



The PARAKLETE

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Volume No. 19

Issue 1

Jan.-Feb. 2019

WHY BOTHER GOING TO WORSHIP?

Four and a half years ago I had the privilege of filling in for morning worship. I used the title of this article as the basis of my message and used Hebrews 10:25 as my text. The following is, in part, the message.

We get educated to know things. We use work to make a living. We exercise for our physical health, and we eat to live. Everything has a purpose, so why do we attend worship services? To some it is because it is expected of family, others because it is a duty, some for reputation or good for business and others for the youth programs or the music. I guess there is a point to be made in nearly all of these.

However, I would like to tell you why I attend worship service. One reason is because God bothered to create me. I didn't evolve I was brought into existence by God. Job 10:8 states, **"Your hands shaped me and made me."** All 206 bones in my body are more durable than steel. A piano has 88 keys yet I have ears that had detect 2500 keys.

I have eyes more perfect than the best camera known to man. Psa. 139:4 states **"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made..."** I attend worship service because He bothered with me.

I attend because He bothered with my sin. If you were judge what would you do with those who ignored you? On the cross Jesus asked **"My God, my God why have you forsaken me?"** He revealed why. **"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."**

He bothered enough for my sin that He saved me from my sin. Eph. 2:8-10 states in part **"For by grace you have been saved through faith..."** Sin separated us, Romans 6:23. Christ's mission was to save us. I bother because He bothered to purchase me with His own blood. **"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us"** Really! Why Bother?

I bother every week because He bothers to sustain me daily. All I have is from God. Psa. 18:35 reads **"...your right hand sustains me."** Heb. 1:3 says of Him that He **"Sustains all things by his powerful**

word." It was by His word that He created all things. Just think: What if God removed our reason not to bother, such as, our fishing boats, guns for hunting, ability to play ball games, our children and all the other reasons we use to not go to worship? Then we may all bother a little more to worship.

WHY GO TO CHURCH? *"The house of the righteous contains great treasure, but the income of the wicked brings them trouble."* Proverbs 15:6. Even more serious is the text

"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul," Matt. 16:26. Yes, I bother.

Some come to the church building because they have lost much and seek pity. Yes, in the building Christians gather and is set aside to worship God is a good idea. But there are much better reasons.

There are further reasons why I personally bother to attend worship services. For example, I want to bother to obey the Scriptures such as **"Do not forsake the assembly..."** Hebrews 10:25 admonishes. I attend to be wiser as we are told in 2 Peter 1:5-9, and more mature, 2 Peter 3:18.

I also bother for my family as they may gain even more than I from the Sunday school lessons or sermons, Prob. 22:6. As a father my attendance will help protect my family from harmful advice. All parents really should bother.

I bother because I want to be useful to God. God says of those who do not worship **"They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good,"** Titus 1:16. Not that they don't do good things as the world sees it, but not the good things God calls "good." None of us live to ourselves alone and none of us die to ourselves alone, Romans 14:7. God teaches me how to live with and for others also. Yes, I must bother.

I bother because I love the church that Jesus died for. Not just a congregation of people but the living church which includes all the redeemed. I bother because I need to think big. I thank God for others, as did Paul, 1 Thess. 1:2. I attend because I love the truth and that's another reason I bother.

WHY BOTHER GOING TO WORSHIP?

Why do I bother to worship, because I love God. In Matt. 22:37-38 we have the recorded words of Jesus saying *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”* I have always wondered how I do with this command. My mind wonders and do realize how weak I am. But if I bother to attend worship I know I do much better.

I bother because I will be judged one day. *“There is a judge for one who rejects me and does not accept my words’ that very word which I speak will condemn him at the last day,”* John 12:48. These words are recorded for us by the Apostle of Love, so I bother.

I bother because the weakness I have confessed and I want to prevent apostasy. I know I need to be reminded of the weaknesses of the flesh, the work of Satan and worldly temptations about me. If the apostle Paul had all the difficulties with himself as he recorded in Romans 7, then surely one such as I need to bother.

If I learn one truth per hour I spend in worship 52 times a year for just 10 years that’s 520 truths planted in my mind. If I attended both the a.m. and p.m. services that would be 1040 truths planted. Since that number reminds us of filing income tax reports, add the Sunday school hour and we have 1560 truths to sustain us spiritually.

So why do I bother? I bother because He bothered to create me. He bothered with my sin. He bothered to save me from my sin. He bothers daily and hourly to sustain me.

I bother because I want to obey Him. I bother for my family. I bother to be useful and I bother because Jesus died for The Church He purchased. I bother because I love God the Father. I bother because I don’t want to fall away.

Some believe hate is the opposite of love but it isn’t. Apathy is the opposite. Hate is thinking of another enough to care. Apathy is not thinking of another (in this case Jesus) enough to care at all.

A teacher wrote on the board “APATHY”. One student tried to pronounce it and asked another student how to say the word. The second student said, “Who cares?” He was right.

I wrote so many times in this article the words, “I bother.” But the truth is that if you love the Lord it is really no bother at all, but a privilege that results in many blessings. My advice is, do it without bothering and enjoy the blessings. I have and I am.

DENNY’S SCHEDULE

Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

Nothing scheduled for winter

DANNY EVANS’ SCHEDULE

Huntington, WBW 304/633-5908 (c) 304/736/2677 (H)

Nothing scheduled for winter

SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS

It is easier to preach ten sermons than to live one.

~

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your door continually.

~

Always forgive your enemies. It messes with their minds.

~

Be ye fishers of men, catch them and Jesus will clean them.

~

Don’t wait for six strong men to take you to the church building.

~

He who angers you controls you.

Copied with slight alterations.

A LITTLE HUMOR

A preacher’s wife can be his best encourager but she can also be his best critic. One Sunday the preacher, after lunch, sat down by his wife. She asked him how he thought the morning worship service went.

He shrugged and replied that he thought it went well but continued. He said the communion time went well and that the singing was good, but he added that he just doesn’t think the sermon went all that well. He said, “It never seemed to get off the ground.”

The wife looked over at him and it just came out, “Well, it sure did taxi long enough.”

SIGNS OF THE TIME

On a plumber’s truck a sign read: We repair what your husband fixed.

~

On another plumber’s truck the sign read: Don’t sleep with a drip, call your plumber.

~

At a tire shop: Invite us to your next blowout.

~

On an electrician’s truck: Let us remove your shorts.

- .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY. -
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Something has happened in our lives that we have mixed emotions about: it is leaving one year to begin a brand new year. We have finished 2018 and 2019 has begun and we really do look at this event with joy and anxiety. If you are as old as I (67) you have seen this occurrence so many times that it really doesn't mean a lot any more. I know that the "New Year Celebration" for me is usually over about 9:00 p.m. and I am in bed when the New Year arrives. We are excited that God has given us a New Year, but we are not sure if it will be happy or not. That is the feeling on which the Prince of this world wants you and me to focus. See, we tend to look at a New Year based on the past year. If we had joyous happenings then we see joy in the next 365 days; but if we had disappointment in the last year, we sit around wondering what is going to happen that will bring devastation to our lives this year.

Here is just a little word of advice for 2019: **"DON'T LOOK BACK!"** I recall the words of Paul as he wrote with the inspiration of God, to the church at Philippi in 3:13-14. ***"Brethren, I do not regard having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."*** We have not laid hold of everything yet, but if we are tempted to keep looking at the past, we will not allow God to fill us with possibilities for the future. What lies ahead? Neither you nor I know what lies ahead with the exception of the things God promises, especially eternity with Him if we are faithful. The whole concept of looking to the past brings with it depression and that leads to idleness and that's when Satan has the advantage. Look to the future, and be positive. Look back is the climate for giving up. This affects our spiritual lives. Jesus said his to His disciples ***"No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God,"*** Luke 9:62. If you've ever plowed you understand clearly that we can't see ahead.

Not being fit for the Kingdom is a serious matter. Once we have accepted Christ as our Savior, looking back will cause us to move forward erratically.

Here is a little more advice: **DO NOT LOOK TOO FAR INTO THE FUTURE.** We don't have a guarantee of how long we will be here on the earth. We sometimes think so far into the future that we

set goals that are unattainable. Perhaps we need to remind ourselves that we have TODAY. The past is gone and the future has not come, but the present is now! We have work to do and we must concentrate on the "now." We need to work in the time we have. The longer we procrastinate the harder the work will be. 2019 will be what we make it, for the most part. The Good Shepherd promised to lead us but we must follow Him in this New Year. We must make a concerted effort to look to the future then we will have the green pastures He promised.

I want to share a final word to encourage you to pray for WWW 2019 in Pigeon Forge. We have a great program designed to encourage all who attend. The dates are February 11-14 and I look for you and will pray you have a safe trip.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! May it be a **HAPPY** (blessed) **NEW** (recently made, fresh, unused, not worn) **YEAR** (age or time)? When Satan wants to remind you of the past, why don't you remind him of his future?



HENRY AND SWEETIE SAY:



H: Sweetie, what are you looking forward to this year?

S: Well, there is so much to look forward to.

H: Name one.

S: The first thing that comes to mind is Valentine's Day.

H: Why Valentine's Day?

S: Oh! Come on Henry you know what Valentine's Day means to us!

H: Just kidding, Sweetie, I know that is our Anniversary.

S: Do you know how many?

H: Let me think. I believe it will be our 38th.

S: You do remember.

H: Now that you mentioned looking forward, I can think of another thing to forward to...WWW

S: What do you like best about WWW?

H: I don't know there are so many things I like.

S: I like the singing and the fellowship.

H: I like the preaching and the encouragement.

S: I like being with so many friends that I have made through the years.

H: I can't think of anything I don't like about WWW.

S: We have had some great times. I hope everyone feels as encouraged as I do each year.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

LOOKING UNTO YOURSELF...ONLY

Sermon by Denny Coburn

TEXT: Romans 14:1-12

INTRO: The idea of liberty is founded on the fact that God has made each one of us a distinct personality. We act individually. We are bound to do so...that's who we are. Each has his own intellect, heart, strengths and weaknesses. Those make up our own character. If there is one thing remarkable about the church it is that we are so diverse yet we are united in Christ.

Much harm has been done when we try to force others to be as we think we are. Even parents can make this mistake and crush some creativity in children. Chapter 14 of Romans has something to say about this.

- I. **ACCEPT OTHERS AS THEY ARE**
 - A. **WEAK AND STRONG**
 1. We each have an idea of who are the weak.
 2. It may be ourselves not others.
 3. It's an issue today because it is subjective.
 4. In 1 Cor. 10:20-22 the weak were correct
 5. In 1 Cor. 10:27 the strong are correct because we must accept opinions.
 - B. **DO NOT LOOK DOWN OR CONDEMN**
 1. We can't be "pushy" with our convictions
 2. In our text eating is choice not a doctrine
 3. We teach out falseness not laugh it out
 4. This is the "judging" of Matt. 7:1-5
 5. We are each His servant not each others
 6. "To his own master he stands or falls.
 - C. **THE MAIN THING IS WE ARE THE LORD'S**
 1. Regardless of food or days, we are His
 2. They are "our convicts" or "theirs"
 3. 1 Tim. 4:4-5 Each should do whatever he does as unto God.
- II. **CHRISTIANITY IS NOT ISOLATIONISM**
 - A. **NOT TO SELF ALONE (7)**
 1. While tending to one's self we do not live only to ourselves
 2. The text states "to the Lord" three times.
 3. We must consider the Master and others
 4. We also consider life and after death
 - B. **LIVING OR DYING (8)**
 1. This life or the next we live to the Lord
 2. That's what resurrection is all about
 3. He's the Lord of life and death, v9
- III. **YOU AND YOU ALONE (10)**
 - A. **TWO QUESTIONS**
 1. Why do we judge others?
 2. Why do we look down at others?
 3. Answer: To Justify ourselves...we think
 - B. **ONE MORE QUESTION**
 1. Who sits on the throne?
 2. We must be judged ourselves, Rom. 2:3-16
 3. Judging others is ludicrous, Rom. 3:5-6
 4. Jesus is coming back to judge, Matt.16:27
 - C. **EVERY KNEE AND EVERY TONGUE (11)**
 1. The weak and the strong, Isa. 45:23
 2. Every knee will bow, every tongue will confess Heb. 14:12

CONCLUSIONS: We have enough to do by judging ourselves without trying to judge others. We will give an account for our attitude and actions, not those of someone else. God will be the one right and righteous judge. He will bring all to light, 1 Cor. 4:5, when we appear before Him, 2 Cor. 5:10, at the Great White Throne, Rev. 20:1ff, Before God, the angels, the nations and all people we will not have the lives of other people on our minds. We must stop judging long enough to hear, "*Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord.*"

THERE ARE SOME STRANGE LAWS

Plastic water bottles are OK but in some states plastic bags are banned.

Children need parent's permission for a field trip or for aspirin, but not for an abortion.

You must have an ID to board an airplane, but not to vote.

In NY you can buy two 16 ounce sodas but not one 24 ounce soda.

A boy can get removed from school for saying a teacher is "cute," but sexual explorations classes are not only authorized but sometimes demanded.

HOW ABOUT BORDER LAWS?

If you cross the border of N. Korea illegally you get 12 years of hard labor.

If you do it in Iran you are detained indefinitely.

If in Afghan you get shot.

If in Saudi Arabia you get jailed.

If in China you may never be heard from again.

If in Venezuela you are branded as a spy and your fate is sealed.

If in Cuba you are thrown into a political prison.

If in the U.S.A. you get a job, driver's license, food stamps, credit cards, subsidized rent, a loan to buy a house, free education, free health care, a lobbyist, public documents printed in your language, the right to carry your old country's flag while protesting the mistreatment of the Land of the Free and Home of the Blame.

WHAT NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS KNEW

In 1 Corinthians 2:13, Paul said he spoke "*in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit.*" In this passage he affirmed that his words were authoritative because he learned them from the infallible God. The Spirit is the Spirit of truth, who was promised to the apostles to teach and guide them in all the truth, John 16:13.

In 1 Cor. 14:37, he also asserted, "If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord." Paul's writings are divinely authoritative because they are "*a command of the Lord,*" not the words of fallen man.

Paul also wrote, "*We also thank God constantly for this, that when you receive the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers,*" 1 Thess. 2:13.

Again, Paul's words were authoritative because they were rooted in God, not in man.

BARN-a-book (a Barnabas Ministries study series)

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number one hundred-two – Does Anybody Really Care?

I know of few books in the Bible that teaches us what one human being can do to encourage a whole nation to be better than the Book of Nehemiah. Though he had great organizational skills, may have had a magnetic personality that caused the king to select him in the first place, yet it was his caring heart that made him great. When reading the first chapter of the book we see that he cared enough that it made him sad to think that Jerusalem was in ruin. He cared. “The worst sin toward other human being is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them: that’s the essence of inhumanity.”

George Bernard Shaw put those words into the mouth of Anthony Anderson in the second act of his play *The Devil’s Disciple*. The statement certainly summarizes what Jesus taught in the parable of the good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37, and it rebukes all those who fold their arms complacently, smile benignly and say somewhat sarcastically, “Ask me if I care!”

Nehemiah was the kind of person who cared. He cared about the traditions of the past and the needs of the present. He cared about the hopes for the future. He cared about his heritage, his ancestral city, and the glory of his God. He revealed this caring attitude in several ways - ways which we can emulate in our concern for others.

I. HE CARED ENOUGH TO ASK (1:1-3)

Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the Artaxerxes Longimanus, who ruled Persia from 464 to 423 BC. It should be noted that the name Nehemiah means “The Lord has comforted.” A cupbearer was much more than a modern day butler. It was a position of great responsibility and privilege. At each meal, he tested the king’s wine to make sure it wasn’t poisoned. A man who stood close to the king in public had to be handsome, cultured, knowledgeable of royal procedures and able to converse with the king and give advice if asked, 41:1-13. Because of this he was a man of great influence. Nehemiah of course was a Jew yet he was selected to this position because of his character.

It was probably just an ordinary routine day when Nehemiah met his brother Hanani (7:2), who had just returned from a visit to Jerusalem, but it turned out to be a turning point in Nehemiah’s life and the life of many others. Life changing events can change due to seemingly insignificant events. For example: the ordinary day when David was called home from shepherding his flock to be anointed king, 1 Sam. 16. It was an ordinary day when Peter, Andrew, James, and John were mending their nets after bad night fishing, Luke 15:1-11. We never know what God has in store, even in a commonplace conversation with our friends and relatives. Our God is a God of providential guiding. Just conversations sometimes change the lives of people because of one particular word that inspires or corrects one of those conversing. God is working when we are not even aware He is working through us.

In Jer. 15:5 we find these words; “*For who will have pity on you, O Jerusalem? Or who will bemoan you? Or who will turn aside to ask how you are doing?*” Was this a prophecy made a century and a half before referring to Nehemiah? Some people prefer not to know what’s happening to anyone or anything outside themselves. They prefer the saying “What you don’t know can’t hurt you.” But Nehemiah asked about Jerusalem and the Jews still living there because he cared. Often when I was in the located ministry Shirley would tell me that I needed to talk to a member of the congregation. I’d ask why, and she’d reply, “I don’t know but I can tell you something is wrong.” And in every case they needed someone to just ask, “What’s wrong?”

II. HE CARED ENOUGH THAT IT MOVED HIM

What makes us laugh or weep is an indicator of our character. If we laugh at the mistakes or misfortune of others while mourning our own problems can, and often does, reveal our character or our ignorance. Being moved by other people’s difficulties is a sign of strength as it was in Jeremiah. Jer. 9:1, in Paul, Acts 20:19 and in Jesus, Luke 19:41. The Scriptures tell us, “The reproaches of them that reproach you are fallen on me,” Psa.69:9

in Jesus, Luke, 19:41. The Scriptures tell us, “The reproach of them that reproach you are fallen on me,” Psa. 69:9; Rom. 15:3. People of strong feelings of compassion show it as did Jeremiah, Nehemiah, Paul, and in particular Jesus.

When your heart is burdened by the hurts of others, don’t try to escape it because if you do you may miss the blessings God has planned for you. The Book of Jeremiah begins with affliction (Neh. 1:3) but it ends in joy (Neh. 8:12-17. It has been said “Our tears water the seeds of providence” the word of God states it this way, **“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning,”** Psa. 30:5. We need to care enough to cry at times. Nehemiah spent several days fasting, weeping, and praying, which leads us to the next point.

III. HE CARED ENOUGH TO PRAY

There are twelve prayers recorded in the Book of Nehemiah., 2:4; 4:4, 9; 5:19; 6:9, 14;; 9:5ff; 13:14,22, 29, 31. In fact the book opens and closes with prayer. This tells us that Nehemiah was a man of great faith in the power of God. The Scottish writer George MacDanald said, “In whatever man does without God, he must fail miserably, or succeed more miserably.” Alan Redpath said, “There is too much working before man and too little waiting for God.”

It is noteworthy that the greater part of Nehemiah’s prayer was devoted to confession of sin, vv. 6-9. The God who promised blessing and chastening also promised forgiveness if His people would repent and turn back to Him, Deut. 30; 1 Kings 8:31-53. Nehemiah claimed this promise.

It is also noteworthy that Nehemiah used the pronoun “we” and not “they,” identifying himself with the sins of a generation he didn’t even know. It is always easy to look back and blame others for the reproach of our nation, but Nehemiah looked within and blamed himself!

When one Jewish soldier, Achan, sinned at Jericho, God said that **“the children of Israel committed a trespass”** and that “Israel” sinned and transgressed the covenant, Josh. 7:1, 11. Problems of one person, whether it be sin or not, should be carried to God in prayer and at the same time a self-examination as well as a knowledge of Scripture remind us we are one. His humble prayer closed with an expression of confidence (Neh. 1:10-11). If we really care about the problems of others our concern will be heard by God in our prayers.

IV. HE CARED ENOUGH TO VOLUNTEER (1-11)

It has been said that prayer is not getting man’s will done in heaven but getting God’s will done on earth. However, for God’s will to be done on earth, He needs people to be available for Him to use. **“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work in us,”** Eph. 3:20. If God answers our prayers He must start with the one praying. He works in us and through us to help us see our prayers answered.

Nehemiah planned to volunteer to go to Jerusalem to supervise the rebuilding of the walls. He didn’t pray for God to send somebody else, nor did he argue that he was ill-equipped for such a difficult task. He simply said, “Here am I, send me!” No matter how we look at it, Nehemiah was facing a great test of faith, but he knew that his God was a great God and would see him through.

As the king’s cupbearer he knew he would have to sacrifice the comfort and security of the palace for the rigors and dangers of life in a ruined city. Working with the king in his luxuries would be replaced by ruins, and prestige would be replaced by ridicule and slander. But with the help of God he would see it through.

WHAT ABOUT US?

We must ask ourselves how passionate we feel in our heart about the difficulties of others, do we really care? Do we care enough to ask? Do we care enough to weep? That is, does their hurt bother us at all. If we are not a person who weeps then we must ask does it hurt us to know the difficulty? Do we care enough to pray to God about it and include our own sins and shortcomings in our prayer? Finally, do we care enough to volunteer to get involved in the problem? Will we soil our hands, break a sweat, or help in anyway needed to share the burden? Only you and I can answer those questions with deeds.

REDNECK DICTIONARY

ABILITIES, *n. and pron.* A statement of charges for services rendered and subsequent action to be taken by a male. "I don't care if he's broke the house payment's abilities got to pay."

BEHAVIOR, *v and adj.* A phrase connecting the manner in which a person conducts himself or herself to someone or something possessed by a related to that person. "If you don't behavior daddy's gonna spank you!"

CADAVER, *v. and adj.* Pertaining to the possibility of gaining possession of something belonging to a female. "The coroner had to get back to the morgue, but she said I cadaver fries"

DILATE, *v or adj.* to experience the termination of life well into a specific temporal period "I hope I dilate in life."

Jeff Foxworthy's *Learning to Talk More
Gooder Fastly Redneck Dictionary III,*

TO RISK

By William Arthur Ward

To laugh is to risk appearing a fool,
To weep is risk appearing sentimental.
To reach out to another is to risk involvement,
To expose feelings is to risk exposing your true self.
To place your ideas and dreams before a crowd is to
risk their loss.
To Love is to risk not being loved in return,
To live is to risk dying,
To try is to risk failure.
But risks must be taken because the greatest hazard
in life is to risk nothing.
The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has
nothing, is nothing.
He may avoid suffering and sorrow,
But he cannot learn, feel, change, grow or live.
Chained by his servitude he is a slave who has
forfeited all freedom.
Only a person who risks is free.
The pessimist complains about the wind;
The optimist expects it to change;
And the realist adjusts the sails.

If we don't take a chance then we will never know what we could
have done or have been.

READY OR NOT

An artist asked the gallery owner if there had been any interest in his paintings that were on display. "I have good news and bad news." The owner replied. "The good news is that a gentleman inquired about your work and wondered is the value of your paintings would appreciate after your death. When I told him they probably would, he bought all 15 of your paintings." "That's wonderful," the artist exclaimed. "What's the bad news?" "The guy was your doctor."

THOMAS JEFFERSON

There has been much said about the wisdom of Thomas Jefferson. Reading what he has said confirms that He was wise. One president said to a room full of the nation's intellectuals: "There has never been so much wisdom in this room except when Thomas Jefferson was here alone." He once said to his daughter "Determine never to be idle. No person will have occasion to complain of the want of time who never loses any. It is wonderful how much may be done if we are always doing." (In a letter to her dated May 5th, 1787.)

Other quotes:

"Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today."
"Never trouble another for what you can do for yourself."
"Never spend your money before you have it."
"Never buy what you do not want because it's cheap."
"Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst and cold."
"We never repent of having eaten too little."
"Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly."
"How much pain have cost us the evils which have never happened."
"Take things always by their smooth handle."
"When angry, count to 10 before you speak; if very angry count to 100."

(These were in a letter to his namesake, Thomas Jefferson Smith, Feb. 21st, 1825)

ANOTHER OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS SAID

"Three may keep a secret if two of them are dead."

Ben Franklin

OPPORTUNITIES

Jan 10-11 – Church Leadership, Salt Fork Lodge, Cambridge, OH, Person to Person Ministries, Kerry Allen, Director.

Jan. 22-24 – Florida Bible Conference, Orlando, FL, CRA, Lee Mason, Herald, Editor, Director.

Feb. 11-14 - Winter Worship and Workshop, Pigeon Forge, TN, Barnabas Ministries annual encouragement retreat.

SEVEN MODERN SINS

Politics without principles.

Rest without conscience.

Wealth without work.

Knowledge without character.

Industry without morality.

Science without humanity.

Worship without sacrifice.

-Frederic Donaldson

IF YOU WERE BUSY

If you were busy being kind,
Before you know it you would find,
You'd soon forget to think, it was true
That someone was unkind to you.

If you were busy being glad,
And cheering people who are sad,
Although your heart may ache a bit,
You'd soon forget to notice it.

If you were busy being good,
And doing the very best you could,
You'd not have time to blame some man
Who's doing just the best he can.

If you were busy being true,
To what you know you ought to do,
You'd be so busy you'd forget,
The blunders of the folks you've met.

If you were busy being right,
You'd find yourself to busy, quite,
To criticize your neighbor long
Because he's busy doing wrong.

-R. Forman

OUCH!

It's hardest for a dishonest person to be
honest with himself

JUST FOR FUN

A woman decided to have her portrait painted. She told the artist, "Paint me with diamond rings, a diamond necklace, diamond bracelets, a diamond brooch and a diamond encrusted gold Rolex."

"But you're not wearing any of those things." He replied. "I know," she said. "It's in case I should die before my husband I'm sure he'll remarry right away, and I want his new wife to go crazy looking for the jewelry."

SOME QUOTES

(I DON'T KNOW FROM WHOM)

"It would have made it easier if the pioneers had located the cities nearer the airports."

"Never wrestle with a pig, you get dirty; and besides the pig enjoys it.:

"Happiness is getting a bill you already paid so you can set down and write a nasty note."

"Some people pay compliments as if they wanted a receipt."

SAFE FROM LOVE

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglement; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe and dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable...the only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the danger of love is...Hell.

- Thomas a Kempis

SPIRITUAL ROLLER-COASTER

If your concept of Christianity is primarily based on your emotion and does not involve intelligent thought, be prepared. You are in for an unstable, uncertain and a roller-coaster ride in your "religious" life because it is all emotional.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

What **BARNABAS MINISTRIES** believes

BIBLE: The only inspired record of God's revelation to us

SIN: The only thing standing between God and man

JESUS CHRIST: The only perfect One who paid for sin

THE GOSPEL: The only record of Jesus' life

SALVATION: The only hope of man

FAITH: is only "saving faith" if it includes repentance, confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and being baptized for the remission of sin.