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H. B. McFann
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This Could Never Happen - -

A customer shopping in a store came to an item that was marked 98 cents. Thinking the price too high, he wrote 49 cents. The customer did this to several articles. At last he came down before the checker with the cart filled with marked down items. The checker began to check. Noticing the changed prices remarked: "I'm sorry we priced these items too high for you, and hope the price you marked suits you, for its suits us perfectly, too."... Certainly this is absurd, but thousands of people will stand before the Lord Jesus on the other side of life with a life-long list of marked down activities. Instead of faithful attendance, they will bring before him liberal giving, they will bring before Him giving that was sparing. Instead of complete obedience, they will bring only partial obedience. Do you think that our Lord

will say, "I'm sorry that I made the requirements too high for you. Pass on through — heaven is yours."??

By Frank Dunn

We Must Esteem Elders

L. O. Sanderson
Amarillo, Texas

The term, elder implies due regard. Long ago, Moses said "rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man." (Lev. 19:32) We must give "honor to whom honor" is due. (Rom. 13:7) Add to these such divine qualifications as just, holy, blameless, without reproach, good report, etc., and a qualified bishop commands respect.

But we need not reply on necessary implication, for Paul bound us to "know them that...are over you in the Lord...esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake." (I Thess. 5:12-13). Take a good look at this order: ESTEEM! Esteem HIGHLY! Esteem VERY highly! Esteem IN LOVE! And why? "For their work's sake." They give time, bear burdens, and perform thankless tasks — for our sake and God's glory. Their office is an honored one; they must be honored who fill it well. Yea, in many instances they are "worthy of double honor." (1 Tim. 5:17)

May we know and respect those who so serve, sincerely and in grateful love.

A man has to live with himself, and he should see to it that he always has good company.

It is a good rule to face difficulties at the time they arise and not allow them to increase unacknowledged.

News and Notes

Brother Richard England attended the homecoming at Freed-Hardeman college during Thanksgiving week.

Hillard Story, who formerly lived in Fulton County, now preaches for a church in Chicago, Ill. Brother Story spent several years in Italy, helping to establish the church in that country.

Monroe Hawley, who preached in this area about twenty years ago, has been preaching for several years in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The church at Melbourne, Ark. now has a full time preacher. Brother Lucas from the state of Alabama has located with the brethren there.

Bro. Guy N. Woods will begin a series of meetings in Thayer, Mo. on December 29, 1963.

CAN YOU KEEP THIS STRAIGHT?

A duel was fought by James Shott and John Nott. Nott was shot, and Shott was not. In this case it is better to be Shott than Nott. There was a rumor that Nott was not shot, but Shott insists that he himself was not. It may be that the shot Shott shot Nott, or since accidents with firearms will happen, maybe the shot Shott shot Shott himself. We think however, that the shot Shott shot no Shott, but Nott.

The moral: Make sure you know the correct story before repeating it and possibly it would be much better not to repeat it at all. Careless talk causes many heartaches.

We usually tell the faults of others because it takes less time than to tell our own.

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CHURCHES OF CHRIST
IN THIS AREA

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RICHARD ENGLAND

BEARING OUR SHAME

All of us have sinned. Rom.3:23 tells us so. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." If we deny that we have, we show ourself destitute of the truth and make God out a liar. (Read I Jn. 1:8-10). This knowledge should make us more compassionate and charitable toward the faults of others.

What is our attitude when we do sin and someone points them out to us? It seems to be human nature to begin to justify ourself by trying to place the blame on another.

This is what king Saul did when ask by Samuel why he had not obeyed the voice of the Lord to destroy all the Amalekites. He answered, "But the people took the spoil." It took some strong teaching by Samuel but finally Saul admitted, "I have sinned" (I Sam. 15:10-26).

When Adam was caught in his transgression, God ask, "Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee thou shouldest not eat?" Adam tried to shift the blame by answering, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I did eat." (Gen. 3: 11-12).

David, if desirous of shifting the

blame on another, as he was confronted by Nathan regarding his sin in the taking of Bathseba, might have answered, "Well, it is not altogether MY fault. She should not have been out there taking a bath where I could see her." That may very well have been so, but we know, and, David knew, that did not relieve him of his responsibility. One could not condone what David did, but; we must admire his attitude when his sin was pointed out to him. He did not say, "If I have sinned...." Neither did he say (which he could have said) "I haven't done any worse than some others". He did say, "I HAVE SINNED". (Read II Sam. 11, 12.)

Solomon wrote, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." (Prov. 28(13). In Jas. 5:16 we are taught to "confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another that ye may be healed." John wrote, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I Jn. 1:9).

Bearing our shame is a burden hard to be borne. Yet, if we hope to be justified before God we have it to do. I worry about those who are never to blame for anything, but can always find where it is someone else's fault. Is it possible that such an one has repented for his sin? Let us try to keep from sin, but if overtaken in a fault, let us own it, repent of it and profit by the lesson. Above all, let it not discourage us.

Cliff Stewart

TOM HENDRIX, 1887-1961: You never heard of Bro. Hendrix. He didn't make any discoveries, invent anything, or make any great speeches. He had no education. He couldn't read or even write his own name. He had no money. All of his earthly possessions were easily placed into a small cardboard box after he died. He never married. He had no brothers or sisters. His parents both died while he was very young. He wasn't an Elder, Deacon, preacher, or class teacher in the church. But, he

came to every service of the church. He never led a prayer, waited on the table, nor led a song in the public assembly. He never asked any favors, but always offered to do anything he could. He was never in a squabble of any kind. When he died there were less than 20 people at his funeral, and some of these didn't know him. As the world views success, he was nothing. But, as the Lord sees things, he was a Christian. "For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow." Ecc. 1:18. "I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all." Ecc. 9:11. (R.E.)

Today - -

Yesterday? Too late, my lad, the yesterday is gone.

The hands of time move swiftly and the yesterdays move on; You have no time to worry o're the golden hours that sped With yesterday, ther're lost, my lad, the yesterday is dead.

Tomorrow, Lad, it never comes, tomorrow is the thought Of laggards in the land of life and in their brain 'twas wrought To feed the germs of laziness; it is a foolish brain That sacrifices present hours to plan tomorrow's gain.

Today? It's here! Get busy lad, the hands of Time move fast. Get busy while the hour is here, before your chance is past. Go do the work you have to do before it is too late! Dig in! Forget your yesterdays and let Tomorrow wait.

—Edgar L. Jones

"If we could kick good and hard the one responsible for all our troubles, and misery; we wouldn't be able to sit down for a month."

NEWS AND NOTES: Brother Ab Senter was buried last week. His family came to the church building for the first time in years for his funeral...Brother and Sister N. E. Glect visited friends last Sunday morning....Brother Never Study has complained that he just can't understand the Bible...Brother Mumbles read the scriptures in the assembly last Lord's Day... Sister U. R. Wrong doesn't come to class anymore because she doesn't agree with the teachers... Brother and Sister C. U. Later refused again to bring something for the needy ... Sisters Crit E. Sizer, Young Wager, and Tale Bearer spoke before the community club on "What is Wrong with the Church of Christ."...Brothers Nic O. Tene and Smoky Haze created a fog in front of the church building last Sunday....Sister N. Digent is mad at the Elders because they insist that she should attend all the services regularly...The Cum Late-ly family is doing better; arrived only 15 minutes late last time... Brother I. O. Bills has a new car and cannot increase his customary \$1.00 contribution...Sister Cum C. Me is not speaking to the preacher because he hasn't been able to see her in the last month and she visited him when he first came three years ago...Brothers Big Wheel and C. D. Mistakes are planning to fire the elders or form a new congregation...Bro. I. Hurt and N. Disposed are confined-to-their homes on Sunday and Wednesday evenings: other times they have no trouble getting out, of course...Miss Purnella Tee Hee and her escort Dilbert Haw Haw drowned out the sermon in the back of the house Sunday evening ...Sister Ima Calm still won't sign ...Brother I. M. Weak reports that the duck hunting was good last Sunday...Brother Rod N. Reel had good luck last Sunday fishing.... The Wee R. Peeved family moved their membership...Sister Ima Grouch can't understand why more people are not being baptized .— Author Unknown Via Bulletin of 2901 S. Yale, Tulsa, Okla.

"If GOD is taken out of GOOD, nothing (O) is left."

WHEN I LOSE MY TEMPER

When I have lost my temper, I have lost my reason, too; I'm never proud of anything which angrily I do.
When I have talked in anger, and my cheeks are flaming red, I've always uttered something which I wish I hadn't said.
In anger I have never done a kindly deed, or wise,
But many things for which I felt I should apologize.
In looking back across my life and all I've lost or made,
I can't recall a single time when fury ever paid.

Via — The Tulia Evangel
Tulia, Texas

He Told the Truth

A preacher did a terrible thing. He told the truth! His mail brought a request which read: "Will you please tell us about Mr. John Doe, his character and financial responsibility? He has given you as a reference."

The preacher's reply ran: "I found his name on the register of this church when I came here. His family does not attend church, and neither does he. The reason given is that is the only morning he has to sleep...so it is impossible for him to get up on Sunday. To my knowledge, he hasn't made any financial contributions to the Lord since I've been here, therefore I cannot tell you anything about his financial abilities. In fact, as far as I know he doesn't have any. As you have requested, I have told you all I know about the gentleman in question."

The preacher did not send the reply, but instead, he sent it to Mr. Doe, with the comment that he had failed to answer the request for reference since this was the only kind of letter he could write. Was Mr. Doe ever burned up! And the preacher surely got told! In the great lot of things which the preacher got told was, "Any minister worthy of his name would know that a man's relationship to the church and his financial con-

tributions thereto are of a confidential nature."

The preacher had not sent his letter, but undertook to write a second which ran thus: "All I know of the gentleman in question is of a confidential nature, and he explicitly requested that I not tell."

Count Your Blessings

No one is so little blessed that he can not be thankful. Too often we permit ourselves an expensive indulgence in self-pity; griping about petty disturbances, slight misfortunes, envy, jealousies, poisoning our mind with negatives which stunt our growth toward happiness and peace of mind.

One of the greatest antidotes to this poisoning is simply by counting your blessings each day. This is an excellent practice for any of us. We'll find that our list of blessings, things we have to be grateful for, will overwhelm our gripes completely.

Try it by being thankful for good health, sound mind, a good job, the ability to hold down that job, friends, food, shelter, family, liberty, brethren, worship, our Christian fellowship...On and on the list could grow. We cannot begin to count all our blessings. Each of these represents something for which to be thankful, but too often are taken for granted.

As I pause to think about them, I cannot begin to count them as I consider the blessings that come to me and my family as we live and work in your midst. We consider it a privilege to labor with you in the Master's kingdom. Just in case we are too careless to express as often as we should our gratitude for the good things you share with us, let me say right here to both you and the Lord, we are thankful.

Leon Powers — Ruston, La.

Children may tear up a house but they never break up a home.

"There is no expedient to which a man will not resort to avoid thinking."

Parody on the Game of Football . .

1. Every time I go to a football game somebody asks me for money at the gate. They even tell me how much to give.

2. Although I went to a lot of games and yelled a lot, no one ever spoke to me personally. They are the most unfriendly people I've ever been around.

3. The seats were hard. With all that money you'd think they could put in comfortable, easy chairs with a back on them so a fellow could get some sleep if he wanted to.

4. The field judge said and did things I could not agree with. If he wants to run things that way, he'll run them without me.

5. I was a good loyal fan but the coach never once came to call on me.

6. Besides, there were a lot of hypocrites around me. They were more interested in soda-pop and hotdogs than they were in the game. And I think some of the ladies go to see what the other ladies are wearing.

7. The band always played the same tunes and I could hear better music almost any place.

8. Since buying a book on Football, I prefer to stay home and read it. I get more out of it that way. And I consider myself just as good a football fan anyway as those who go to the games and get so excited.

Via — The Chimes
Austin, Texas

No use talking to the Lord if you are not speaking to your neighbor!

A lot of people are honest as the day is long; but when it gets dark — look out.

An atheist has a reason, but no hope for his reason. A hypocrite has a hope, but no reason for his hope. A Christian has a reason for his hope and a hope for his reason.

Preparation to Live

Many people speak of their lives as being a preparation to die. This is a defeatist attitude to say the least of it. Our lives here should be preparation to live; to live with God and Christ throughout eternity. Heaven has often been described as a prepared place for a prepared people. Christianity is devoted to helping prepare to live. It helps them live here. The Christian life is described as the abundant life. Happiness contributes much to living and Christianity guides its followers into happy living.

Death is not a conclusion as far as the Christian is concerned. In-

stead, death is a means of attaining life; not life as we think of it bounded by years, but life through out limitless eternity. Paul wrote that flesh and blood should not inherit the kingdom of heaven. This means that there must be a change even for those who are alive when Christ returns in his second coming.

Too many people today actually prepare to die through their refusal to follow the gospel of the Lord. The life that they live is actually a life of sin. In so living, they prepare themselves for eternal punishment which is the second death; the death of finality from which there is no rescue, and from which there is no relief.

—Foster L. Ramsey

Too Young to Learn

"But my child is too young to learn, so I don't bring her to Bible class. Isn't she cute? She can recognize Santa Claus! Did you ever hear her recite 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star'? She doesn't miss a word of it. You know, she can tell when I am trying to slip away from her and leave her with the baby sitter. When I came in from town the other day she said the naughtiest word. I just don't know where she learned it."

"Yes, preacher, we are going to start bringing her to Bible class before long now....just as soon as she gets old enough to learn."

"And say! while you are here, I wish you would talk to my older daughter about Bible study. She is 10 now, and she doesn't care for the classes at all. I can't understand it.... And you might say something to Junior. He is 15 and he has not been to church services in years. It just worries me and his father that he has not been baptized. Can you say something that might help?"

—"As the twig is bent, so shall the tree be inclined."

Via — Lincoln and Tunnel St.
Santa Maria, California

Too much temper causes a man to speak his mind rather than mind his speech.

You Are Preaching

There isn't a word that a preacher can say

No matter how lovely or true,
Nor is there a prayer that his eager lips pray

That can preach such a sermon as you.

You vowed to serve Christ and men know that you did,

They're watching the things that you do;

There isn't one action of yours that is hid,

Men are watching and studying you.

You say that you're no preacher? Yes, but you preach

A powerful sermon each day.

The acts of your life are the things that you teach,

It isn't the thing that you say.

So Christians, remember you bear His name

Your lives are for others to view.

You are living examples, men praise you, or blame,

And measure all Christians by you.

Via — Central Church Bulletin
Haskell, Oklahoma

Please remember, to kill the church, one doesn't have to shoot the preacher, hang the elders, burn the building, or destroy the Bible! Just leave it alone and it will die a natural death!