

GOOD NEWS GLEANINGS

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THE VALUE OF CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP...

Have you ever noticed that the world's value system leaves a little to be desired? Have you noticed the misplaced emphasis that Washington and Hollywood place on power? Have you noticed the focus in the advertising outlets that is placed on accruing money and possessions?

We hear so much in the news about the dollar losing its value and the price of gold climbing higher and higher. The world shakes and trembles every time a new report comes out about the value of financial assets.

It seems today that many people, including Christians, have lost sight

of what is truly valuable. This same warped value system is being taught to the next generation. Soon we will have, if we do not already have, a generation of young people that know the monetary cost of everything but understand the value of nothing.

Through the microscope of Scripture, we can see the world around us as it truly is. Through the perfect view of Scripture, we see our own heart thoughts, motivations, and intentions for what they truly are. Psalm 119:104 says, **"Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way."**

Only the Scripture can

pierce through the haze of confusion that the devil would lay before our path. When viewed through God's Word, it is clear that the value system of the world falls far short of what the Bible says is of worth.

Examine just one thing with me now that the Scripture would deem worthy of value. Let us look at the value of Christian friendship.

We speak all the time about Christian *fellowship*. I speak much of Christian fellowship. Fellowship indeed is valuable. We need to spend time in fellowship with other...

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ON THE CALENDAR AT GOOD NEWS:

- *Month of August—World-wide Soul-winning Month*
- *Soul-Winner's Meeting every Saturday at 10:00am*
- *August 7th—Observance of the Lord's Table*
- *August 14th—Men's Meeting at 5:00pm*
- *August 20th—Youth Activity at 5:00pm*
- *August 21st—Teacher & Worker's Meeting at 5:00pm*

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HOGS TO THE SLAUGHTER - C. H. SPURGEON

Rowland Hill illustrated the folly of sinners by the story of a butcher who was followed by the swine right into the slaughterhouse. As pigs are not usually in the mind to go where they are wanted, it seemed a mystery how these animals were so eager to follow their executioner; but when

it was seen that he wisely carried a bag of peas and beans with which he enticed the creatures onward, the riddle was solved at once. Unsuspicious of impending death, the hogs cared only for the passing gratification of their appetites, and hastened to the slaughter—and in the same manner, ungod-

ly men follow the great enemy of souls down through the jaws of hell, merely because their depraved passions are pleased with the lusts of the flesh and the pleasures of sin which the devil gives them by handfuls on the road. Alas, that there should be such...*continued on page 3.*

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSES

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

- Isaiah 1:18

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." - Acts 4:12

"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." - James 5:19-20

Hide God's Word in your heart!



"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice."

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Christians. Friendship among Christians begins with fellowship.

I know of no better place to fellowship with other Christians than in the Lord's House. The church house should be a haven much like your home. It is a place of refuge from ungodly influences. It is a beacon of truth that lights our way. God's House is where God's people meet together. It is with God's people that we should fellowship, and it is from

God's people that we should choose our friends.

Now, of course, I am *not* saying that we hole ourselves up in the church building and never speak to someone that doesn't know the Lord as Savior. We must be about our Father's business of giving out the Gospel. God's people ought to be the nicest, friendliest people on Earth.

But we must carefully choose our close friends that will have influence on us and

our families. Good Christian friends lift up and encourage. They admonish us in a kind way when we need correction. They pray for us and help us to be better Christians. Christian friends hurt with us and comfort us with Words of Scripture.

Proverbs 27:17 says, "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Let us make Christian friends and be the Christian friends that God desires us to be!

MY CALL TO DUTY

When you think of the word **"duty"**, what do you think about?

All of us have **duties**. In the workplace you have your specific job requirements that you may or may not like, but still you do your required work so you can receive a paycheck at the end of the week. You do your **"duty"**. Many do only what they need to do to get by and nothing more. Just a thought...do a little extra and see how God blesses you for it.

If you're a student in school, it's your **"duty"** to do your schoolwork so that you might receive a good grade on your homework or final exam. Some are better at this than others. Some are *much* better than others.

When I enlisted in the army many years ago, I did so because I felt it was my

"duty" and my privilege as an American to do so. I felt very strongly about it then, and I still do today. But there is another kind of **"duty"** many of us overlook, disregard, or maybe you're not aware of it altogether.

It is the "duty" of rejoicing in the Lord. If you are a born again, God-fearing, Devil-hating, Bible-believing, Soul-winning Christian, then it is your **"duty"** to rejoice in the Lord.

The word "Rejoice" is found in the King James Version of the Bible 183 times. Check it out for yourself. Start reading why people would rejoice throughout the Bible.

As a Christian, it is our **"duty"** to rejoice in the Lord. In Philippians 4:4, Paul writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice." That "always" means in

- **TERRY CONGER**

the good and the bad. Sometimes it's harder than other times to rejoice.

No greater love was ever shown like the love Christ has for His children. No greater sacrifice was ever given than the sacrifice of our Lord on an old rugged cross over two thousand years ago.

We sing songs entitled "I Will Glory in the Cross" and "Praise Him, Praise Him." The list goes on and on how that we should rejoice in and praise the Lord. Will you do your godly **"duty"** and rejoice and praise the One who saved you from the torments of a devil's hell?

As Christians, we have a **"duty"** to love the Lord with all our heart, pray without ceasing, and rejoice evermore.

Are you willing to do your **"duty"** today?

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likeness between men and swine!

The joys of sin are so short and so unsatisfactory, that they can never be thought of for a moment as a fitting inducement for a rational being to lose his immortal soul. Will a few hours' foolery, gambling, drinking, or wantoning, compensate for eternal fire? Is the momentary indulgence of a base passion worth the endurance of flames which can never be quenched? To moan in

vain for a drop of water! To be tormented by the never dying worm! To be shut out from hope forever! To be eternally cursed of God! Is any sin worth all this? Can any gain make up for this? O ye who delight in the poisonous sweets of sin, remember that though pleasant in the mouth for the moment, sin will be as wormwood and gall in your bowels for ever. Why will ye swallow the bait when you know that the hook is there? Why will ye be

lured by the Satanic fowler? Surely in vain is the net spread in the sight of any bird; but you are more foolish than the birds and fly into the snare when you know it to be there. O that ye were wise, and would consider your latter end. Let that one word *Eternity* ring in your ears and drive out the giddy laughter of worldlings who prefer the present joys of sense. Jesus receiveth sinners. Go to him, and he will in no wise cast you out.

CHILDREN ARE A TREASURE FROM THE LORD...

Jan Conger submitted the following story about her granddaughter, Natalie.

"Kids say the cutest things. Several weeks ago, we took our granddaughter, Natalie, to Vacation Bible School. We gave her a little, pink Bible to take with her.

Terry asked her if she knew 'Who's Book that was?' 'Who's?, she asked. Grandpa said, 'That's God's Book.' She responded, 'Did He lost It?'

Yesterday, I called Terry's mother. I said, 'Just wanted to let you know your Bible was in the van.' Natalie ran up to me all excited and said, 'Are you talking to God?'

Not bad for three and a half!! The faith of a child! She makes every day special. She is such a blessing."

Every one of us with children can recall numerous memories of precious things that our children said or did when they were small. My children are still small and

they provide quite a few laughs every day.

It is a joy to look down at their beautiful, peaceful faces as they sleep each night. I know what you're thinking. The joy is not just because they are quiet for once, though that is a wonderful bonus. I joy in my children because children are a treasure from the Lord.

Psalm 127:3-5 says, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

What a wonderful gift from God our children are! What a grave responsibility that we have to raise our children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Sometimes the challenge can

be very intimidating. Sometimes it's downright scary. But what we have to remember is that if we let the Lord control our thoughts, our words, and our steps in front of our children and when they are not around, then we are being the godly parent that we need to be.

Some folks differ in parenting according to personality. The world says, "That person is great with kids. They'll make a great parent someday." But parenting is not about personality. It is about the Person of Jesus Christ controlling our lives.

When I was a 1st grade boy, I had a wonderful teacher named Miss Spenser. Miss Spenser liked to have her students' attention, and unfortunately I liked to have her students' attention too. One day she gave me yet another naughty note to take home to my father. What was...

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GOOD MEALS FROM GOOD NEWS

ORANGE-GLAZED CHICKEN WINGS

- 1 cup fresh o.j.
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1 tbs. brown sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. fresh-ground black pepper
- 4 lbs. chicken wings

By Mary Heeley

"A MERRY HEART DOETH GOOD LIKE A MEDICINE."

One night a wife found her husbands standing over their baby's crib. Silently, she watched him. As he stood looking down at the sleeping infant, she saw on his face a mixture of emotions: disbelief, doubt, and skepticism.

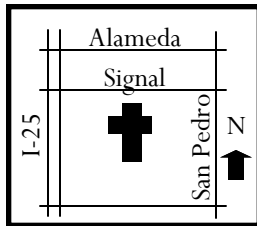
With eyes glistening she slipped her arm around her husband. "A penny for your thoughts," she said. "It's amazing," he replied. "I just can't see how anybody can make a crib like that for only \$46.50."

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"NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS; BUT EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER: AND SO MUCH THE MORE AS WE SEE THE DAY APPROACHING."

- HEBREWS 10:25

Who has sinned?

Romans 3:10 "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one:"

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

What is the eternal cost of sin?

Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death;..."

Who can pay this cost?

Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 6:23 "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Will Jesus pay this cost for you?

Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Can you be sure?

Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Will you turn to Jesus Christ today?

Pray something like this: "Dear Lord, I turn from my sins, for I have truly sinned against a holy God in many ways. I believe that You, Jesus, died for my sins, paying the price I owe and that You are truly alive now, to help me live for You. Thank You, Lord, for you told me to come to you and You will save me."

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different about this naughty note was the fact that my father had promised me a spanking if I brought another note home.

So I did the same thing any sinner with no meat on his backside would do. Instead of giving the note to my father to sign, I signed his name for him. I'm not sure what clued Miss Spenser in first, either the 1st grade printing or the fact that it was signed in pencil, but she didn't believe me.

When she finally called my dad to inform him of what I had done, I knew exactly what would happen next. The school property was large, and there was an

area of trees that we referred to as the Back 40. Dad put me in the station wagon, and we drove to the Back 40. (You see, you could scream all you want out there, but nobody could hear you.)

Dad explained what I had done and that I had to be punished. When it was all over, when he did what had to be done, it was relief on both sides. It wasn't something that my father enjoyed doing. It was something that he had to do if he was going to be the parent that God wanted him to be.

Parenthood is hard. But perhaps, if we think about the parent that God wants us to be for our children, then it

puts all of parenting in perspective.

Children bring both laughter and tears, but we must remember that children are truly a treasure from the Lord. Our children are the greatest opportunity that we have to influence someone for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us all take opportunity every day to pray that God will keep our children on a biblical path, and for ourselves that we will be godly guides for our children.

Lord, thank you for the wonderful gift of children!