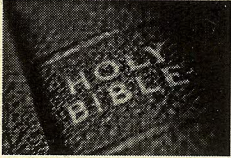


Feb 23, 2014

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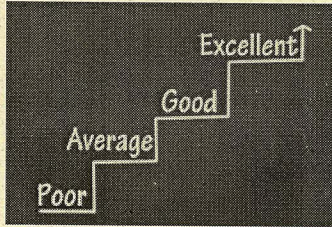


Perry Hill Road Bulletin

Standards

Pray God we may have the courage and the wisdom and the vision to raise a definite standard that will appeal to the best that is in man, and then strive mightily toward that goal" (Harold E. Stassen).

LITERALLY, THE WORD "STANDARD" MEANS "RALLYING PLACE." On the battlefield, a standard is a flag or banner which rallies the troops to their cause. In ancient times, to be the standard-bearer was an important responsibility: the flag could not be allowed to fall.



Then the word came to be used figuratively to mean an acknowledged measure of comparison, a criterion. Today, we often think of a standard as an expected level of conduct or performance. We speak of moral standards, ethical standards, business standards, and so forth.

A NATION NEEDS A WORTHY SET OF STANDARDS, AND SO DO INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE. If we have no rallying point in our lives and if there's no minimum level of honor to which we hold ourselves, then we're simply adrift, and nothing very good will come from our activity. Living with no standards produces more mediocrity, than it does excellence.

WE OUGHT TO BE CAREFUL IN SELECTING OUR STANDARDS. In the marketplace of ideas, there are all sorts of standards to choose from, many with a flashy appearance but little long-term value. It pays to be careful.

