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**2700-PLUS SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS (H-TOPICS)**  
**Compiled and Arranged Topically by Duane V. Maxey**

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#### HABIT

##### 1044 -- EARLY HABITS

"When I was a little boy," remarked an old man, "somebody gave me a cucumber in a bottle. The neck of the bottle was small and the cucumber so large it wasn't possible for it to pass through, and I wondered how it got there. But out in the garden one day I came to a bottle slipped over a little green fellow, and then I understood. The cucumber had grown in the bottle. And now I often see men with habits that I wonder any strong, sensible man could form, and then I think that



most likely they grew into them when they were young, and cannot slip out of them now. They are like the cucumber. -- H. F. Sayles

\* \* \*

## HABIT

### 1045 -- HABIT HARD TO STOP

A few years ago, I was living in a suburban town about twelve miles west of St. Louis, Missouri. One night I ran to catch a train to take me there, and just managed to swing up on the back platform of the last car as it was pulling out. Feeling lucky that I had just caught it, I settled down for a nap, till I reached my station. After about twenty minutes, I looked out of the window to see where I was, and found the train was running right by the station at which I wished to get off. So, I hurriedly found the conductor and told him I wanted to get off.

He looked at me in surprise and said: "Why what do you think you are on anyhow? You didn't get the right train. The local was on the next track. This is the through express, and doesn't stop until it gets to Jefferson City, one hundred and fifty miles from here." So, I went on to Jefferson City and stayed all night.

A great many men have waked up to find themselves in something of the same fix I was in that night. They have started in with some habit without thinking very much about it, supposing they could stop whenever they wanted to, and then have discovered that they were on a "through" train -- a force that was carrying them farther than they ever meant to go. -- H. E. Luccock

\* \* \*

## HALFHEARTEDNESS

### 1046 -- UNRECOGNIZED ROYALTY

One day while walking with some children, Queen Mary was caught in a sudden shower. Quickly taking shelter on the porch of a home, she knocked at the door and asked to borrow an umbrella. "I'll send it back tomorrow," she said. The queen had deliberately disguised her appearance by putting on a hat that partly covered her face and by wearing some very plain clothes. The householder, reluctant to give a stranger her best umbrella, offered her a castoff she found in the attic. One rib was broken and there were several holes in it. Apologizing, she turned it over to the monarch, whom she did not recognize. The next day she had another visitor -- a man with gold braid on his uniform and an envelope in his hand. "The queen sent me with this letter," he said, "and also asked me to thank you personally for the loan of your umbrella." Stunned, the woman burst into tears. "Oh, what an opportunity I missed that I did not give her my very best," she cried. Many, I fear, will have to make the same confession when they face the Lord at the end of life's road.

\* \* \*

## HAPPINESS

### 1047 -- A RUSSIAN VERSION OF HAPPINESS

An Englishman, a Frenchman and a Russian were discussing happiness. "Happiness," said the Englishman, "Is when you return home tired after work and find your slippers warming by the fire." "You English have no romance," said the Frenchman. "Happiness is having dinner with a beautiful woman at a fine restaurant." "You are both wrong," said the Russian. "True happiness is when you are at home in bed and at 4 a.m. hear a hammering at the door and there stand the secret police, who say to you, 'Ivan Ivanovitch, you are under arrest,' and you say, 'Sorry, Ivan Ivanovitch lives next door.'"

\* \* \*

## HAPPINESS

### 1048 -- WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?

"It was right that we should...be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again." Luke 15:32 R. Mactavish was gone. I wanted to wait until morning to see if he would come back on his own. But the look on the other family members faces vetoed that idea. So we climbed into the car to begin looking for our stubborn Scottish terrier who was far more interested in being lost than found. As we slowly drove down street after street, calling his name and peering intently into the darkness, even I became sentimental. What if he got hit by a car? What if someone else picked him up? What if we never saw him again? But we found him. And by the time we did, I was as happy as the rest of the family to see him. Even though he was a mess mud-soaked, foul smelling, too dirty to be anywhere but the floor Mac was a sight for sore eyes. In fact, you could say that at that moment all three of us, my wife Diane, my son Ben, and I, appeared to be far happier about finding and being with that dirty dog than we were about being with one another.

\* \* \*

## HARDNESS OF HEART

### 1049 -- A LOVE THAT WAS FATALLY CRUSHED

Doctor Torrey used to have an illustration, that was repeated to me, of an old father and mother who determined to give their boy an education. They were as poor as they could be. They had a conference in their home, and decided to send their boy to the university. They knew he must be away three years in his preparatory work, and four years in his college work, seven years in all. In the summer vacation he must work near the school, and could not come home. Every dollar sent to him increased the pinch of poverty at home. Finally, the old father said: "Wife, I cannot stand it; I am going to see him."

He did not have money enough to go by train, so he drove by horse and wagon across the hills. It took him days and days, and the horse he drove was ridiculous in appearance. The wagon in which he drove provoked a smile from all who saw him come into the university yard. He never knew that his boy had drifted. He had not been told that he had forgotten his father's God.

Three young fellows came swinging down the sidewalk in the university town. When they saw the old man, they laughed at him. He saw them in the distance too, and his old heart began to beat rapidly. He recognized one of them as his boy. He threw down his lines, sprang out of his wagon, and ran to meet his boy. They told me in the south that, that boy looked at him for only a moment, then, in the presence of his friends who had jeered at this old man, told him he did not know him. He said: "You are not my father!"

The old man turned, without a word; he did not touch his boy; he did not kiss him. He got into his wagon, rode away back over the hills, went into the old farmhouse, sat down in the old chair; his head drooped forward on his breast, and he was dead.

I wondered when I heard the story, why the boy did not have a vision of the old days, when his father said he would educate him; I wondered why the recollection of his father's prayers did not stir him. But I can explain that, better than that you should be indifferent to Christ. -- J. Wilbur Chapman

\* \* \*

## HARDNESS OF HEART

### 1050 -- THE HARDENING OF THE HEART

Dr. Morris Weigelt tells of a childhood memory: "I can recall the various stages a pond near my house went through as it began to freeze. As the water just began to freeze, it formed a thin sheet of ice that you could throw a small pebble through. After it had frozen a little more, you could throw a small rock through it. Soon it would be thick enough for a squirrel to run across it. A little longer, and it was almost rubberlike; a person could jump on it as the ice gave just a little. Finally, it became so thick and hard that you could drive a tractor across it!" -- Mike Ward

\* \* \*

## HARVEST -- OF SIN

### 1051 -- THE HARVEST NEVER FAILS

A wealthy widower deeded all his property to an only son and his wife on the condition that he would be allowed to live in the country with them for the rest of his life. After a few years, when the inheritance had been spent, the daughter-in-law got tired of having the elderly gentleman around and told her husband he would have to leave. The son agreed and broke the news to his father. A short time later he and the feeble old man walked down the dusty road to a state-supported home for senior citizens. Being very unsteady on his feet, the father finally asked if

he could rest for a few moments on a sawed-off stump to regain his strength for the last mile of the journey. As he sat there, he suddenly put his head in his hands and began to sob. The son, pricked in his conscience, tried to make excuses. Finally his dad controlled himself enough to say, "I'm not crying so much because I'm going to this lonely home for the poor and unfortunate. I'm weeping because of my own sins. Forty years ago I walked down this road with my father and brought him to the very same place. I am now seeing the results of the evil deeds I have sown!"

Each of us by our thoughts, attitudes, and actions is constantly planting for a future reaping. Time may pass before the crop ripens, but the harvest never fails. The true nature of the seed we have scattered will surely be revealed!

\* \* \*

## HARVEST -- SPIRITUAL

### 1052 -- OVERRIPE

Someone had made the enlightening comment on John, chapter 4: "Not long ago I was riding with a man through the country. 'Elmer,' I said, 'why are those fields so white?' 'Because the wheat is full grown,' he replied. 'Wheat!' I exclaimed. 'I always thought wheat was golden.' 'Yes, it is, except when it's overripe. Then it becomes very light in color.' 'Oh, now I know why the Lord told His disciples that the fields were white. the grain had to be gleaned immediately.'"

\* \* \*

## HARVEST -- SPIRITUAL

### 1053 -- THE REAPING OF REVENGE

The "War Cry" carried a story about a tenant farmer who had worked hard for many years to improve the production of the land. Then something happened that caused him to become very bitter. When it was time to renew his lease, the owner told him he was going to sell the farm to his son who was getting married. The tenant made several generous offers to buy it himself, hoping the man's decision would be reversed. But it was all in vain. As the day drew near for the farmer to vacate his home, his weeks of angry brooding finally got the best of him. He gathered seeds from some of the most pesky and noxious weeds he could find. Then he spent many hours scattering them on the clean, fertile soil of the farm, along with a lot of trash and stones he had collected. To his dismay, the very next morning the owner informed him that plans for his son's wedding had fallen through, and therefore he would be happy to renew the lease. He couldn't understand why the farmer exclaimed in agonizing tones, "Oh, Lord, what a fool I've been!" The lesson is clear: Whatever we sow, we will eventually reap.

\* \* \*

## HATRED -- CONDEMNED

## 1054 -- CHRISTIAN LOVE IS MORE THAN LOGICAL REACTION

In our relationships with others, often what passes for love is little more than a neat business transaction. People are kind to us, so we repay them with equal consideration. When they treat us unjustly, our negative response is really what they asked for. Everything is so balanced, so fair, so logical with this eye-for-an-eye and tooth-for-a-tooth kind of justice. But Christian love never settles for only what's reasonable. It insists on giving mercy as well as justice. It breaks the chain of logical reactions. General Robert E. Lee was asked what he thought of a fellow officer in the Confederate Army who had made some derogatory remarks about him. Lee rated him as being very satisfactory. The person who asked the question seemed perplexed. "General," he said, "I guess you don't know what he's been saying about you." "I know," answered Lee. "But I was asked my opinion of him, not his opinion of me!"

\* \* \*

## HATRED -- EXAMPLES OF

### 1055 -- A HATEFUL PRAYER

I heard about the couple celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. When the festivities were over, the woman turned to her husband and said, "We've been miserable for 50 years. We've fought every day. We've disagreed on nearly everything, and I am convinced that we can't keep going like this. I have made a commitment to pray that God will help us solve this problem. I'm praying that he will take one of us home. And when he answers my prayer, I'm going to live with my sister in Grand Rapids."

\* \* \*

## HEARING

### 1056 -- PREJUDICED HEARING

Openness is essentially the willingness to grow, a distaste for ruts, eagerly standing on tiptoe for a better view of what tomorrow brings. A man once bought a new radio, brought it home, placed it on the refrigerator, plugged it in, turned it to WMS in Nashville (home of the Grand Ol' Opry), and then pulled all the knobs off! He had already tuned in all he ever wanted or expected to hear. Some marriages are "rutted" and rather dreary because either or both partners have yielded to the tyranny of the inevitable: "What has been will still be." Stay open to newness. Stay open to change.

\* \* \*

## HEARING -- CARELESS

### 1057 -- THEY WEREN'T LISTENING

President Franklin D. Roosevelt got tired of smiling that big smile and saying the usual things at all those White House receptions. So, one evening he decided to find out whether anybody was paying attention to what he was saying. As each person came up to him with extended hand, he flashed that big smile and said, "I murdered my grandmother this morning." People would automatically respond with comments such as "How lovely!" or "Just continue with your great work!" Nobody listened to what he was saying, except one foreign diplomat. When the president said, "I murdered my grandmother this morning," the diplomat responded softly, "I'm sure she had it coming to her."

\* \* \*

## HEARING -- SPIRITUAL

### 1058 -- JUST NOT LISTENING

Well-known Broadway producer Jed Harris once became convinced he was losing his hearing. He visited a specialist, who pulled out a gold watch and asked, "Can you hear this ticking?"

"Of course," Harris replied.

The specialist walked to the door and asked the question again. Harris concentrated and said, "Yes, I can hear it clearly." Then the doctor walked into the next room and repeated the question a third time. A third time Harris said he could hear the ticking.

"Mr. Harris," the doctor concluded, "there is nothing wrong with your hearing. You just don't listen."

How true of so many of us today! We need to learn how to listen to God. -- Brown Book of Anecdotes

\* \* \*

## HEART -- EVIL

### 1059 -- JUDAS

"And as to Judas Iscariot, my reason is different. I would fain see the face of him who, having dipped his hand in the same dish with the Son of Man, could afterwards betray Him. I have no conception of such a thing; nor have I ever seen any picture, not even Leonardo's very fine one, that gave me the least idea of it." So, according to William Hazlitt in his essay "Persons One Would Wish to Have Seen," spake Charles Lamb. And so say we all. Could we see his face, we might get some idea of the man, and some understanding of his crime. Judas is the man of mystery among the Twelve. -- McCartney

Judas' heart, not his face, reflected his treachery, and He Whom Judas' betrayed saw that reflection. -- D. V. M.

\* \* \*

## HEART -- RENEWED

### 1060 -- WHEN THE HEAD LIES EASY

When Sir Walter Raleigh was led to the block, his executioner asked him if his head lay right. Raleigh answered, "It matters little, my friend, how the head lies provided the heart is right. Here in the presence of God, here before him through whom are revealed the secrets of all hearts, here before the Cross of mercy and of love, what does your heart speak? How does your heart lie?"

\* \* \*

## HEAVEN -- DWELLING PLACE OF GOD

### 1061 -- AT HOME IN FATHER'S HOUSE

After the death of his father, future Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., settled into the house where the senior Holmes had been a dominating presence. One friend said, "Gradually he assumed the privileges of the manor. Things he had not dared to touch he began now to use as his own. Grandfather Jackson's high desk stood in a corner of the library. Now [Wendell] stood at the desk to write his opinions."

Grownup or not, most children long to feel at home in their father's house. God wants us to feel at home in His "house" too, because someday His house will be ours (John 14:1-3)!

\* \* \*

## HEAVEN -- DWELLING PLACE OF GOD

### 1062 -- WITHIN THE VEIL

"Doctor, I want you to get me well by Sunday!" said a dear little lad not yet five years old, stricken suddenly with a fatal disease. "Why, my boy?" asked the kind doctor. "Well, you know, teacher showed us the tabernacle last Sunday. We saw all the outside, but there was a curtain, and teacher said the priest went in behind it to speak to God, and she is going to show us about it next Sunday. Oh, Doctor, shan't I be able to go? I do so want to see inside where God was."

The doctor had walked to the window while Charlie was speaking, but then came back, and laying a caressing hand on the child's feverish brow he said softly, "Next Sunday, dear, you may see the place where God is." Next Sunday he had passed away the little white crib was empty. Little Charlie had passed from earth to "the place where God is." -- The Life Line

\* \* \*

## HEAVEN -- FINAL REALIZATION OF

### 1063 -- NO GLASS BETWEEN

A story is told of a poor boy in London. His parents were dead, and he was the charge of a terrible drunken woman, who forced him to beg, and met him with kicks and cuffs if he brought her too little. His greatest pleasure in life was to see the beautiful things exhibited in shop windows. He knew, though, that these things were not meant for him, for there was always the glass between, and he became reconciled to the thought that he could never have them. The lead soldiers had focused his longing for them, but there was the glass.

Alas, he was run over, carried to the hospital, and cared for by Christian charity. He awoke to find himself in a snow-white cot and he looked into the pleasant face of a nurse. A few days passed, and then to his astonishment he saw other children playing with toys. Soon he sat up in bed, propped up by pillows, and, wonder of wonders, at his hand was a box of lead soldiers. Slowly he stretched his hand out, touched them, and cried out: "There is no glass between."

How will it seem when in the Glory we no longer see "through a glass, darkly"? -- The Expositor

\* \* \*

## HEAVENLY HOME

### 1064 -- END OF THE JOURNEY

Light after darkness, gain after loss; Strength after weakness, crown after cross; Sweet after bitter, hope after fears; Home after wandering, praise after tears; Sheaves after sowing, sun after rain; Sight after mystery, peace after pain; Joy after sorrow, calm after blast; Rest after weariness, sweet rest at last; Near after distant, gleam after gloom; Love after loneliness, life after tomb; After long agony, rapture of bliss; Right was the pathway, leading to this.

\* \* \*

## HEAVENLY HOME

### 1065 -- NO PROOF OF OWNERSHIP

At one time Frederick the Great held a banquet at which Voltaire, the French philosopher and skeptic, was present. When dinner was served, the noted unbeliever began to ridicule the Christians who were there. Finally he said, "Why, I would sell my seat in heaven for a Prussian dollar!"



There was a pause. Then one of the guests quietly rose from his chair and said, "Sir, you are in Prussia, where we have a law which requires that one who wishes to sell anything must first prove ownership. Are you prepared to establish the fact that you have a seat in heaven?" Surprised and embarrassed, Voltaire, the normally quick-witted scoffer, had nothing more to say for the rest of the evening.

\* \* \*

## HEAVENLY HOME

### 1066 -- ONE WHOM WESLEY HONESTLY RESPECTED

John Wesley and George Whitefield were good friends in their earlier years, Wesley having begun his outdoor preaching ministry at Whitefield's encouragement. As time went on the men disagreed, with Whitefield leaning more heavily toward Calvinism than his younger friend's Armenianism. When Whitefield died, Wesley was asked if he expected to see Dr. Whitefield in heaven. In exaggerated but honest respect he answered, "No, he'll be so near the throne of God that men like me will never even get a glimpse of him!" Though differing, they did not lose their sense of oneness in Christ.

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## HEAVENLY HOME

### 1067 -- SAFELY HOME

Eric Barker, a missionary from Great Britain, spent over 50 years in Portugal preaching the Gospel, often under adverse conditions. During World War II, the situation became so critical that he was advised to send his wife and eight children to England for safety. His sister and her three children were also evacuated on the same ship. Although his beloved relatives were forced to leave, he remained behind to carry on the work. On the Lord's Day following their departure, Pastor Barker stood before his congregation and said, "I've just received word that all my family have arrived safely home!" He then proceeded with the service as usual. Later, the full meaning of his words became known to his people. He had been handed a wire just before the meeting informing him that a submarine had torpedoed the ship, and everyone on board had drowned. He knew that because all were believers they had reached a more "desired haven." Although overwhelmed with grief, he managed by the grace of God to live above the circumstances and to stay on the firing line for Jesus. The knowledge that his family was enjoying the bliss of Heaven comforted his heart.

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## HEAVENLY HOME

### 1068 -- TWO WAYS FROM THE GRAVE

In Salt Lake City a photographer saw a street sign, all askew, and promptly took a picture. The result was captioned, "Divine Direction," and showed a "one-way" sign pointing to the sky with a cemetery in the background. The words of English poet William Blake were quoted: "The grave is heaven's golden gate, and rich and poor around it wait." But the photograph is wrong in one sense. There are two ways from the grave -- the way to Heaven and the way to Hell. On the other hand, there is only "one way" to Heaven, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. If you want to be sure of a home in Heaven, trust Him today.

\* \* \*

## HECKLERS

### 1069 -- HOW TO HANDLE THEM

A minister was annoyed by people talking and giggling during the service, He paused, looked at the disturbers, and said: "Some years ago as I was preaching a young man who sat before me was constantly laughing, talking and making uncouth grimaces. I paused and administered a severe rebuke. After the close of the services a gentleman said to me: 'Sir, you made a great mistake. That young man is an idiot.' Since then I have been afraid to reprove those who misbehave in chapel lest I should repeat that mistake and reprove another idiot." During the rest of the service there was good order. Watchman Examiner.

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## HELL

### 1070 -- A BAD ACCUSATION AND A SAD ANTICIPATION

Once again Ted Turner has apologized for calling Christianity a religion for losers. This time the cable news network chief not only apologized but told the folks at a Baptist church luncheon "I'm looking forward to dying and going to hell because that's where I'm headed." If he only knew what it was like. -- Associated Press 6-14-90

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## HELL

### 1071 -- A CHAPLAIN THEY DIDN'T NEED

On an American troopship, the soldiers crowded around their chaplain asking, "Do you believe in hell?" "I do not." "Well, then will you please resign, for if there is no hell, we do not need you, and if there is a hell, we do not wish to be led astray."

\* \* \*

## HELL

## 1072 -- MISPLACED FAITH AND DISTURBING DOUBT

Some people who believe in the passages in the Bible about heaven, utterly reject the references to hell. Robert Ingersoll, a famous lawyer and atheist in the latter part of the nineteenth century, once delivered a blistering lecture on hell. He called hell "scarecrow of religion" and told his audience how unscientific it was, and how all intelligent people had decided there was no such place. A drunk in the audience came up to him afterward and said, "Bob, I liked your lecture; I liked what you said about hell. But, Bob, I want you to be sure about it, because I'm depending upon you."

\* \* \*

HELL

## 1073 -- THE CASE OF EVERYONE OUTSIDE OF CHRIST

The use of this awful subject may be for awakening unconverted persons to a conviction of their danger. This that you have heard is the case of every one out of Christ. That world of misery, that cake of burning brimstone, is extended abroad under you. There is the dreadful pit of the glowing flames of the wrath of God; there is hell's wide gaping mouth open; and you have nothing to stand upon, nor anything to take hold of, there is nothing between you and hell but the air; it is only the power and mere pleasure of God that holds you up.

\* \* \*

HELL

## 1074 -- THE FIRE THAT CAN'T GO OUT

For over 20 years a fire has been burning deep within the earth of Centralia, a small community of 1,200 residents in the heart of Pennsylvania's anthracite coal fields. Fifteen different federal, state, and local agencies have spent more than \$3.5 million to extinguish the fire without success. Persons can touch the earth and feel the heat. Deep holes and crevices vent hot, smoky air and noxious gases. One citizen said: "Standing by a hole, you can hear the fires roaring. It's an eerie sound, like the beating of a thousand wings." Government officials have indicated that they are no longer willing to attempt to put out the fire; it is a futile task. As flames continue to burn without restraint, townspeople plead for someone to save their community. In Matthew 25:41, the Bible warns us of an even greater fire that burns forever for those who reject Christ -- "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire."

\* \* \*

HELL

## 1075 -- THE REALITY OF HELL

"I believe I am going to hell." The sentence shocks you. It has a dread echo to it. But if such is the effect upon you hearing it repeated by me, how much more solemn and impressive it must have been had you heard it as I heard it, when it fell, not from the lips of one who repeated it and reported it, but from the lips of the very person whose soul was upheaved. It takes an internal explosion and upheaval to know what people are really feeling, thinking, or believing. Explosions beneath the surface of a lake or river bring to the surface dead bodies and hidden objects.

Likewise, in the breast of man, great convulsions of grief pain, fear, and remorse, hurl hidden things to the surface, and the beholder stands aghast at what he has seen or heard.. Then, the question of sincerity sinks out of sight; and the truth, whether it be glorious or terrible, reveals itself. It was such an explosion that I saw and heard when the troubled soul before me hurled up from its depths that sentence of fear and woe: "I believe I am going to hell." -- McCartney

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HELL

1076 -- TIME TO RESIGN

On an American troopship, the soldiers crowded around their chaplain asking, "Do you believe in hell?" "I do not." "Well, then, will you please resign, for if there is no hell, we do not need you, and if there is a hell, we do not wish to be led astray." -- Christian Beacon

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HELLVEN

1077 -- YA CAN'T GET TO HELLVEN FROM HERE

No sir, ya just can't go to hellven from anywhere on earth that I know of. You may recall the story of the drunk who gave up trying to give the directions which had been asked of him, saying: "Ya can't get to the Post Office from here!" Of course his befuddled statement was mistaken, for there was indeed a way to get there and had his thinking been clear he could have recited the directions to his inquirers. But mister, as clearly as I know how to tell ya, you cannot get to hellven from here for two reasons: (1) There is no such place; and (2) There is no way to get there if it did exist.

There is a number called eleven which comes just after 10, as in the 10 commandments, and just before 12, as in the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem. But, there is no place called hellven which is located just above hell and just below heaven. Many folks might like to think that there is a third choice as to where they will spend eternity, but there is not.

"Where is hell?" was the question once asked by a scoffer. Brief but telling was the reply, "Anywhere outside of heaven." Yes, there are only two choices concerning where we will dwell

forever, heaven or hell, and there will be no abode somewhere between the two for those who seemingly don't qualify for either place.

I read another story something like this: A man who was not a Christian was dying, but refused to believe that hell must be his lot and said to the one who was endeavoring to help him get saved: "There must be some better place for a man of my respectability." Perhaps he realized that he did not qualify for heaven, but apparently he felt that he was too good to go to hell. It sounds like he was hoping for some place like hellven...above the torments of the lake of fire while somewhat beneath the bliss of the bloodwashed in the New Jerusalem.

Actually, the Bible does teach that there is a place between heaven and hell, but it is not called Hellven, Purgatory, or any such fictitious name. It is called "A Great Gulf." It is forever "fixed" between the saved and the damned, and no one can go there. It is the eternal "No Man's Land," and "they that would pass from hence (in heaven) to you (in hell) cannot," said Abraham to the rich man. "Neither can they (in hell) pass to us, (in heaven) that would come from thence."

Thus we see that the place located halfway between heaven and hell is not a dwellingplace but a deep gulf separating forever those who are Christ's from those who are of their father, the devil. (See Part Two for the remainder of this illustration)

Located near the 45th parallel, halfway between the Equator and the North Pole, is a little town in Oregon called Halfway. I dwelt there part of one summer when I was a lad. Halfway, Oregon is also located just above Hell's Canyon, through which runs the Snake River. Those who dwell there no doubt enjoy the beautiful Pine Valley where it is situated, but none of us who ever lived there will inhabit a place halfway between the Savior in Heaven's Mountain and the Snake of Hell's Bottomless Pit. We will all be either all the way into Heaven or all the way into Hell, and there will be no "Halfway House" for those wishing to be rehabilitated from the confines of eternal punishment.

A man asked, "Can you go to Heaven and chew?" The reply was, "Yes, but you'll have to go to hell to spit!" This may have seemed like a clever answer. However, the solemn truth is that there will be no transition between the eternal abodes, no "Halfway House," and no admission into the New Jerusalem of anything that defileth" or "worketh abomination." Those who chew the filthy cud of sin without repentance in this life will be themselves spewed into the cuspidor of condemnation forever along with all of their uncleanness.

Even the morally upright and socially respectable who have refused to admit their need of the Savior and spurned His cleansing blood must descend entirely and eternally into hell. There will be no pleasant, little town just outside of the gates of the New Jerusalem called Halfway, Heaven for those who were too good to go to Hell but not quite qualified for Heaven. Conversely, the chiefest of sinners Jesus will save when they obey and believe, and He escort them all the way into the heights of holiness and Heaven. Ya just can't get to hellven from here! -- By Duane V. Maxey

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## HIDING PLACE

### 1078 -- HIDING PLACE FOR A SPY

In 1973 I received a church publication from Rev. Lowell Foster containing a story that made a lasting impression on me. Now, more than 20 years later, I still have that story. It is entitled: "Hiding Place For A Spy," and it tells of how one who "felt secure" outside of Christ, until suddenly he faced his eternal jeopardy. Then, after feeling "the arrows of distress," he found real security in "Jesus as a Hiding Place." This remarkable account is quoted below:

The H.M.S. Vulture crept up the Hudson River, early in the Fall of 1780, to an anchorage above Stony Point. In the Dusk a young army officer clambered down into a small boat, and was rowed to the shore. There the Britisher was met by Benedict Arnold, commander of West Point. General Arnold was prepared to sell out to the enemy. During the night plans were laid and a bargain was struck to put West Point into the hands of the British. The British officer returned to Governor Clinton's headquarters in New York by horseback. Near the end of his journey he was waylaid by three American soldiers. They searched him, and the plot was discovered. The captured officer was brought to trial and sentenced to death as a spy. The spy's name was Major John Andre', of the British Army. Meanwhile, Benedict Arnold escaped to the British lines.

While Major Andre' was awaiting his execution, he seems to have given serious thought to eternal matters. Doubtless he recalled his early training given him by his Huguenot parents who had found spiritual refuge in England. Until he faced death, Andre' had lived the usual social life of an army officer -- one continuous whirl of gay functions, but his capture and trial changed all of that. Death for him was but a matter of days.

In repentance and faith, he turned to that blessed One who had long before said, "Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out." -- John 6:37 Major Andre' found there was amazing grace even for him, and he tasted the fruits of conversion -- joy and peace in believing after full repentance. This is set forth wonderfully in his own words in a poem, "My Hiding Place," found in his pocket after he was hanged at Tappan, New York, October 2, 1780. Here is the poem. (See Part Two for the poem)

Hail, sovereign love, which first began  
The scheme to rescue fallen man!  
Hail, matchless, free, eternal grace,  
Which gave my soul a Hiding Place!

Against the God who built the sky  
I fought with hands uplifted high --  
Despised the mention of His grace,  
Too proud to seek a Hiding Place.

Enwrapt in thick Egyptian night,  
And fond of darkness more than light,  
Madly I ran the sinful race,

Secure -- without a Hiding Place!

But thus the eternal counsel ran:  
Almighty love, arrest that man!  
I felt the arrows of distress,  
And found I had no Hiding Place.

Indignant Justice stood in view;  
To Sinai's fiery mount I flew;  
But Justice cried with frowning face,  
This mountain is no Hiding Place!

Ere long a heavenly voice I heard,  
And mercy's angel soon appeared:  
He led me, with a beaming face  
To JESUS as a Hiding Place.

On Him almighty vengeance fell,  
Which must have sunk a world to hell!  
He bore it for a sinful race,  
And thus became our Hiding Place.

Should sevenfold storms of thunder roll,  
And shake this globe from pole to pole,  
No thunderbolt shall daunt my face,  
For Jesus is my Hiding Place.

A few more setting suns at most  
Shall land me on that glorious coast,  
Where I shall sing the song of grace,  
And see my glorious Hiding Place!

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## HINDRANCES -- SPIRITUAL

### 1079 -- ENCUMBERED EAGLE

In the Alleghenies a large eagle was shot by a hunter. When he examined the bird, he was amazed to find that one of its claws was held firmly in a strong steel trap from which dangled a 5-foot chain. Although not heavy enough to prevent the creature from flying, the additional weight had wearied the eagle and brought it down within reach of his rifle. So, too, the Christian can be entrapped and brought low spiritually by encumbrances and sin which make him incapable of rising to the heights he might otherwise attain.

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## HINDRANCES -- SPIRITUAL

### 1080 -- IT INTERFERED WITH HIS PRAYERS

There was once an old codfish dealer, a very earnest and sincere man, who lived prayerfully every day. One of the great joys of his life was the family worship hour. One year two other merchants persuaded him to go into a deal with them by which they could control all the codfish in the market and greatly increase the price. The plan was succeeding well, when this good man learned that many poor people in Boston were suffering because of the great advance in the price of codfish. It troubled him so that he broke down in trying to pray at the family altar, and he went straight to the men who had led him into the plot and told them that he could not go on with it.

Said the old man: "I can't afford to do anything which interferes with my family prayers. And this morning when I got down on my knees and tried to pray, there was a mountain of codfish before me high enough to shut out the throne of God, and I could not pray. I tried my best to get around it or over it, but every time I started to pray that codfish loomed up between me and my God. I won't have my family prayers spoiled for all the codfish in the Atlantic Ocean, and I shall have nothing to do with this market control business, or with any money made from it." -- Pentecostal Evangel

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## HOLDING ON

### 1081 -- A PRAYER FINISHED IN GLORY

Several years ago a minister in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the close of his sermon, felt led to do an unusual thing. He said, "If there is someone here that is sick of sin, and wants us to pray for you, raise your hand." A young man sprang to his feet, and said, "Pray for me, sir, I am sick and tired of sin." The minister learned later that for eight years the boy had been a wanderer on the earth. The minister advised him to write home and tell his parents what he had done. He did, and after several days of anxious waiting, a letter came from his mother, but it was bordered with black. With tear-dimmed eyes he read:

"My dear son: The joy which your letter brought to our hearts was only exceeded by the sadness which was there at the same time, for for as nearly as we can figure, the same hour that you found Jesus Christ as your Saviour, your father was going out into the skies. All day long he tossed upon his bed. Every little while he would cry out in misery, 'Oh God, save my poor wandering, drunken boy today!' We would try to divert his attention from your waywardness and sin, but his mind would roam from place to place, and he would cry out in sorrow, 'Oh, God, save my poor wandering, wayward boy today!' Just as he passed away he cried: 'Oh, God, save...' and he finished the prayer in the presence of Jesus."

Down at the bottom of the letter the mother added a note saying, "You are a Christian tonight because your father would not let God go." -- Prairie Pastor And Overcomer



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## HOLDING ON

### 1082 -- AN INQUIRER'S DREAM

One night an inquirer, long under deep conviction but still unsaved, dreamed that he was walking along the edge of a terrible precipice and fell over it into a horrible abyss. As he was falling, he grasped a little branch of some bush that was growing half way down. There he hung and cried for help. He could feel the branch giving way. He looked into the dark, yawning gulf beneath and again cried out for help. Looking up, he saw in his dream, Christ standing on the edge and saying "Let go the twig and I will save you." Looking at the terrible abyss below, he could not. He cried again; and again came the same answer: "Let go the twig and I will save you."

At length, he felt the branch slipping, and, in the utter desperation of his despair, he let go the branch when, lo! in an instant the arms of Jesus were about him and he was safe. He awoke. It was but a dream of the night. Yet, from the vividness and instruction of its imagery, he was enabled to let go every false confidence and rely only on the true. -- The Clerical Library

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## HOLDING ON

### 1083 -- CLINGING AND CLIMBING

Climbing plants never seem to grow rapidly until they have laid hold of something to cling to. Then you may see them shoot upwards. So with these hearts of ours, they will make but little progress heavenward until they have laid hold of Christ. -- Dictionary Of Illustrations

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## HOLDING ON

### 1084 -- FAILED TO HOLD ROPE

Off the coast of Nova Scotia, a ship, caught in the jaws of a violent storm, went to pieces. There was a frightful loss of life! Seemingly, only one man survived. Midst the whelming waves, he clung to debris from the wrecked vessel. Anxious ones, gathered on shore, seemed powerless to do anything, until a brave young man requested that a rope be tied about his body, the people on shore holding onto it while he would swim out to where the lone survivor floundered. With great effort, he finally reached the imperiled man. Grasping him, he signaled to be pulled in. Midst their wild cheers and excitement, those on shore had failed to hold onto the rope! Both the would-be rescuer and the rescued were swallowed up by the merciless waves! Many have gone forth into the regions beyond with the message of life in Christ. Are we, in the homeland, failing to hold the rope? -- W. B. Knight

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## HOLDING ON

### 1085 -- HOLDING FATHER'S HAND

Mr. Sankey tells the story of his boy who was with him, when a little fellow, in Scotland, and for the first time he possessed what in that country is known as a topcoat. They were walking out one cold day and the way was slippery. The little fellow's hands were deep down in his pockets. His father said to him, "My son you had better let me take your hand," but he said you never could persuade a boy with a new topcoat to take his hands from his pockets. They reached a slippery place and the boy had a hard fall. Then his pride began to depart and he said, "I will take your hand," and he reached up and clasped his father's hand the best he could. When a second slippery place was reached, the clasp was broken, and the second fall was harder than the first. Then, all his pride was gone, and raising his little hand, he said, "You may take it now," and his father said, "I clasped it round about with my great hand and we continued our walk, and when we reached the slippery places," said he, "the little feet would start to go and I would hold him up."

This is a picture for the Christian. I am saved, not so much because I have hold of God, as because God has hold of me. -- J. Wilbur Chapman

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## HOLDING ON

### 1086 -- MOTHER, IF YOU LET GO, I WILL!

We should thank God for those who have never "let go" of their grip on God and we should value those whose tight grasp on Divine essentials and realities has extended to the present, despite every strong stream of sin. Consider how the story related below illustrates this: While journeying West to a field of labor with his wife and son, a clergyman ventured onto an unsafe bridge that gave way, dashing them into the cold, fast-flowing stream below. The minister managed to reach shore and went for help, while in the midst of the frigid current, the mother and son clung to some pieces of timber.

Finally, benumbed by the icy waters, the woman told her son that she felt she could hold on only a little longer. Her boy was young and vigorous. He might hold out till help came. With loving tenderness, she spoke her words of farewell to her son -- But she was not prepared for his response: "Mother," he said, "If you let go, I will!" With almost superhuman strength, that mother kept her hold on the plank, for, she feared that if she loosened her grasp, her boy's life would be lost and that, even worse, his soul would be lost for eternity! In two hours help came, and they were rescued. -- Topical Illustrations (adapted by Duane V. Maxey)

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## HOLDING ON

### 1087 -- THE NEW HOUSE IS BETTER

Toward the end of his life, an old minister was to move to a different house. Yet, when the furniture had all gone, the old preacher lingered. For him, there was an emotional attachment to that house. It was the house where his children had been born, and where his sermons had been prepared. At last, his servant came to him and said, "Sir, everything's gone; and the new house is better than this one. Come away!" -- Sunday School Chronicle

God has prepared for His children a home much better than this, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. There is a natural tendency to hold on to, to cling to, life in this, our earthly house. Still, when it is time for saint of God to let go, and come away, he need not fear. That house into which he shall move is better, eternally better above all that we can now ask or think. -- Duane V. Maxey

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## HOLDING ON

### 1088 -- THE ROPE HAS GOT HOLD OF ME

As one of our American liners was crossing the Atlantic, during a terrific gale, the cry was raised, "Man over board!" It was impossible to put up the helm of the ship on account of the violence of the hurricane, but one of the crew instantly seized a rope having a loop as the end, and threw it over the stern, crying out, "Lay hold for your life!" Passengers and crew had crowded together at the stern, but the rolling waves and blinding spray prevented them from seeing the drowning sailor. The captain cried out: "Have you got hold of the rope?" and the reply came, "No, but the rope has got hold of me." The sailor, when he caught the rope, had passed the loop over his shoulders and under his arms, and though too fatigued to hold on to the rope, the loop kept him from sinking. W. R. Bradlaugh

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## HOLDING ON

### 1089 -- WHY SHE HELD ON

A clergyman, with his wife and son, was once journeying to a new field in the West, when, by venturing on an unsafe bridge, all their lives were greatly imperiled. The father reached the shore, but saw with anguish that he could give no help to his loved ones, until other assistance could be secured. He went in search of it, and the mother and the son clung to some pieces of timber lodged in the midst of the cold, fastflowing current, as their only hope of safety. The other's hands were growing benumbed, and her slight frame wearied out with the effort of holding on. She felt that the struggle for life could go on but a little longer. Her boy was young and vibrant. He might hold out till help came. With the mother's loving tenderness, she spoke her words of

farewell, and gave such counsel as a mother might who was looking into eternity. But she was not prepared for the response: "Mother," he said, "if you let go. I will."

Oh, here was a new anguish. She had hope in her Saviour, but her dear boy had no such hope. She felt that she held his destiny in her hands. She must live and struggle on for his sake. Oh, what weary, terrible moments, and they were lengthened on to hours! With almost superhuman strength, the mother kept her hold on the plank, for, if she loosened her grasp, her boy's soul was lost for eternity. In two hours help came, and they were rescued.

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## HOLDING ON -- TO SIN

### 1090 -- HE HAD TO LET GO!

There is a story told of the captain of a man-of-war whose son, a young lad, was very fond of running up the rigging of the ship. One time, running after a monkey, he ran up the mast till at last he got on the maintruck. Now the maintruck, you are aware, is like a large, round table, put on the mast. When the boy was on the maintruck, there was plenty of room for him; but the difficulty was, that once he was on the maintruck, he could not reach the mast that was under the table. He was not tall enough to get down from this maintruck, reach the mast, and so descend. There he was on the maintruck. He managed to get up there some how or other, but down, he never could get. His father saw that, and he looked up in horror.

What was he to do? In a few moments, his son would fall down and be dashed to pieces. He was clinging to the maintruck with all his might, but in a little time he would fall down upon the deck, and there he would be a mangled corpse. The captain called for a speaking trumpet, put it to his mouth, and shouted: "Boy, the next time the ship lurches, throw yourself into the sea." It was, in truth, his only way of escape. He could be picked up out of the sea, but he could not be rescued if he fell upon the deck.

The poor boy looked down on the sea. It was a far beneath him. He could not bear the idea of throwing himself into the roaring ocean beneath him. He thought it looked angry and dangerous. How could he cast himself down into it? So he clung to the maintruck with all his might, though there was no doubt that he would soon loose his grip and fall to his death upon the deck of the ship.

The father called for a gun, and pointing it up at him said: "Boy, the next time the ship lurches, throw yourself into the sea, or I'll shoot you!" He knew his father would keep his word. The ship lunched on one side, and over went the boy. He splashed into the sea, and out went brawny arms after him. The sailors rescued him and brought him on deck.

Now we, like the boy, are in a position of extraordinary danger. Neither you, nor I, can possibly escape of ourselves. Unfortunately, we have got some good works of our own, like that maintruck, and we cling to them so fondly that we will never give them up. Christ knows that unless we do give them up we shall be dashed to pieces at last, for that rotten trust must ruin us. --  
C. H. Spurgeon

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## HOLDING ON -- TO SIN

### 1091 -- TOO LATE TO LET GO

An eagle, soaring high above the Niagara River, spotted an animal stranded on an Ice flow. Swooping down, he dispatched his prey, then began to feed as they floated down the river toward the falls. As the eagle fed, he kept his eyes on the narrowing distance between the roaring falls and his ice flow. Unconcerned, he enjoyed his feast up to the last moment, when he planned to let go and fly to safety. He didn't know that as he fed, the spray from the water was freezing his talons to the fur of his kill, which was already frozen to the floating ice. When the floe was only yards from the falls, the eagle tried to let go and fly away; the ice held him fast. With a final scream, the eagle disappeared over the side, into the churning, deadly maelstrom below. -- Rev. D. Paul Ray

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## HOLDING ON -- TO SIN

### 1092 -- WHY HE COULD NOT FOLLOW

The Arabian, chieftain Ben Achmet, in the confines of a desert, amid sterile and almost inaccessible rocks, led a life of austerity and devotion. Roots and fruits, and the fountain at the foot of the cliff, supplied all his needs. Formerly he had been a priest in the mosque, but disgusted with hypocrisy and injustice, he took himself to the desert, where he lived as an anchorite.

As the years passed by, the fame of his sanctity spread abroad. Akaba, an Arabian robber, who had lawless men under his command, many slaves, and a treasure house filled with his ill gotten gains, smitten in conscience and arrested by the sanctity of Ben Achmet, went to visit him. He said to him, "I have five hundred cimeters ready to obey me, numerous slaves, and a treasure house full of riches. Tell me how to add to these the hope of a happy immortality.

Ben Achmet led him to a neighboring cliff that was steep, rugged, and high, and, pointing to three large stones, told him to lift them from the ground and follow him up the cliff. Laden with the three stones, Akaba was unable to move. "I cannot follow thee," he said, "with these burdens." "Then cast one of them down and hasten after me! He dropped one stone, but still was unable to proceed. "I tell thee it is impossible. Thou thyself couldst not proceed a step with such a stone. "Let go another stone, then."

Akaba dropped another stone, and with great difficulty clambered the cliff for a while till, exhausted with the effort, he again cried out that he could go no further. Ben Achmet directed him to drop the last stone, and no sooner had he done this than he mounted with ease and stood with his conductor on the summit of the cliff.

"Son," said Ben Achmet, "thou hast three burdens which hinder thee in the way of the better world. Disband thy troop of lawless plunderers, set thy captive slaves at liberty, and restore thy ill-gotten wealth to its owners. It is easier for Akaba to ascend this cliff with the stones that lie at its foot, than for him to journey onward to a better world with power, pleasure, and riches in his possession." -- McCartney

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HOLDING ON -- TO SIN

1093 -- WHY HIS HAND WAS STUCK

A little child was one day playing with a very valuable vase. He put his hand into it and could not withdraw it. His father, too, tried his best to get it out, but all in vain. They were talking of breaking the vase, when the father said, "Now, my son, make one more try. Open your hand and hold your fingers out straight, as you see me doing, and then pull." To their astonishment the little fellow said, "Oh, no, pa. I couldn't put out my fingers like that. If I did I would drop my penny." He had been holding on to a penny all the time!

No wonder he could not withdraw his hand. How many of us are like him? Drop the copper! Surrender. Let go, and God will give you gold! -- John MacNeil

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HOLDING ON -- TO SIN

1094 -- WHY THE EAGLE FELL

A man in the open country watched from a distance an eagle mount into the sky upon its mighty wings. It was a magnificent sight; but soon it appeared that something was wrong. The king of birds did not continue to rise in the sky with the same power and speed. His flight at first seemed hampered, then came to a stop -- until at last the great bird fell down at the man's feet.

Looking closely, he saw that the eagle was dead. Searching still more closely, he observed that a small weasel had dug its claws into the abdomen of the splendid bird as the eagle soared upward with it into the sky. The wounds from the weasel had drained the eagle of his life-blood.

Sin is like that. Those who clutch it to their bosom as a prey and a prize are drained of all spiritual and eternal life. What at first they clutched soon begins to clutch and kill them, and, unless they are delivered therefrom, their final fate shall be to fall into the horrors of eternal death. --  
Duane V. Maxey

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HOLINESS

## 1095 -- A SOBER, BUT SINCERE REQUEST

Here is a real life commitment to holiness.

Pastor Ed Dobson said in a Sunday morning sermon that he has written a letter to God, sealed it, and put it in his desk. Its message says, in effect, "Lord, if ever I might be unfaithful to my wife and bring disgrace to Your name, take my life before I sin." And he meant it!

\* \* \*

## HOLINESS -- COMMANDED

### 1096 -- CLEAN IN A DIRTY PLACE

One day a young minister was being escorted through a coal mine. At the entrance of one of the dim passageways, he spied a beautiful white flower growing out of the black earth. "How can it blossom in such purity and radiance in this dirty mine?" the preacher asked. "Throw some coal dust on it and see for yourself," his guide replied. When he did, he was surprised that the fine, sooty particles slid right off the snowy petals, leaving the plant just as lovely and unstained as before. Its surface was so smooth that the grit and grime could not adhere to it.

Our hearts should have the same characteristic. Just as that flower could not control its habitat, so we cannot help it that we have to live in a world filled with evil. But God's grace can keep us so clean and unspotted that though we touch every side, it will not cling to us. If we want the Lord's full blessing and approval, we must heed the admonition, "...keep thyself pure" (1 Tim. 5:22). By the cleansing power of His Word and the sanctifying influence of His Holy Spirit, it is possible for the Christian to remain "clean in a dirty place."

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## HOLY SPIRIT -- BAPTISM WITH

### 1097 -- A POWERLESS MINISTER STRENGTHENED

Many years ago I was in a meeting appointed for ministers to gather for the one purpose of praying for the Holy Spirit to be poured out upon their various churches. Anxiously did I wait for the day. It came; and with it many ministers came together. They prayed, read the Bible, sang songs, and opened their hearts to each other. It was a day of Spirit baptism. I have carried its power more than ten years in my heart. One young man came into that meeting, who had graduated from the University with the highest honors of his class, and been ordained over a good church, but felt that his ministry was fruitless. No sinner had been converted during his year's work. He was about to give up and go into the mercantile business. His education was brilliant and ample. But he had not enjoyed the Spirit's power and presence. He confessed his leanness to his brethren. They gave him love, sympathy and prayers. God blessed him, "The things that remained were strengthened," and he returned to his work for a mighty harvest of souls. So all the Lord's ministers often need help one from the other. -- Albert P. Graves

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## HOLY SPIRIT -- BAPTISM WITH

### 1098 -- DUNCAN CAMBELL'S PERSONAL TESTIMONY

(For the first part of Duncan Cambell's testimony, see: Conversion, Examples Of)

I knew nothing about the doctrine of simply believing, or about this matter of making a decision. My cry was, "God, come into my life!" I was, that night, supernaturally altered, and so supernaturally altered that godliness characterized every part of my being, body, soul, and spirit. On the following Wednesday, I walked seven miles over the hill to attend a prayer meeting. I had aspirations and longings of the soul that found expression in being at prayer meeting. Shortly after my conversion, I found myself along with many others, on the battlefields of Flanders, a soldier in the king's army.

It wasn't long before I discovered powers resident within me that were fighting against my desire for godliness and holiness -- a power well entrenched in my nature. A power that battled my best endeavors. And with the Apostle Paul I frequently cried, "Oh wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this body of death? The good that I would, I cannot do, the evil that I hate, that I do." Yet, in the midst of it all, I knew that I had entered into a saving and covenant relationship with God, and that He had entered into a saving and covenant relationship with me. I knew that. And yet -- Oh, the law of the spirit of life fighting the law of the spirit of death!

However, the day came when that was changed, and changed under very strange circumstances. I found myself severely wounded in a cavalry charge outside of Amiens -- the last cavalry charge of the British army, April 12, 1918. It is a terrible thing to be in a cavalry charge when machine guns are leveled at you, firing five and six hundred rounds-a-minute. That was what we had to face on that fearful morning. I lay wounded on the battlefield; the blood was flowing freely; I believed I was dying. I was very conscious of my unfitness to appear before the judge of all the earth. Two things troubled me: I felt so unpure, and I knew that I hadn't helped any soul to find the Saviour. We had often sung on the farm:

Must I empty-handed go?  
Must I meet my Saviour so?  
Not one soul with which to greet Him?  
Must I empty-handed go?  
Could I but recall them now,  
Oh, the years of sin I've wasted!  
I would give them to my Saviour  
To His will I'd gladly bow.

But I was dying, I thought. And then, a miraculous thing happened. The Canadian horses were called out to second charge. They charged over that bloody battlefield toward the enemy in a body. Men were dying; men were lying wounded; the whole field was littered with men and horses



in distress. As it happened, a horse's hoof struck me in the spine. The mark is still there, and I must have groaned. In the providence of God, that groan registered in the mind of a Canadian trooper. He might have said to himself, "There's a cowardly man of the Scotch Grays. He's still alive."

After the charge, again in the providence of God, that trooper came right to the place where I lay and saw that I was bleeding profusely. He lifted as gently as he could placed me on the horse's, back dug the stirrup right into the horses side; and that steed galloped with fury toward the casualty clearing station. Would I be alive to reach the casualty clearing station? Would my soul be in eternity before my body was lifted from the horse? These were the thoughts that coursed through my mind.

As I lay on that horse's back, I remembered a prayer Father frequently offered at family worship. The prayer came from my heart, "Oh, God, I'm dying. Will you make me as holy as a saved man can be?" It was McCheyne's prayer, frequently uttered by Father, "Make me as holy as a saved sinner can be." God the Holy Ghost fell upon me on that horse's back. You needn't say, "There isn't such a thing as a definite experience of the Holy Ghost subsequent to conversion. My confession was real; my regeneration was wonderful; but it paled before the revelation of Jesus that came to me on that horse's back.

Then the horse stood at the casualty clearing station. Loving hands lifted me and laid me down on a stretcher. The place was crowded with wounded and dying, mostly Canadians. I couldn't speak English. But I tried to sing in Gaelic, and what I sang was a psalm: "Oh, thou my soul, bless God the Lord; and all that in me is, be stirred up. His holy name, it will magnify and bless." Oh, I was weak. My voice wasn't strong. But God swept in.

Mark you, there wasn't a man there who could understand me. To them it was a strange language. But within that hour seven Canadians were saved. Revival, a miniature revival, swept into the casualty clearing station! One young lad said, "Trooper, can you not speak to us in English? We are seeking Jesus." Men with little thought of God, here they were, moved by the Spirit, God, the personality of Jesus, making His impact upon sinners. That's why I constantly say that to me the baptism of the Holy Ghost in its final analysis is the revelation of Jesus.

It's not gifts. Gifts may come if God wills to give them. But I know nothing about gifts. I do know this, that when that baptism of the Holy Ghost came upon me on that horse's back, the supreme reality was Jesus. 'Twas Jesus. I loved Him "because He first loved me and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree." Oh, how wonderful it was! There in the casualty clearing station, wave after wave of divine realization swept through; sinners cried to God for mercy and sinners found the Saviour.

Duncan Cambell was mightily used of God in two great revival periods. Entire villages in the Hebrides Islands were smitten by the power of God, and saloons were nailed shut with signs reading: "Closed forever." -- an unsigned tract

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HOLY SPIRIT -- BAPTISM WITH

## 1099 -- THERE FOR THE TAKING

I left the prayer meeting and crept out into the lane, away from town. As I walked I said, "O my God, if there is a man who needs the power of the Holy Ghost to rest upon him it is I; but I do not know how to receive Him. I am too tired, too worn, too nervously down to agonize." A voice..said to me "As you took forgiveness from the hand of the living Christ, take the Holy Ghost from the hand of the living Christ." I turned to Christ and said, "Lord, I breathe in this whiff of warm might air, so I breathe into every part of me Thy blessed Spirit." There was no lambent flame, there was no rushing sound from Heaven; but by faith, without emotion, without excitement, I took, and took for the first time, and I have kept on taking ever since. -- F. B. Meyer

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## HOLY SPIRIT -- CALLED THE COMFORTER

### 1100 -- ALONGSIDE TO HELP

"I will pray the Father; and He will give you another Helper (Comforter)." John 14:16 In his book "Living Faithfully," J. Allen Blair tells of a man who was struggling down East 42nd Street in New York City. He was trying to make his way through a storm to Grand Central Station. The wind blew fiercely, and the driving rain beat down on him as he lugged his two heavy suitcases toward the terminal. Occasionally he would pause to rest and regain his strength before trudging on against the elements. At one point he was almost ready to collapse, when a man suddenly appeared by his side, took the suitcases, and said in a strangely familiar voice, "We're going the same way. You look as if you could use some help." When they had reached the shelter of the station, the weary traveler, the renowned educator Booker T. Washington, asked the man, "Please, sir, what is your name?" The man replied, "The name, my friend, is Roosevelt. Teddy Roosevelt. " What a thrill it would be to have the assistance of such a famous person! But how much greater is the Helper God has sent! Referring to Him, Jesus used the Greek word parakletos, which means "one called alongside to help" John 14:16,26). He's the One Jesus promised to send from the Father after He left this earth.

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## HOLY SPIRIT -- DWELLS IN BELIEVERS

### 1101 -- A FILLING UP AND A FORCING OUT

Paul tells us to live victoriously and to avoid excesses of the flesh. Moody once illustrated this truth as follows: "Tell me," he said to his audience, "How can I get the air out of this glass?" One man said, "Suck it out with a pump." Moody replied, "That would create a vacuum and shatter the glass." After many impossible suggestions, Moody smiled, picked up a pitcher of water, and filled the glass. "There," he said, "all the air is now removed." He then went on to show that victory in the Christian life is not by "sucking out a sin here and there," but rather by being filled with the Spirit.

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## HOLY SPIRIT -- DWELLS IN BELIEVERS

### 1102 -- TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN

A city dweller moved to a farm and bought a cow. Shortly after he did, the cow went dry. When he reported this fact to a neighbor farmer, the farmer expressed surprise. The city man said he was surprised too. "I can't understand it either, for if ever a person was considerate of an animal, I was of that cow. If I didn't need any milk, I didn't milk her. If I only needed a quart, I only took a quart." The farmer tried to explain that the only way to keep milk flowing is not to take as little as possible from the cow, but to take as much as possible. Is that not also true of the Christian life? Those who only turn to God in need miss the real joy that flows from a daily infilling of His Spirit.

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## HOLY SPIRIT -- DWELLS IN BELIEVERS

### 1103 -- VACUUM OR VICTORY

A man who drank heavily was converted to Christ and lived victoriously for several weeks. One day as he passed the open door of a tavern, the pungent odor drifting out aroused his old appetite for liquor. Just then he saw this sign in the window of a nearby cafe: "All the buttermilk you can drink -- 25 cents!" Dashing inside, he ordered one glass, then another, and still another. After finishing the third he walked past the saloon and was no longer tempted. He was so full of buttermilk that he had no room for that which would be injurious to him. The lesson is clear: to be victorious over our evil desires, we must leave no opportunity for them to repossess us.

Dwight L. Moody once demonstrated the principle like this: "Tell me," he said to his audience, "how can I get the air out of the tumbler I have in my hand?" One man said, "Suck it out with a pump." But the evangelist replied, "That would create a vacuum and shatter it." Finally after many suggestions, moody picked up a pitcher and quietly filled the glass with water. "There," he said, "all the air is now removed." He then explained that victory for the child of God does not come by working hard to eliminate sinful habits, but rather by allowing the Holy Spirit to take full possession.

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## HOLY SPIRIT -- LEADERSHIP OF

### 1104 -- SHE KNEW WHERE HE WAS GOING

Matthew Henry went to London, met a young lady of the nobility, who was also wealthy, and they fell in love. She went to ask her father if she could marry him and he said, "He's got no

background, you don't know where he's come from." She said, "Yes, I know, but I know where he's going and I want to go with him."

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## HOLY SPIRIT -- LEADERSHIP OF

### 1105 -- THE DOVE MAN

It is said that a certain guide lived in the deserts of Arabia who never lost his way. He carried with him a homing pigeon with a very fine cord attached to one of its legs. When in doubt as to which path to take, he threw the bird into the air. The pigeon quickly strained at the cord to fly in the direction of home, and thus led the guide accurately to his goal. Because of this unique practice he was known as "the dove man." So, too, the Holy Spirit, the heavenly Dove, is willing and able to direct us in the narrow way that leads to the more abundant life if in humble self-denial we submit to His unerring supervision.

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## HOME

### 1106 -- A STATEMENT BY BARBARA BUSH

"Success doesn't depend on what happens at the White House, but what happens at your house." -- Barbara Bush

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## HOME

### 1107 -- HOME FIT PLACE FOR JESUS

We read of a wealthy man who purchased at high cost a famous painting of Jesus. He sought, with difficulty, an appropriate place for it on the walls of his home. At last he called in an architect who, after carefully examining the house and the picture, said: "Man, you cannot fit this picture into your home! You must make a home to fit it!" Just as surely we must so order our home life that it would be appropriate to invite Jesus to abide therein. -- Evangelical Messenger

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## HOME

### 1108 -- MORE THAN THE PLACE WHERE YOU STAY

A drunk who was ordered home by a police officer responded: "Home!?! The place where I stay isn't home!"

\* \* \*

## HOME

### 1109 -- SHE HAD A HOUSE, BUT NO HOME

I'm sure we all felt bad over the tragic death of Christina Onassis at the age of 38. Many of her problems stemmed from the poverty she experienced at home as she was growing up. As her stepsister Henrietta Gelber commented:

"She lacked a sense of achievement, what she was striving for was just to be a normal human being with normal family relationships, which was virtually impossible in her situation. She had houses all over the world, but she never really had a home." -- People Magazine

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## HOME

### 1110 -- THE OLD HOME

There's an old-fashioned house, in an old-fashioned street  
In a quaint, little, old-fashioned town.  
There's a street where the cobblestones harass the feet,  
As it struggles uphill and then down.

And though, to and fro, through the world I must go,  
My heart, while it beats in my breast,  
Where'er I may roam, to that old-fashioned home  
Will fly like a bird to its nest.

In that old-fashioned house, in that old-fashioned street  
Dwell a dear, little, old-fashioned pair.  
I can see their two faces, so tender and sweet,  
And I love every wrinkle that's there.

\* \* \*

## HOME

### 1111 -- THE WAY OF THE CROSS LEADS HOME

Officer Peter O'Hanlon was patrolling on night duty in northern England some years ago when he heard a quivering sob. Turning in the direction that it came from, he saw in the shadows a little boy sitting on a doorstep. With tears rolling down his cheeks, the child whimpered, "I'm lost. Take me home." The policeman began naming street after street, trying to help him remember

where he lived. When that failed, he repeated the names of the shops and hotels in the area, but all without success. Then he remembered that in the center of the city was a well-known church with a large white cross towering high above the surrounding landscape. He pointed to it and said, "Do you live anywhere near that?" The boy's face immediately brightened. "Yes, take me to the cross. I can find my way home from there!"

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HOME -- DEVOUT FATHERS

1112 -- GODLY FATHERS

Some months ago I heard a touching story about a humble, consecrated pastor whose young son had become very ill. After the boy had undergone an exhaustive series of tests, the father was told the shocking news that his son had a terminal illness. The youngster had accepted Christ as his Savior, so the minister knew that death would usher him into Glory; but he wondered how to inform one in the bloom of youth that he soon would die. After earnestly seeking the direction of the Holy Spirit, he went with a heavy heart through the hospital ward to the boy's bedside. First he read a passage of Scripture and had a time of prayer with his dear child. Then he gently told him that the doctors could promise him only a few more days to live. "Are you afraid to meet Jesus, my boy?" asked his devout father. Blinking away a few tears, the little fellow said bravely, "No, not if He's like you, Dad!"

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HOME -- DEVOUT FATHERS

1113 -- HE WISHED THAT HE HAD KNOW HIM SOONER

A grade school teacher held a contest. She asked her students to describe what they liked best about their fathers. The winning entry read, "I have so much fun with my father that I wish I had known him sooner."

A comment like that would brighten the day for any father who loves his family. Yet in many homes, the children never really get to know their dad because he doesn't take the time to be with them. In the morning, he's either too hurried or too grouchy. After work, he's so tired that he spends the evening snoozing in front of the TV. On Saturdays, he's doing household chores or golfing with his friends. On Sundays, he's glued to the TV watching football or baseball. The weeks, months, and years quickly pass without Dad ever really getting to know his children.

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HOME -- DEVOUT FATHERS

1114 -- MY DAD KNOWS GOD

Gospel musician H. Halverson told of overhearing a conversation between his son and two other little boys. The youngsters were bragging about their dads. One boy said proudly, "My dad knows the mayor of our town!" Another said, "So, my dad knows the governor of our state!" Halverson's son then came up with this touching comment, "That's nothing -- my dad knows God!" Upon hearing this, Halverson quickly slipped away to his room and with tears in his eyes said, "O God, I pray that my boy will always be able to say, 'My dad knows God.'" He knew he had been paid the supreme tribute.

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HOME -- DEVOUT FATHERS

1115 -- NOT READY TO CONSIDER HIMSELF A SUCCESS

Ross Perot seems not only to be an interesting character, but to have character. When asked several years ago about whether he considered himself a success, he replied that he wouldn't know until his five children had grown to adulthood. -- The Columbus Dispatch

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HOME -- DEVOUT FATHERS

1116 -- SON GETS AN HOUR A DAY

A young successful attorney said: "The greatest gift I ever received was a gift I got one Christmas when my dad gave me a small box. Inside was a note saying, 'Son, this year I will give you 365 hours, an hour every day after dinner. It's yours. We'll talk about what you want to talk about, we'll go where you want to go, play what you want to play. It will be your hour!'"

"My dad not only kept his promise," he said, "but every year he renewed it -- and it's the greatest gift I ever had in my life. I am the result of his time." -- Moody Monthly

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HOME -- DEVOUT FATHERS

1117 -- USUALLY FIRST TO SEE THE RABBIT

Scottish novelist Sir Walter Scott first gained fame with his poems of medieval families living on the English-Scottish border. Although Scott was well known, his son was ignorant of his father's literary fame, loving and admiring him for reasons closer to a boy's heart. Once, the younger Scott was in the company of some older people who were discussing his father's genius. "Yes," put in the boy, "He is usually first to see the rabbit." Apparently Sir Walter spent a good deal of time hunting rabbits with his son. That time together meant more to young Scott than all the novels his father would ever write.

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## HOME -- DEVOUT MOTHERS

### 1118 -- EISENHOWER'S HIGH REGARD FOR HIS MOTHER

Once I had a conversation with Dwight D. Eisenhower when he was President. I said, "Mr. President, you have known every great man of our time. Who is the greatest man you ever met?" Without an instant's hesitation he said, "The greatest person I ever met wasn't a man. It was a woman. It was my mother. She never had much schooling but she was wise in God's wisdom. She went to school to the greatest of all books, the Bible. And she acquired real wisdom." He said, "Once when I was a boy, my brothers and I were playing a game with my mother. The game was with cards -- not regular playing cards because she was too straight-laced for that -- but a hand of cards was dealt and I remember this night Mother dealt me an utterly impossible hand. And I began to complain about it.

"She said, 'Boys, put your cards down. I want to tell you something, especially you, Dwight. You are playing a game in your home with your mother under loving circumstances. We all love each other here and I have dealt you a bad hand. Now,' she said, 'when you get out in life where they don't love you so much, you are going to be dealt many a bad hand. What are you to do? You are to pray to God. You are to trust God and like a man you are to play out the hand that is dealt you.' "And," said Dwight Eisenhower, "that is one of the wisest things I learned in my youth." -- Norman Vincent Peale

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## HOME -- DEVOUT MOTHERS

### 1119 -- HIS GREATEST TEACHER

A London editor submitted a list of people to Winston Churchill who had been Churchill's teachers. Churchill returned the list with this comment, "You have omitted to mention the greatest of my teachers -- my mother."

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## HOME -- DEVOUT MOTHERS

### 1120 -- IT'S MOTHER

When you study some of the great, positive, history-making figures, you will often find they speak of the influence of a parent. Abraham Lincoln is quoted as saying, "All that I am I owe to my angel mother." General Douglas MacArthur said, "My sainted mother taught me devotion to God and a love of country which have ever sustained me. To her I yield anew a son's reverent thanks." The great preacher G. Campbell Morgan had four sons. They all became ministers. At a family



reunion a friend asked one of the sons, "Which Morgan is the greatest preacher?" With his eyes beaming with delight, the son looked over to his father and said, "Why, it's Mother!"

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HOME -- DEVOUT MOTHERS

1121 -- MOTHER'S TRANSLATION

I recently heard of four scholars who were arguing over Bible translations. One said he preferred the King James Version because of its beautiful, eloquent old English. Another said he preferred the American Standard Bible for its literalism, the way it moves the reader from passage to passage with confident feelings of accuracy from the original text. A third man preferred Moffatt because of its quaint, penetrating use of words, the turn of a phrase that captures the attention of the reader. After giving the issue further thought, the fourth scholar admitted, "I have personally preferred my mother's translation." When the other scholars chuckled, he responded, "Yes she translated it. She translated each page of the Bible into life. It is the most convincing translation I ever saw."

\* \* \*

HOME -- DEVOUT MOTHERS

1122 -- SUSANNAH WESLEY

Susannah Wesley, for example, spent one hour each day praying for her 17 children. In addition, she took each child aside for a full hour every week to discuss spiritual matters. No wonder two of her sons, Charles and John, were used of God to bring blessing to all of England and much of America. Here are a few rules she followed in training her children: "(1) Subdue self-will in a child and thus work together with God to save his soul. (2) Teach him to pray as soon as he can speak. (3) Give him nothing he cries for and only what is good for him if he asks for it politely. (4) To prevent lying, punish no fault which is freely confessed, but never allow a rebellious, sinful act to go unnoticed. (5) Commend and reward good behavior. (6) Strictly observe all promises you have made to your child."

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HOME -- DEVOUT MOTHERS

1123 -- THESE ARE MY JEWELS

The second century B. C. Roman aristocrat and matron Cornelia was considered the epitome of Roman motherly virtue for her dedication to the care and education of her children. Only three of her dozen children survived, but her two sons, Tiberius and Gaius, became famous reformers who lost their lives trying to reform the Roman state. One day when the two were still boys, Cornelia received a wealthy visitor. The woman proudly showed off her jewelry and then

asked Cornelia to bring out her jewels. Cornelia gestured toward her sons, who had just entered the room. "These are my jewels."

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HOME -- ETERNAL

1124 -- THE LIGHTS OF HOME

A fierce storm was sweeping the great lakes. A steam tug towing a barge began to founder. The captain and his mates took to a small boat. All night long they tossed to and fro, every instant in jeopardy of their lives. In the morning they were rescued by a passing ship. The captain afterward testified that all the long night as they were beaten and tossed by the tempest there was one thing which nerved their arms and kept their hearts from sinking in despair. It was this: shining through the darkness and the storm they saw the lights of home. -- James H McConkey

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HOME -- ETERNAL

1125 -- WHERE IS MY ETERNAL HOME?

All should desire to know where their eternal home is: A celebrated legal notability of Edinburgh. Coming home after a night spent in convivialities, he was confused and unable to tell his way to his own house in Picardy Place. He saw an industrious housemaid cleaning a doorstep, and went up to her asking, "Eh, my girl, can you tell me where John Clerk lives?" "Dinna speer at me," says the girl, "with your nonsense, when you're John Clerk himsel!" "Ay, ay," said he, "I ken, that vera well; but John Clerk wants to know where John Clerk lives." -- B.

\* \* \*

HOME -- PARENTAL PRAYERS

1126 -- BUILD ME A SON, LORD

Please read General Douglas MacArthur's prayer for his son. Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

Build me a son whose wishbone will not be where his backbone should be; a son who will know Thee and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge. Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail.

Build me a son whose heart will be clean, whose goal will be high; a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past.

And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor, so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength. Then I, his father, will dare to whisper, "I have not lived in vain."

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## HOME -- PARENTAL PRAYERS

### 1127 -- TROUBLED YOUTH

When Dr. R. A. Torrey was a young man, he had no faith in God or the Bible. His mother, however, was a devout Christian who constantly prayed for his conversion and often witnessed to him. One day he said to her, "I don't want to hear about my sins and your prayers; I'm going to leave and not bother you any more." With tear-filled eyes the woman followed him to the gate and pleaded with him to change his mind. But he would not be detained. Frantically she cried, "Son, you are going the wrong way, but when you come to the end of your rope and everything seems hopeless, call upon your mother's God with all your heart and He will surely help you!" After Torrey left home, he went deeper into the ways of sin.

One night in a hotel room he was unable to sleep. Weary from the problems pressing in on every hand, he decided to take the gun he kept in his dresser and end his life. Just as he reached for the weapon, he remembered his mother's last words. Convicted by the Holy Spirit, he fell on his knees and cried out, "O God of my mother, if there is such a Being, I need Your help. If You will give it to me, I'll follow You!"

In a moment his darkened heart was illumined, and peace filled his soul. Later R. A. Torrey became an outstanding evangelist who led thousands to Christ!

Are you discouraged because your children or teenagers aren't interested in the things of the Lord? Keep praying for them, loving them, and living a consistent life before them. Never underestimate the power of parental witness!

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## HOME -- SPIRITUAL, IN CHRIST

### 1128 -- TELL THEM TO COME HOME

Major Whittle's daughter said to her father who was soon to preach on short notice to a large crowd in an opera house in Pittsburgh: "Papa, tell them to come!" He did so, and God wonderfully blessed it to the conversion of many souls.

\* \* \*

## HOMELESS

### 1129 -- RAGGED CREDENTIALS

A minister, who operated an orphanage many years ago, told of a shivering boy in ragged clothing who came to his door for food and lodging. Just to see what the lad would say, the kindly director asked, "What are your credentials?" The youngster replied, "Credentials? I ain't got none! If these here rags ain't credentials enough, I don't know what is!" Naturally, he was admitted.

\* \* \*

## HONESTY

### 1130 -- A TEST OF HONESTY

A number of years ago the Douglas Aircraft Company was competing with Boeing to sell Eastern Airlines its first big jets. War hero Eddie Rickenbacker, the head of Eastern Airlines, reportedly told Donald Douglas that the specifications and claims made by Douglas's company for the DC-8 were close to Boeing's on everything except noise suppression. Rickenbacker then gave Douglas one last chance to out-promise Boeing on this feature. After consulting with his engineers, Douglas reported that he didn't feel he could make that promise. Rickenbacker replied, "I know you can't, I just wanted to see if you were still honest."

\* \* \*

## HONESTY

### 1131 -- HONESTY IN GOD'S SIGHT

A man was contemplating stealing a thing, and he looked all around to see if anyone was watching. A little child saw what he was doing, and asked him, "Did you look up?"

\* \* \*

## HONESTY

### 1132 -- IMPOSSIBLE!

Three boys were bragging about their Fathers: The first one said, "My Dad can shoot an arrow and make it to the target before the arrow hits it." The second said, "Well, my Dad can shoot a deer with a gun 500 yards away and be there to catch the deer before it hits the ground." The third said, "That's nothing. My Dad works for the city. And he can punch out at 4:30 in the afternoon and be home by 3:45!"

\* \* \*

## HONESTY

### 1133 -- LET THAT PRISONER GO FREE

Some where I have learned this incident: It is said that in some Eastern countries when one king visits another and visits the prison of that nation, he is permitted to celebrate the occasion by letting a prisoner to go free. Before the French and German war, it is said that the King of Germany visited France. Before going away, he visited a prison, and as he was about to leave, he celebrated his privilege. He said to the keeper, "Let out that prisoner." The door was unlocked and he stepped out. "What are you in here for?" said the prince. "I was put in, sir, for such and such a crime, but I never committed it." You know there are not many guilty men in the State prison. "Lock up that prisoner," said the prince.

He went to another cell. "Let out that prisoner. "What are you in here for?" "Sir I was incarcerated for such and such a crime, but I am innocent." "Lock him up." He went to the third cell, and asked that the prisoner be let out. "What are you here for?" I was put in here for such and such a crime, and I am guilty. I deserve more punishment that my sentence requires." "Let that prisoner go free," said the prince. That is the way that Jesus saves sinners. -- Albert P. Graves

\* \* \*

## HONESTY

### 1134 -- SOME TODAY WANT TO ABOLISH HONESTY

If things weren't already strange enough in today's society, now some people want to abolish honesty. One noted physician, for example, appeared on a network news-and-talk show and proclaimed, "Lying is an important part of social life, and children who are unable to do it are children who may have developmental problems."

I wonder, is the saying "Honesty is the best policy" becoming obsolete? Two surveys taken recently may indicate that many people think it is. A USA Today poll found that only 56 percent of Americans teach honesty to their children. And a Louis Harris poll turned up the distressing fact that 65 percent of high school students would cheat on an important exam.

\* \* \*

## HONOR

### 1135 -- HE RECEIVED A GREATER HONOR

During the renowned campaign from "Atlanta to the Sea," General Sherman had promoted General O. O. Howard to lead a special division. The night before the great review in Washington,

Sherman sent for his subordinate officer and said to him: "Howard, the political friends of the man whom you succeeded are bound that he shall ride at the head of his corps, and I want you to help me out." "It is my command," said Howard, and I am entitled to ride at its head." "Of course you are," replied Sherman. "You led them through Georgia and the Carolinas, but Howard you are a Christian and can stand the disappointment."

"Putting it on that ground, there is but one answer. Let him ride at the head of the corps." "You let him have the honor," said Sherman, "but you will report to me at 9 o'clock and ride by my side at the head of the whole; army." In vain, Howard protested, but Sherman said gently, but authoritatively, "You are under my orders."

So it happened. That the great Christian soldier with his empty sleeve rode at the head of the army at Sherman's side, and together they led the grand review.

That is in harmony with the statement of Jesus that whosoever abaseth himself shall be exalted. The crown is reached by way of the cross. -- H. F. Sayles

\* \* \*

#### HONOR -- DUE TO RELIGIOUS LEADERS

##### 1136 -- WHAT A DAD!

Three small boys were bragging about their dads. The first boy said: "My dad writes a few short lines on paper, calls it a poem, sends away, and gets ten dollars for it." "My dad," said the second, "makes dots on paper, calls it a song, sends it away, and gets twenty-five dollars for it." "That's nothing," declared the third boy. "My father writes a sermon on a sheet of paper, gets up in the pulpit and reads it, and it takes four men to bring in the money!"

\* \* \*

#### HOPE

##### 1137 -- MISPLACED HOPE

It is said, "While there's life, there's hope." This seems to describe the case of the six Navy pilots who left their aircraft carrier on a scouting mission during World War II, searching the seas for enemy submarines believed operating in the area. When they tried to return, they could not find their ship. It seems that while they were gone, the captain had ordered a war-imposed blackout of all lights on the ship. Over and over the frantic pilots radioed, asking for just one light so they could see to land. The pilots were then told of the blackout and that it could not be lifted even for them. After several appeals and denials of their requests, the ship's radio operator finally turned the switch to break radio contact. Rather than risk the lives of thousands on the ship, the pilots were forced to ditch in the cold Atlantic and from there into eternity. The pilots left the ship thinking they would be able to return, but found that this was misplaced hope. In what are you placing your hope? -- Carl D. Windsor

\* \* \*

## HOPE -- ETERNAL

### 1138 -- I WILL BE ALIVE WHEN YOU ARE GONE

A pastor had just received the news that he had a terminal illness. The next Sunday he said to his congregation, "I walked the 5 miles from the doctor's office to my home. I looked toward that majestic mountain that I love. I looked at the river in which I rejoice. I looked at the stately trees that are always God's own poetry to my soul. Then in the evening I looked up into the great sky where God was lighting His lamps and I said, 'I may not see you many more times, but mountain, I will be alive when you are gone. And river, I will be alive when you cease running towards the sea. And stars, I will be alive when you have fallen from your sockets in the great pulling-down of the universe.'"

A wonderful hope lies beyond the grave for all who are trusting Christ as their Savior. Death is not the end. Innumerable, indescribable, eternal glories await the child of God.

\* \* \*

## HOPE -- ETERNAL

### 1139 -- KEPT ALIVE BY HOPE

A few years ago the psychology department of Duke University carried on an interesting experiment. They wanted to see how long rats could swim. In one container they placed a rat for whom there was no possibility of escape. He swam a few moments and then ducked his head to drown. In the other container they made the hope of escape possible for the rat. The rat swam for several hours before finally drowning. The conclusion of the experiment was just the opposite of our common conclusion. We usually say, "As long as there is life, there is hope." The Duke experiment proved, "As long as there is hope, there is life." -- Bruster & Dale

\* \* \*

## HOPE -- FALSE

### 1140 -- KOREAN NEW YEAR

The Koreans have a curious New Year's custom. Desiring to forget unpleasant things and make a fresh start, each person determines what bad habits he would like to eliminate and what past deeds he wants forgiven. Then he writes the names of these evils on a kite and flies it high into the air. When it is almost out of sight, he cuts the string. As the "paper bird" takes a nose-dive and disappears from sight, he thinks that all his faults and previous transgressions are forever removed.

\* \* \*

HOPE -- FALSE

1141 -- TRUE HOPE IS MORE THAN AN ARGUMENT

A man despairing of happiness in life had climbed upon the parapet of the Brooklyn Bridge and was about to leap into the river when a policeman laid an arresting hand upon him and drew him back. But the man protested to the policeman saying, "You do not understand how miserable I am and how hopeless my life is. Please let me go!"

The kindhearted officer talked with him and said, "I will make this proposition to you: You take five minutes and give your reasons why life is not worth living, and then I will take five minutes and give my reasons why I think life is worth living both for you and for me. If, at the end of the ten minutes, you still feel like jumping from the bridge I will not stop you."

The man then took his five minutes, and the officer took his five minutes. The result was, at the end of the ten minutes, they joined hands and both leaped from the bridge! -- McCartney

Take this as nothing more than an attempt at humor. Nonetheless, hope is not an argument. Hope is a great instinct of the soul. -- Duane V. Maxey

\* \* \*

HOPE -- IN GOD

1142 -- GONE OUT -- BACK SOON

She was a physician's wife. He was a man of a strong, sunny nature who carried good cheer into his patient's homes to sustain them in weakness and discouragement, and still carried back enough to fill his own home. His frail wife needed all the sunshine and vigor of his personality to sustain her; and it did not fail. She seemed to live so much by the strength of his spirit that, when he passed away suddenly after a month of especially hard work, her friends said, "It will kill her!"

But the ties between husband and wife were too strong to be broken by the incident of death. The memories of the past were as real as his presence had been. The religious life and the faith in God that they two had shared together did not fail her. By the doorway of the living room, she fastened the card that he had sometimes left in short absences on his office door: "Gone Out -- Back Soon."

Those who came with consolation, went away themselves consoled. They felt, behind this frail form and lips that smiled while they quivered, a mysterious power, a spiritual experience that had united two souls in a marriage that death itself could not annul. More than one went out from her presence to find, in the years that followed, a strong, although secret, consolation in the deathless companionship through memory of his lost ones, and in the cheery suggestion of that brief



message. The Gospel of Jesus is in those four words: "Gone Out -- Back Soon." -- Youth's Companion

\* \* \*

## HOPE -- SPIRITUAL

### 1143 -- IS WHAT? IS MANIFESTED

A poor man who had spent a life of ignorance and sin, was found by a London clergyman apparently dying in a miserable garret. He was in great anxiety of mind from an apparently accidental cause. A stray leaf torn from a Testament had caught his eye. It was part of Romans chapter 3. He had read the vivid description of the ungodly man which that chapter contains, and saw its application to his own case. But where was the remedy, and where the gospel?

Alas, the paper was torn off in the middle of the twenty-first verse: "But now the righteousness of God without the law is..." "Is what?" said the anxious man. "Do the next words give any hope for such a sinner as I am?" The remainder of the verse and chapter was read and explained simply to him, and the good news of the gospel was "as cold water to a thirsty soul."

Rom 3:21-26 ...manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus... -- Dictionary Of Illustrations

\* \* \*

## HOPELESSNESS

### 1144 -- THE DISMAL PHILOSOPHY OF AN UNBELIEVER

Bertrand Russell was a man who had no faith in the Bible or God. He describes in eloquent terms the natural outcome of a life from which all faith in the resurrection of Christ is removed. He says: The life of man is a long march through the night, surrounded by invisible foes, tortured by weariness and pain, towards a goal that few can hope to reach and where none can tarry long. One by one, as they march, our comrades vanish from our sight, seized by the silent orders of omnipotent death. Brief and powerless is man's life, on his and all his race the slow, sure doom falls, pitiless and dark. Blind to good and evil, reckless of destruction, omnipotent matter rolls on its relentless way. For man, condemned today to lose his dearest, tomorrow himself to pass through the gates of darkness, it remains only to cherish, ere yet the blow falls, the lofty thoughts that ennoble his little day.

\* \* \*

## HOSPITALITY

### 1145 -- HITCHHIKING

The exact origin of this word is unknown but it apparently stems from the days when two men had to go on a journey with only one horse between them. One would start out on horseback, the other on foot. At a predetermined point the one on horseback would dismount, hitch the horse to a convenient tree and continue on via foot. Then the man who started on foot would catch up and pass the former rider. While alternating "hitching" and "hiking" the two travelers eventually reached their destination. Another version dates coinage of this word to coincide with the period of training of American boys in military camps in the first World War. Making their way home on a brief furlough, the young man would "hike" until a car or truck approached their way and then they would "hitch" a ride. The term soon thereafter passed into the general language and has become a recognized form of travel.

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY

### 1146 -- A REQUEST FOR THE ROOM NOBODY ELSE WANTED

Several years ago I read the story of Sammy Morris, a devoted Christian from Africa who came to America to go to school. Although his pathway to service for Christ was not easy, his difficulties never deterred him. Perhaps this was because he had learned genuine humility. One incident that showed this occurred when he arrived at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. He was asked by the school's president what room he wanted. Sammy replied, "If there is a room nobody wants, give it to me." Later the president commented, "I turned away, for my eyes were full of tears. I was asking myself whether I was willing to take what nobody else wanted."

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY

### 1147 -- AN HUMBLE COMMANDER, A PROUD CORPORAL

During the American Revolution a man in civilian clothes rode past a group of soldiers repairing a small defensive barrier. Their leader was shouting instructions, but making no attempt to help them. Asked why by the rider, he retorted with great dignity, "Sir, I am a corporal!"

The stranger apologized, dismounted, and proceeded to help the exhausted soldiers. The job done, he turned to the corporal and said, "Mr. Corporal, next time you have a job like this and not enough men to do it, go to your commander-in-chief, and I will come and help you again."

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY

### 1148 -- BANISH THOSE THOUGHTS

In a long letter received in late May 1782 by George Washington, Colonel Lewis Nicola -- respected officer who had served ably in the Revolutionary War -- complained about the inadequacy of Congress. The nation's treasury lacked the funds to pay off foreign loans and support the government, let alone pay the soldiers. To forestall complete chaos Nicola suggested that America become a monarchy, with the commander-in-chief as king. Washington's proposed title? George I of the United States. Washington responded at once: "If you have any regard for your Country, concern for yourself or posterity, or respect for me, banish these thoughts from your Mind." What an example of humility, in sharp contrast to the pride and arrogance found today in the city named for this great man.

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY

### 1149 -- HER CROWN WAS NOT WORN

At a reception honoring musician Sir Robert Mayer on his 100th birthday, elderly British socialite Lady Diana Cooper fell into conversation with a friendly woman who seemed to know her well. Lady Diana's failing eyesight prevented her from recognizing her fellow guest, until she peered more closely at the magnificent diamonds and realized she was talking to Queen Elizabeth! Overcome with embarrassment, Lady Diana curtsied and stammered, "Ma'am, oh, ma'am, I'm sorry ma'am. I didn't recognize you without your crown!"

"It was so much Sir Robert's evening," the queen replied, "that I decided to leave it behind."

That's the kind of quiet humility Jesus would have applauded. The queen could easily have grabbed the spotlight, but she willingly gave the place of honor to another.

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY

### 1150 -- JUST AS I AM

When Morales The painter was invited by Philip the Second to court, he came in such a magnificent costume that the King, in anger, ordered a sum of money to be paid him, and so dismissed him. The next time they met, he appeared in a very different dress, poor, old, and hungry, which so touched the heart of the King, that he immediately provided him with a revenue which kept him in comfort for all the future. So when men come to the throne of grace, it is not their magnificence, but their very want which touches the heart of God. -- W. Baxendale

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY

### 1151 -- MEETING CONDITIONS

A government official in India, who was engaged in irrigation work, came to the proprietor of a field and told him he was going to make it fruitful. To which the proprietor answered, "You need not attempt to do anything with my field; it is barren and will produce nothing." The official replied, "I can make your field richly fruitful if it only lies low enough." If you and I are willing to go down, down, down, Christ can make us fruitful. -- Gordon Watt

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY

### 1152 -- NO REASON TO BE PROUD

Two ladies at Shanghai once got to talking about Hudson Taylor, wondering if he was ever tempted to be proud. One of the ladies went and asked Mrs. Taylor. She did not know. But Mrs. Taylor went and asked Mr. Taylor. He was surprised and inquired, "Proud about what?" Mrs. Taylor replied, "Why, about the things you have done." Then immediately came this beautiful answer, "I never knew I had done anything." Mr. Taylor was right. He never had done anything, for it was God who had wrought in and through him. -- China's Millions

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY

### 1153 -- ONLY HALF RIGHT

A guest at an official reception once told President Abraham Lincoln that in the man's home state people said the welfare of the nation depended on God and Abraham Lincoln. "They are half right," the President humbly responded.

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY

### 1154 -- PETITION REJECTED

The London Times, some years ago, told the story of a petition that was being circulated for signatures. It was a time of great excitement and this petition was intended to have great influence in the House of Lords; but there was one word left out. Instead of reading: "We humbly beseech thee," it read: "We beseech thee." So, it was ruled out. My friends, if we want to make an

appeal to the God in Heaven we must humble ourselves; and if we do humble ourselves before the Lord we shall not be disappointed. -- D. L. Moody

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY

### 1155 -- TWO CONSTANT REMINDERS

Philip II, father of Alexander the Great and king of Macedon, was always accompanied by two men who had a very interesting duty. One man was to say to him each morning, "Philip, remember that you are but a man," while the second asked the king each evening, "Philip, have you remembered that you are but a man?"

Since we're not kings, most of us can't afford two people on our payroll just to keep us humble! But we can turn to God's Word -- anytime we need to be reminded that God delights in His people's humility, and indeed delights in lifting up the humble.

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY -- COMMANDED

### 1156 -- A QUOTATION FROM WATCHMAN NEE

Watchman Nee writes: Our spirit is released according to the degree of our brokenness. The one who has accepted the most discipline is the one who can best serve. The more one is broken, the more sensitive he is. The more desire to save ourselves, in that very thing we become spiritually useless. Whenever we preserve and excuse ourselves, at that point we are deprived of spiritual sensitivity and supply. Let no one imagine he can be effective and disregard this basic principle.

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY -- COMMANDED

### 1157 -- HE HAD THINGS REVERSED

A young seminary graduate came up to the lectern, very self confident and immaculately dressed. He began to deliver his first sermon in his first church and the words simply would not come out. Finally he burst into tears and ended up leaving the platform obviously humbled. There were 2 older ladies sitting in the front row and one remarked to the other, "If he'd come in like he went out, he would have gone out like he came in."

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY -- COMMANDED

## 1158 -- IT'S NO COMPLEX

A man paid a visit to his local psychologist. When the doctor asked him what had prompted the visit, the man said, "I'm suffering from an inferiority complex."

In the ensuing weeks, the psychologist put his new patient through an intensive battery of tests. Next came the long wait while the test results were tabulated and appropriate correlations were made.

Finally, the doctor called the man and asked him to return to the clinic. "I have some interesting news for you," the doctor began. "What's that?" asked the man. "It's no complex," the psychologist retorted. "You are inferior."

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY -- COMMANDED

### 1159 -- ONLY A COBBLER

William Carey, sometimes called "the father of modern missions," always seemed to have a humble spirit. In young manhood he had a job repairing shoes. As the years went by, honors were heaped upon him because of his many accomplishments. Yet this unassuming man would only accept positions and appointments that opened the way for him to do more work in Christ's service. Even at the zenith of his popularity, one of his most striking characteristics was his meek and selfless attitude. To emphasize this point, The Illustrator related an incident that occurred at a state dinner given in his honor. With a sneer a jealous English officer asked the host, "Wasn't your great Dr. Carey once just a shoemaker?" Before the man could reply, the renowned missionary, who was near enough to hear the remark, answered with quiet dignity, "No, sir, I was not that skilled. I was only a cobbler." Humility is one of the Christian's loveliest virtues; may God help all of us to obtain that rare and crowning grace!

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY -- COMMANDED

### 1160 -- REMEMBER WHAT THOU WAST

A story is told of an Oriental vizier who carried with him a mysterious chest of which no one knew the contents. One man asked him what the chest contained. He was allowed to look inside, but he saw only the common garb of a working man. The vizier said: "Such was I when our Sovereign deigned to lift me from the dust. If ever my heart is tempted with pride, I correct it by looking at these things, and saying, "Remember what thou wast." -- The Quiver

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY -- COMMANDED

### 1161 -- WHAT MELTED THEIR PRACTICED COMPOSURE

Walter Anderson made an interesting observation in his book *Courage is a 3 Letter Word*: Hundreds of times I have looked into the eyes of a successful person and asked, "When it is dark and you are alone, do you ever say to yourself, What will I do when they find out I'm me?" I've never failed to make a friend with the question. And I've never failed to get a nod. It was as if I knew who they were, that I understood and, because I understood, I could be trusted. I've seen the cool, disciplined, practiced composure of some of America's toughest business leaders melt.

\* \* \*

## HUMILITY -- PENITENCE

### 1162 -- TWO KNEES OR ONE?

William Dawson once told this story to illustrate how humble the soul must be before it can find peace. He said that at a revival meeting a little lad who was used to Methodist ways went home to his mother and said: "Mother, John So and So is under conviction and seeking peace; but he will not find it tonight, mother." "Why William?" said she. "Because he is only down on one knee, mother; and he will never get peace until he is down on both knees." Until conviction of sin brings us down on both knees, until we are completely humbled, until we have no hope in ourselves left, we cannot find the Saviour. -- Christian Herald

\* \* \*

## HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

### 1163 -- A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY?

Conscientious Citizen: "I couldn't serve as a juror, Judge. One look at that fellow convinces me he's guilty."

Judge: "Quiet! That's the District Attorney!"

\* \* \*

## HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

### 1164 -- A CONCISE ASSESSMENT

General Earle G. Wheeler, former Army Chief of Staff, witnessed the induction of a recruit on an inspection trip. The young man was being questioned by a sergeant: "Did you go to grammar school?" "Yes sir," the recruit answered. "I also went through high school, graduated from Knox

college, and took graduate study at Michigan and Harvard, where I got my Ph.D." The sergeant reached for a rubber stamp inked it and stamped the questionnaire with one word: "Literate."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1165 -- A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

"Last Chance For Twenty Eight-Cent Gas, State Line One Mile," said the sign at the station.

Motorist who had just filled his tank to cashier: "Say, by the way, how much is gas over across the state line?"

Cashier: "Twenty-Two Cents."

(Oh, for the days when either of those prices was in effect! -- D.V.M.)

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1166 -- A GOOD MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT CLINTON?

Nine-year-old Henry struck upon the idea of hiring his little brother as his servant. "I'll give you ten cents a week," he said. "O.K.," little Tom agreed. He then felt he'd offered too much money. "I can only pay you five cents a week after all!" he said. "O.K.," said Tom, just as cheerfully. Thinking he could get the child for even less, Henry said, "All I can pay is a penny a week." "Well, O.K.," said Tom, "but don't raise it any lower."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1167 -- A GOOD RECOMMENDATION

An Irishman in Kansas was brought before the judge for a petty offense. The judge asked if anyone present could vouch for his character. "To be sure, your honor, there's the sheriff." The sheriff looked amazed. "Your honor, I do not even know the man!" "Your honor," came back the Irishman quick as a flash, "I've lived in this country for more than twelve years, and the sheriff does not know me yet. Isn't that character for you?"

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS



#### 1168 -- A POINTED QUESTION

Old Lady (afraid of passing her destination, poking the car conductor with her umbrella):  
"Is that the First National Bank?"

Conductor: "No, madam, them's my ribs."

\* \* \*

#### HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

#### 1169 -- A POSSIBILITY NOT CONSIDERED

A man called up the doctor in the middle of the night and said, "Doctor, come over here right away! My wife is awfully sick. I think she is going to need an operation for appendicitis." The doctor said, "Man! You're crazy! Your wife couldn't have appendicitis. I took her appendix out myself six or seven years ago. Did you ever hear of a woman having a second appendix?" The fellow said, "No, Doc, but didn't you ever hear of a man with a second wife?"

\* \* \*

#### HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

#### 1170 -- A REVEALING INSIGHT

Junior: "Dad, did you go to Sunday School when you were a boy?"

Father (smugly): "I sure did. Never missed a Sunday."

Junior (turning to his mother): "There now, mother, don't you see? It won't do me any good either."

\* \* \*

#### HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

#### 1171 -- A WOODEN AUDIENCE

Joseph Chitty, the famous English judge, was one day listening to a particularly uninteresting case. It dealt with household goods and agricultural implements. After talking about the implements until the court was nearly asleep, the lawyer remarked: "And now, judge, I will address myself to the furniture." "You have been doing that for an hour already," replied the learned judge.

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1172 -- ACTS JUST LIKE HIM

Coming home from Sunday School, two girls were discussing the morning's lesson. "Do you believe there's a devil?" asked one. "Of course not," said the other. "It's just like Santa Claus. It's only your father."

(While seeing the humor in the above, I wish to say here that the reality of the devil's existence is no joking matter. It is a solemn fact, and woe unto the generation or individual who fails to take heed accordingly -- D.V.M.)

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1173 -- AN ACTIVE BUNCH

Questioner: "Uncle Amos, how many members have you got in your church?"

Uncle Amos: "Sixteen."

Questioner: "Are they all active?"

Uncle Amos: "Very much so -- eight of 'em fur me, and eight agin' me."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1174 -- AN ECONOMICAL REPLY

Science professor: "Give the most important fact about nitrates."

Student: "They're cheaper than day rates."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1175 -- AN ENLIGHTENING DISCOVERY

Teacher: "What is ignorance?"

Billie: "Ignorance is when you don't know anything, and then somebody finds out."

\* \* \*

## HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

### 1176 -- AN EXPENSIVE LESSON

P. T. Barnum, the showman, once received a letter from a Vermonter offering him a cherry-colored cat for \$600. Always on the lookout for a novelty for his show, Barnum sent the \$600 after getting the man's solemn word that the creature was cherry-colored. A crate arrived. Barnum opened it, and a black cat jumped out. Around its neck was a ribbon and from the ribbon hung a note which read: "Up in Vermont our cherries are black."

\* \* \*

## HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

### 1177 -- AN INTERESTING OBSERVATION

Young Actor: "I've got a job at last, father. Its a new play and I'm a man who has been married twenty years."

Father: "Splendid. That's a start anyway, my boy. Maybe some of these days they'll give you a speaking part."

\* \* \*

## HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

### 1178 -- AN UNANSWERABLE PRAYER

A little boy was observed by a minister in church praying very fervently; but, much to the pastor's surprise, he was also heard to say from time to time, "Tokyo, Tokyo, Tokyo." So when the service was over the minister went up to the boy and said, "Son, I was very pleased to see you praying so devoutly, but do tell me, why did you keep saying, 'Tokyo Tokyo Tokyo'?" The little boy replied, "Well, you see sir, I have just been taking my geography examination in school, and I have been praying to the Lord to make Tokyo the capital of France." -- Eric Roll

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## HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

### 1179 -- AN UNEXPECTED OBSERVATION

Two men were flying East in a passenger plane, making the first air trip of their lives. The plane touched down at St. Louis and a little red truck sped out to its side to refuel it. The plane

landed again at Cleveland, and again a little red truck dashed up to it. The third stop was Albany, and the same thing happened.

One man looked at his watch and turned to his companion. "This plane makes wonderful time," he said. "Yes," said the other, "and that little red truck ain't doin' so bad either!"

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1180 -- ATTENTION PLEASE

An old Tennessee farmer got quite a reputation for training the best mules in the South. Word got around, and a newspaper reporter thought he would go over and see if the story was true. He saw the old man and interviewed him, and he said, "Yes, that is exactly the way I train my mules with honeyed words and kindness." So the reporter did quite a story on this. It was featured on page one, and a little lady with the SPCA heard about it. Well, she was quite delighted, of course, that someone finally was treating mules with kindness, so she went over to see the farmer himself. She congratulated him and asked him if the story was true.

He said, "Oh yes, it is true. That is exactly the method I use. As a matter of fact, I am going to start training a new class shortly. Would you care to come down and watch?" She was very pleased and said, "Oh yes, I'd love to." So they walked down to the barnyard and he opened the gate and walked in and picked up a two-by-four and he slapped the mule hard. The little lady was furious and she said, "I thought you trained those mules with honeyed words and kindness." "Oh," he said, "I do. But first I have got to get their attention."

Sometimes I think that is the way we ought to handle our juvenile delinquency problem. --  
Don Whitehead

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1181 -- CAN'T SEE WHAT I WANT

Sign in an optometrist's office: "If you don't see what you want, you've come to the right place."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1182 -- CAPITALISM TODAY

Allan W. Dulles, former director of the CIA, reports a Moscow father was being complimented by a neighbor on his three sons: "You must be mighty proud of them," said the neighbor, "one of them a comrade doctor, another a comrade lawyer, and the third a comrade artist." "Yes, they are fine people's men, but the one I am really proud of is the fourth boy, who is in America. He's an American capitalist! Yes, indeed. He's unemployed, and on relief, and if it wasn't for the dollars he sends home we'd all starve."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1183 -- CAUGHT STRETCHING THE TRUTH

Fisherman: "It was that long...never saw such a fish in my life!"

Friend: "That, I can believe."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1184 -- CLIPPED

A man came into a barbershop with a small boy one day and explained that since he had an appointment in the neighborhood he would like his own hair cut first. This accomplished, he handed the small boy up into a barber chair, urged patience upon him, and departed. When the boy's haircut was finished, the man had not returned, and the barber sat him in a chair. A half hour passed. "Don't worry," said the barber reassuringly. "I'm sure your father will be back soon." The boy looked startled. "He isn't my father," he said. "He just came up to me in the street and said, 'Come along, let's both get a haircut.'" -- Foreign Travel

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1185 -- DID HE GET DRENCHED?

Wife at breakfast table: "Looks like rain."

Husband reading the paper: "Yeah, but it smells like coffee, anyway."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1186 -- DIDN'T BELIEVE IT

"I knew an artist who painted a cobweb so realistically that the maid spent several hours trying to get it down from the ceiling." "I just don't believe it." "Why not? Artists have been known to do such things." "Yes, but not maids!"

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1187 -- DON'T LICK YOUR INCISION

Lisa Owens was facing knee surgery. She was a bit nervous about it, so she asked her boss, the veterinarian at the clinic where she worked if he had any advice for her. He was very comforting and without any hesitation he told her, "Turn your worries into prayers, get plenty of rest and don't lick your incision." -- Reader's Digest

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1188 -- EARNEST BIBLE READING

Little girl: "Why does your Granny read her Bible so much?"

Little boy: "I dunno -- I think she's cramming for her finals."

(All, whatever age, should do the same -- D.V.M.)

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1189 -- EASY TO DIAGNOSE

A man went to see his doctor, complaining that he kept having the same two dreams on succeeding nights. The first night he would dream that he was a "teepee," and the next night he would dream that he was a "wigwam." Over and over again, he kept having those same two dreams. "What's the matter with me, doc," the man asked.

"No big problem," replied the doctor, "you're just two tents."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1190 -- ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Charles Sawyer, former U. S. Secretary of Commerce, told about the plane-load of people flying across the Atlantic, and a voice comes on the intercom: "We are now flying at 35,000 feet. If you will notice, out the right window, the two engines on that side are on fire, and the engines on the left had to be stopped. If you will look directly below, you will see a yellow sea recovery raft with six small dots on it. The dots are: the pilot, co-pilot, flight engineer, navigator, flight engineer, and two hostesses. This is a recording." -- O. M. James

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1191 -- ENERGY CONSERVATION

A farmer went into a big country store one day and heard a dog howling and barking in the rear of the store. "What is the matter with that dog?" he asked. "He's sittin' on a cocklebur," answered the storekeeper. "Well, why doesn't he get off of it?" asked the farmer. The storekeeper replied: "Because it takes less energy to howl and bark than it does for him to get up off of the cocklebur."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1192 -- FALSE ADVERTISING, BUT EFFECTIVE

Driving in Tennessee, I overtook a well-dressed man walking along the highway carrying a gasoline can. Naturally, I stopped and gave him a lift. But when I asked him how far it was to his car, he confessed that he had none. Turning the can upside down, he showed me its hinged bottom and the neatly packed clothing and articles inside. He had come from Tucson, Arizona in record time and said his "suitcase" never failed. -- John H. Brinn

One might apply this in various ways. The devil is good at getting unsuspecting people to "give him a lift," so to speak, and transport him toward his wicked goals. -- D.V.M.

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1193 -- FREE DISPOSAL SERVICE

"I ordered a dozen oranges, but you sent me only ten." "Part of our special service, madam. Two were bad, so we threw them away for you."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1194 -- GARBLED

Little Mary: "What is your new brother's name?"

Little Sally: "I don't know yet. I can't understand a word he says."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1195 -- HAD IT FIGURED OUT

Teacher: "If you had seven apples and I asked you for two, how many would you have left?"

Johnny: "Seven"

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1196 -- HADN'T SEEN THEM LATELY

An artist painting in the country had a farmer spectator.

"Ah," said the artist, "perhaps you too are a lover of the beauties of nature. Have you seen the golden fingers of dawn spreading across the eastern sky, the red-stained, sulfurous islets floating in the fiery sunset of the west, the ragged clouds at midnight, blotting out the shuddering moon?"

"Nope," said the farmer, "not lately. I've been off of the bottle for over a year."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1197 -- HE LEARNT THEM

"Well dear, and what did Mamma's little boy learn in school today?" "I learnt two guys not to call me 'Mamma's little boy.'"

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS



## 1198 -- HE MISSED!

"Sam," said the colonel to his cook, "I'm having special company on Thursday and I want your best turkey dinner. Now, none of your wild fowl. Get me a domestic, corn-fed turkey. Do you understand?"

"Yah, suh; yah, suh," replied Sam.

Came the festive affair. Placed before the colonel was a beautiful turkey. He was pleased until he made a first cut. Then he frowned. Then a second cut. He held his knife and called his cook from the kitchen.

"Sam, didn't I tell you I wanted a domestic, corn-fed bird?"

"Yah, suh; yah, suh, dat am a domestic, corn-fed bird."

"Well, then," said the colonel, "how about this buckshot?"

"Well, suh," said Sam, shuffling from one foot to the other, "yuh see, suh, dat shot war meant fer me!"

\* \* \*

## HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

### 1199 -- HE NEEDED THAT

An industrialist, though somewhat untutored, was about to receive an honorary doctor of laws degree from a rather hard-pressed college. After the initial reception the evening before, one of the more sensitive members of the faculty approached the president and said, "This man doesn't look like a scholar to me." The president said, "No, but he looks like a woman's dormitory to me."

After the occasion, the industrialist was riding in the back seat of his limousine with his wife. Patting his rather expansive stomach while smoking a large cigar and thinking of the beautiful words spoken about him at the doctoral ceremony, the industrialist said to his wife, "Dear, You know, there are not many great men in the country today." She said, "Dear, you are absolutely right. In fact, there is one less than you think."

\* \* \*

## HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

### 1200 -- HELPFUL

Somebody is always ready to lend a helping hand, if you have any trouble opening your pocketbook.

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1201 -- HIRED HIM

Among the questions asked in the examination of an applicant for a place on the Washington police force was this one: "What would you do to disperse a crowd quickly and quietly?"

The answer: "I'd pass the hat."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1202 -- HOW HE MADE IT

There he was, swimming in the cold water, battling heroically against the waves. "Just a half mile more," he thought, "and I'll make the shore." His strokes were getting weaker; he could hardly lift an arm any more. The beach was only a few yards away. His last efforts were too much: he began to grow dizzy. Then his head began to swim and carried him to the shore.

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1203 -- HOW MUCH DID HE TAKE?

When I was a considerably younger man, I always had a mental picture of an executive as someone like old Colonel Watterson who was publisher of the Louisville Courier Journal. Being a Kentuckian, I always looked up to the old Colonel as a great executive. When he walked through a news room or a business office, everyone mentally snapped to attention, and as the old Colonel walked out the door through the business office or the news room, he would usually reach over in the till and take what was there and walk out. This was all right. He owned the place; but it caused a little confusion among the bookkeepers.

Finally, one of the bookkeepers sent him a note. It said: "Colonel, please, when you take money out of the cash drawer, leave a note and tell me how much, so I can keep the record straight." So the next day the Colonel swept through the office and he reached into the till. This time he did leave a note. When the chief cashier got there he picked up the note and it said: "I took it all." -- Don Whitehead

(How much sin did Christ take away when He died for the whole world? He took it all. How much of His full salvation should we take? We should take it all. -- D.V.M.)

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1204 -- HOW'S THAT? ACCIDENT REPORTS

"A pedestrian hit me and went under my car."

"Coming home I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I haven't got."

"She suddenly saw me, lost her head -- and we met."

"I collided with a stationary bus coming the other way."

"I had been driving for 36 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had the accident."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1205 -- I MEAN, FRIENDS

A Minister who conducts a gospel program on a Detroit TV station read excerpts from viewers' letters of encouragement, taking care to display the donations clipped to each one. Then he looked straight into the camera and said earnestly: "and now, my dear funds..." -- Doris A. Paul

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1206 -- I MEAN, WEEKS AND WEEKS

Cedric Adams, broadcasting over WCCO in Minneapolis, urged his listeners: "Get Crisco All-Vegetable Shortening. Needs no refrigeration. Stays for weeks and reeks right there on your pantry shelf."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1207 -- I'M MY OWN GRANDPA!

A Philadelphia man wrote the following: "I married a widow with a grown daughter. My father fell in love with my stepdaughter and married her, thus becoming my son-in-law, and my stepdaughter became my mother because she was my father's wife. My wife gave birth to a son, who was, of course, my father's brother-in-law and also my uncle, for he was the brother of my stepmother. My father's wife became the mother of a son, who was, of course, my brother, and also my grandchild, for he was the son of my daughter. Accordingly, my wife was my grandmother because she was my father's mother-in-law. I was my wife's husband and grandchild at the same time. And, as the husband of a person's grandmother is their grandfather, I am my own grandfather!"

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1208 -- ILLUSTRATED

Science Professor to standing student: "Define density."

Student: "Well, I can't define it, but I can illustrate it."

Science Professor: "You illustrate it very well. You may sit down."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1209 -- IS IT POSSIBLE?

Some of us do not believe we are having a good time unless we are doing something we can't afford.

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1210 -- JUST FORGET THE WHOLE THING

Doctor (to patient): "Look at it this way. You're in excellent shape for a man of sixty-five. Forget the fact that you're only forty-five."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1211 -- KNEW WHAT TO DO

A friend of mine and I went to Coney Island, and we had a wonderful time. He knew what to see and what to avoid that wasn't worthwhile. The last attraction we visited was a shooting gallery, and there they had celluloid balls propelled by jets of water. The balls rose and fell, and when they fell, they fell out of sight. The idea was to hit them as you saw them. I shot all the cartridges in my rifle and didn't hit one of the balls. My friend picked up a gun, took careful aim, shot once, and all the balls fell!

I said, "Bill, that's the most wonderful shooting I ever saw in my life! How on earth did you do it?" Bill replied, "I shot the fellow working the pump!" It was just a matter of knowing what to do. -- James E. Gheen

(A good illustration of aiming to have the old man destroyed, instead of tried to knock down his uprising symptoms -- D.V.M.)

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1212 -- LARCENY IN THEIR HEARTS

Some years ago a clothier in Paris had 49 coats he could not sell. He explained his predicament to a business acquaintance. "I have marked the overcoats down fifty per cent," he said, "and still they will not buy. What shall I do?" "I will give you a list of provincial merchants," said the other. "Send seven overcoats to each, but send them an invoice for six only. They will think it is a mistake and will take advantage of it." A week later the overcoat man rushed into his friend's store in a great rage. "Fine advice you gave me," he shouted. "Each one to whom I sent the seven coats, and invoiced only six, returned the six mentioned in the invoice and kept the extra one."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1213 -- LIKE THE CARNAL NATURE

A scorpion, being a very poor swimmer, asked a turtle to carry him on his back across a river. "Are you mad?" exclaimed the turtle. "You'll sting me while I'm swimming and I'll drown." "My dear turtle," laughed the scorpion, "if I were to sting you, you would drown and I would go down with you. Now, where is the logic in that?" "You're right," cried the turtle. "Hop on!"

The scorpion climbed aboard and halfway across the river gave the turtle a mighty sting. As they both sank to the bottom, the turtle resignedly said, "Do you mind if I ask you something? You said there'd be no logic in your stinging me. Why did you do it?" "It has nothing to do with logic," the drowning scorpion sadly replied. "It's just my nature!"

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1214 -- MAKING LAZINESS LOOK INDUSTRIOUS

Foreman: "Hey, you! How come you're only carrying one sack and all the others are carrying two."

Worker: "I don't know, boss, I guess the other guys are too lazy make two trips like I do."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1215 -- MAYBE THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE

By the time a man learns to stand up for his rights, his arches have caved in.

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1216 -- MISPLACED SYMPATHY

"I feel sure, my poor man," said the sympathetic old lady, visiting a state prison, "it was poverty that brought you to this." "No, ma'am, quite the contrary," returned the prisoner. "I happened to be counterfeiting money."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1217 -- MISSED HIM

Back in 1932, in the depths of the depression, they invited President Hoover down to Charleston, West Virginia, to dedicate some sort of a public institution. He got there at eight o'clock in the morning, and was greeted by an appropriate committee, taken to a hotel for breakfast, and out to the scene of the ceremony about eleven o'clock. There were about twenty thousand people assembled. They had built a platform, and they escorted the President up on the platform. Immediately, they gave him the presidential salute of twenty-one guns. They boomed out from cannons close by. Everything was silent for a few moments after the final canon boomed. Then, a heckler in the crowd spoke out, and said: "They missed him!"

(I have used this to illustrate how one can miss having the old man slain if the loud noises produced at the altar are nothing more than shots fired in his honor, instead of for his execution -- D.V.M.)

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1218 -- MODERN CHILDREN KNOW TOO MUCH

Photographer: "Please smile and watch the little birdie."

Modern Youngster: "Oh, drop that 'little birdie' stuff! Get out your light meter and make some tests, adjust your lighting properly, and set your lens correctly so you won't ruin a sensitized plate."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1219 -- MORE INFORMATION THAN REQUESTED

The junior member of a firm of lawyers went several hundred miles to consult a client. When he arrived, he found he had forgotten his client's name. He telegraphed his partner, "What is our client's name?" The answer came: "Jones, Joseph H. Yours is Kent, Jasper T."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1220 -- MORE THAN HE EXPECTED

Johnny, ten years old, applied for a job as grocery boy for the summer. The grocer wanted a serious-minded youth, so he put Johnny to a little test. "Well, my boy, what would you do with a million dollars," he asked. "Oh, I don't know. I wasn't expecting so much at the start."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1221 -- MORE THAN ONE

Teacher: "Which month has 28 days in it?"

Johnny: "They all have."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1222 -- NEEDED: INFORMATION

A Navy chief petty officer in a Pentagon information office has this sign on his desk: "If you are looking for a little information check with me. I have as little as anybody around here."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1223 -- NEXT CASE

Judge: "Have you ever been up before me in the past?"

Accused: "I don't know, Judge. What time do you get up?"

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1224 -- NO NEED TO SEARCH FURTHER

An old mountaineer back in my part of the country fell in love with bass fiddle playing and he would walk for miles to hear somebody play a bass fiddle. Finally he found one in a secondhand shop and brought it home; it only had one string and he sat down for a couple of weeks sawing away on this thing. Finally his wife said, "John, why is it you don't move your hand up and down that string like the other bass fiddle players?" "Oh," he said, "I don't have to. I found what they was lookin' for." -- Don Whitehead

(This could be used to illustrate how those who have found the joy of full salvation need look no further. They have found what the world is unknowingly looking for -- D.V.M.)

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1225 -- NOT DESERVED

Freshman: "Professor, I really don't think I deserve a zero on that test."

Professor: "Neither do I, but it is the lowest grade I'm allowed to give."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS



1226 -- NOT HALF WAY

Usher: "How far down do you want to sit?"

One being ushered: "All the way. I'm very tired."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1227 -- NOT PLEASANT TO MEET

Two Irishmen met. Said the first, "How are you, Mike?"

"Terrible, terrible! " replied the other. "It is starvation that is staring me in the face." "Is that so," said the other. "It couldn't be very pleasant for either of ye, I'm shure!"

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1228 -- NOT QUITE

Professor: "What is a polygon?"

Student: "A dead parrot?"

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1229 -- NOT TO WORRY

First Business Partner: "Say, before we came out fishing here, we forgot to lock the safe!"

Second Business Partner: "What's the difference? We're both here, aren't we?"

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1230 -- OBTAINED ELSEWHERE

Customer: "Give me a pound of those grapes. My husband is fond of them. Do you know if they have been sprayed with any kinda poison?"

Clerk: "No, ma'am, you'll have to get that at the drugstore."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1231 -- OF COURSE

Teacher: "Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?"

Johnny: "At the bottom."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1232 -- ONE EXCEPTION

"You can take it as an elementary rule that when an article is sold it goes to the buyer," said the Economics professor.

"With the exception of coal," chirped the one student.

"And why coal?" asked the professor.

"When that's bought," said the student, "it goes to the cellar."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1233 -- OPPORTUNIST

Businessman: "As soon as I realized it was a crooked business, I got out of it."

Doubting Listener: "How much?"

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1234 -- OUT OF SYNCH

Neighbor to Johnny who was playing outside alone: "Where is your brother?"

Johnny: "Oh, he's in the house playing a duet. I finished first."

\* \* \*

## HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

### 1235 -- OVERWHELMED

Henry Luce got a new machine for mailing out ads to customers and prospective customers of Life Magazine. He put his data into the new machine and it worked great, until one day, the day of reckoning, came. It was one of those humid days in New York when everything in town sticks to everything else, and you get up from your chair and the chair gets up with you and you shake hands with a friend and you have to be pried apart. It didn't occur to anyone that the new machine might have gotten stuck just like the human beings were being stuck.

It was clicking away merrily. But the plates had gotten stuck in the machine, and nobody knew anything about it until a few days later when a lone sheepherder out in Montana suddenly received 12,634 letters asking him to buy Life. The little town had not had that much mail in its history. They had to hire a special truck to put all the letters in two big burlap bags and they delivered them to the sheepherder's porch.

That night when he came, wending his way slowly over the lea, he saw the mail on the veranda with some surprise, because he hadn't even gotten a postal card from the Book-of-the-Month Club for six months. He, carefully, opened one of the bags with a knife, and started reading his mail. After he read about thirty-four of these letters, he got the general idea. And he went into his little house and made out a check for \$6 and sent it personally to Mr. Henry Luce, with a note saying, "I give up." -- Bennett Cerf

(This might be used to illustrate how the overflowing manifestation of Christ's love can bring about the surrender of one who is overwhelmed by the repeated tokens of God's love for him. This flood might emanate from many, or from just one Spirit-filled Christian -- D.V.M.)

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## HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

### 1236 -- PAID IN FULL

A man received a big check for services rendered, and discovered that it was one penny short. A stickler for detail, he insisted that the difference be paid, and in due course received another check for the single penny. He presented it for payment at his bank. The teller examined it closely and then asked, "How would you like this, sir? Heads or tails?"

\* \* \*

## HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1237 -- PERSISTENCE PAYS

The life insurance agent called upon a big businessman at the close of a busy day. When the agent had been admitted, the big fellow said: "You ought to feel honored, highly honored, young man. Do you know that today I refused to see several insurance agents?" "I know," said the agent, "I'm them. "

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1238 -- PLENTY BIG ENOUGH

Friend: "That wasn't a very big account of your daughter's wedding in the paper this morning."

Father (sadly): "No, the big account was sent to me."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1239 -- PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Husband: "I am going to discharge our chauffeur. Four times recently he almost killed me. "

Wife: "Darling, give him another chance."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1240 -- RELIGION AFFECTED HIS MEMORY

A Northern tourist was visiting the little cabin of an old man known as Uncle Mose, who lived in a small Virginia town, and who often entertained visitors with stories of the "War Between the States." "I understand you remember seeing Lincoln," the visitor remarked. Uncle Mose looked sheepish. "No, suh," he replied. "Ah used to 'member seeing Massa Linkum, but since Ah jined de church Ah doan 'member seein' him no mo."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1241 -- SAID WHAT HE MEANT

Husband: "If a man steals, no matter what, he will live to regret it."

Wife: "You used to steal kisses."

Husband: "Well, you heard what I said."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1242 -- SATISFIED WITH ONE WEEK

Personnel Director: "Have you any reference?"

Applicant: "Sure, here's the letter: 'To Whom it may concern: John Jones worked for us one week and we're satisfied.'"

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1243 -- SOME PROMOTION!

"Just fancy that," exclaimed a proud mother after reading a letter from her son in the army. "They've promoted Henry for being the only one to have the nerve to hit that tough top sergeant. They've made Henry a Court Marshall!"

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1244 -- SPEAKING FRANKLY

First time speaker to experienced orator: "You're an experienced speaker. How would you have would you have given my speech?"

The older orator: "Under an assumed name."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1245 -- THE GREATEST MIRACLE

The greatest miracle was when Joshua told his son to stand still, and he obeyed him.

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1246 -- THE GREATER SOURCE OF SUFFERING

Once Clarence Darrow was visiting Brand Whitlock, then Mayor of Toledo, when an admirer of the great lawyer burst into the office and asked Whitlock to introduce him. "Ah, Mr. Darrow," gushed the intruder, "you have suffered a great deal in your life for being misunderstood, haven't you?" Darrow smiled wryly and replied, "Yes, my friend, but I haven't suffered half as much as I would have if I had been understood."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1247 -- THE RUN OF THE PLACE

First Wife: "My husband spends lots of time in his den. Does your husband have a den?"

Second Wife: "No, he just growls all over the house."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1248 -- THE UNGOLDEN RULE

In Denver, the members of a Sunday-school class were asked to set down their favorite Biblical truths. One youngster laboriously printed: "Do one to others as others do one to you." -- Denver Post

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1249 -- THE USUAL FORECAST

A preacher was running a temperature. His wife sent their daughter to the store to buy a thermometer, but she got things mixed up and bought a barometer. The preacher's wife popped it into his mouth for a while, then removed it. The barometer read: "Dry and Windy."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

## 1250 -- THEY CAME OUT OF CURIOSITY

Some years ago, a man hired the opera house in a small Pennsylvania town for one night, but engaged no ushers or other staff. About a month before the date for which he had rented the hall, he put a large sign on the most prominent billboard in town, stating in huge letters: "He Is Coming!" A week before the fateful night, this was replaced by: "He Will Be at the Opera House on October 31!" The day before the event there was the simple legend: "He Is Here!" The following morning: "He Will Be at the Opera House Tonight at 8:30!"

That night the man himself sat in the box office and sold tickets at \$1.00 a head to a capacity audience. When the lights went up inside, however, all the crowd could see was a huge sign reading: "He Is Gone!" -- S. J. Kaufman

I have used this to illustrate how Second Coming date-setters foster more unbelief about the fact of Christ's coming again. The people in the above story had their interest increasing built up concerning what turned out to be an empty hoax. Predictions concerning the time of Christ's return inevitably turn out to be empty and mistaken. Those foolish enough to believe such unBiblical predictions are always disappointed, and scorners are the more confirmed in their unbelief. Jesus said: "Watch." He did not say "Forecast" to others the exact day of his return. -- Duane V. Maxey

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## HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

### 1251 -- THIRTY DAYS

Judge: "Was the rock as large as my fist?"

Defendant: "Yassuh, Jedge, it was dat big, and maybe a little bigger."

Judge: "Was it as big as my two fists?"

Defendant: "Yassuh, Jedge, I 'spect it was bigger dan dat."

Judge: "Was it as large as my head?"

Defendant: "Jedge, it was as long, but I don't think it was as thick."

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## HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

### 1252 -- TOO MANY TIMES AROUND

One of former President Johnson's favorite stories was about the late Sen. Tom Connally of Texas. As the President told it, Connally, in a speech "down home," started talking about the beautiful piney woods of Texas, moved on through the bluebonnets, and out to the plains through the hill country, to the gulf, and started again on the piney woods of east Texas. While he was thus making the rounds of the state for the third time, an old man stood up in the back of the room and shouted to Connally: "When, you pass Lubbock the next time will you kindly let me off?"

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1253 -- TYPICAL GOVERNMENT "EFFICIENCY"

A civil service clerk received a document in the ordinary course of business. He initialed it, and passed it on to the superior for whom it was intended. It came back with a note attached: "This document did not concern you. Please erase your initials and initial the erasure."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1254 -- UNFORSEEN

A friend sent the late Gracie Allen a small, live alligator as a gag. Not knowing what to do with it, she placed it in the bathtub before going out to keep an appointment. When she returned home, she found a note from her maid:

"Dear Miss Allen: Sorry, but I have quit. I don't work in houses where there is an alligator. I'd a told you this when I took the job, but I never thought it would come up."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1255 -- WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW

I recall an experience I had in speaking to the Independent Banker's Association in Denver a few years back, when one of the most independent bankers, way in the back of the room, in the middle of my talk, suddenly hollered out, "You're stupid!" Well, that may be true, but you don't like it publicly acknowledged. And about five minutes later, again I tried to keep my aplomb when he said, "You're stupid!" I noticed a slight slur in his voice, so I was ready for him the third time. So when he said, "You're shtupid!" I said, "Yes, and you're drunk." And he said, "Yes, but tomorrow I will be sober and you will still be stupid." -- Walter Heller

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1256 -- WEATHER MANAGEMENT

Teacher: "What is it that often comes in like a lion, but goes out like a lamb?"

Little girl: "My daddy."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1257 -- WESTERN OBSCURITY

At a party in London an American from the West was asked by a lovely English girl what part of the states he was from. "Idaho," he told her. "Isn't that interesting," she said. "You know, over here, we pronounce that Ohio."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1258 -- WHAT A VOICE!

Singer: "How do you like my voice?"

Accompanist: "Lady, I've played the white keys. I've played the black keys. But you're the first one I ever saw that could sing in the cracks!"

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1259 -- WHAT HE REALLY APPRECIATED

A young dandy was seated opposite the famous artist, James McNeill Whistler, at a dinner one evening. During a lull in the conversation, he leaned forward toward the artist. "Ya know," he drawled, "I passed your house this morning."

"Thank you," said Whistler quietly. "Thank you very much."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1260 -- WHAT WORRIED HIM

A couple of soldier boys were crouched in a shell hole while a barrage whanged away over their heads. "Looka here, Rastus," said one. "Ain't you skeert?" "Not me," boasted the other. "Ain't no shell gonna come along what's got my name on it." "Me neither," says the first fellow. "I ain't worried about my name on no shell. What I am worried about is, maybe there's one gonna come our way marked: 'To whom it may concern.'"

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1261 -- WHY HE COULDN'T HEAR

A man was very hard of hearing, and went to the doctor. The doctor examined him and said, "I think you are drinking too much." He said, cupping his ear, "How is that, Doc?" And the doctor repeated, "You are drinking too much." The man said, "Maybe I am." "Well, the doctor said, "cut it out and see if you can't hear better." Six weeks later he came to see the doctor, and he was hearing perfectly. Six weeks more and he came back and he couldn't hear a thing, and the doctor said, "I thought, when you stopped drinking, you were hearing all right." He said, "I was, Doc, but I liked what I was drinking so much better than what I was hearing that I went back to drinking again." -- Mark Brown

(One might apply this to the pleasure derived from drinking in the things of God's Spirit causing a Christian to abandon the hearing of worldly things -- D.V.M.)

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1262 -- WHY HE WAS NEAR FREEZING

Two mountaineers were complaining about the cold. "Nearest I ever came to freezing," said one, "was when I was holding the lantern for my wife while she cut the kindling."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1263 -- WHY THE NUMBER WAS VIEWED FIRST

Sergeant: "What is the first thing to do when cleaning a rifle?"

Private: "Look at the number."

Sergeant: "And what has that to do with it?"

Private: "To make sure I'm cleaning my own."

(One might use this in regard to judgment and spiritual house cleaning. Each should make sure that he or she is cleaning up their own spiritual house instead of pointing to the dirt in some other persons life. -- D.V.M.)

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1264 -- WHY THE SENTENCE WAS WRONG

Teacher: "When I say 'I have went,' what is wrong with that sentence?"

Johnny: "It's wrong because you ain't went yet."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1265 -- WHY THEY NEVER MET

First friend: "Why don't we ever meet you at the Presbyterian church?"

Second Friend: "Because we belong to a different abomination."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1266 -- WILLING TO HELP

When a preacher prayed to the Lord to keep him humble and poor, one of the deacons whispered, "Lord, if You'll keep him humble, we'll do the rest." -- Atlas News

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1267 -- WORKING TO HAVE FUN

A Chinaman once described a bobsled ride as: "Whoooooosh. Walkee back two mile."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1268 -- WRONG CENTURY -- RIGHT ANSWER

Professor: "Think carefully, and state the number of tons of copper exported from the United States in any given year."

Student: "The year 1492 -- none."

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HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1269 -- WRONG IDEA

She: "Did anyone ever tell you how wonderful you are?"

He: "No, I don't think anyone ever did."

She: "Then I'd like to know how and where you got the idea."

\* \* \*

HUMOR -- FOR PROPER OCCASIONS

1270 -- WRONG REASON

"Why did the foreman fire you?"

"Well, the foreman is the man who stands around and watches others work." "Yes, but why did he fire you?" "He got jealous of me. A lot of the fellows thought I was the foreman!"

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HUSBANDS AND WIVES -- DUTY OF HUSBANDS

1271 -- ONE OF HIS AXIOMS

Rod Weckworth of West Sacramento, California says that his life has been guided by several axioms and one of those axioms is "Never argue with your wife while she is packing your parachute." -- Associated Press

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HUSBANDS AND WIVES -- DUTY OF HUSBANDS

1272 -- SHE WHO KNOWS

"If I wanted to find out whether a man was a Christian, I wouldn't go to his minister. I would go and ask his wife. If a man doesn't treat his wife right, I don't want to hear him talk about Christianity. What is the use of his talking about salvation for the next life if he has no salvation for this? We want a Christianity that goes into our homes and everyday lives." -- Dwight L. Moody

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## HYPOCRISY

### 1273 -- A QUICK SWITCH FROM GLOATING TO KISSING

The death of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin is reputed to have been caused by a seizure suffered at a meeting of the Presidium, the Communist party executive committee. Livid with fury, Stalin leaped from his seat, only to crash to the floor unconscious. While other Presidium members stared at the prone figure, scheming bureaucrat Laverenti Beria jumped up and danced around the body shouting, "We're free at last! Free at last!" But as Stalin's daughter forced her way into the room and fell on her knees by her father, the dictator stirred and opened one eye. Beria at once dropped down beside Stalin, seized his hand, and covered it with kisses.

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## HYPOCRISY

### 1274 -- AN INVALID VCR COMPLAINT

Hypocrite: Someone who complains that there is too much wickedness and violence on his VCR. Adapted from Reader's Digest, October 1991

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## HYPOCRISY

### 1275 -- ARE YOU REAL?

The famous actor Robert Redford was walking one day through a hotel lobby. A woman saw him and followed him to the elevator. "Are you the real Robert Redford?" she asked him with great excitement. As the doors of the elevator closed, he replied, "Only when I am alone!"

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## HYPOCRISY

### 1276 -- CONGRESSIONAL HYPOCRISY

Congress passed a law in 1988 to mandate a drug-free work place. Congress made a drug-free work place. Congress made a big to-do about requiring all agencies of government and industry to police the situation, to refuse to hire drug-users, to rehabilitate or dismiss users of drugs. Congress itself is ignoring its own anti-drug law. Heritage Foundation surveyed Congress to discover that most Senators and House members ignore the law. And there's evidence drug use is as much a problem in the halls of congress as any place and yet three of four members of Congress neither test nor discipline employees found to be using drugs. -- Associated Press, 3-28-91

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## HYPOCRISY

### 1277 -- DIDN'T PRACTICE WHAT HE PREACHED

A pastor was on a guided tour of a mission field. The leader of the group asked him if he would be willing to greet the believers and deliver a brief message when they arrived. He consented, but was somewhat reluctant because of the language barrier. The guide, who was familiar with the country, tried to put him at ease by explaining, "I'll interpret for you. We'll practice a few times before the service. I'm sure you'll have no difficulty." "I'll try," replied the pastor, "even though I'm not in the habit of practicing what I preach!" We may smile at what the pastor said, but his words express a problem we all face as Christians: We don't always practice what we preach.

\* \* \*

## HYPOCRISY

### 1278 -- HE WAS THE FIRST

How quickly greatness fades! Before he attacked Russia, Napoleon Bonaparte seemed to have the world at his feet. But the Russian invasion turned into a debacle and Napoleon, fearing his position at home was in danger, left the French army and hurried back to France almost unaccompanied. Arriving at a river crossing, Napoleon inquired of the ferryman whether many deserters had come that way. "No," replied the Russian, "you are the first."

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## HYPOCRISY

### 1279 -- JESSE JAMES' HYPOCRISY

Jesse James killed a fellow in a bank robbery and shortly thereafter was baptized in the Kearney Baptist Church. Then he killed another man, a bank cashier, and joined the church choir and taught hymn-singing. He liked Sundays, Jesse did, but he couldn't always show up at church. On two Sundays, he robbed trains.

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## HYPOCRISY

### 1280 -- NO SMOKE DETECTOR IN THAT HOUSE

A Scottsdale, Arizona man awakened in his bedroom to the smell of smoke. But flame and smoke were already filling the hallway outside and the flames quickly spread and the man barely managed to get out. There was no smoke detector in the house. Scottsdale law requires smoke detectors in all houses, but there was no smoke detector in this house. And this house is owned by a fire department fire-prevention officer. -- Associated Press, 5-7-91

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## HYPOCRISY

### 1281 -- WHERE THE CODE VIOLATIONS WERE FOUND

All of us should appreciate the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. That's where good firemen go to become better firemen. Thousands of them each year -- career and volunteer firefighters -- go to the National Fire Academy to learn the latest in fire prevention, firefighting and fire department management. While on that campus the current class in fire prevention was challenged to a competition. Students at the National Fire Academy were sent forth to see which student could find the most fire code violations in any one building -- they could choose any building. The winner of the competition found and confirmed 180 separate fire code violations in one building. By the way, he discovered that building without leaving the campus. -- Associated Press 10-17-90

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## HYPOCRISY

### 1282 -- WHO WILL TEACH HIS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS?

I'm sure you've heard the old story about the two men who met on the street. One said to the other, "Have you heard about Harry? He embezzled the company out of half a million dollars." The other man said, "That's terrible; I never did trust Harry." The first man said, "Not only that, he left town and he took Tom's wife with him." The other man said, "That's awful; Harry has always been a ne'er-do-well." The first man said, "Not only that, he stole a car to make his getaway." The other man said, "That's scandalous; I always did think Harry had a bad streak in him." The first man said, "Not only that, they think he was drunk when he pulled out of town." The other man said, "Harry's no good. But what really bothers me is, who's going to teach his Sunday School Class this week?"

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THE END