true representation of Christianity, I wouldn't want to be a Christian, and I don't know anyone who would. Negative, disagreeable church members are as much an obstruction to the advancement of the cause as Achan and his sin were to victory in Israel. Such persons are the best missionaries Satan has.

You can be as happy as you make up your mind to be. Christ in the heart brings a smile to the face and a joy to life. Let us be positive, enthusiastic, happy people and spread our joy around the world as the missionaries of Christ, that men everywhere might come to know Him and the benefits of His love.



Wyatt Kirk
Bossier City, LA



WHAT IS A SQUARE?

Everybody knows a few squares. I know one. He is that strong, polite, young fellow who admits freely that he prays, weeps for joy, who likes little children, kisses his mother and goes to his dad to ask advice. He enjoys the old folks, and blushes....He wears blue jeans he can bend in (modest dress is required of boys, too). He cuts his hair, likes school, cannot imitate Elvis Presley, avoids dirty discussions about sex, goes to church, drinks milk, drives 30 miles per hour in a 30 MPH zone, will not smoke or dance, and expects purity in girls.... As a result of his odd behavior he suffers loss of gang companionship; *but* he gains gratitude of his parents, his family's respect, school honors, unjaded imagination, spiritual security, physical soundness, his country's salute, and a clean conscience. He's a square all right, BUT I LIKE HIM!



via Tomah, WI



A UNIQUE PEOPLE

"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13,14).

Remember the story of the man who was taking his grandfather clock in to be repaired? As he carried the bulky timepiece in his arms, he had difficulty seeing his way. Rounding a corner he ran directly into a pedestrian, who was knocked off his feet. Rather irate, the jostled gentleman jumped up and roared, "Why can't you wear a wristwatch like everyone else?"

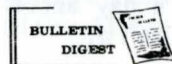
I'm glad there are some who are NOT like everyone else. They dare to be different! They call the shots and make their choices—independent of the Gallup poll. They're not controlled by wicked people or wicked thoughts. I particularly admire the man who refuses to hold postmortems over mistakes, who has kicked the worry habit, and places his mind and attention to positive, powerful, and productive things.

Sir Brook Watson, the Lord Mayor of London during the eighteenth century, was of that caliber. He had lost a leg to a shark at the age of fourteen. For the rest of his life, if he even thought about either the shark or the leg he fined himself twenty-five cents and gave the money to charity. Do you think he learned

to channel his thinking more profitably? You bet he did! He was not one to be controlled by weak and destructive thoughts.

Friends, while the masses are wringing their hands in mortification of possible nuclear holocaust—while people tremble in fear of the encroachment of crime—as great numbers throw in the towel because of discouraging news with unemployment and the high cost of living—God's people ought to be uniquely different. Christians should close the door on the past. They should seize the present with undaunted aggressiveness and look to the future with expectation and hope.

May we never forget that God made us a "peculiar" people (Titus 2:14). And that word does NOT mean "strange"—it means "unique"—God's own possession.



Kerry Knight
Houston, TX

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MEN WANTED—FOR FATHERS!

In the recent past—even in my lifetime—the word “father” had the ring of the woodsman’s axe about it. While his image was once very clear, “father” has become somewhat tarnished. Known as “the head of the house,” the old-timer set the rules, paid the bills, administered discipline, and saw that justice was done. No doubt he was too autocratic at times, but he was a MAN!—conscious of his position of authority and determined to use it for the good of all.

But today “father” appears less noble. A few years ago, the *New York Times* described the typical “movie” father as a “child-man,” “the male boob,” the member of the family who loudly objects to what his children are doing but merely surrenders and pays the bills when mother, interceding in behalf of the children, brings him up to date on modern youth!

Comic strip fathers, like Dagwood, or “Fred” in the Flintstones, fit the image quite well. They are like children trying to play a man’s role—lovable blunderbusses easily manipulated by the other members of the family.

Perhaps the greatest single reason for this change in the father role is the misapplication of democracy to family life. I agree that children are persons whose ideas should be listened to, whose feelings should be appreciated, and whose rights should be respected; but without buying the idea that the family is a democracy or should be operated as one. The concept that all men are created equal does not, for one minute, mean that all members of a family have equal rights, equal responsibility, equal needs, equally sound judgment, or equal authority.

Afraid of being judged undemocratic, many of today’s fathers have surrendered their responsibility as head of the house simply because they have been “outvoted.” This grow-

ing paternal timidity shows up on personality tests which indicate that women are becoming more aggressive and men are becoming more submissive.

This trend should be reversed and Christian fathers should be the very first to regain their self-confidence, and assume the God-given role as the head of the house and the family’s spiritual leader. They must realize that extreme permissiveness never was a manly stance. It is still proper and respectable to lay down the rules and enforce them. By and large, our youth prefer fathers to “stop being nice guys” and be fathers. Once again he must become a legitimate hero to his family, set Christian ideals.

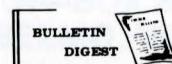


Brad Brumley
Humboldt, TN

WE NEED MORE GRANDPAS!



Junior bit the meter man; Junior hit the cook!
Junior’s “anti-social” now (according to the book)
Junior smashed the clock and lamp; Junior hacked the tree!
(Destructive trends are treated in Chapters 2 & 3)
Junior threw his milk at Mom; Junior screamed for more!
(Notes on “self-assertiveness” are found in Chapter 4)
Junior tossed his shoes and socks out into the rain,
(“Negation,” that is normal disregard the strain)
Junior set Dad’s shirt afire; whittled Grandpa’s pine;
(That’s to gain attention, see page 89).
Grandpa seized a slipper and yanked Junior cross his knee.
(He’s read nothing but the Bible since 1893)!



via Walnut Rudge, AR

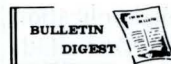
SEEK YE FIRST (Matthew 6:33)

What takes "first place" in your life? A placard I saw in a bank teller's cage gives the answer which a number of individuals would offer: "Money is not everything, but it's way ahead of whatever's in second place!" But, this was not Jesus' answer to this question. Our Lord said, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all of these things shall be added unto you."* The "these things" he mentioned were food, drink and clothing, and such like: the things which we refer to as the necessities of life. Jesus put priority upon the kingdom of God and his righteousness. He taught us that, if we put top priority upon the supposed "physical necessities" we will be likely to miss both them and the spiritual blessings; but, if we put top priority upon GOD AND HIS TRUTH, we are most likely to gain both his divine approval and to get the physical necessities "to boot!"

To "seek first the kingdom of God" is to seek before everything else the things related to salvation in Christ and service to him in his blood-bought "kingdom church." Jesus *"loved the church, and gave himself for it"* (Ephesians 5:25). When he prayed *"with strong and crying tears"* in Gethsemane, beseeching God that, *"If it be possible, let this cup pass from me;"* he, nonetheless, gave FIRST PLACE to the kingdom of God and his righteousness, closing his petition with the words, *"Nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt."* The "blood-bought kingdom—church, and the salvation of lost souls," would come FIRST. If I love the Lord, and wish to serve him and be approved of him, I will, also, put that kingdom and God's righteousness, FIRST. And, Jesus went on record as promising me, and all other sincere disciples of his, that, if we will seek FIRST his kingdom and righteousness, our physical needs will be supplied.

Some years ago, I attempted to encourage a very fine lady in the congregation where I was to be more diligent in the Lord's work. Her father was an outstanding elder in the church, and she was possessed of abilities and personality to make her efforts valuable above that which is ordinary. Also, as we say, she was "getting along in years;" not yet "old," but approaching dangerously nigh onto it. Her response was interesting, to say the least. She said, "The Bible teaches us to be temperate in all things, and I think that includes not being unbalanced and fanatical about the time and work we use in the church." She said she thought she was doing enough to come Sunday morning to teach a class and to attend the morning worship, and that more than that would be extreme.

What a pity! But, even more pitiable is the fact that many others believe and practice the same thing! Jesus put it before everything else: before his own comfort, his own preference, his own pleasure, even before his own life on earth! Abraham had this sort of commitment, and it did not in any way impoverish him; and neither will it deprive those who walk after that same faith, today. Putting faith in the Lord, and service to him in his church, FIRST IN MY LIFE, will bring to me spiritual joy, and life's necessities, TO BOOT!



Yarbrough Leigh
Shades Mt. Bulletin
Birmingham, AL

TRUTH DOES NOT HURT. . .
UNLESS IT OUGHT TO!

DON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH

Consider this statement: "Do not become involved in a colloquy with the bench, but proceed without undue delay to discharge your obligation for violation of the city ordinance." Why not come out and say it: "Don't argue with the judge, pay the fine."

John the Baptist could have told Herod: "When considered from the viewpoint of absolute veracity, it would appear that your conjugal relationship with Herodias rests on dubious Scriptural authentication."

But he rather said: "*It is not lawful for you to have her.*" (Matthew 14:4) What a difference!

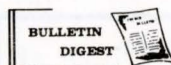
The Bible does not say: "*Whenever possible, give thought to making every attempt to refrain from habitual absenteeism of worship opportunities.*" It rather says: "*Do not forsake the assembly....*" (Hebrews 10:25)

The Prodigal Son whose desire to live it up resulted in insulting his father, defying God and wasting his life could have softened his guilt-consciousness considerably by saying: "One could theorize that my behavior has been characterized by indiscretion to the point of my being somewhat sub-standard both theologically and domestically."

What a weakness that kind of thinking would have shown. To his credit the boy said: "*I have sinned.*" (Luke 15:21)

Our language can become a smokescreen for deception, even self-deception. We can mince words, pile up intellectual jargon until we have knocked the meaning out of the message and have squeezed the conviction out of our communication.

May God save us from the damnation that comes from hiding behind words.



Joe Goodspeed
via Meredosia, IL

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A TOE TRUCK ?

When my daughter, Kathy, was three years old, she and I were riding along together and passed a wrecker. "What's that, Daddy?", she asked. "A tow truck," I replied, and continued driving. Some minutes later, I looked over at her and she had taken off her shoe and sock and was pointing to her big toe. With a very puzzled look on her little face, she asked, "A toe truck?"

Isn't it interesting how we sometimes assume that we are communicating when, in fact, we are not? Sometimes the results are funny...but many times, serious problems can result. This is especially true when communications problems arise between marriage partners. Ann Landers has written:

"The most important single ingredient in a marriage is the ability to communicate. If my mail is a fair reflection of what goes on with Mr. and Mrs. America behind closed doors (and I think it is), most marital problems stem from the inability of two people to talk to each other."

Miscommunication is produced by a number of different reasons but the end result is severed relationships and/or divorce. Many marriages could be saved from the disaster of divorce if we would just be careful to communicate our feelings in a loving and gentle way. And along with that comes the special responsibility of making sure that we are communicating effectively. Psychologists agree that in order for good communication to take place, two elements are necessary. One must be, at the same time, an effective communicator and an active listener. The effective communicator makes sure that thoughts are communicated through words whose meaning are mutually understood. And, at the same time, the active listener listens not only to what is said, but what is not said. Most disagreements arise over what "might have been implied" or what is not said.

These two elements, that of being an effective communicator and an active listener, have the power to make every relationship of life more meaningful. Whether in marriage, on the job, or in the church, good communication produces happy, meaningful relationships.



Rudy Wray
Victoria, TX

It Really Happened . . .

While preaching for a congregation in a farming community in West Texas, I was constantly impressed with the fact that everybody there was "country". A trademark was a disc of Skoal in the hip pocket, boots, and a radio blaring the country-western song of the day.

It even carried over into the worship services of the church when a visiting song leader who had grown up in the community, introduced the one who had been designated for the first prayer of the morning by saying, "And now **Willie Nelson will lead us in prayer!**" His name was really Willie Rushin, one of the deacons.

Keith Parker
Iowa Park, TX

Share with us some amusing or embarrassing incident of a religious nature and if we print it we'll give you a six-month's subscription or extension to Bulletin Digest. Send all items to: Bulletin Digest, HC69, Box 29A, Anselmo, Ne. 68813.

ENOUGH STORED TO SUSTAIN YOU?

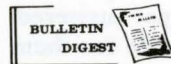
I read the following story recently that touched me deeply. It was written soon after our soldiers came back from Vietnam. It was the story of Howard Rutledge, a prisoner of war, from Tulsa. He wrote, "As I was dying from starvation, thankful for a bowl of sewer greens, I found that my hunger for spiritual food soon outdid my hunger for steak. Now I wanted to know about the part of me that will never die...I had completely neglected the spiritual dimension in my life. Now I wanted to talk about God and Christ and the church. But in heartbreak solitary confinement there was no preacher, no Sunday school teacher, no Bible, no hymnbook, no community of believers to guide and sustain me."

"I tried desperately to recall snatches of Scripture, sermons, the gospel choruses from childhood...but I had not seen the impor-

tance of memorizing verses from the Bible or learning gospel songs. Now, when I needed them, it was too late."

"All this talk of scripture and hymns may seem boring to some, but it was the way we conquered our enemy and overcame the power of death around us."

—God warned his people through the prophet Amos, *"I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water but of hearing the words of Jehovah. And they shall not find it."* (Amos 8:11-12) If God sent a spiritual famine today, would you have enough spiritual food stored in your heart to sustain you?



Ron Stough
Duncan, OK

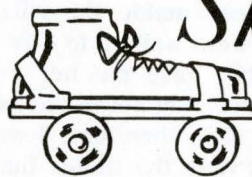
We would be happier with what we have if we weren't so unhappy about what we don't have.

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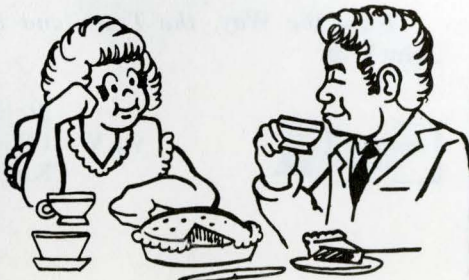
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We Sorrow
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MY MOTHER IS RESPONSIBLE

One Sunday morning Bill Nichols started his Bible class by asking, "Who is responsible for your actions?" All grown-ups answered that they themselves are responsible for their actions. Then Bill asked the same question of his 7-year-old Janie, and without hesitation she answered, "My mother is!" We all laughed at her quick reply, but there is much truth in Janie's statement. When I think of my mother, I must admit that it is my mother who is responsible to a great extent for what I am and do.

In March, 1942, the Germans took me and many other young people to forced labor. As my sister, brothers, mother and grandmother accompanied me outside the village where several wagons were waiting to take us to Germany, my mother gave me her final exhortation: "My son, we may never see each other again (we never did), therefore, I want to tell you for the last time the things that I have been teaching you. This shall be my testament. Wherever you will be and whatever will happen in your life, believe in God, work hard, economize, respect what I respect and taught you to respect. Remember who you are (Ukrainian), and be not ashamed of it. Live an honest and exemplary life, as though I, your mother, am constantly watching you.

Above all, search for the Truth, run after the Truth. Remember and do this, and God will bless you."

My mother's last testament became my "magnificent obsession." I tried to put it into daily practice, and God has blessed me beyond my imagination. In 1945, I heard about the Truth as I had never heard before. That happened in Kolishka's place in DP camp in Germany, when I was invited for supper and to spend the evening listening to a historical-biographical lecture on John Huss, a Czech martyr for the Truth. Huss was a sort of restoration leader who called, "Listen to the Truth, learn from the Truth and defend the Truth until your death." He died on June 6, 1415, burned at the stake for the Truth he proclaimed.

The life and death of John Huss made a great impression on me and I remembered my mother's exhortation, "Search for the Truth." Thus, I started to search and found the Truth in the New Testament that the Kolishkas gave me, and on October 1, 1946, I obeyed the Truth. Since that day I dedicate my life to live and proclaim Jesus Christ—the Truth.

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"
John 14:6.



Stephen Bilak
via West End Bulletin
Knoxville, TN