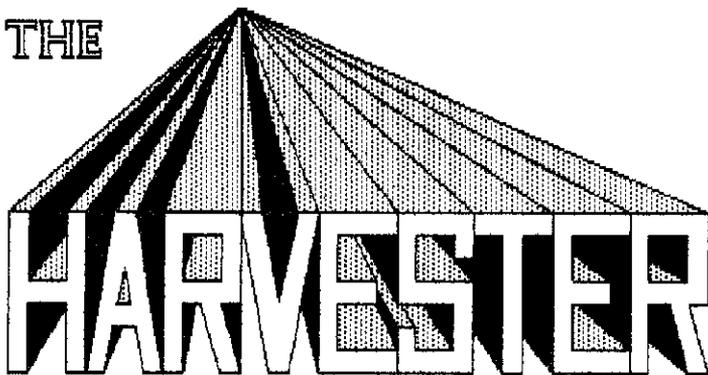


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

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No. 162

A FACE IN THE MIRROR

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." (James 1:22-24)

Each year, every Wal*Mart store takes an inventory of their merchandise. It's a very long process, both in preparation and execution. The results of the inventory tell the store exactly how much

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profit has been made, how much money has been lost to shop-lifting, which departments have the fastest turn over of merchandise, what items are fast-sellers, etc. The managers then use this information to direct the business operations of the store in the following year.

Think for a moment about this possibility: what if after the inventory was taken, Wal*Mart stores did the same old thing they had done in the year before? What if they ignored the results of the inventory?

They DO consider the inventory results -- it's one of the most important things, if not THE most important thing that the stores do each year. And it is one of the reasons why the Wal*Mart chain has had continued success.

James said that one who was a hearer of the word "only" was like one who looked into a mirror, learned about himself and who he was, and then walked away disregarding the things he had learned. This person hears the Word, or perhaps reads it, discovers that he is a sinner, and then leaves forgetting about his lost state. It's like taking an inventory and then throwing away the results!

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:25)

We should spend time in the Word -- learning, searching, reading, discovering, meditating, loving. It's the Word of God, His Word to us. His wisdom neatly placed on the pages of a book. If we continue in the Word, and strive to be a doer of the things we find therein (taking an "inventory" of ourselves often to make sure we are "doers"), then James says "...*this man shall be blessed in his deed.*"

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. How many times per day did the armed men of Israel march around Jericho on the first six days of siege?
2. Who does God tempt?
3. According to Romans 13, what debt should remain outstanding?
4. Name four of the five feasts or festivals mentioned in Numbers 28 and 29.
5. According to Deuteronomy, a man was NOT to plow with what two animals yoked together?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address and all correspondence to:

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1. The spies sent out by Joshua lodged in whose house? RAHAB'S (Josh. 2:1)
2. What two things does the Psalmist declare that God himself gives to the people? STRENGTH AND POWER (Psa. 68:35)
3. Teachers, or leaders, may expect what, according to James 3? GREATER JUDGMENT (Jas. 3:1)
4. Who does Isaiah report that the Lord will sweep with the broom of destruction? BABYLON (Isa. 14:23)
5. Why was a farmer not to plant two kinds of seeds in the vineyard? THE CROPS AND THE FRUIT WOULD BE DEFILED (Deut. 22:9)

***Don't bank on going slow and steady.
History records that the tortoise won
only one race with the hare.***

TO LOVE A CHILD

I'm sure everyone has had the unforgettable experience of being in a grocery store, or someplace like that, and witnessing a young child perform his best Academy Award winning temper tantrum. But did you ever stick around to see what happened after the show? Nine times out of ten the spoiled little brat gets exactly what he wants. Never mind the fact that mother said 'no' a thousand times, he kept the pressure on until she finally cracked and let him have whatever it was his little heart desired.

You ever wonder why things like that go on? Or wonder what causes little children to act that way? It's quite simple really, the parents ask for it! Give kids a little credit. They might be naive but they aren't stupid. They very quickly pick up on the fact that you will give in to their demands if they bother you enough or if they kick and scream violently enough.

What's the solution? Stop rewarding them for being bad, which is exactly what you are doing when you let them have what they want after they throw a fit. They should be punished and made to understand that their behavior is wrong and will not be tolerated. If the parents don't nip this in the bud they will find that as the child grows older he still expects to get whatever he wants.

The problem with this is that the child will grow into an adult who has no sense

of self control or self discipline. He will still feel that he should get whatever he wants, and be allowed to do whatever he desires. This can lead to big trouble. He will see no reason why he cannot engage in premarital sex, drug or alcohol abuse, criminal activity, and such like if he so desires. And he will see no reason to bother serving God unless it is convenient for him.

While many children who are raised without sufficient discipline may not go as far as drug abuse and criminal activity, they will nonetheless tend to have a lot more problems in adolescence and adulthood. A little observation of children as they grow up will show that those who are from homes where good discipline is practiced consistently will usually give their parents very few problems as teenagers and will be good, honest, hardworking, moral adults. Conversely, children from homes where discipline is lax or inconsistent will tend to get into a lot of trouble as teenagers and often continue this into adulthood.

The truth of Solomon's words should never be doubted. *"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."* (Prov. 29:15) If a child is not given the proper direction from a very young age it is seldom that his parents will be proud of the way he turns out.

Discipline is never fun for the child or the parent. But anyone who takes on the

responsibility of bringing a life into this world must also take on the responsibility to direct and shape that life properly. *"He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him."* (Prov. 13:24 RSV)

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DOUBLE DOSE OF COURAGE

It startled me to see,
Beside a mountain stream,
A man, visually impaired,
Painting a sunset scene.

I was amazed to see
One with most fingers gone,
Strumming his guitar
And humming low a song.

It was moving to hear
One who had lost her child,
Stand up in praise of God,
As through her tears she smiled.

I could hardly believe it,
Yet going to his store,
My wheelchair-neighbor smiled
Each day he passed my door.

How grand that God bestows
On those crushed down with sadness,
A double dose of courage,
And extra cup of gladness.

-- Perry Tanksley --

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
June 6 - 11 (Su-Fr)	Taylor's Crossroad Roanoke, AL 7:00 weeknights	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
June 7 - 11	Oak Grove Church Herrick, IL	Jim Pritchard (Shawnee, OK)
June 7 - 11	Winchester Church Winchester, OH	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 13 - 18	Mt. Carmel Church Woodland, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
June 13 - 18	Antioch Church Greenup, IL	Jim Pritchard (Shawnee, OK)
June 21 - 25 TN)	Ephesus Church Ephesus, GA	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 27 - - July 2	Hokes Bluff Church near Gadsden, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)

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“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forave their sin. and will heal