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## **Bulletin Digest, Volume 2, Number 11 (1983)**

James M. Sampson

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# BULLETIN DIGEST



Gleanings of the best from church bulletins  
throughout the brotherhood

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

NOVEMBER 1983

VOL. II NO. 11

## The Good Old Days



When we look back nostalgically to older times, thinking them better than today, we forget what they were really like.

Witches were believed in by educated persons only a few hundred years ago. Martin Luther said, "I would burn them all." An estimated forty thousand of them were executed in the seventeenth century alone.

As late as one hundred years ago, operations were horrible affairs, with patients strapped down screaming with pain.

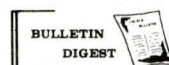
Sometimes we tend to imagine that in the "good old days" everyone went to church, and Bible study was an everyday affair. In Chicago, one hundred years ago, a church was asked if they would permit the use of their building for a Sunday School. The request was

denied, the deacons replying that "it is too worldly a purpose for a church".

J.C. Penney, founder of the chain of retail stores bearing his name, recalled the time when his father was put on trial before his church for teaching that ministers should be paid, so that they could devote full time to the ministry. The church solemnly voted him out of membership. His wife sprang to her feet in the balcony and shouted, "I believe as he does." They expelled her from membership, too.

Six hundred years ago people were burned at the stake for translating the Bible into English, and thousands were imprisoned for reading the Bible. Only three hundred years ago, Bunyan, whose *Pilgrim's Progress* was written in Bedford Jail, was sentenced to twelve years in the dark and dreary prison for the crime of preaching the gospel in the open fields.

Today is a day to be thankful for. It is a day to count our blessings and to offer thanksgiving for the progress the world has made. Conditions have never been more favorable for the preaching of Christ than they are today. These are the "good old days".



Royce Martin  
via Dover, NH

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## From The Editor...

Last year folks seemed to enjoy our special rebate offer for sending in the most subscriptions during a specified period. The winners at that time were: Stephen Bailes of Tacoma, Washington; Windsor Park church of Christ, Corpus Christi, Texas; and Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Bartak of Merna, Nebraska.

This year we will again be offering special incentives for the months of *November* and *December*. Everyone sending in:

5 or more subscriptions (club rate \$6.50 each) will receive a Simple English Bible, soft cover, which retails for \$5.95.

10 or more subscriptions will receive a hardcover, large print Simple English Bible which retails for \$14.95.

15 or more subscriptions will receive the Nelson Family Bible advertised in our September 1983 issue at \$19.95.

25 or more subscriptions will receive the New Testament on cassettes, KJV, which retails for \$27.95.

50 or more subscriptions will receive the *SUPER* gift of a *DICKSON NEW ANALYTICAL BIBLE* which retails for \$68.95.

### THIS OFFER EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1983!

It's gift giving time again. Bulletin Digest would make a great gift for those you love—and it will keep on giving for 12 full months. Now is the time to take advantage of the special gift rates found on page 7 or these special club rates and receive a quality Bible for your efforts.

The demand for the 1982 clip-art packet has been outstanding. We are still receiving orders for this fresh art. Well, we are happy to tell you that we will also be offering a 1983 clip-art packet. Be watching the December issue for details.

"Grace be with you all" (Heb. 13:25).

—JMS



## From Our Mailbox...



Dear Sirs,

Please send us Bulletin Digest. Enclosed is a check for \$13.00 for two years. Also, would you mail us the back issues and bill us for them. The paper is very useful in our School of Personal Evangelism at Coleman Avenue.

In His Service,  
John Denney, Director  
Memphis, TN

Dear Brethren,

If you are still publishing we would like to subscribe. The sample copy arrived in a box of tracts from Kentucky 1½ years late. We are missionaries and miss the depth of soul such as your Digest contains. We covet your prayers.

Richard Parker  
Freeport, Grand Bahama

Dear Sir,

I would like to subscribe to the Bulletin Digest. Enclosed is a check to cover the cost of two copies of the Bulletin Digest for one year. I find the articles and art work very useful, so I would like to start receiving the copies as soon as possible.

Cordially,  
John Stephen Smith  
Bellefontaine, OH

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Last night I had a dream. For some reason, it was not quite clear, I was about to be burned at the stake. It seemed that it had something to do with faith in Christ, but that part was hazy.

It was a horrible experience, and I awoke just about the time my shirt was stripped from my back and the fire started.

Unable to sleep for a few minutes, it made me recall some of the martyrs who did give their lives for their faith in the Lord and in contrast how little I had sacrificed for my faith.

What's it all about, this living for Christ? Why will men and women die for such faith? Why will modern 20th century man give sacrificially each Sunday and work diligently in various church projects?

The apostle John gave us the answer in the symbols he used of heaven. He saw a city that was a perfect cube, 1500 miles wide, long and high, with twelve gates. The walls gleamed crystal clear like a jasper stone. The street was of gold.

Peter tells us about our inheritance. It is going to be "incorruptible" (no moth, rust, thief, to destroy), "unstained" (no defilement of sin), "unfading" (never withering, never growing old).

Huss, when martyred at Constance, spoke of these three qualities: "Our inheritance will never lose anything through age or sickness on our part or through any damage of itself."

The religion of Jesus Christ is not fun and games, it is presenting ourselves before God as living sacrifices.



Westbury Bulletin  
Houston, TX

## OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

Temptation is inevitable. It is one of the certainties of life—like death and taxes. No matter who you are, the time comes when you must pass through the Wilderness of Temptation. Even Jesus had to contend with temptation. (Matthew 4:1-11)

Temptation must be defeated. God says: *"Sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."* (Genesis 4:7) But the question is, "How?" How is it possible to win over temptation? The answer is to be found in a study of our Lord's victory over the Tempter. He was *"in all points tempted like as we are yet without sin."* (Heb. 4:15) If we can see how He did it—how He overcame temptation, then we can conquer it as well!

Notice what Jesus teaches us about winning against temptation in Matthew 4:1-11...

### 1. We Must Immerse Ourselves In Scripture.

Jesus successfully met temptation by using the Word. He turned Satan aside by saying three times, *"It is written."* Psalm 119:11 teaches us to fill our hearts with the Word of God that we might not sin! If Jesus could defeat the devil by using three verses from Deuteronomy, we ought to be able to do it using the whole Bible!

### 2. We Must Shield Ourselves With Prayer.

It is not possible to imagine Jesus alone for 40 days in the Wilderness without imagining Him often in prayer. He insisted that there was a connection between prayer and overcoming temptation! He taught His disciples to pray: *"Lead us not into temptation."* (Matthew 6:13) Prayer is a potential preventive! It's hard to stumble while you are on your knees!

### 3. We Must Isolate Ourselves From Compromising Situations.

When Satan urged Jesus to throw Himself off the pinnacle of the Temple, Jesus refused to allow Himself to be drawn into a compromising situation. Often the best way to deal with temptation is to turn your back and run from it! Joseph did that when tempted

by his master's wife. We are to *"abstain from all appearance of evil."* (I Thessalonians 5:22) If we are wise we will avoid putting ourselves in temptation's way!

### 4. We Must Fill Ourselves With God.

When Satan urged Jesus to fall down and worship him, Jesus replied: *"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve."* (Matthew 4:10) If we fill our lives up with God, it will leave no room for temptation! When our hearts and minds are on the Father, *"Satan may call, the world may entreat me... There is no voice that answers within."*

Every temptation resisted strengthens us for living the Christian life. As Browning wrote:

...when the fight begins within himself  
A man's worth something.  
God stoops o'er his head,  
Satan looks up between his feet—both tug—  
...the soul wakes  
And grows!

*"Resist the devil and he will flee from you."*  
(James 4:7)



Bobby Dockery  
via Airline Dr. Bulletin  
Bossier City, LA

## YOU ARE GOD'S OPPORTUNITY

Personality is not the product of one little lifetime. God has been at work for ages upon each of us through His great laws of heredity. The result is that in all this world there are no two people alike, never have been and there never will be.

What does this mean? You are God's opportunity in your day. He has waited ages for a person just like you. If you are yielding to Him, and His will is being performed through you, then God is having His opportunity. If you refuse Him, then God loses His opportunity which He sought through you, and He will never have another, for there will never be another person on earth just like you. You are God's opportunity!



via Bellvue, NE





## TRUST THE COMPASS

A friend of mine was an avid fisherman. Since he lived on the coast, he loved to fish in the Gulf of Mexico just off shore for all the good fishing he could find of the "deep sea" varieties. His boat, however, was not equipped with radio or navigational equipment, so he had to fish at all times in sight of land.

One day, however, he and a party went out a bit too far—out of sight from land. He knew where he was (he thought) though the day was overcast and directions were a bit confusing. At the close of day, he upped anchor and headed home. The men in the boat with him, however, let out a howl because each one thought he was going in the wrong direction. Joe searched in his tackle box and came up with his son's cheap compass. Looking at it closely in the gathering gloom, the compass said the "West" was in the direct opposite direction of *everybody's* opinion. Thus the men howled even louder as Joe turned to starboard and headed for what he hoped was home.

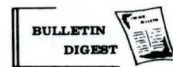
Many thoughts raced through his mind as he continued on. Was the cheap compass right? Were they going home or further out to sea? Would anybody ever find them? With each doubt, Joe shook it off and renewed his faith in his compass. Suddenly, he looked up to see the faint glow of the lights on shore. Heading straight in, the boat touched shore some 25 yards away from his trailer. They were safe at home.

That experience, too, is a good illustration of trust in the face of human reason. God wants

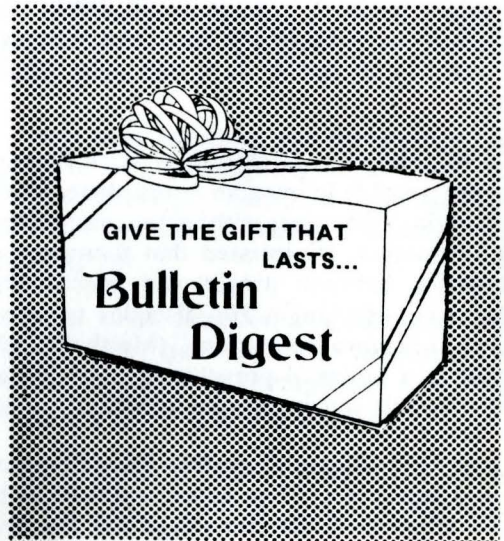
us all to "get home safely" when it comes to our souls, and He has given us his spiritual compass to get us there. It is called the "Bible."

As we float out on life's sea, our friends and loved ones have their own opinions on how to get home, but the compass must be followed at all costs. (Psalm 119:145-147)

Out here on the sea, with all the people yelling out their opinions, the Bible may seem to fly in the face of all reason, but the wise person is he who will cast his faith in the Book Divine, and trust it in the dark. After a while, the light will break, and you will find that the grand old Book brought us safely home. And that is all that counts.



David Lusk  
Eastwood Bulletin  
El Paso, TX







# Holiday Special

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**Note:** Gift subscriptions for this holiday special  
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Offer expires  
 Dec. 31, 1983

# BULLETIN DIGEST

N.E. STAR ROUTE, BOX 29A  
 ANSELMO, NEBRASKA 68813

## LOOK

Some years ago in a little Texas town the small church there had several fine song-leaders. The preacher was an able songleader, and he had three sons in high school who were also good songleaders. Also in that congregation another high school young man could lead well. But surprisingly one day a middle-aged man asked the preacher to teach him to lead songs. His explanation: "When you move you'll take your boys, and then when this other young man goes to college we'll be without a songleader." And though he had never led songs before, he was willing to assume the responsibility—to fill the NEED.

One of the most wonderful things about this true story is that here was "Mr. Average Christian" looking down the road to the future of the Lord's church, and willing to personally see that the church didn't suffer! He didn't say, "I sure hope somebody does something." He *did something!* I might add, in less than

two years he was the only songleader in the church there!

Most people look to the preacher, the elders, or some leader to anticipate future problems or weaknesses that may develop. But why shouldn't everyone be aware and work to that end? After all it is God who is glorified, and souls saved! No one man, or few men, can know or do everything. And if everything is left to a few, something is going to suffer.

Somehow when we look at the Jerusalem church (Acts 2-6) we get the idea that the **WHOLE CHURCH** was busy looking for the welfare of souls and God's glory. Why not the same where you worship?

Look around. Is there something that needs attention? Something **YOU** can do? A busy, working church is a *Growing, Glowing* church!



—Adapted  
 Haun Kite  
 via Commerce, TX



## WHAT IS REQUIRED?

*"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2). "...be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).*

Many servants of God become discouraged due to the fact they have little success in leading the lost to Christ. They feel if they are unable to be successful, they will quit altogether. During the past several years success has been the name of the game. The successful preacher, as the world measures success, has been labeled as "great".

Now I like to see responses as well as the next person, and I have had the privilege of seeing 60 or 70 people come forward during my meetings with 10 or 15 baptisms in one service. When this happens my heart is thrilled. On the other hand, I have worked just as hard, expending all my strength in preaching the Word without one response.

If we are not careful, we will begin to use the world's standard of measurement, judging preachers by number of responses, size of congregation, and salary received. Just because a man's name is constantly before the public and he is heralded before the world as great doesn't mean he has made first string on the Lord's team. A number of noble souls are laboring in out of the way places in almost total obscurity. Only a handful outside of their communities know of their labor and sacrifice for the Lord. Perhaps in God's sight, these faithful but unknown workers are the "great preachers" of our generation.

God nowhere requires us to be successful, but it is mandatory that we be faithful—he doesn't demand that we be popular and a promoter, but he demands that we be faithful. He doesn't ask that we draw a big salary, live in a fine house and have membership in a large congregation. God requires that we be faithful. In describing a congregation in

the New Testament, the Holy Spirit says little or nothing about the building, the preacher, the leaders, the attendance, the number baptized, the number placing membership, the number asking for prayers, the annual budget or the weekly contribution. The thing emphasized is their faith, labor of love, hope, soundness in the Word, etc. Faithfulness is the primary requisite of service, not apparent accomplishment.

Sometime back a brother wrote, "When all is said and done, a sermon is a success or failure depending on the results it produces." That sounds good but it is just not so! Ezekiel was called to preach to a rebellious people. God said, *"They will not hearken unto thee: for they will not hearken unto me."* The prophet was told to go anyway so that the people could know of God's warning and stand in judgment without excuse. *"And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, yet shall they know that there has been a prophet among them."* (Ezekiel 2:5). He was called to be faithful.

God told us to teach His Word. When we have done this task to the best of our ability, whether anyone believes it and obeys it or not, God is pleased with the faithfulness of the messenger. The Lord's highest commendation in the day of judgment will be for faithfulness in fulfilling His will (Matthew 25:21,23). Let us stop equating faithfulness with success. Why not talk to Noah sometime about the difference between success and faithfulness.



Bobby Key  
via Marlow, OK

THE MORE OF HEAVEN  
THERE IS IN OUR LIVES,  
THE LESS OF EARTH  
WE SHALL COVET.



## THE INFLUENCE OF OUR PEERS

All of us are influenced by our peers whether we like it or not. Our houses, our cars, our clothes, our hobbies, our entertainment, our social activities reflect to some degree the impact of others on our way of life.

It is not strange then that teen-agers are especially prone to be influenced by their peers. What others do, where they go, what they wear, with whom they socialize, the language they use, and the "in things" all seem to have an undue influence upon those of this impressionable age. It was true when I was in high school. It's true today.

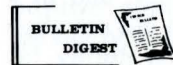
Recently I attended the 50 year High School graduating class reunion. It was the first one we'd ever had. Of the 31 members of the class that at that time was the largest to ever graduate in my home county, six were deceased. True to actuarial tables, five were male, and one female. Of those who survived sixteen attended the reunion. For various reasons, on such short notice, others could not attend. It was a most enjoyable occasion. The food was plentiful and delicious. The fellowship was superb. The interest in one another and the friendliness was all one could expect. Even one of our High School teachers was able to be present, and recalled several things that had made our class sort of special.

But as I looked about, I was stunned to realize that of the sixteen present I had only seen four or five of them during the past 45 to 50 years. Following our graduation, our paths had just not had occasion to cross. As I considered this, it struck me: wasn't it ridiculous that I had allowed the comments, actions, and activities of people whom I would not see for the next FIFTY years to color what I did as a high school student?

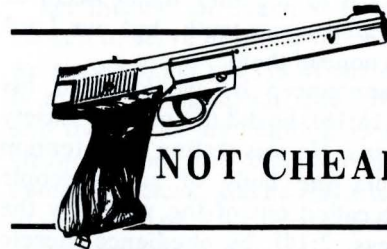
For strange as it may seem, most high school graduates will have relatively little contact during the next half-century with class-mates whom they now hold so dear, and who seem to

influence them so much during their brief schooling together. It makes one sort of wonder just why we allow "peer pressure" to influence us to do things we know are against our better judgment, when these "peers" will have so little meaning and impact on our lives for decades to follow.

Maybe we ought to stop and evaluate what is really important anyhow. And then do that which our conscience tells us is the proper course of action to take. Remember, no one has ever regretted doing the right thing!



G. Wyatt Shaw  
via Douglasville, GA



## NOT CHEAP JUNK

When I was a little boy there used to be a certain dime store cap pistol that could actually be bought for a dime. But it wasn't really worth a dime. After you fired it just a few times the little spring broke and the hammer would not function. Such a purchase was expensive at any price. A wise consumer knows not to buy junk, because however cheap it is, it's the most expensive thing that can be bought.

One of Satan's major appeals is his pride. He is very competitive. He advertises his way of life as being much cheaper, that it can be lived easier and with much less effort and cost. But what he doesn't tell is that his sinful, easy ways don't work well or long even in this life, and that they are worse than useless for the next life. By contrast, *"Godliness with contentment is gain."*

*"Godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life which now is and of that which is to come."* (1 Tim. 4:8)



Olden Cook  
Kerrville, TX



## THE UNDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

Churches of Christ seek to restore the original church which is identified and described in the New Testament. To restore does not imply that we seek to create a new denomination better than existing ones. Even a better denomination would still be unacceptable, because the church of the New Testament was actually undenominational.

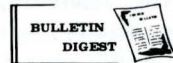
What is wrong with the concept of denominationalism? It signifies a division, and in a religious sense, a sect. Our Lord did not align himself with any sect or division during his earthly life. Each of the four major sects of Judaism advocated some truth, but our Lord identified with none of them.

When he announced he would build his church (Matt. 16:18), he did not mean a variety of denominations. He was stating his intention to establish his one body of saved people who would be called out of the world by the gospel (II Thess. 2:14), by obedience thereto (II Thess. 1:6-9), over which Christ would rule as head (Col. 1:18).

Our Lord prayed earnestly before his death for the unity of his church, the very opposite of denominationalism. *"Neither do I pray for these (his apostles) alone, but for them all*

*(Christians today) which shall believe on me through their word (New Testament), that they ALL BE ONE"* (John 17:20,21). Our Lord paid for unity, the opposite of denominationalism. He died and shed his blood *"that he might reconcile both (Jew and Gentile) unto God in ONE body by the cross"* (Eph. 2:16). Our Lord pleaded for unity, the opposite of denominationalism. He urged that we *"all speak the same thing, and there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together* (I Cor. 1:10). Our Lord planned for unity, the opposite of denominationalism. He taught, *"there is ONE body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all"* (Eph. 4:3-6). Therefore, our Lord was undenominational and anti-denominational.

What is the cure for denominationalism? A complete return to the authority of the Bible and an allegiance of every believer to that single objective authority. When all men will lay down their feelings and modern concepts and objectively consider the church of the New Testament humbly and honestly, diligently studying all the scriptures on that subject, the result will be the death knell to denominationalism.



John Pigg  
via Auburn, AL

## It Really Happened . . .

This month's "It Really Happened" comes from Eddie Cooper, evangelist for the Sunrush church in Chillicothe, Ohio. He writes, "Here is an item that I thought you might be able to print. Brother Fred Dennis has recently passed from this life. He was a real preacher of the gospel in every way. Many who read your Bulletin Digest will know of him and his influence for good."

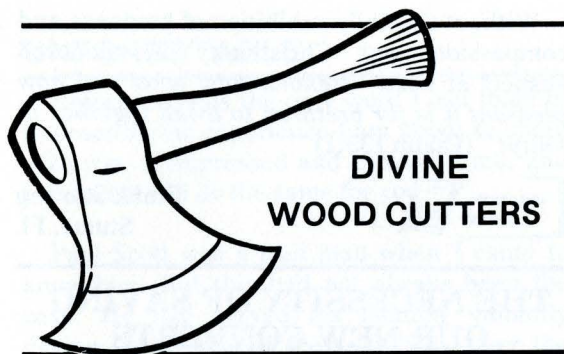
Several years ago at the Ohio Valley College Lectureship, the late brother Fred Dennis was doing the speaking when someone's voice came over the speakers as feedback from a CB radio. Well, brother Dennis, not to be

outdone, said: In all my years of preaching I've done a lot of talking **into** these things (microphones) but this is the first time I ever had one to **talk back** to me. (By the way, his subject was on Morality).



*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, N.E. Star Rt., Box 29A, Anselmo, Ne. 68813.*





## DIVINE WOOD CUTTERS

The year was 63 A.D., and sitting in a dark, cold, damp prison cell in the city of Rome was a prisoner by the name of Paul, an Apostle in the church of Jesus Christ. He had been in prison now for almost two years, and had experienced numerous hardships. But Paul writes to some of his beloved brethren who are in Philippi and encourages them with this message, *"Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel"* (Philippians 1:12).

The Greek word which is here translated *"greater progress"* is *"prokope"*, which in the first century had reference to a company of wood cutters which preceded the progress of an army, cutting a road through the forest so that the soldiers might be able to advance. This word appears only 3 times in the New Testament, and is used exclusively by Paul in his prison letters.

Paul considered himself a soldier in the army of the Lord Jesus Christ; a soldier whose mission was to engage the foe with the Sword of the Spirit. In order to thwart the efforts and the progress of the Lord's army, Satan had formed an entire forest of obstacles and hindrances. Many people, when they encounter the numerous obstructions of Satan, completely halt their forward progress for the Lord, and throw up their hands in defeat.

Paul, however, wants the Philippian brethren to know that he is not such an individual. In fact, he regards his obstructions as Divine wood cutters! The circumstances in which he

finds himself have not hindered the progress of the gospel, but have actually cleared a path for the furtherance of it!

After making the statement in vs. 12, Paul writes, *"My imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else and most of the brethren trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear."* (Philippians 1:13-14). And all of this because one man maintained his faith and a positive attitude in the face of a forest of Satanic obstructions!

Let this be an example to us! If we have chosen to serve in the army of our Lord, then we must forever put out of our minds that this is merely a big social club. We are at war, and the stakes are high! It is a life or death struggle, and the outcome is eternal! Our enemy is vicious, and he *will* attack us and seek to stop us. And if we have a defeatist attitude, we *will* be defeated!

We, like Paul, must view our obstacles not as insurmountable walls, but rather as opportunities. With the help of our Lord, which He has promised, we can turn any circumstance into a Divine wood cutter and utilize it to the greater progress of the gospel! Let us never forget that obstacles are actually blessings in disguise!

*"And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."* (II Cor. 12:9-10).



Al Maxey  
Kaiserslautern, Germany

# Praise Him!





## THE CHRISTIAN'S PREFERENCE

Some years ago, I came across a beautiful little story I'd like to share with you.

Over a century and a half ago there was an artist by the name of Turner. The colors on his canvas were always so bright and intense that by comparison they simply dimmed the interest in paintings of a quieter tone that might be anywhere in the vicinity. Once, when his great picture of Cologne was exhibited in 1826, it was hung between two portraits by Sir Thomas Lawrence. Lawrence immediately noticed the injurious effect that Turner's bright skies had on his more subdued portraits, and he became troubled and mortified. Turner, seeing his friend's unhappiness, decided to ease the other man's feelings. Unselfishly, he retouched his canvas so as to darken greatly his otherwise flamboyantly "loud" painting. When friends of Turner came to view his masterpiece they were shocked and amazed. The glorious sky he usually displayed was now a sadly dull brown. Turner quieted their fears, saying in a half-whisper, "It's nothing. It will all wash off—it's just a little lampblack I put over the brilliant colors. I couldn't bear to see poor brother Lawrence so unhappy." Lest his work should hurt his friend, he changed it and then minimized the sacrifice since it was to help another member of the artistic fraternity.

In a highly competitive society such as ours, the virtues of kindness and humility are rare commodities indeed. Unusual is an understatement when such occurs in the "dog-eat-dog" world of the 80's! But, not in the community of God's children. It is a part of Christ's teaching that we should be kind and compassionate in our relationships with all men, especially the brethren. Are you?

Without the daily exhibition of kindness and compassion, our Christianity is rendered suspect at best. *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"* (Psalm 133:1)



Frank Starling  
Stuart, FL

## THE NECESSITY OF SAVING OUR NEW CONVERTS

I really believe that we are making a terrible mistake as the Lord's people when we put so much emphasis on making new converts and then leave them to go on to baptize others. We are making this mistake in foreign lands and we are also doing the same thing right here at home. In our zeal we save souls only to lose them.

We are to take the gospel to others throughout the world. As we do this we are to convert as many as possible—but only as we are able to further teach them and to ground them in the faith. With this limitation we might not be able to baptize as many, but it would be better to baptize fewer and keep them than to baptize many and lose most of them. Right now we are losing far too many.

Just think of the great injustice that we do when we work with an individual over a period of time to convert him and then just as soon as he is baptized we leave him for someone else. Imagine what he must think of this kind of treatment. He probably reasons that this person wasn't interested in him as a soul but merely adding him to his list as another baptism. Wouldn't it be better to work with this person with the thought in mind of helping him to grow and to develop to the point where he can stand firmly in the faith? If this is done then he too may become a great worker for the Lord and through him many may be won to the truth. If he is not helped, but is allowed to fall by the way side, then really nothing constructive has been done, and the Lord's cause has been hurt to a great extent....



J.C. Choate  
via Rossville, GA



## UNFORGETTABLE

Unforgettable is the only word I can think of to describe the experience I am about to share with you. It impressed and convicted me, and I'm sure it will do the same for you.

Paul Scott was a frail man when I came to know him. But this had not always been the case. He had served his country valiantly during World War II flying B-29's "over the hump" in Burma. Many years of his life had been dedicated to serving the Lord's church as an elder. In this capacity he served with courage and distinction.

But when I came to know him, his physical circumstance had somewhat changed. His body was wracked with disease. Fed through a tube, he spent the majority of his time confined to a bed. During this time of physical deterioration and almost unbearable pain, his loving family tenderly cared for him and offered him every possible service.

But there is a sense in which he served us—all of us. His life was not only a lesson of how to live, but also how to die.

And now for the particular item I want to share with you. Two weeks before Paul's death, an elder of the church paid a visit to the Scott home. Paul's wife, Dorothy, met him at the door and cordially invited him in. To his surprise, he discovered that he had happened in on a Bible study being conducted by brother Scott FROM HIS DEATHBED.

What a lesson! What an opportunity for an excuse! "Oh, I can't study with anyone. I'm sick and dying!" But, No Sir! No such words came from Paul's lips. He did what he could and in the doing taught us the absurdity of our excuses.

Maybe we're the sick ones. I do know one thing, no excuse will ever seem very important to me anymore. Oh, if only we would all do what we could.



Terry Bell  
via Boulder, CO

## TAKE HEED WHAT YE HEAR



As a thoroughly domesticated husband, I am elated to have modern science confirm something I've always known.

Northwestern University has recently concluded a test in certain wards in Chicago. Researchers have found that the more often trash is collected the more trash the average family comes up with.

By weighing the refuse, it was found that when collection was made once a week the average family produced sixty-six pounds of trash per week.

When the service was increased to twice weekly collections, the amount of trash generated jumped to eighty pounds average per unit.

This rule of "the more often collected the more produced" is familiar to every husband who has the task of carrying out the trash. It also ought to be completely familiar to every member of the church.

The number of slanderous statements circulated is in direct proportion to our willingness to pick them up. The more we collect the more is produced.



Pat Harrell  
via Cardinal Dr. Bulletin  
Rolling Meadows, IL



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**HURT FEELINGS: POSITIVE REACTIONS**

It is never a pleasant situation. We do not like to hurt or be hurt. Being human, we do have feelings and sometimes our feelings are mangled. What do we do? To retaliate is not really the intelligent reaction. It is the natural first impulse, but only makes things worse and scars our disposition. We offer the following four suggestions.

First, pray for them. This is the teaching of the Lord. (Matthew 5:43-48; 6:14,15; 7:12). Praying for those who have hurt you really takes those who have hurt you into the Throne Room of God. Lifting up in prayer the one who hurt you, will drain off the rancor from your heart, set your mind into the right frame and direction and get you ready to...

Talk to them. As we have said, often a person has said or done (or not said or not done) because of a lack of information. If we truly desire peace—if we really want to be reconciled—we can usually "talk it out". A refusal to discuss solutions may indicate

that we really are looking for an excuse to claim hurt. We need to avoid this dangerous mind-set like the plague it is.

Third, forgive them. One of the sweetest words of the human tongue is "forgiveness". We all desperately need it. Just as there is "none righteous, no not one", and "all have sinned", (Romans 3:10,23), there is also the clear statement of our Lord that He cannot and will not forgive the unforgiving. (Matthew 6:14,15; 5:7). Holding hurt feelings "hot and ready" will soon become grudge bearing. Nothing will destroy us from within ourselves more completely. To forgive those who have hurt us—to divest ourselves of it truly, in thought and emotions—will be the greatest relief we can know.

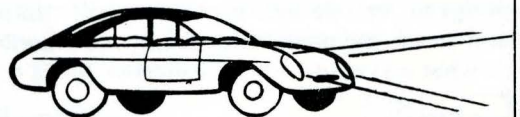
Finally, do not hurt back or hurt others. True, the impulse is to strike back or to lash out at others. But in the end, we all know, we are the losers when we do. It is very far better to work our way through hurt feelings by working things out. Abraham Lincoln said that he destroyed his enemies by making them his friends.

We cannot allow ourselves the "luxury" of wallowing in self-pity with hurt feelings. Let us rise up and out, and over them and make old ties better and new ties sweeter. Life will be brighter.



Robert L. Gregg  
Johnson, AR

Another Person's Sins,  
Like Car Lights, Always  
Seem More  
Glaring Than Our Own.





## EAVESDROPPING

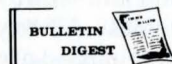
I know of a man who became a Christian because he eavesdropped. It so happened that a Sergeant in the Air Force was discussing, with another Sergeant, the Scriptures. And as they discussed the Scriptures there was another, an Airman, listening in on the conversation as he was working. Time and time again the one Sergeant opened the Bible and read a verse, while the other Sergeant would say, "But my priest says..." As the Airman listened he thought to himself, "My, what an unreasonable fellow. If the Bible says it, it must be true." As the conversation ended, the Airman saw that the Sergeant who used the Bible was very calm and appreciative that the other Sergeant allowed him to discuss the Scriptures with him. The other Sergeant seemed to be upset and frustrated. The conversation didn't seem to help him at all. But though it didn't help him, it did help the Airman to think again about his belief in God. Soon the Sergeant gave a red letter edition of the King James Version to the Airman. The

Airman read the whole New Testament for the first time, noting especially the explanation of the plan of salvation printed in red. As the Airman read the plan of salvation he came to the frightening realization that he was not saved, even though he had thought he was for some 20 years. The Airman spent the weekend in terror, not knowing what to do, but knowing he was lost and had to do something.

How do I know this? Because that Airman was me. Monday I asked my supervisor what I had to do, and with surprise in his face he said, "Who's been teaching you?" "No one," I said, "I just read the Bible you gave to me." That day I was baptized into Christ.

The reason I shared this with you is that you'll never know who is eavesdropping on your conversation. If you share Jesus with someone in your office, you may not win the one you are talking to, but someone else with a soft heart may be listening. Speak up for Jesus, souls depend upon you!

Paul Toth  
Westbury Bulletin  
Houston, TX



### "Hushers"

Seven year-old Kathy tried to quiet her younger brother during the church service. "Hush...hush", she warned him. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why?" he asked. "Who's going to stop me?"

Kathy pointed to the rear of the auditorium. "You see those men standing back there? Well, they're the hushers!"

### Sounds-Better

"To please his father a freshman went out for track. He had no athletic ability, though the father had been a good miler in his day. His first race was a two-man race in which he ran against the school miler. He was badly beaten.

Not wanting to disappoint his father the boy wrote home as follows: 'You will be happy to know that I ran against Bill Williams, the best miler in school. He came in next to last, while I came in second'."

### No Results

Do you recall the story of the little girl who one day asked her father who was a preacher why he always had a prayer before he entered the pulpit? She said, "Daddy, I notice that before you preach every Sunday you bow your head for a moment and close your eyes. Why do you do that?" Her father answered, "Honey, I do that to ask God to help me with my sermon." The little girl thought about that for a minute and replied, "Daddy, then why doesn't he?"





We are an imperfect people serving a perfect Lord.

We are the human part of a Divine institution, the church.

We are a going church for the coming Christ.

Ideally, we are upon this earth going to Heaven.

We are endeavoring to be the church of the New Testament, the Lord's church.

We are endeavoring to: Speak where the Bible speaks; Be silent where the Bible is silent; Call Bible things by Bible names; Do Bible things in Bible ways.

We profess:                      In Faith—Unity  
    In Opinions—Liberty  
    In all things—Love

We have:                      No book but the Bible  
    No creed but Christ  
    No plea but the Bible  
    No name but the Divine.

Our creed is Christ alone.

Our pattern of life is the New Testament.

Our service is for all mankind.

We can't do everything, but we can do something. With Christ as our example we should follow Him diligently.

We have something unique—We have:  
    God's Will  
    God's Promises  
    God's Blessings.

We have a mission—God's mission:  
    To Evangelize  
    To Edify  
    To be Benevolent.

We are restoring New Testament Christianity in the 20th Century just as it was given in the 1st Century.

We are looking for "a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." (Hebrews 11:10)

As we follow the One who said, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life..." (John 14:6), let us make His work our own, and His mission our ministry.



Donnie S. Barnes  
 Newport, TN

*"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Hebrews 11:13*

## WE JUST DON'T FIT IN

In Hebrews eleven we read that the great men of faith acknowledged this alien relationship. They were not ashamed of it. They might have returned to the bondage of Egypt, "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly..." where God hath prepared for them a city.

If there is one characteristic of this age more dominant than all else, it must be restlessness. That which is of the earth must return to dust and ashes. That which is of God must return to God; and the soul of man shall not find rest until it rests with Him at last.

We hear very few hymns these days about our transient stay in this world and our hearts longing for the Promised Land. We are becoming too comfortable here at the inn. Paul was so sure of a better country that he actually cared very little whether he lived or died. To one who knows where he is going, the trip holds no terror.

Our divine Savior was active and greatly interested in all the affairs of this life. Yet He said, "My kingdom is not of this world." He neither denied the world, nor was He captured by its charm. The best the world can offer is but the slightest hint of Heaven's bliss. "And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" I John 5:4.



A.W. Chism  
 via Bennett St. Bulletin  
 Bossier City, LA

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## ON OUR LEVEL

One of the clearest memories I have of London, England centers around Trafagal Square, with its statue of Lord Nelson. The statue dominates the square, however, because it is so tall people cannot get a close-up look at the face of Nelson. A few years ago, an eye-level bust of the British naval hero, with a face identical to the one atop the statue was placed at the foot of the monument so passers-by could see the detail in the face. In a sense, God has done the same thing in sending Jesus Christ to this earth. He provided man with a close-up view of himself.

God and His ways are so high above man that it is impossible to really know Him. But Christ came to this earth as a man and provided us a clear picture of divinity. Jesus said in John 14:9, "*He that hath seen me has seen the father.*" The Apostle Paul in speaking of Christ in Colossians 2:9 said, "*In him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*" But Jesus has done more than provide us a picture of God. He has also provided us with a perfect example. Peter says, "*Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps.*" (I Peter 2:21)

Our Lord also is our redeemer. In instituting the Lord's Supper, he said, "*This is my blood of the New Testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*" Revelation 1:5 describes him as the one who "*loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.*"

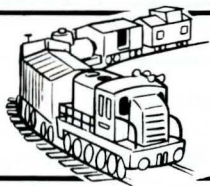
To the Christian, Christ is not only the picture of God, the pattern for living, and the pardon for sins, He is also our advocate pleading our case before the judgment seat of God. Hebrews 4:15 points out, "*We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*"

How appropriate it is for us to sing, "A Wonderful Savior Is Jesus My Lord, A Wonderful Savior To Me".



John R. Vaughan  
Columbia, TN





## SAFE AT HOME AT LAST

Over in one of our eastern cities was an engineer who had been on the road for a good many years. He was one day addressing a crowd of men among whom were a good many railroad men. In closing his address he said, "Men, I can't begin to tell you what Jesus has meant to me. Years ago on every night which I would finish my run I would pull open the whistle and let out a blast just as we came around the curve and I would look up to a small hill where stood a little white cottage and there would be a little old man and a little old woman standing in the doorway. I would lean out of the cab window and we would wave at each other and as my engine would go shooting into a tunnel the old couple would turn and go back inside and the little old woman would say to the little old man, "Thank God, Father, Bennie is safe home tonight."

But at last the day came when we took mother out and laid her away, and then each night as I came around the curve and blew the whistle the little old man would be at the door and I would wave to him and he would wave to me and then as my train shot through the tunnel he would turn and go slowly back into the cottage and say, "Thank God, Bennie is safe home tonight."

But bye and bye the time came when we carried father out, too, and now when I finish my run, although I pull open the whistle and let out a blast, there are no dear ones to welcome me home. But when my work on earth is done, when the last run has been made and I have pulled the throttle and the whistle for the last time, as I draw near to heaven's gates I know I shall see that same little old couple waiting there for me, and as I go sweeping through the gate I will see my dear old mother turn to my dear old father and hear her say, "Thank God, Father, Bennie is safe home at last."



via Central Bulletin  
Norfolk, VA

If you are a Christian, you can expect folks to criticize, but you ought to live so nobody will believe them.

—□□□—

Nothing will stop a conversation faster than having the person talked about to show up.

—□□□—

Christianity is the one place where surrender brings victory.



## HOW TO CATCH A MONKEY

One of the oldest methods of catching monkeys is so simple you would seriously doubt its reliability although it really works. A hunter merely cuts a small hole in a gourd, ties it to a tree, then places a few seeds inside the gourd. Soon a monkey happens by, and overwhelmed by curiosity, reaches through the tiny hole to explore. Feeling the seeds, he scoops them up in his hand and tries to pull his fist out of the tiny hole. To his dismay, he finds that he cannot free himself. He stubbornly refuses to let go of his precious treasure and keeps his fist closed until the hunter returns and captures him.

Oh, how pitiful to witness the thousands of people trapped by Satan using the same method. Satan baits the trap with material possessions, success, popularity, physical pleasure, social acceptance, and numberless other "precious treasures" that are so important to us. Then we, like little monkeys, grab and grasp and make tight little fists around our treasures only to discover that we are trapped in an existence of worldliness God says that we cannot serve both God and mammon (Matt. 6:24).



Selected  
via Easthill Bulletin  
Pulaski, TN

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## WHAT'S A SOUL WORTH?

I don't know why it is but we tend to lose sight of the value of things that we are associated with. This is particularly true of the soul. We have a possession worth more than all the world, yet we often treat it as though it has little value. Just how much is one soul worth?

Ask John and he could tell you of the time he was threatened and told to never again speak or teach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18). He could tell you about being arrested, put in prison, brought before the Jewish council, falsely accused, and beaten (Acts 5:18-40). This is what a soul is worth.

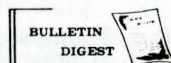
Ask Stephen and he could tell of the hours spent in service to the needy. He could tell you of his debates with false teachers, of his being taken before the courts, of evil men who lied about him, of his courageous speech, and

finally of his martyrdom. This is what one soul is worth.

Ask Ananias and he could tell you of the fear among Christians in Damascus when they heard of Paul's coming. He could tell you of his own fear when the Lord asked him specifically to go to teach Paul. He could tell you of how much he did not want to go. This is what one soul is worth.

Ask Paul and he could tell you of his life; of the threats, the beatings, the shipwrecks, the prisons, the trials, the imprisonments. This is what a soul is worth.

Ask the martyrs of the first century; ask our Lord; ask the Father; but finally ask yourself! What is a soul worth? How much does my love for a lost world compare to the love others have had for it? Think about it! What price are you willing to pay for one soul?



Dan Jenkins  
Palm Beach Lakes, FL



## I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO FAIL

We rode along together in his cadillac. A sad trip, to be sure, yet one finally taken with a feeling of relief. We were on our way to the county jail to pick up his daughter, who had spent the weekend as the county's guest.

As we rode, he told me of his life. He was not a Christian. He had been born in a rural area to parents wealthy by that day's standard. It was a farm life. He loved it and followed a professional course that kept him in that environment. He was also a banker, business man, investor, board chairman, civic leader. Young by common standards, a little less than 50 with 4 children: two college graduates, two college students. His three boys were all successes or obviously on their way to success. His wife, as well, held a professional degree. He had a large practice, with associates and his own clinic. His wealth exceeded a million dollars. He was a happy contented man with a good grip on himself.

One thorn persisted that nearly devastated him—a daughter out of control, a sophomore college student, not beautiful but of excellent mind, ability and certainly with looks of acceptable standard. Her last escapade took her and 4 boys on a journey of several hundred miles in a van, using funds she had taken from her father as well as credit cards. She was in jail for drug possession and flight to avoid arrest. He said, with resignation and despair, "I didn't know how to fail until \_\_\_\_\_ came along." This failure now had tainted all his success and cast a shadow over every other blessing he had. He looked at me with tears in his eyes and said, "Nothing but \_\_\_\_\_ has meaning for me today."

I could see why he had not known failure. And, he succeeded again, for that daughter today is an excellent wife, mother and business woman. Why?? *He never quit on her* until he succeeded. If a child is ever worth fighting for, it's always worth fighting for. Take it for what it's worth.



R.C. Thompson  
Belleville, IL

## GOOD NEWS

Admiral Robert Perry spent 23 years in pursuit of the North Pole before he finally reached it—the eighth time.

Winston Churchill's career was thought to be over as a public servant in the 1930's. He stayed alert and was fully prepared when the opportunity for leadership came his way—at age 66.

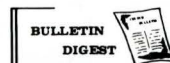
"The biggest mistake people make is giving up. Adversity is an experience, not a final act."

As Christians we must realize God desires the best in life for us because He sees in us the image of Jesus Christ. He is molding and making each one into the image of His Son. When disappointments come and plans are destroyed, rejoice in the Lord, greater things are in store for you in higher places.

*Remember: When the night has passed, the morning dawns bright and glorious.*

"But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created things, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:37-39)

If you are walking in the will of God, there are no real "final acts" but only opportunities to improve your walk with Him.



Larry Sullivan  
Skillman Ave. Bulletin  
Dallas, TX



# It BEARS Repeating

A man's soul is the only thing he has been given which he can keep for eternity.



## WHOSE HANDS ARE YOU HOLDING UP?

*"And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun" (Ex. 17:11,12).*

The spirit and will of preachers all over America is being broken because all too often there are no Aarons and Hurs to hold up their hands. Faithful brethren need to wake up before it is too late and a great apostasy takes over.

All too often we blame our preachers when the church is not growing and things are not going as they should, when in all likelihood, in most cases, it is corruption and sin tolerated in the body that strangles our efforts and destroys our influence in the community.

**BROTHER, HOLD UP THE HAND OF EVERY MOSES YOU KNOW!**

Clinton Elliott  
via West 7th St. Bulletin  
Columbia, TN



## THE SADDEST DAY

The aged woman sat alone with her son of forty-six years. It was late at night. She told of years of toil, a depression and the birth of seven children. Her story centered, however, on the birth of a certain child. The year was 1933. There were then three children in the family and another had been buried. It was the height of the Great Depression and the young family had just lost their house. The mother had just discovered that she had consumption (we call it tuberculosis now).

As she continued her story, an occasional tear had to be wiped away. Her only little girl had cancer and the treatments were very expensive. In fact her husband earned only \$25.00 a week and the treatments were \$27.00. In seven years this child would also be dead. And now, the mother learned that she was with child. Never before had the future or the present appeared so bleak.

Just then, however, the old woman lifted her eyes. They still glistened with tears, but a radiant joy shone through them. She continued the story, "Son, I thought that was the saddest day of my life. But I was wrong! It was the best day of my life! You see, you were that child, and you became the first faithful Christian in our family. Over the years you led your father and me and our whole family to the Lord. And, Son, you are the only child I have who has dedicated his life to preaching the wonderful message of Jesus. The saddest day of my life was the best day of my life. Don't ever forget that, Son."

It has been four years since my mother shared that story with me. As time passes by, many people come to me who are in the depths of the same despair that my mother was so many years ago. What a comfort it has been to me and to them to repeat those words of my mother to them. Surely, *"We know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord..."* (Romans 8:28).

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## GOOD ADVICE!

*"He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding." (Prov. 17:27-28).*

Most of us have some degree of healthy concern about how we look to others. We frequently ask our spouse or parents, "Do I look O.K.?" We often ask ourselves, "How did I come across? Did I do all right?" No one likes to be thought foolish, silly, or ignorant. Almost everyone likes to be respected as a person of wisdom and understanding.

Such sound advice as that given in the verses above deserves our attention. One author said, "Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't." There is much truth in her statement. The verses cited above are not profound. One might even say they are just plain common sense. Common sense, though, is really right uncommon. Even good advice is useless if ignored.

How much wiser we appear when we keep our tongues under strict control! Think of how foolish Peter must have felt after proposing that three altars be built on the Mount of Transfiguration (Luke 9). How small those who laughed at Jesus in Matthew 9:24 must have felt after he raised the dead girl. How Elymas the sorcerer (Acts 13) must have regretted his words of opposition to the Word of God. Can you add examples from your own life to this list? Sadly, almost everyone can.

We need to listen more carefully to good Biblical advice. Sometimes silence really is golden. To be called a person of few words is a very pleasant compliment. In so many situations, only our silence can display our knowledge and wisdom to the fullest.

*"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath..." (James 1:19).*



Bill Bagents  
via Auburn, AL

## TROUBLES

A woman who had endured much suffering once asked a preacher, "When am I going to get out of these troubles?" He wisely responded, "You should have asked, 'What am I going to get out of these troubles?'"

While it is difficult to understand what good can come from suffering, we can be sure that *"To them that love God, all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose"* (Romans 8:28).

There are several ways one can benefit from suffering. In the first place, suffering often drives one closer to God who can supply every need. Secondly, suffering can be an aid to self-knowledge. Under severe pain, one often finds strengths that he did not know were there. In the third place, suffering can often wean the heart from the love of this present world. How strange it is that in times of suffering, the simple things of life take on more value while the extravagant things less.

Finally, the future glory is heightened by the sufferings endured in this life. Hear Paul, who suffered much: *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us-ward"* (Romans 8:18).



Dan Flournoy  
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**SEE EDITORIAL PAGE FOR DETAILS AS TO HOW YOU CAN HELP US INCREASE OUR CIRCULATION—AND HOW WE CAN HELP YOU!**

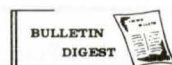
## YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE

It seems reasonably clear that in our time, money is the largest single factor in people's refusal to place their trust in the rule of God. We hear it all around us. Life would be so much easier, so much better, if only I had more money. Yet, Jesus has warned us that money is the greatest of all threats to our love relationship with God. The more we put our trust in money and possessions, the less we put our trust in God. You cannot serve God and money, Jesus says. You must choose to place your trust in one or the other. It is either your money or your life.

A perfect illustration of this is an old Jack Benny routine in which a thief puts a gun in Benny's ribs and says, "Your money or your life!" Jack Benny doesn't answer. Again the thief says, "Your money or your life!" Jack

says nothing. The thief becomes very impatient saying, "Answer me! I said, 'Your money or your life!'" Then Jack replies, "I'm thinking! I'm thinking!"

There is no doubt that many of us need to change our thinking about money. Many of us think of money as an end. But Jesus tells us to think of our possessions as a means. Our money and our possessions are intended as a means of expressing our love for God. Depending upon how you acquire it and how you use it, your money either threatens your relationship with God or it enhances it.



Jon E. Jones  
Fort Worth, TX

"Too many times we care more for a person's feelings than we do for his soul."

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## YOU HAVE BEAUTIFUL FEET

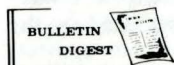
After serving many years in a mission field, they are back "home" again, retired, living on a fixed income. They went to a dentist in a nearby city, knowing that the dental work required would be extensive *and* expensive, and prepared to pay the \$400 or \$500 required.

This young Christian dentist was familiar with their work in the mission field. In fact, as a college student he had visited that field.

When they went to pay, they asked the dentist's receptionist how much they owed. She replied, "There is no charge." When they protested, she said, "The Doctor said to tell you that you have beautiful feet; there is no charge."

What a lovely way to pay tribute to those who have given themselves to preach the gospel! Paul said, "*How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*" (Romans 10:15)

You, too, can have beautiful feet! Preach the word! Speak of Christ to your neighbors! Seek to save others, at home and abroad, and *your* feet will be beautiful. It may be no one in this world will notice. But God will notice! And those whom you teach will thank God for you!



Coy Roper  
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## THE BEST OF EVERYTHING?

Perhaps you've seen the commercial. A family has recently won \$100,000 in a contest. The father is surprised that they won and the mother, with their new baby in her hands, remarks, "Now we can give our child the best of everything!"

We've been sold a bill of goods in America. We think that money buys all the quality things that life has to offer. We think that money is the answer to all our problems and that it provides us with supreme happiness. Money can't solve the real problems of life any more than it can make you genuinely happy. As one has observed: "Money can't buy happiness; only the illusion of it." Money in the bank doesn't insure happiness in the home!

The best of everything is found in Christianity! Jesus promised a "*more abundant life*" in John 10:10. He also reminds us that the true enjoyment we get out of life is not determined by how many "things" we possess. (Luke 12:15) "Seek not for want of earthly things, they never will satisfy; the secret of contentment is, to let the Lord supply!" Everything is better with Christ as the Master of your life...is he your Master?



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