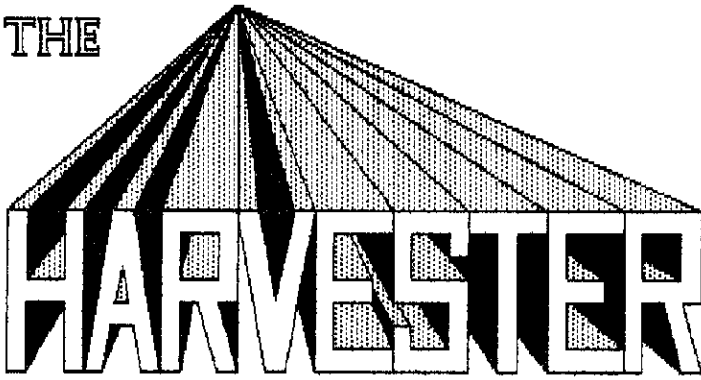


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"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

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THE DAY IS YOURS

There is a story told of a young man whose day started out 'rotten.' He had overslept and was late for work. 'Nothing' went right at the office. Everything that happened only contributed to his nervous frenzy. By the time he reached the bus stop for his homeward trip, his stomach was one big knot.

As usual, the bus was late -- and jammed. The frazzled man had to stand in the aisle. As the lurching vehicle pulled him in all directions, his gloom deepened and he thought, "What a horrible day!"

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Then he heard a deep voice from up front boom, "Beautiful day, isn't it?" Because of the crowd, the young man could not see the other man, but he could hear him as the voice continued to comment on the spring scenery, calling attention to each approaching landmark. This church. That park. This cemetery. That firehouse. Soon all the passengers were gazing out the windows. The man's enthusiasm was so contagious that in no time the young man found himself smiling for the first time that day.

The bus finally reached his stop. Maneuvering toward the door, the young man got a look at his "guide": a plump figure with a black beard, wearing dark glasses, and carrying a thin white cane.

The above story illustrates a very important part of each one of us. It's about how we look at life and how each day is ours to spend. It's about perspective. Although we all live in the same day and under the same sun, why do we each view the same day so differently? Why do we say some days are "good days" and some are "bad days?" Does not God in his infinite wisdom give us each the same identical 24 hours? To do otherwise would be showing partiality (Matt. 5:45; Acts 10:34).

When we woke up this morning, what did we see? Did we see a beautiful day of sunshine or did we see an overcast sky? I believe a lot of it has to do with our attitude because for some people everyday is a cloudy day with NO silver lining and we know that is not true. Remember the

old teaser ... Is the glass half empty or half full? It's the same exact glass, yet two people can see two different things. Some might call this magic or an act of illusion. It really just boils down to perspective. For who can truly define what is a good day and what is a bad day on this earth? Many times it simply depends on our attitude and our point of view. The lesson is this: we can control what kind of day we will have. In fact, this is true for just about any other aspect of life.

Friend, what is your outlook on life? I suppose if we concentrated solely on this physical life, then we would have to agree with the wise man Solomon. He wrote in the book of Ecclesiastes, "*vanity of vanities; all is vanity.*" For the atheist and the agnostic and the skeptic and the heathen, it is a dreary life indeed. But for the Christian the perspective is much different. It is positive. It has to be! A member of the Lord's body thinks about spiritual matters and knows there is a life hereafter. Somewhere in the near future there will be the sunshine of heaven to brighten the days of God's faithful children. It will be the glorious light of the Almighty Creator that will make his people rejoice and be exceedingly glad.

Within the written pages of the holy Scriptures we see examples of how God's people maintained such a positive attitude. When David was not allowed to build the temple for God, I suppose he could have sulked about it or thrown a

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tantrum. He could have begrudged God or called it a case of "sour grapes." No, David was enthused that his son was granted the honor of erecting the house of God (1 Chr. 28:2-6). He even collected materials to help out Solomon. For David, everyday was a good day and a day of blessing (Psa. 118:24; 145:2).

Another example that comes to mind is the story of Paul, who had a "*thorn in the flesh.*" It is not revealed precisely what that thorn was, but it was something most of us probably would have complained about. And complained, and complained, on and on. Paul, however, selected a different attitude. "*Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*" (2 Cor. 12:9) Paul chose to turn his days into good ones, days that would be profitable for Christ.

It appears that most of us, when we get old, believe that at a certain point we should retire from service to Christ. We think we have served our usefulness and our latter days of life will be full of gloom and overcast skies. But I am so encouraged and uplifted when I see the

older brethren still setting a proper example and giving it their 'best shot.' I love those aged folks who look outside and see sunshine everyday. They are so much like the apostle Peter who said that as long as he was still alive he would keep reminding his brethren about God's Word (2 Pet. 1:13,14). This indicates to me that Peter saw everyday as a "good day." It was a day of opportunity and service to his Lord. Christians should have a similar view of every day.

So when people ask us, "How is your day?" or "How are you doing?", will we accentuate the positive or will we harp on the negative? Will we complain about the bad day or praise God for the good day? Will we be a teammate of Optimism or an advocate of Pessimism? We have the power to make today a "good day" or a "bad day." It all depends on our attitude and how we want to look at it. Remember, the day is yours.

RAY McMANUS

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. There was one place in the land of Egypt where the plague of hail did not fall. Can you name this protected place as recorded in the book of Exodus?
2. With what measure does God give to all men?
3. From what can God raise up children to Abraham?

4. How does Habakkuk say he will react even in the face of adversity?

5. What physical sense did Isaac lose in his old age?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. On whom did God put a mark so that he would not be killed? CAIN (Gen. 4:15)

2. After entering Jerusalem triumphantly, where did Jesus go? TO THE TEMPLE (Mark 11:11)

3. Who did Ezekiel say was like a young lion of the nations, and as a whale of the seas? PHARAOH, KING OF EGYPT (Ezek. 32:2)

4. Which account of the gospel records the birth of John the Baptist? LUKE (Lk. 1:57-63)

5. As found in Judges 1, why couldn't Judah drive the inhabitants out of the valley? THEY HAD CHARIOTS OF IRON (Judg. 1:19)

When God measures men
He puts the tape around
the heart, not the head.

SILENCE OF THE SCRIPTURES

"And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD."
(Lev. 10:1-2)

This passage is an example of the consequences of operating in the realm of the silence of the scriptures. It is important to note the Lord DID tell the people what fire to use (Exo. 30:1-9, see v. 9), but he did not append a long list of types of fire NOT to use! He simply said not to offer "*strange incense.*"

It is quite possible that the sons of Aaron reasoned as follows: "Our intentions are good and our motives are pure. The purpose of the fire is to consume the sacrifice; what difference does it make what kind of fire it is?" Their resort to the application of the "sanctified common sense," and the "consensus of the wise" did not deliver them from the wrath of God their disobedience generated.

Let's notice what Moses gave as an explanation of the death of Aaron's two sons. "*Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.*"
(Lev. 10:3)

(continued next page)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Jan. 8 - 10 TN)	Lizella, GA	James McDonald (Woodbury,

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THE DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY ARE MARKED "PUSH."

(continued from page 7)

When we approach God in worship, we must do only what He has commanded. This was the mistake of Nadab and Abihu. When we offer something God has not commanded, we do not regard Him as holy, nor do we truly glorify Him (Lev. 10:3).

Let's make it a point not to worship in any way God has not commanded us to worship. If this were to happen, rather than regarding Him as holy and glorifying Him as He deserves by doing exactly as He commands, we would be offering worship HOW we wanted and WHEN we wanted. This would certainly be "*strange incense*"!

We can know that our actions in our service to the Lord are pleasing to Him if our intents are right and if we follow the Word as our guide. Let's NOT act in the realm of the silence of the scriptures!

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