



"For you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free..."

**CHRISTIANITY:
"GRADUATE-LEVEL"**

EDITOR'S PREFACE: The following contains a reprint of "BETRAYALS", from Marketplace Meditations by Os Hillman. Each of us likely experience tests in our Christian growth that can either crush our zeal or cause our roots of faith to grow deeper. Not the least of these tests comes with betrayal by closest friends. The psalmist, David, encountered such — and where else had life taught him to flee but to the Friend who forsakes not? David knew the value of a friend who loved him enough to confront and tell him his error, but subtle betrayal by a trusted companion was more than he could bear alone. Along with caution against being the perpetrator, the aim of this article is to assure us that, though none of us look forward to being betrayed, such tests can provide wonderful opportunity for Christian growth, instead of the temptation to retreat into the lonesome cocoon of bitterness and self-pity.

PSALMS 55:12-14 *"For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself*
(Continued on page 2)

♪LAND OF BEULAH♪

By: Travis Lewis

Several years ago, Squire Parsons wrote a beautiful song that has long since been identified with "gospel music". For many years, I was curious about the origin of the title, "BEULAH LAND". Some time ago, a late, dear friend and pastor, Elder Calvin Perrigo, explained, in sermon, the title. It all then made sense. Hopefully, the following exposition will unfold much of its rich meaning.

Read the following scripture carefully. In Isaiah 62:4, as the prophet prayed for the return of Israel to righteousness, he pled, "...Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate; But thou shalt be called Hephzibah (*my delight is in her*), and thy land Beulah (*to marry, or married land*): for the Lord delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married." *Isaiah 62:4* Having pondered these beautiful words over the past several years, this is a collection of my thoughts on "BEULAH LAND".

♪Beulah Land♪

This is indeed a "married land"; for it epitomizes a perfect union, with no thought of separation or substitution with
(Continued on page 3)

"BOYS WILL BE BOYS, AND SO WILL A LOT OF MIDDLE AGED MEN". *Kin Hubbard*

THE READING OF THE WILL

(PART 4)

By: Travis Lewis



PREFACE: (Beginning with this issue, the full, original introduction will not be printed, but may be acquired in its entirety by request to the address shown on Page 2. For copies of previous parts of THE READING OF THE WILL, you may contact the editor at the address shown on page 2.) The objective of this series is to alert every reader to a certain future judgment. (For every individual in whatever household or hemisphere, this day of accounting awaits in the not-so-distant future. Written in allegory, the intent is to encourage each of us to audit our true relationship with God, as well as to review paradigms and habits that will be brought into either graciously commending or terribly costly judgment. Most will readily recognize the Executor as typifying our Lord, Jesus the Christ. We should find the other characters easily identifiable. At times, a mirror may suffice for immediate association. If so, then this effort has been successful! Please follow it closely and soberly, for the scenes described in these contents are not tailored for chuckles. Plans are to spread this series over multiple, but consecutive, issues. To this I acknowledge my acute inability to fathom either the majesty or chronology of final judgment. Even so, in allegory, I offer this effort.

This part begins as a Ms. Divoree approaches the bar.

(Continued on page 3)



**CHRISTIANITY:
"GRADUATE-LEVEL"**

(Continued from page 1)

against me; then I would have hid myself from him; But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance; we took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company."

BETRAYALS¹

By: Os Hillman

"You will always be attacked in the place of your inheritance," said the man sitting across the breakfast table. "God has called you to bring people together and to impact other people's lives as a result of this anointing in your life. You must make sure that you seek to maintain righteousness in all of your relationships." Those words came from someone who had the wisdom and authority to speak them to me.

I have had a number of close relationships that ended in betrayal. I am very loyal to my friends and those with whom I have covenant relationships. Yet there are times that no matter how righteous you are, when someone means to betray you, he will do it. Loving those who betray you is "graduate-level" Christianity. The religious community and one of His closest friends betrayed Jesus. Those who were closest to David betrayed him. Loving our enemies cannot be accomplished by mustering it up. It can only happen when we have come to a death in ourselves so that Christ can love through us. It is truly one of those acts of identifying with the cross.

If you are a leader, you can be sure God will allow you to experience betrayal. It is one of those courses in the Kingdom that may not be required until God has seen that you have successfully passed other tests. It is the most difficult and most gut-wrenching of all tests. A godly response goes against all that is in us. Our natural response is to protect, retaliate, and retain unforgiveness and bitterness. This natural response is Satan's most powerful weapon; to overcome it requires much grace from God. May we ask God to build His nature in us now so that when such attacks come, we will be aware that it is a test, and that we can respond in righteousness.

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APPENDIX (by editor): Lest we ourselves become betrayer, may we keep in mind that , "there is none good, no not one.", and be ready to repent. Few elements of social chemistry thwart synergy in relationships like the knowledge of betrayal. Trust is the necessary lubricant of wholesome relationships, and betrayal is trust's assassin. Missed judgments contaminate each of our lives, and age, hopefully

(Continued on page 4)

WHO,WHAT, WHEN, WHERE??

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**THE KING OR HIS CUPBOARD...
WHICH DO WE REALLY LOVE?**

By: Travis Lewis

The year was 1976 – a watershed year. Over a decade of costly conflict overseas, along with shameful scandals and divisions at home, had brought the once thought impregnable United States of America to lowest ebb since her great Civil War. Cries from home had demanded withdrawal (or 'retreat' in the minds of some) from Viet Nam; inflation was rampant; heroes were progressively void of character; the Christian religion was becoming taboo; and confidence in the great American experiment was swiftly being lost. A quarter-century of gradually surrendering bedrock values to situational morality had spawned the question, "Is there anything in life that really offers long term hope?". That same year also brought the election of a president to heal the wounds of Watergate and Viet Nam. Jimmy Carter offered integrity, and he offered it in the form of a professed Christian using the phrase "born again". Also in 1976, Chuck Colson, of Watergate fame, published a best seller, *Born Again*, which offered his personal story of an encounter with God during the Watergate fiasco and with his ensuing imprisonment.

Over the next decade, a dramatic change took place in American society. By 1986, a Gallup poll revealed that a whopping 32 percent of Americans considered themselves "born again" Christians. A similar poll showed that 57 percent of Americans believed religion could answer all or most of their current problems. Almost suddenly, it was popular to be a Christian. But, had more people actually become Christians, or had the price of being identified as a Christian only gone down? Little more than a decade later, at the turn of a new century, no one would dare run for national office without being identified with religion, and much more preferably –Christianity. Monies and energies donated to "spread Christianity" have increased exponentially, as have the numbers claiming the name.

THE KING OR HIS CUPBOARD...

(Cont. from pg. 2)

(Continued on page 5)

CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPER

Last Sunday, Miss Charlene sang, "I Will Not Pass This Way But Once," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

I SELDOM NOTICE
BOOKENDS MUCH; AL-
THOUGH OF COURSE,
I'VE SEEN THEM.....



THEY ARE SORT OF LIKE
EARS: ALL THAT REALLY
COUNTS..IS WHAT THEY
HAVE BETWEEN THEM.

♪ **LAND OF BEULAH** ♪

(Continued from page 1)

another;

This “married land” reflects a land of harmony; no more varying or opposing points of view; no more differences in motive or intent;

Truly, this is a land of happiness -- no more uneasiness or toiling for that which we are convinced will provide our ‘happiness’, for ‘happiness’ is a present, and permanent, reality in this ‘married land’;

This is a land of no separation; no more hindrance to the joy of our present state by the thought of parting, for separation is past forever;

This “married land” is one of perfect, permanent fellowship -- no more of one using or misleading another for personal gain; in this wonderful land, mutual trust prevails, and motives are not questioned; no more victims filled with grief when having experienced the betrayal of a friend; this is a land where all expectations are met — and more; for this permanent marriage will be more glorious than the instant wedding; no more looking forward to fruition of beautiful hopes, only to be grieved by an empty end; no more wondering if the attaching love we feel for another is mutual; as with the good marriage on earth, this is a land completely void of jealousy between those afforded various honors and rewards;

Also, as in the good marriage, this is a land of security -- a land of no uncertainty about acquiring or losing that which guarantees us protection from harm or insurance against loss;

This is also a land of rest -- land of no more unpleasant toil, or unwelcome demands upon our time; no more pleas for rest by our weary flesh; being infinitely superior to the most mature earthly unions, this is a land of peace -- land where nothing can ever interject an unpleasant disturbance or disagreement;

Having been vulnerable to the impure and unholy on earth, this is a land in which we are never tempted again -- nothing to distract or draw our passions from all that is pure and holy;

Here is a land where we wonder not again about the distracting rumors or provocative acts of our fellow man; no misunderstandings to confuse our minds or cloud our vision of the future; all communications are clear, for full understanding of truth finally prevails;

Having been tempted on earth with “greener pastures on the other side”, this is a land where each is

(Continued on page 4)

THE READING OF THE WILL

(Continued from page 1)

Advancing next, with head bowed, is Ms. Divoree.

Executor: Would you explain your claim to the new homeland?

Ms. Divoree: My Lord, the claim that I bring may be not nearly so impressive as some others. My production in your fields was considered by many to be of little use....

Executor (interrupting): For your benefit, Ms. Divoree, and for those who follow, I repeat – the evaluation rendered by others, either in former life or in this judgment hall, is of no present concern or account. My record alone persuades the verdicts rendered here. Alone therein lies the truth, and for those self-appointed, would-be lords, *with what judgment they have judged, therewith will they be judged.*

Ms. Divoree: With your judgment, I will be most content, my Lord.

Ms. Divoree: (Continuing with her former discourse) With all my problems, I never forgot my passage through the gate. Part of my life was such as I would rather not often remember, and the choice I made to plead for mercy at your gate of adoption is about the only truly good decision I may have ever made. It is surely my fondest recollection. You must remember how, during my wandering years, I made choices that brought much pain to those who, even then, pled to you on my behalf. I chose to allow youthful passions to delay my approach to the gate. The baggage of youthful mistakes followed me, even after my adoption, and I often allowed them to distract my efforts in your field. Many of my promises to you upon adoption, I have not kept, though your commitment to me has been faithful. Even with the trailing mistakes of adolescence, I gradually realized that acceptance at the gate brought its own responsibilities and privileges – and joys. With this realization, I took my position in your field and can honestly say that I made a good faith effort to produce yields according to my potential. In those endeavors alone, I found true fulfillment and learned true happiness. You blessed me beyond my fondest dreams, and I tried to remember that. Many in neighboring fields, some even being instructors, often viewed my efforts to be futile. Even my identity with your work was sometimes taught to be inferior. I could not help but take notice, however, that those same folks had no problem with handling the offerings I returned to the farm. To make monetary offerings was about the only act which they felt I was qualified to perform. The inferiority mold into which I was cast by some instructors, though not all, and by others who accepted them at their word, was far different from the understanding I received from the Policy

(Continued on page 6)

CHRIST-LIKE CARING IS MORE THAN COMPROMISE, AND MORE THAN MUTUAL AGREEMENT NOT TO HURT EACH OTHER. IT IS A TACID AGREEMENT TO HELP EACH OTHER. (See Gal. 6: 2)



☀️ **WHAT WE DO DEPENDS ON HOW WE FEEL ABOUT WHAT WE**

LAND OF BEULAH

(Continued from page 3)

happy with the perimeter of his own present position;
 This is a land absent of competition -- no more mentalities that operate under the rule, "*the more you get, the less there is for me*", or "*might makes right*"; this is a land which knows not the philosophy, "*for one to be fulfilled, another has to be subdued.*", or man's axiom of "*survival of the fittest*". All these paradigms are forever rescinded;
 This beautiful marriage will host an environment of total sharing -- no more "*mine, and not yours*", for everything in sight is a gift of the Lamb of God; it is a land of single, common interests -- no more "*What's in it for me?*", or "*What have you done for me lately?*";
 This 'married land' will be absent of vengeance one toward another; no more losses from having been exploited by the greedy, or victimized by the avenger.
 This home will be void of prejudice — where every inhabitant can comfortably sit together, being void of bigotry, and fully absent of racial, ethnic or religious distrust; we will have at last ridded ourselves of the wicked hearts of ethnic cleansing and of the stiff neck of self-righteousness; Here is a land in which each party looks forward, with certainty, to remaining together forever ;
 Having been continual pilgrims on earth, we will have at last reached a land where we no longer dread an end to that which is good, or hope for that which is better;
 All grief and uneasy feelings will be left outside the gate, as every heart quivers in a sweet melody of lasting peace;
 this is truly a "married land" — this is "Beulah Land"! THIS IS HOME!!! Ω

**CHRISTIANITY:
"GRADUATE-LEVEL"**

(Continued from page 2)

with its wisdom, often changes our point of view . Many such judgments are those upon which others have founded their assumptions and staked their credibility. On changing our viewpoint, often our natural response is to succumb to the prompting of pride, and to hide our changed, and hopefully clearer, outlook; nevertheless, we must allow wisdom and genuine love to drive us toward quickly and freely conveying our views to the brother before he is tempted with feelings of betrayal and distrust — and thus converted from friend to enemy. Finding ourselves betrayed may be a "graduate-level" course in our Christian growth curve. If so, we would do well to heed the pattern of the psalmist in Psalms 57:1, "*...yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.*". Ω

☀️ **IN CONFESSION** ☀️

Learn in confession to be honest with God. Do not give fair names to foul sins; call them what you will, they will smell no sweeter. What God sees them to be, that do you labor to feel them to be; and with all openness of heart, acknowledge their real character. Charles Spurgeon, *Daily Devotions*

🎵 **THE FIRST CAROL** 🎵

The following contains excerpts from a sermon by Charles Haddon Spurgeon, presented to his English congregation during this season over one hundred twenty-five years ago. Though condensed and edited for brevity, and mingled with his stiking terms that are now archaic, it presents beautiful prose in Elder Spurgeon's description of the first season of carols. May it serve as a guide-on for our praise during this season in which our spirits so easily become skewed.
 The Editor

Though superstitious to worship angels, it is but proper to love them. Although it would be a high sin against
(Continued on page 7)

**REGARDLESS HOW HARD YOU WORK — REGARDLESS HOW RIGHT YOU ARE — SOMETIMES ONE LOSES, THOUGH
 *****ONLY FOR A LITTLE WHILE IF HE REFUSES TO QUIT!*******

**I'm 100% for progress.
It's all this change that
I'm against.** *Local politician*



AS WE THINK NO DEEPER THAN OUR VOCABULARY
ALLOWS, WE REFLECT CHRIST IN NO GREATER MEAS-
URE THAN WE PERSONALLY KNOW HIM.

In Patrick Morley's book, *The Man In The Mirror*, the author asks, "If religion is such a big part of our lives, why hasn't it made more of an impact on our society?". Is that question not sobering!! Great numbers of those same religious, "born again" folks claim "right of choice" to destroy a human being before or during its birth, then rightly call the same act "murder" once the child has been born. So do most of the ruling, religious politicians. Over 50 percent of "born again" spouses, once solemnly pledged before God to one another for life, are eventually discarded like a worn out shirt. Though 'Christians' have come out of the closet, who can deny that our society has progressively sank deeper into a moral sewer? What is this oddity? In Mr. Morley's book, he calls this phenomenon *cultural Christianity*. He explains it this way:

Cultural Christianity means to pursue the God we want instead of the God who is. It is the tendency to be shallow in our understanding of God, wanting him to be more of a gentle grandfather type who spoils us and lets us have our own way. It is sensing a need for God, but on our own terms. It wants the God we have underlined in our Bibles without wanting the rest of Him, too.

Neither this article in *REVEILLE* nor Mr. Morley's book suggests that all who may find our own selves in this rut are not "born again". Both do suggest a close audit of the heart's innermost view of the Lord Jesus Christ, by asking, "Where lies my REAL love? Is it with the King; or is it in what he has to offer from his cupboard?"

The point is well made in Luke 8:12-13. In this parable of the four types of soils, one class represents those who received the gospel with joy. It felt good and offered a measure of temporary satisfaction; it appeared to be the right choice to make, for it offered a sort of hope. "After all, everybody else is doing it." So they went away joyful, yet still as disconnected as ever from the lasting source of living water. Soon the scorching sun of life's troubles beat again upon their life, and the real joy soon died for lack of a permanent moisture source.

Great change takes place in the actual "born again" experience. A lasting connection is made. A permanent relationship is established. The most apparent evidence is manifested in how our life is genuinely changed — not exclusively in a short-lived feeling, though feelings are certainly involved in such a profound transformation. Eternal life beginning at the point of the "new birth" is a solid promise from God; however, the advertisement of modern thinking that all one has to do is "repeat a prayer" in order to receive the new birth may be the most destructive heresy of all. It produces a counterfeit faith that will surely produce a *cultural Christian*. Realizing one's depravity, and, with the miraculous help of the Holy Spirit, repenting to the point of letting go of self and trusting alone in the Lord Jesus to remove the penalty of past, present, and future sins — this is genuine, saving FAITH, and genuine faith alone is what saves. This is Biblical salvation — coming to a point of faith in Jesus Christ so that one's life is actually changed. Any other measure or nature of faith produces counterfeit Christianity. Though sad to say, cultural Christianity is not exclusive to counterfeit Christians -- non-Biblical Christians. Even those who understand the "born again" experience often succumb to being cultural Christians — attracted to the King's cupboard more than to the King. Slowly we buy into our modern culture. As an unsuspecting frog in a pan of slowly heating water, we remain unwary of our spiritual decline while being gradually cooked in the cauldron of cultural Christianity. Instead of offering hope and light to a weary world, and all the while wearing the logo "Christian", we ever so slowly begin to look, act, and think like those who never knew the Lord; and they think, "If that's what it means to be a Christian, I'll just stay where I am." Maybe we should regularly ask, "Is there really any difference between my thoughts and ways and those of the broken, hurting world? Do I really desire to do something for the King, or is it the cultural benefits of being identified with Him that I have begun to treasure? Does my life offer true hope, or does it feed society's disillusionment with Christianity?" To one group of cultural Christians long ago, a message came from Heaven warning, (*paraphrased*) "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! But because you are only lukewarm, you are about to be as spit from my mouth. You think yourselves to be rich and self-sufficient; actually, you are wretched -- poor, blind, and naked." (Rev. 3:15-17) Is this what the Holy Spirit would say to me individually? Would this be the letter our church would receive from Heaven? Do I really desire to be nourished and grow in my

(Continued on page 6)

In the life of mortal man, no victory or defeat should be thought final; it is just preparation for the next and greater struggle.

Gen. George C. Marshall, U.S. Army



THE KING OR HIS CUPBOARD

(Cont. from pg. 5)

ability to accurately reflect the Lord Jesus; or, is my attention fastened on a cupboard that smells like Christianity, but provides only a cheap meal of fleeting feelings, while supplying no strength for productive labor founded on faith in the Lord Jesus? Is our attention on the King – or His cupboard? **Let us ask -- and answer -- with brutal honesty!! Ω**

THE READING OF THE WILL

(Continued from page 3)

Manual. Their ideas also greatly differed from the encouragement I received in the dear conversations I experienced with you. Had it not been for that private line, which no one could short-circuit to your throne, and for my friends who understood and accepted me as a sister, I would truly have been swallowed up in hopelessness.

Executor: Your mistakes in youth, Ms. Divoree, were indeed saddening to your closest friends, but most of all to me. You are correct in recognizing that the wisest choice you ever made was to apply for adoption at the gate attended by me alone. At the point of adoption, however, both your offenses and offensive nature were forgiven. Choices from that point forward are the focus of this hearing and judgment. I was aware that memories of your earlier years were points of uneasiness within your being. Your gratitude became a beautiful, daily habit toward which my father and I looked each day. Your memories were to serve as a reminder of whence you had come and to where we had placed you as an adopted child. Unpleasant projections and railings by your neighbors, and at times, instructors, indeed saddened us. With such atrocities, I will deal in due time. The ostracizing by your neighbors will be accounted similarly. Many are about to enter this long home where *many of those thought least by men, are to be the greatest*. But, yes, the record is clear how you persevered, and in so doing, lent hope to those struggling in like circumstances. The invitation that rang clear from our portals throughout time was for all, yes all, those weary of being lost without hope to come and find rest. You chose *wherein was the good way*. You are about to understand that which you could formerly see only as *through a glass darkly*.

Before the bar next marches a Ms. Brawler'o.

Executor: What claim would you have on this land that awaits our true children.

Ms. Brawler'o: *(in a more subdued tone than to which her neighbors were formerly accustomed):* Sir, you will find recorded that, from a child, I was raised in these fields. By example from infancy, I was taught to identify with this family name. I was sort of a natural born leader. Having been reared so near your work, I was relieved of such experiences at the gate such as have been previously accounted. Then, I am proud to say, I found a husband, as you know, who was sort of a natural born follower – one requiring lots of leadership. I took lots of pride that he and I were made for each other. Under my guidance, we were always regular and punctual at the work in your fields. When choices were to be made, whether concerning personal, family matters, or about your fieldwork, you know it was I that took the initiative. I am so pleased that my family was always ready to follow my lead. That is the reason

(Continued on page 8)

THE HAMMER AND THE ANVIL

Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the evening chime;
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor
Old hammers, worn with beating of the years
of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one," he answered with a twinkling eye,
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, thought I, the Anvil of God's Word,
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of infidels was heard,
The Anvil is unworn, the hammers are gone!

John Clifford

WHO'S TO REFORM WHO??

**THERE'S SO MUCH GOOD IN THE
WORST OF US,
AND SO MUCH BAD IN THE BEST OF
US;
THAT IT'S HARD TO TELL WHICH ONE
OF US,
OUGHT TO REFORM THE REST OF
US !!**



🎵 **THE FIRST CAROL** 🎵

(Continued from page 4)

the Sovereign Court of Heaven to pay slightest adoration to the mightiest angel, yet it would be unkind and unseemly, if we did not give to holy angels a place in our heart's warmest love.

They were not ashamed to come and tell the news to humble shepherds. Methinks, they had as much joy in pouring out their songs that night before the lowly shepherds, as they would have had if they had been commanded by their Master to sing their hymn in the halls of Caesar. Mere men think it a fine thing to preach before kings and princes; and think it great condescension now and then to have to minister to the humble crowd. Not so with the angels. They stretched their willing wings, and gladly sped from their bright seats above to tell the shepherds on the plain by night the marvelous story of an Incarnate God. Mark how well they told the story! Not with stammering tongue of him who tells a tale in which he hath no interest; nor even with the feigned interest of a man that would move the passions of others, when he feeleth no emotion himself. They sang the story out, for they could not stay to tell it in heavy prose. They sang, "Glory to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men." Methinks, they sang it with gladness in their eyes; with their hearts burning with love, and with breasts as full of joy as if the good news to man had been good news to themselves. Verily, it was good news to them, for in the pure heart of sympathy, good news to others is good news to itself.

In their opening strain, they gave glory to God. They had been present on many august occasions, and they had joined in many a solemn chorus to the praise of their Almighty Creator. They were present at the creation, when 'The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.' They had seen many a planet fashioned between the palms of Jehovah, and wheeled by his eternal hands through the infinitude of space. We doubt not they had often chanted to God, "Blessing and honor, and glory, and majesty, and power, and dominion, and might". But this time, when they saw God stoop from his throne, and become a babe, hanging upon a woman's breast, they lifted their notes higher still. Ay, there is no mortal that can ever dream how magnificent was that song, "Glory to God in the highest."

What is the instructive lesson from the first syllable of the angels' song? That he is glorified in every dewdrop that twinkles to the morning sun. He is magnified in every wood flower that blossoms in the thickets although it lives to blush unseen and waste its sweetness in the forest air. God is glorified in every bird that warbles on the spray; all created things extol him. Do not the stars exalt him, when they write his name upon the



**CHRISTIANITY IS PERSONAL
(PURSE—AND—ALL)**

azure of heaven in their golden figures? Do not the lightnings adore him when they flash his brightness in arrows of light piercing the midnight darkness? Do not thunders extol him when they roll like drums in the march of the God of armies? Is there aught beneath the sky, save man, that doth not glorify God? Lo, what wisdom is here! A just God becomes man that he may be justifier of the ungodly. Lo, what power! For what power is so great as when it concealeth power, such as when the Godhead unrobes itself and becomes man? Though some part of God is written throughout the universe; it is here best read – in Him who was the Son of Man, and, yet, the Son of God.

The only glad tidings that made the angels sing, are those that put God first, God last, God midst, and God without end, in the salvation of his creatures, and rests the crown wholly and alone upon the head of him that saves without a helper. "Glory to God in the highest", is the angels' song.

I wish everybody that keeps Christmas this year would keep it as the angels kept it. There are many who, when they talk about keeping Christmas, mean by that the cutting of the bands of their religion for one day in the year, as if Christ were the Lord of misrule, and as if the birth of Christ should be celebrated as the orgies of Bacchus. Many think Christmas cannot possibly be kept, except there be a great shout of merriment and mirth in the house; and added to that, the boisterousness of sin. Now, my brethren, we will not keep the day in any religious sense whatever, attaching nothing

(Continued on page 8)

It's not what we **EAT** but what we **DIGEST** that makes us **STRONG**.

Not what we **GAIN** but what we **SAVE** that makes us **RICH**.

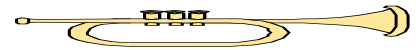
Not what we **READ** but what we **REMEMBER** that makes us **LEARNED**.

Not what we **PROFESS** but what we **PRACTICE** that proves kinship with Jesus.

— **BIBLE PROMISE** —
**NO LOAVES FOR THE LOAF-
ER!**



♪ REVEILLE ♪



GOTTA' DO SOME THINGS OURSELVES

*To sit still and wish makes no person great.
The good Lord may send the fish, but I gotta' dig the bait.
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*

NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH???
A business conference is often comprised of everyone reminding one another that there is no such thing as a "free lunch" — while eating one!!!!

THE READING OF THE WILL (Continued from page 6)

each of their lives was so orderly. Being regularly involved in running your business kept me feeling so close to you. I acknowledge that I was very easily annoyed if others challenged my position on matters concerning your work. I was so close to you, I guess I could not understand why my judgment would be questioned.

EXECUTOR: *(with patience appearing to be taxed):* Ms. Brawler'o, the matter of highest priority is not how punctual or hard working you may have been, or how forceful a leader you considered yourself. The concern at this bar is the legitimacy of your entry into our fields, and, if your entry was legal, how well you reflected us as Lord. Your form of godliness is well recorded. Assuming our very nature on legal entry at the gate, however, is the only proof positive of legitimacy as our child. The record of your habits and nature reflects raw forcefulness, not gentleness; I see that your intolerance for the shortcomings of others was much stronger than for those of your own. Closer scrutiny of your own faults could have made all the difference in the verdict about to be passed. Also, I find much more of your time having been spent calculating how you could rule others and gratify your appetite for control, rather than on how to prepare for our service and prosper our fields for harvest. Your blindness to our beauty denied those closest to you the view they might otherwise have experienced. Though sincere, the fact was "...the blind was leading the blind.". Even when the blind leads those who could otherwise see, the destiny of both is the same ditch. The grave verdict about to be rendered will be neither pleasing nor pleasant. There is no hope for any who assume to possess a waiver of personal passage at the gate. I find not your name on our record of births, and only a forged imitation of our nature within your heart. Be escorted to our left. We never knew you. ***** *To be continued next issue...Ω*

In future issues, we will meet , Ms. Younger, Mr. Oldman, Mr. Notsubig, Mr. McMinster and his sons, ...and others to whom we may find striking familiarity.

*****SOME OF US LEARN FROM OTHER PEOPLE'S MISTAKES; THE REST OF US ARE THE 'OTHER PEOPLE'.*****

THE FIRST CAROL (Conclusion)

more to it than to any other day: believing that every day may be a Christmas for ought we know, and wishing to make every day Christmas, if we can, yet we must try to set an example to others how to behave on that day; and since the angels gave glory to God, let us do the same.

And oh, if thou has anything on thy conscience — anything that prevents thy having peace of mind — keep thy Christmas alone in thy chamber, for from him alone flows peace on earth, peace within thyself, peace with thy fellow men, and peace with thy God. May God give you peace with yourselves; may he give you good will towards all your neighbors, your friends — and, yes, even your enemies; and may he give you grace to give "**glory to God in the highest**". ♪

Praying that each of you enjoy a holy and happy holiday season, and that God will prosper you and your family in every way during 2001. Travis & Kay