

# THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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## **GOALS FOR OUR LIFE**

### **VIA "The Reminder"**

People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered.

#### **Love them anyway.**

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish motives.

#### **Do good anyway.**

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.

#### **Succeed anyway.**

The good you do today will be forgotten quickly.

#### **Do good anyway.**

Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable.

#### **Be good and transparent anyway.**

What you spend building may be destroyed overnight.

#### **Build anyway.**

People who really want help may attack you if you help them.

#### **Help them anyway.**

Give the world the best you have and you may get hurt.

#### **Do your best anyway.**

The world is full of conflict.

#### **Choose peace of mind anyway.**

**"It may cost you a good deal to do right, but be sure it will cost you more not to do it"**

## **WHY?**

### **From "The Lincoln Bible Reader"**

The story is told of a college professor (psychology) whose final exam had only one question. The one question was "Why?" This, of course, produced more than a little consternation in the students depending upon the outcome of the test to raise their grade for the course. Unlike Paul Harvey, I am not going to tell you *the rest of the story*.

Why? Why do you assemble with the saints? It is easy for one to respond, "To worship God." Yes, such is easy to say, but is that answer accurate? One good way to know why an individual assembles with the saints on Lord's day morning/evening is to consider what it takes to prevent him from assembling and/or cause her to complain about the worship service/sermon. One oft repeated excuse (i.e., *a lie masquerading as a reason*) and/or complaint is "I didn't get

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anything out of the service," or "I wasn't getting anything out of the sermons." In years gone by preachers were known to respond to such by asking, "Did you bring anything to put it in?" Empty pews are bad, and empty heads in the pews are not good either. The empty heads of which I speak are not the ones which are empty intellectually, but those which are empty spiritually.

In true worship God is the center of focus. When one says, "I didn't get anything out of it," s/he is in essence saying "Move over, God; I'm the one who is really important." Since God wants us to *assemble with the saints* (Hebrews 10:25) we will, if He is truly the focus of our life, be present. . .even if it seems at times that we did not get anything out of the service, or the sermon was a bit dry. The greater the spiritual maturity the more s/he will get out of the worship service. As one grows in spiritual knowledge and understanding the larger the container one has to "put it in." I heard of an elderly gentleman, a totally deaf brother-in-Christ, who understood that in worship he was not the focal point. Once he was asked why he attended the worship services when he

could not hear the songs sung, the prayers offered nor the sermons preached. His response, a classic, was "I go to encourage our young preacher." As a preacher who once was young, I can assure you that young preachers, and us old ones too, are encouraged by your attendance.

**Now tell me once again, why is it that you do not assemble with the saints?**

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*"The notes of truth always sound cracked to a man in error but the discord is caused by his error and not by the truth"*

(Gospel Advocate, September 29, 1927).

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**There is no key to happiness.**  
**The door is always open.**

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## **NOT BAPTIZED**

**By Bill Beasley**

While discussing several Bible subjects, a denominational

preacher said, "We do not believe that a man is going to hell because he is not baptized." To such a statement I would add a fervent "Amen!" At the same time, I insist that according to God's holy word baptism in water comes before and is necessary to being saved (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:28; 22:16; etc.).

How, one may ask, can you reconcile the two statements above? Several months ago my step-father died from cancer. Because of the adverse effects of the chemo-therapy he decided to forego the treatment and let the cancer run its course. On his death certificate there is no mention of either radiation or chemo-therapy; the cause of death is given as *cancer*. Individuals are lost (i.e., go to hell) because of sin: "**For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**" (Romans 6:23, ASV).

To whom does God give the gift of eternal life? What is necessary to have his/her sins remitted? "**And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**" (Acts 2:38,

ASV). Truly, one does not go to hell because he is not baptized, but because he is an unforgiven sinner, because he has refused the cure offered by the Great Physician.

### **WRESTING THE SCRIPTURES**

#### **A Copied Article**

Great truths may sometimes be stated in amusing ways. I found the following statement of truth amusing and thought-provoking.

Jacob Ditzler and J. S. Sweeney were having a debate on the scriptural mode of baptism. Ditzler showed a secondary meaning of the word *baptize* was "to wash" or "to sprinkle."

In reply, Brother Sweeney showed that a secondary meaning of *believe* was "to have an opinion" and a secondary meaning of *saved* was "to be pickled."

Then he gave the resulting "translation" of Mark 16:16: "He that hath an opinion and is sprinkled shall be pickled."

He then raised the question, "Is it our aim to see what we can make out of the

Scriptures, or is it to find out what God has said?

**The happiest people are those who discover that what they should be doing and what they are doing are the same things.**

**Empty Handed When**

**We Come and Go**

**By Steven F. Deaton**

Paul said, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (1 Tim. 6:7). In the context, he is discussing material things, the contentment we should have with what we have, and the pitfalls of desiring to be rich (1 Tim. 6:6-10).

Since we brought nothing into the world and will carry nothing out, then everything in between is basically "white noise;" a distraction from what really matters. It is true we are to work to provide materially for our family (1 Tim. 5:8). However, nothing material will leave this world with us or survive into eternity (2 Pet. 3:10-12). So, where should

The only thing we had coming into this world was a soul; the

real person. Even our body is a temporary thing. Therefore, our focus must be on the soul. It is what leaves this world with us. It is the one thing that will survive into eternity in a newly given body, not the old one (1 Cor. 15:35-49).

If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become ineffective in this world.

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