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

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JEALOUSY -- HUMAN

1339 -- ARE YOU A CRAB?

Charles L. Allen in *The Miracle of Love* writes of a fisherman friend who told him that one never needs a top for his crab basket. If one of the crabs starts to climb up the sides of the basket, the other crabs will reach up and pull it back down. Some people are a lot like crabs.

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JEALOUSY -- HUMAN

1340 -- JEALOUSY SHOULD NOT DENY THE MASTER

Mendelssohn, it is said, once visited that cathedral at Fridbourg, and, having heard the great organ, went into the organ loft and asked to be allowed to play it. The old organist, in jealousy for his instrument, at first refused, but was afterward prevailed on to allow the great German composer to try the colossal "thunder" of the cathedral. And after standing by in an ecstasy of delight and amazement for a few moments, he suddenly laid his hands on the shoulders of the inspired musician and exclaimed: "Who are you? What is your name?" "Mendelssohn," replied the player. "And can it be! that I had so nearly refused to let Mendelssohn touch this organ!" How little the Lord's people know what they are doing when they refuse to let Christ have full possession of their entire life and evoke the full melody and harmony of which it is capable!

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JEALOUSY -- HUMAN

1341 -- THE WORK OF ENVY

Many years ago Michelangelo, the sculptor, and Raphael, the painter, were commissioned to execute works of art for the beautification of the Vatican. Although each had a different job to do and both were highly respected, there arose such a bitter spirit of rivalry between them that at last they would not even speak when they met. Their jealous attitude toward one another was obvious to all who knew them. The most amazing part of it all was that both were supposed to be doing their work "for the glory of God."

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JOURNEY TO HEAVEN

1342 -- BILLY BRAY, AT HIS JOURNEY'S END

When Billy Bray was taken with his last illness, he asked: "Well, doctor, how is it?" "You are going to die" "Glory, glory be to God! I shall soon be in Heaven!" He then added in a low tone, and in his own peculiar way, "When I get up there shall I give them your compliments, doctor, and tell them you will be coming, too?" -- The Witness

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JOURNEY TO HEAVEN

1343 -- WHY HE DIDN'T MIND THE JOURNEY

A small boy sat quietly in a seat of the day coach on a train running between two of the Western cities in the United States. It was a hot, dusty day, very uncomfortable for traveling, and this particular ride was perhaps the most uninteresting day's journey in the whole land. But the little fellow sat patiently watching the fields and the fences hurrying by, until a motherly old lady, leaning forward, asked sympathetically, "Aren't you tired of the long ride, dear, and the dust and the heat?" The lad looked up brightly, and replied, with a smile, "Yes, ma'am, a little, but I don't mind it much, because my father is going to meet me when I get to the end of it."

What a beautiful thought it is that when life seems wearisome and monotonous, as it sometimes does, we can look forward hopefully and trustingly, and like the lonely little lad, not "mind it much" because our Father, too, will be waiting to meet us at our journey's end! Father will meet us at the end of the journey, thank God! -- Bible Expositor

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JOY

1344 -- A MERRY HEART CAN BE GOOD MEDICINE

If you want to live longer and have a more effective witness for Christ, let his joy in your heart spill over into happy laughter. When you laugh, your diaphragm goes down, your lungs expand, and you take in two or three times more oxygen than usual. As a result, a surge of energy runs through your body.

Dr. James J. Walsh said, "Few people realize that their health actually varies due to this factor. Happy individuals recover from disease much more quickly than sad, complaining patients; and statistics show that those who laugh live longer."

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JOY -- EARTHLY

1345 -- UNDER CONSTRUCTION

One of those huge graders goes to work on a highway repair job. When the machine is operating on a busy road, traffic is halted and the cars lined up in opposite directions are allowed to proceed alternately. A veteran operator of one of those big machines decided one day to try to relieve the tension that inevitably results from such a traffic backup. Consequently on both the front and rear of his grader a sign now appears, declaring, "The Road to Happiness is Almost Always Under Construction."

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JOY -- EARTHLY

1346 -- YOU HAVE TO CATCH IT YOURSELF

It is said that as Benjamin Franklin concluded a stirring speech on the guarantees of the Constitution, a heckler shouted, "Aw, them words don't mean nothin' at all. Where's all the happiness you say it guarantees us?" Franklin smiled and replied, "My friend, the Constitution only guarantees the American people the right to pursue happiness; you have to catch it yourself."

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JOY -- SPIRITUAL

1347 -- RING THE BELLS.

Massena, one of Napoleon's generals, suddenly appeared with eighteen thousand men before an Austrian town which had no means of defense. The town council had nearly decided to surrender when the old dean of the church reminded them that it was Easter and begged them to

hold services as usual and to leave the trouble in Gods hands. This they did; and the French hearing the church bells ringing joyfully concluded that an Austrian army had come to relieve the place and quickly broke camp. Before the bells ceased ringing, all the Frenchmen had vanished.

The incident has often been duplicated in individual lives. They have rung the joy bells in the face of pain, and sickness, and poverty, and fear, and loneliness, and all other trials. Then the joy bells have conquered. Speedily, the foe has slunk away. Speedily, the bell ringers have found themselves in possession of the field. For no enemy is quite so strong as faith companioned with good cheer. -- Amos R. Wells

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JUDGMENT -- FINAL

1348 -- FEAR OF JUDGMENT

It is said an Hungarian king, finding himself on a certain day depressed and unhappy, sent for his brother, a good-natured, but rather indifferent prince. To him, the king said: "I am a great sinner and fear to meet God." Here was a king facing Job's question: "What shall I do when God riseth up? And when He visiteth, what shall I answer Him?" But the prince only laughed at him, and treated the matter as a joke, just as some of you are doing now. This did not serve to relieve the royal unhappiness. When you get a vision of your guilt before God, you want help, and your friends may laugh at your seriousness but that will never answer the question.

It was a custom in Hungary at that time, that if the executioner at any time sounded a trumpet before a man's door, it was a signal that he was to be led forth to execution. The king sent the executioner in the dead of night to sound the fatal blast before his brother's door. The prince, awaking from sleep, realized its awful import. Quickly dressing, he stepped to the door and was seized by the executioner, and dragged, pale and trembling, into the king's presence.

In an agony of terror, he fell upon his knees before his brother and begged to know in what way he had offended him. "My brother," answered the king, "if the sight of a human executioner is so terrible to you, shall not I, having grievously offended God, fear to be brought before the judgment seat of Christ?"

The sense of sin makes every sinner fear to face God. We are reminded in the Bible that "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." -- O. A. Newlin

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JUDGMENT -- FINAL

1349 -- JUDGMENT DAY FORGOTTEN

Is it not foolish to be living in this world without a thought of what you will do at last? A man goes into an inn, and as soon as he sits down, he begins to order his wine, his dinner, his bed;

there is no delicacy in season which he forgets to bespeak. He stops at the inn for some time. By and by, the bill is forthcoming, and it takes him by surprise. "I never thought of that! I never thought of that!" "Why," says the landlord, "here is a man who is either a born fool, or else a knave. What! Never thought of the reckoning, never thought of settling with me !"

After this fashion, too many lie. They eat and drink and sin, but they forget the inevitable hereafter, when, for all deeds done in the body, the Lord will bring us into judgment. -- C. H. Spurgeon

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JUDGMENT -- FINAL

1350 -- PRE-OCCUPIED UNTIL TOO LATE

Archimedes was so fond of mathematical problems that, when the city in which he was residing was stormed, he did not know it. He heard not the whizz of the arrows that were shot into the market place; he heard not the tramp of the armed men that marched to the forum of the conquered city. He was busy in his study with his triangles and squares and obstruse calculations. He heard not, when the very street in which he was, was stormed; he heard not when the soldiers entered his house; and it was not till a soldier came and plucked him by the sleeve that the calculating philosopher lifted his head and realized that the soldier had business with him "What had he to say to it?"

Ah, Glasgow businessman, I would not be your friend if God, giving me a little light, I left you alone with your stocks and shares. You hear not the inrush of the great stream of hastening judgment. You hear not the step of the last enemy; and you will not, till he will come into your office and pluck you by the sleeve, and you say: "Have you come already!?" -- John Robertson

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JUDGMENT -- FINAL

1351 -- TRAPPED!

A Boston shoplifter was caught in a comical way. He had stolen a muff in a department store, and ran with it to the escalators; but instead of boarding the one going down, in his haste he took the ascending stairway. He tried hard to run down but was confronted by the ascending passengers, while all the time the merciless steps were rising. Finally, in spite of his frantic efforts, he was borne back to the head of the stairs again where he found a policeman awaiting him.

This is just a picture of the difficult ways of sinners. They try to escape with their booty, but they find all the ways of providence running against them. Everything conspires to their discovery. "Be sure your sin will find you out." The sinner is his own detective. If there is no policeman at hand, he will arrest himself. If the police wagon is out of commission, he will run to

the courtroom. Remorse is sterner than any judge, and a guilty conscience is more terrible than any prison. Be certain of this: If you sin, the entire universe will become an escalator going the wrong way! -- Amos R. Wells

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JUDGMENT -- OF GOD

1352 -- THE SLEEPING JUDGE

Judge Doddridge, an English judge was commonly called "The Sleeping Judge." Indeed, he had an affected drowsy posture on the Bench, inasmuch that many persons unacquainted with his custom, have even given up all for lost, expecting no justice from a dormant judge. He, all the while, did only retire himself within himself the more seriously to consult with his own soul about the validity of what was alleged. The fact that he was not really sleeping was afterwards proven by the fitting oracles of law which he pronounced in the judgment of the cases which he tried.

Wicked men, in like manner, erroneously suppose God to be a sleeping God; but in due time He will assuredly confute their mistake. -- Thomas Fuller

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JUDGMENT -- OF OTHERS

1353 -- FALSE JUDGMENT REGRETTED TOO LATE

In a log cabin in the woods, after the battle of Bull Run, General Bee lay dying. His only words were: "Find Imboden! Find Imboden!" Imboden had blamed his superior officer, Bee, and cursed him bitterly for leaving him and his battery unsupported. The dying Bee had learned of this and wished to tell Imboden with his own lips that he had given orders for his relief. All through the night, the men were scouting the fields and the woods riding up and down the country roads, searching for Imboden.

At length, they found him and brought him to the cabin where Bee was dying. Full of regret now, and remorse too, that he had so mistaken the action of his superior officer, Imboden took Bee by the hand and called him by name. No curses now, he spoke softly, fondly; filially. But there was no answer! Too late now; dying Bee, to make your explanation! Too late now, fierce-looking Imboden, to take back your reckless and mistaken curses.

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JUDGMENT -- OF OTHERS

1354 -- HAND OVER THE WALLET!

John was driving home late one night when he picked up a hitchhiker. As they rode along, he began to be suspicious of his passenger. John checked to see if his wallet was safe in the pocket of his coat that was on the seat between them, but it wasn't there! So he slammed on the brakes, ordered the hitchhiker out, and said, "Hand over the wallet immediately!" The frightened hitchhiker handed over a billfold, and John drove off. When he arrived home, he started to tell his wife about the experience, but she interrupted him, saying, "Before I forget, John, do you know that you left your wallet at home this morning?" The scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day were quick to judge others while not recognizing faults far worse in their own lives. Jesus rebuked them for seeing a speck in another man's eye while they had a plank blocking their own vision.

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JUDGMENT -- OF OTHERS

1355 -- IT'S YOU

How quick we are to censure and criticize others! How prone we are to detect the "mote" in our brother's eye, and overlook the "beam" in our own eye. A lady in Switzerland bought a small package of greatly aged cheese. Putting it into her handbag, she continued her shopping in different stores. She was greatly repelled at what she thought to be the malodor of the different clerks encountered. Her thoughts ran something like this: "How can these ill-smelling clerks maintain their positions?" Imagine her embarrassment when, upon opening her hand bag, she discovered that it was she, not others, who was responsible for the offensive odor! -- W. B. Knight

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JUDGMENT -- OF OTHERS

1356 -- JUDGES JUDGE THEMSELVES

A man was complaining of his neighbors. "I never saw such a wretched set of people," he said, "as are in this village. They are mean, greedy of gain, selfish, and careless of the needs of others. Worst of all, they are forever speaking evil of one another." "Is it really so?" asked an angel who happened to be walking with him. "It is indeed," said the man. "Why, only look at this fellow coming toward us! I know his face, though I cannot just remember his name. See his little shark-like, cruel eyes, darting here and there like a ferret's, and the lines of covetousness about his mouth! The very droop of his shoulders is mean and cringing, and he slinks along instead of walking." "It is very clever of you to see all this," said the angel, "but there is one thing which you did not perceive; that is a looking glass we are approaching." -- Gospel Herald

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JUDGMENT -- OF OTHERS

1357 -- JUDGMENTAL PEOPLE COLOR BLIND

A minister was asked by a Quaker lady, "Does not thee think that we can walk so carefully, live so correctly, and avoid every fanaticism so perfectly, that every sensible person will say, "That is the kind of religion I believe in?" He replied, "Sister if thee had a coat of feathers as white as snow, and a pair of wings as shining as Gabriel's, somebody would be found somewhere on the footstool with so bad a case of color blindness as to shoot thee for a blackbird." -- Biblical Illustrator

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JUDGMENT -- OF OTHERS

1358 -- MISDIRECTED SKILL

Judging one another is Satan's trick to get Christ's soldiers to destroy themselves. During the Peninsular War, an officer of artillery had just served a gun with admirable precision against a body of men posted in a wood to his left. When the Duke rode up, after turning his glass for a moment in the direction of the shot, he said, in his cool way: "Well aimed, Captain, but no more. They are our own 39th!" This blunder has been repeated sadly too often in the Lord's army. With what fatal frequency have great guns of the church, which might have battered down the citadel of Satan been misdirected against the Christian brethren! -- Choice Gleanings Calendar

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JUDGMENT -- OF OTHERS

1359 -- MY PASTEL, PINK AND WHITE SHIRT

When I was about 20 years of age living at the Bancroft Hotel in Payette, Idaho, I had a job selling Hertel Family Bibles. One day, as I was traveling along between Ontario and Nyssa, Oregon, I saw a man walking along the side of the highway and decided to pick him up. I sized him up to be an alcoholic bum, but took a notion to help him.

I drove him back to Payette with me. I had just moved out of a rooming house into the hotel, several days before my rent was up. So, I took the "bum" over to the rooming house to stay in my vacated room. I brought him up to my hotel room and gave him several of my shirts, and while he was there I had stepped out of the room briefly. I took him up to the restaurant where I ate and made arrangements for him to eat some food on my meal ticket.

Maybe the next day or so, I saw him wearing a pastel, pink and white, stripped shirt, just like my favorite shirt. I thought: "While I stepped out of the room the other day, he snatched my favorite shirt and took it along with the ones I had given him. I took him over to the hotel with me, and I had him stay down in the lobby while I went up to make sure that shirt wasn't still in my closet. Sure enough, it was gone.

I told the "bum," in no uncertain terms, that I wanted my shirt back! He avowed that it wasn't my shirt. I told him that I had checked my closet, and the shirt wasn't there, and I wasn't

going to argue with him; I simply meant to have my shirt back. He said, "It isn't your shirt, but you can have it."

I took him over to the rooming house; he went in, changed out of the shirt, and came out to my car and handed me the shirt. Then, I went over to the Cafe, and told them what he had done, and instructed them to give him no more meals on my ticket.

As I left the cafe, I stepped down off the curb. I was wearing a jacket. Holding the shirt that I "retrieved" from the "bum," I just happened to notice through the unzipped portion of my jacket, that I was wearing a shirt identical to the one I had in my hand! I had been so certain that this "ungrateful bum" had stolen my pastel, pink and white, striped shirt, and I had never noticed that I was wearing it myself, under my jacket! How totally wrong I had been in my judgment of that man's actions.

I went back into the cafe and, with chagrin, I told them of my error. Then, I went and apologized to the bum. His later behavior proved my judgment of him as an alcoholic "wino" to be true, but he had not stolen my shirt.

Christians should beware of jumping to conclusions about others, even when most of their evaluations about those others may be right. In some instances, if you jump to such conclusions, you may need to go back and apologize after you discover that you, yourself, are "wearing" the error, instead of the one you are judging. -- Duane V. Maxey

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JUDGMENT -- OF OTHERS

1360 -- RASH JUDGMENT BY ELI OF HANNAH

Eli looked on the outward appearance, and judging by outward appearance, a drunken woman had come into the tabernacle and deserved to be put out and rebuked. What he did not know about the bitterness of Hannah's soul, the taunts which the polygamous household had heaped upon her, her unseen strivings in prayer, the holy mysterious woman's hope that beat within her breast. Of Eli's motive in judging, of his zeal, or the purity of the house of God, no fault could be found, but his knowledge was imperfect. -- McCartney

It is my belief that perhaps Eli was in the habit of quickly passing judgment upon those outside of his household, while sinfully failing to judge his vile sons. His words to them concerning their awful wickedness were apparently nothing more than a mild protest, but perhaps often his words to others who were guilty of little, or nothing, were very severe and harsh. -- Duane V. Maxey

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JUDGMENT -- OF OTHERS

1361 -- RASH JUDGMENT OF A MORTALLY WOUNDED SOLDIER

In his diary, a lieutenant colonel of a Northern regiment relates this incident which took place near Berryville, Virginia during the Civil War:

In the gathering darkness, while the battle was still raging, the colonel saw three men going toward the rear and leaving the battle. Two of them were supporting their companion that limped between them. This was a favorite dodge of cowards, to pretend that they were carrying a wounded comrade to the rear and so escape the perils of the battlefield. Convinced that this was another case of pretended injury and wounds, the angry colonel stopped the three men and ordered them to go back to the firing line. The man who was being helped protested that he was wounded, and badly wounded. But the angry colonel said to him, "You are not wounded. You are trying to sneak out of the fight in the dark. Go back to your regiment."

The wounded soldier then said, "Give me your hand Colonel." Not knowing just what he meant the colonel put out his hand, whereupon the man took it and thrust it into a hole in his shoulder while the warm blood spurted up the arm of the skeptical colonel. Shocked and overcome, the colonel exclaimed, "You poor fellow! You poor fellow! Forgive me! Go back to the doctor, quick!" The man took a step forward, and fell dead. He had given his life for his country. But, in the moment of supreme sacrifice, he had been mistaken for a coward and a deserter.

The first reason why we should be slow and careful in the judgments we pass upon our fellow man is our too frequent ignorance of the facts. A fragment of anything is apt to be deceptive, and all that we mortals show to one another is but a fragment of our true selves. How little we know! In John 7:24, Jesus said: "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." Too often, "the appearance" is all of the data that we have to go on. When this is the case, we should not be overly hasty to pass judgment. -- McCartney

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JUDGMENT -- OF OTHERS

1362 -- RASH JUDGMENT OF A STUDENT

Among the innumerable legends that come down to us about Professor Blaikie, is the story of a student who rose to recite in his classroom, and held his book in his right hand. Blaikie told him to take the book with the other hand, but still the student read on with the book in his right hand. Again, the angry professor thundered at him to take the book in his left hand. "I cannot, sir," answered the student as he brought an empty sleeve from behind his back.

The students hissed at the professor, but the next moment they cheered when he made his earnest apology. Lips that move and do not speak, sleeves that have no arm within them, this is life; yet we pronounce our rash judgments the falsity of which would fill us with humiliation and sorrow could we but know the facts. -- McCartney

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JUDGMENT -- OF OTHERS

1363 -- THE RASH JUDGMENT OF A FEEBLE, OLD MAN

At beautiful Grassmere Lake in Cumberland County, England, the haunts of the English poets, there is a promontory called "Point Rash Judgment." One day Wordsworth, his sister, and Coleridge were taking a walk along the shore of the lake. In a boat, some distance from the shore, they saw a man fishing. It was the harvest season, when all able bodied men were toiling in the fields. They said one to another, "How improvident for this man to be spending his time here fishing when he ought to be at work in the fields." But, when they came nearer to him, they saw that he was an aged and decrepit man, unable to work in the fields, and that he was doing the best he could. Struck with the falsity and unkindness of their rash judgment, they named the promontory "Point Rash Judgment." -- McCartney

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JUDGMENT -- OF OTHERS

1364 -- WHAT RESULTED FROM A JUDGMENTAL LETTER

After a severe heart attack pensioner Nat Farrell of Birmingham, England, was warned by his doctor not to do any work. Then an unsigned letter arrived, reading:

Get your weeds up. We around here tidy our gardens. You
have both the time and the money. We will report you to the
appropriate authorities if you don't.

Nat, 69, lived in a council house, and was afraid he might lose his home if he was reported. So he got out the lawnmower. Two minutes later he collapsed and died.

All uninformed and harsh judgment of others does not result in heart attacks and death, but such judgment often kills in some way or other. The caustic criticism of a legalistic professor of Christianity can crush the spirit of another; it can kill hopes; it can be the cold water which satan uses to quench the zeal and spiritual life out of the heart of a young or weak Christian. What an account some will have to give in the day of judgment, when the secrets of all will be laid bare!

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JUDGMENT -- OF OTHERS

1365 -- WHEN WESLEY NEEDED TO APOLOGIZE

John Wesley tells of a man whom year after year he thought of contemptuously as covetous. One day when this person contributed only a small gift to a worthy charity, Wesley openly criticized him. After the incident, the man went to Wesley privately. Wesley tells us in his diary that the man quietly said: "I know a man who at each week's beginning goes to market and buys a penny's worth of parsnips and takes them home to boil in water, and all that week he has parsnips for his food and water for his drink; and food and drink alike cost him a penny a week." He explained that before his conversion, he had run up many bills. Now, by skimping on everything and buying nothing for himself he was paying off his creditors one by one. "Christ has made me an honest man," he said, "and so with all these debts to pay, I can give only a few offerings above my tithe. I must settle up with my worldly neighbors and show them what the grace of God can do in the heart of a man who was once dishonest." Wesley then apologized to the man and asked his forgiveness.

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JUSTIFICATION

1366 -- GOD BOTH FORGIVES AND JUSTIFIES

When God forgives through the risen, glorified Jesus, He not only forgives, but He justifies. It is impossible for an earthly judge to both forgive and to justify a man. If a man is justified, he does not need to be forgiven. Imagine a man charged with a crime going into court, and, after the evidence is all in, he is pronounced not guilty, and the judge sets him free. Someone says, as he leaves the building, "I want to congratulate you. It was very kind of the judge to forgive you." "Forgive? He did not forgive me; I was justified. There is nothing to forgive. You cannot justify a man if he does a wicked thing, but you can forgive. God not only forgives but He justifies the ungodly, because He links the believer with Christ, and we are made "accepted in the Beloved." -- H. A. Ironside

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JUSTIFICATION

1367 -- SAVED BY THE BELL

The great bell of St. Paul's, which tells Londoners the hour, has inscribed upon it these words: "Richard Phelps made me, 1709." It is a huge bell, nearly seven feet in diameter and unusually musical. A hammer connected with clock work strikes the hours and tolls the bell on funeral occasions. The clapper of the bell is used for tolling upon the death of a member of the royal family, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, the Dean of St. Paul's, or the Lord Mayor of London. There is an interesting story of how this bell saved a man's life.

The story goes that a sentinel on duty at Windsor Castle was accused by the guard who came to relieve him of sleeping at his post. This sentinel was a soldier in the reign of William and Mary. He was tried by court martial and condemned for sleeping at his post upon the terrace of Windsor. The soldier denied the charge and insisted that he had not slept at his post. As a proof

that he had been awake while on duty, he declared that on midnight on that particular night he heard the great bell of St. Paul's strike 13 times instead of 12.

The Court did not believe that it was possible for the soldier to have heard the bell of St. Paul's so far away. However, while the poor fellow was under sentence of death, it was proved by many who heard it that at midnight on the night referred to the clock actually did strike 13 times instead of 12. The mechanism was out of order. The king pardoned the soldier, who lived to be 100 years old.

What music St. Paul's bell must have always been in that man's ears, for by it he was justified after being condemned! Yet, how much sweeter is the sound that peals forth in the soul of him who has been guilty, but still has become justified freely by the redemption that is in Christ Jesus! -- King's Treasures

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JUSTIFICATION -- BY FAITH

1368 -- THE STAIRS WHERE GOD SPOKE TO LUTHER

Everyone who goes to Rome pays a visit to the Scala Santa, or the Sacred Stairs of the Judgment seat of Pilate. It can hardly be credited that the actual marble stairs of Pilate's judgment seat were brought to Rome, although such a thing is within the realm of possibility. Roman Catholic superstition bestows a special merit and grace upon the devout pilgrim who ascends those stairs on his knees. It was when he was in this act of devotion that Martin Luther, a pilgrim in Rome from Germany, heard the words sounding in his ear which afterward became the watchword of the Reformation: "The just shall live by faith!"

However one dismisses the likelihood of the stairs upon which he is looking being actually those of Pilate's judgment seat, it is not possible to stand there with out thinking of Pilate and of Christ. Those two figures rise before you -- the heavy-headed, large-bodied Pontius Pilate sitting at the head of the stairs, perplexed as to his prisoner; and Jesus, standing on the marble slabs at the foot of the stairs, His head crowned with thorns, a purple robe about him, the blood from his recent scourging making a crimson stain upon the white marble of the steps. -- McCartney

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JUSTIFICATION -- OF SELF IMPOSSIBLE

1369 -- A PITIFUL ATTEMPT AT SELF-JUSTIFICATION

When James IV of Scotland was a boy, he stood in arms against his father. All his manhood was one long, bitter penance for that sin. In memory of it, he wore under his robes an iron belt. To that belt, he added every year a new link, that his repentance might be heavier every year of his life. -- F. W Farrar

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THE END