

REVENUE

"FOR YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE..."

HOW BRITTLE THE THREAD

BY: TRAVIS W. LEWIS

By past description of his nature, he was an artist, architect, engineer, social planner – true master of all the arts and sciences. All this — and much more! Long before men and women were heralded for isolating the basic elements of matter, and ages prior to the ingenious arrangement of those elements into a periodic table, he understood their nature and relationship in every detail. Countless centuries of toilsome research and experimentation have come and gone; and we still stand in awe at new discoveries, the minutest details of which have long been primer to him. In his own form of laughter, he must have chuckled as the keenest of mortal minds sold their theories as facts, only to be disproved as higher levels of thought uncovered new layers of information that disproved the old. The cycle continues. The creature – mankind -- still toils to comprehend the infinite handiwork of the Creator. Some question his very existence and others brazenly contend that mankind is his own master, even the highest form of intelligence. Now and then, however, certain incidents remind us of both the fallibility of the creature and the omniscience of the Creator. If we would look – and learn – maybe such incidents could serve our quest to understand that there is a sovereign Master Creator, and, even in our finest hour, we are only the creature.

It was a Saturday morning, February 1, 2003, when within a five-minute period, I received an email from my grandson in Georgia and a phone call from my son, who was visiting in Nashville at the time. Both messages brought the same tragic news. For several minutes longer than normal, communications had been lost between NASA's Mission Control and the space shuttle Columbia upon its reentry into the atmosphere of the earth. Within a few

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THE GREAT WAR WITHIN

BY: TRAVIS W. LEWIS

This is the first part of a series that every Christian would do well to explore with a serious level of interest. It explores a war – a war involving two superpowers. Though the conflict rages every day, it began in the long ago. The fields of battle are not in far away lands or some imaginary settings of science fiction, nor does the prize for which each principal strives involve only people of strange cultures with strange ways. The principals have long been at odds, and though the end of the struggle has been foretold, the conflict continues. For how long, only Heaven knows.

The principals are the God of Heaven and Satan. The fields of conflict are the lives of every rational human being, and the prize of victory is the human soul. This initial discourse discusses the reasons for which this warfare exists. Future parts will discuss the authority and character which the Christian has at his or her disposal. We will explore the schemes Satan uses to deflect and deceive and what he really wants from our individual lives and from our churches. The battle armor, the necessity of prayer, and how to discern whether we are hearing the voice of God or the voice of Satan – this series will address all this, and hopefully more.

So let's get started!

WHAT IS THIS WAR?

Though we are told all that we have need to know, not many details are given as to how this long conflict began. We are told that Satan, originally called Lucifer, was created as an anointed cherub – not just any angel, but one actually commissioned to guard the throne of God. Trusted, responsible, and beautiful he

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CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPER: "The deacon body voted 6-5 for the church to observe Unity Sunday." Anonymous



REVEILLE



**THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY THAT WE SHOW OUR LOVE FOR GOD ...
... IS TO OBEY HIM!!**

THE GREAT WAR WITHIN

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must have been. No other angel would have been closer to God, and no other angel exceeded him in power. He was created absolutely perfect, full of wisdom, and exceedingly attractive. God had adorned him with every possible jewel so that he was the perfection of beauty.

So beautiful, so powerful – so how did one this close to God become so corrupted? Ezekiel 28:17 reveals that “.. his heart was lifted up because of his beauty.”. Satan had become so enamored with himself, so focused on his beauty and power and wisdom that he began thinking that he deserved to be God. And, once he was consumed with self, his goodness became corrupted. Continuing, we may see that this same temptation to which the head angel succumbed still destroys lives – and souls – even today.

Since truth is that God has no equal, neither will He have fellowship with one who considers himself equal to God. So Lucifer was forever cast from the heavenly environment. For his eternal welfare, there would be no atonement.

So the stage was set for war in its classic definition – a conflict between two opposing forces or wills, a dispute that has no resolution other than confrontation, where one force is bent on saving, the other bent on destroying. Between these two forces existed irreconcilable differences. God is good and does only good; He cannot do evil; He is the very definition of “good”. On the other hand, Satan is evil and seeks to do only evil; he is the very definition of “evil”. Regarding every aspect of God’s nature, Satan proves to be the exact opposite. So the two can never be in agreement. Their wills,

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BULLETIN MISPRINT

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER
THE MANY WHO ARE SICK
OF OUR CHURCH AND OUR
COMMUNITY.**

WHO,WHAT, WHEN, WHERE??

REVEILLE is edited and published solely by Travis W. Lewis, 1580 Oak Grove Road, Lexington, TN, 38351, with the assistance of brothers and sisters who share its common mission. Usually published bi-monthly, free subscriptions may be obtained and articles arranged for publication at our home office located at the above address. Communications may also be received by phone at 731-968-2114; fax 731-968-2902; or email twlewis302@charter.net.

References such as “our church” or “church bulletin” do not refer specifically, if at all, to that of my home church. Opinions expressed in REVEILLE are those of the editor alone.

REVEILLE BACK ON LINE

A few years have passed since you may have received your last REVEILLE. Maybe this is your very first. As much as I enjoyed doing the publication, other obligations have taken precedence for a much longer period of time than I intended. Along with family obligations, vocations that often call for considerable hours, teaching class on Sundays and the study time that each required left not enough time to meet the criteria for material we set for REVEILLE from its beginning. But God provides. He moves in ways we often do not understand; and, we often cannot fully understand even when He finishes. Over and over, He has proven so in my life. He has presently blessed me with absolutely the most attentive and receptive Sunday School class of students that I have ever sat before. During this time, our church has allowed me to present several series of in-depth, Sunday evening studies that have truly blessed and matured my soul. Hopefully, they helped God’s people grow as well. That was surely our highest intent.

In December, 2005, I was accepted into a year-long study course, which resulted in the next year being the most mentally intense, yet most spiritually nourishing, period of my life. During this period, my goal was set to continue REVEILLE at some point.

Now, at long last, and for reasons and in ways that I cannot fully understand at this point, God has allowed me the opportunity to continue REVEILLE. I pray that it provokes thought among our readers that you may not have otherwise experienced and in depths to which your thoughts may not otherwise probe. Or, at times, maybe even replace a frown with a smile. REVEILLE will be transmitted mostly online, which will allow wider, quicker, and much

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WE MAKE NO GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO OUR KIDS ... THAN TO INTERCEDE WITH GOD FOR THEIR WELL BEING. PATRICK MORLEY, THE MAN IN THE MIRROR, ZPH, 1997



REVEILLE



NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: 4000th baby delivered to couple from Highlands!

Recommended Daily Reading

Often in REVEILLE, and from our own experience, we may commend certain books, articles, movies, websites or links which you may visit and hopefully grow with what these sites may offer. Maybe you will find them to fit your needs, maybe not. I make these recommendations only after a positive, personal learning experience which these sites have offered to me. I hope they provide the same for you.

In this issue, I recommend www.breakpoint.org. Breakpoint is a ministry of Prison Fellowship Ministries, headquartered in Landsdowne, VA. Breakpoint offers a genuinely Christian perspective on today's news and trends in most all the media — from radio to print to movies. So, try Breakpoint and let me know what you think. THANKS.

Travis

ARE YOU THINKING? *When you hire folks smarter than you are, you prove you are smarter than they are!??*

THE GREAT WAR WITHIN

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their desires, and their actions remain in a perpetual state of conflict. Having been forever cast out of relationship with God, Satan's desire is to lure away those who God would draw toward relationship with Himself, or to distract those who already have a relationship with God.

WHY DOES THIS WAR STILL EXIST?

Reason 1: Odd as it may seem, God often uses this warfare to accomplish His will. Whenever Satan commits or perpetuates evil against a child of God, God often uses that evil to accomplish His will.

Think of the questions that must have crossed the minds of the early Christian church as they were being scattered because of persecution by enemies of their newly found faith. Most may have never lived to understand that their reluctant dispersion was God's way of beginning the spread of the Gospel.

Or, why would God allow Satan to tempt such a strong apostle as Peter at a time when Peter was so hurt and disappointed, so confused and lonely? Only in this way would Peter learn that, alone, he was not as strong as he thought himself to be. And neither are we!

Reason 2: God can turn into good what Satan means for evil. How would you imagine David to have felt, after having been chosen by God and anointed king of Israel, only to spend years having King Saul chase him over that whole part of the world? How could the humiliation and the suffering work God's will? It would strengthen David's relationship with God, and it would render him more sensitive to his need for God. This evil, devised by evilly motivated men, would actually be the crucible in which David would be prepared to fulfill the grand purpose of his life. So can these dreadful situations in our own lives be the preparation phase for the grand plan of God to be worked in us.

Or think of the very Son of God as He hang on the cross — having been unmercifully beaten, tired, bleeding severely, scorned and ridiculed. And, as He hang in utter misery and shame, consider the feeling of any son asking a father, "Why have you forsaken me?" and from the father's voice comes no reply. In all this seeming repulsiveness, what was being accomplished? A way was literally being made for the salvation of the human race.

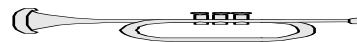
Satan must, at times, be a very frustrated individual. Not only does he finally lose, but often the evil upon which he bets victory becomes the very thing that God changes into good to defeat him.

Reason 3: Satan's schemes cannot thwart the purposes of God. Though we may be in the very center of God's will, we can expect setbacks. David was young, and after having killed Goliath, he had gained quick favor and popularity

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REVEILLE



***** **BAD STEWARDSHIP FLIRTS WITH THIEVERY** *****

HOW BRITTLE THE THREAD

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minutes, our fears became proven reality. Actual pictures flashed across the TV screen confirmed that the shuttle had mysteriously broken up. Subsequently, it had apparently exploded almost forty miles above the earth as it streaked across the clear skies of Texas at twelve times the speed of sound.

Only minutes before, the icon of American science and space travel, along with one Israeli and six American astronauts, was headed toward a safe landing within the hour. Instead, within a few fleeting seconds, the most sophisticated flight machine ever crafted by mortals, along with seven of our brightest, most highly conditioned human minds and bodies, were obliterated. The same time frame that would have brought a smooth landing for the shuttle and happy hugs in family reunion for the astronauts offered the grizzly scene of men, women, and machine sprinkling the Texas countryside.

The scenes on that Saturday morning became grimmer as facts were assembled. The mystery grew more intense as we learned that NASA saw no signs of trouble until only a few short minutes before the shuttle disintegrated. Only a few sensor reports of increased tire pressure hinted that trouble might be brewing. Even now, our best minds still marvel at why the problem went undetected until much too late.

I suppose that most of us went about our normal routine as that otherwise beautiful February day passed. Maybe, however, gripping as the incident surely was, it offered opportunity for each of us to reflect on some sobering facts. Mankind imagines, designs, and constructs incredible machines that allow us to accomplish tasks in an exponential fraction of the time required only a few decades ago. Our inventions afford us opportunity for accomplishments unheard of only a few years ago. Before discounting the space shuttle loss as foolhardiness of space exploration to begin with, maybe we should remember that much of the technology we enjoy was spawned by space science itself. The shuttle loss, however, might remind us that, when judgments and calculations of mankind challenge all

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NEEDING TO MOVE ON – BUT TO WHERE?

(Taken from a SS lesson by Travis Lewis April 6, 2008)

[PART I]

I suppose that each of our lives brings those times when we sense a need for change, even radical change. Maybe it begins with a sense of burnout that we may have thought could never occur. Often it comes in the form of uneasiness, or a sort of restlessness to which we may not seem quite able to assign 'rhyme or reason'. Maybe it persisted for some time then faded for a while only to reoccur with even greater intensity. Or, maybe it just appears almost suddenly and refuses to be ignored and, like the slow closing of a vise, ever so gradually tightening its grip, refusing to be ignored.

We have been secure, and now we are being urged into an area of insecurity. In the past, we've known with relative certainty what tomorrow will bring, where tomorrow will take us, and how to deal with whatever challenges that tomorrow may hold. Yet, succumbing to that still voice that we just cannot chuck from our minds will bring uncertainty and unfamiliar challenges which we are just not sure we will be prepared to handle. But it will not go away; it constantly gnaws and probes and reminds that it will not give up until the fear of the unknown falls prey to the mental misery that we now continuously sense.

I suppose that we could stop in almost any book in our Bible for this lesson. But we will begin with Abraham. I know what you may be thinking, "Why use a five millenium-old story to illustrate stepping into the unknown?". Because, though most every aspect of the human lifestyle has changed since Abraham, these same problems still probe our souls and never change.

Seemingly, Abraham had all that he would ever need – familiar household, a respectable life in his father's considerably large estate, part of a highly civilized culture. Abraham was seventy-five by now, and can we doubt that he expected to simply live out his life with just him and Sarah. And, so they would, though certainly not in

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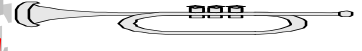


I get so absorbed in watching the ground immediately in front of me for the next two or three steps, that I forget to glance up to see if I'm going in the right direction.

Patrick Morley, *THE MAN IN THE MIRROR*, Zondervan Publishing House, 1997



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the forces integrated into the creation of God, man often misjudges and miscalculates. We routinely place life and limb, along with machine and money, at stake, with survival depending on the insight of man to wholly and accurately calculate and address the relative forces of God's handiwork. And, sooner or later, even the most focused and highly trained human minds overlook something. Columbia was no exception.

We will continue our attempts to make our understanding more thorough, our calculations more intricate, and our forecasts more accurate. I suppose that since man drew first breath, he has stood in awe and has been driven by a desire to explore and understand all the forces of matter by which we are both sustained and limited.

From the time he first stood at the edge of a river, man has yearned to see and understand the other side; or, since we first stood in awe on the shore of a great sea and observed its apparent farthest edge meeting the sky, we wondered what was just beyond that mystifying horizon. The vast expanse of the heavens is no exception. And with each challenge, we set about to overcome the forces that formerly appeared to forbid our acquaintance. We have unraveled complex mysteries of chemistry, medicine, physics and other sciences alike. Our success has allowed us to overcome great obstacles and offered wonderful benefits to this and future generations. Yet our imperfections still allow the tragedy of Columbia. Perhaps one lesson of Columbia's loss is that the sum of humankind's knowledge and the keenest of our judgments remain but as an infinitely thin elementary textbook when compared to the master volume harbored with almighty God. We will continue to review and re-evaluate our experiences. We will revise our formulae, then try again to understand his handiwork more thoroughly. Now and then, however, we will be reminded of how brittle is the thread of human life, compared to the vast forces of His creation. We can be assured that the last day will dawn with the wise mind still in awe at his handiwork. And should the whole of what man has learned at last be written, the conclusion might truly be that, *"The half was never told."* Ω †

With Daylight Savings Time, we may agree with Yogi Berra that, "It sure does get late early now." †

REVEILLE BACK ON LINE

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less expensive distribution. The initial, new distribution list of REVEILLE will consist of friends and acquaintances of the editor. Should you wish your address removed from distribution, please feel free to make the request via email, phone, or fax. Contact numbers are listed on page 2 of this issue. Also, please share REVEILLE with a friend who may also request to be added to our distribution list. I will be continually grateful for your suggestions.

Travis

Yogi also says, "Ninety percent of the game is half mental....and that you can observe a lot by just watchin'"(???)

IGNORANCE OR APATHY

Several years ago, I heard the story of a newly hired young chamber executive who came to this aging town that had lost all its industry, most businesses had closed, schools and utilities were in disrepair, and local politicians were constantly feuding. The ambitious young executive decided to begin with a survey to find out just how the townspeople were thinking. So, early on her first morning on the new job, she hit the streets, polling their thoughts.

Of the very first person she met, she asked in her preppy tone, "Sir, I'm the new Chamber executive, and I'm doing an initial survey in order to formulate a scientific program that will reinvigorate our commercial and industrial base. And I would like to have your candid opinion: Do you feel that our foremost impediment is apathy, or is it ignorance?". To which the gentleman replied as he took his seat on the courthouse square bench, "Mam, I don't know, and I don't care!".

And I thought, this must be the unspoken response that every teacher, and especially every pastor, receives so often. †

NEEDING TO MOVE ON – BUT TO WHERE?

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the way they felt so secure in believing. But as has often been, and may again be in each of our futures, life was about to change. And the change would require a very high level of faith. Yet, God knew that the character metal of Abraham would stand the test and would be used as faith's ultimate lesson for all ages to come.

Genesis 12 begins to unfold the account of Abraham's faith. At some point previous to when Genesis 12 begins, Abraham's father, Terah who was by now an old man, had left their homeland south of what is now Bagdad, Iraq. Several hundred miles and at least a few months afterward, they arrived in what is now southern Turkey. Very soon, Terah died.

We cannot declare with certainty what circumstances drove Terah to abruptly move his family to this faraway land. But, is it not interesting that, as God would have it, Terah would first separate his family, Abraham included, from familiar and secure surroundings, moving them to a very strange place, only then to die? Can we doubt that the death of Terah was seen by his family as sheer tragedy, leaving them alone and far from home?

Have you had experiences in your life when certain uninvited incidents happened that were at best regrettable and at worst deplorable? In hindsight, can you see that, as dreadful as the situation may have been, it moved you into a position where you would more readily step out on faith toward some really profound change in your life?

Just as with Abraham, God's call to us often comes with obscurity. We often become confused and confounded, uncertain about anything, except that we must move on. Often, we have no choice – but to what, and to where?

HAPPINESS MUST BE A LOT LIKE A BUTTERFLY. FOR I HAVE OBSERVED THAT SOMEHOW HAPPINESS ELUDES THOSE WHO SEEM TO CONTINUALLY SEARCH FOR WAYS TO CATCH IT. BUT THOSE WHO ALWAYS HAVE THEIR ATTENTION TO THE TASKS AT HAND — TO THEM, HAPPINESS SEEMS TO JUST COME SOFTLY AND SIT ON THEIR SHOULDER.

TAKEN FROM PROGRESSIVE BUSINESS PUBLICATONS, 2002;
Edited for REVEILLE.

TIME FOR VACATION!

BY: TRAVIS LEWIS

The following article is inserted in this issue as a reminder of our responsibilities toward Christian stewardship, even during the coming seasons of rest and recreation.

According to a May survey by Myvesta (formerly the nonprofit Debt Counselors of America), 55 percent of us plan to take a vacation this summer and nearly three-quarters of us (73.6 percent) plan to put the damage on our credit cards. And why not?

Credit cards are a great way to travel. Safer than cash and more convenient than traveler's checks, they are accepted just about everywhere, so "we'll fly now and pay later". But try as we might, many will take months, even years to pay for that summer safari. At an average interest rate of approximately eighteen percent, that long awaited getaway can materialize into a financial ball and chain.

In the Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances, they ask such questions as, "Do you think it's okay to use debt to finance vacations?". Basically, the answer is "Yes, that's fine." And it may be. But for many of us, it may reflect not just a willingness to accept more debt, but also a willingness to become more financially stressed – and more tempted to forego our obligations, actually our privileges, toward the work of the Lord.

According to Mike Kidwell, vice president and co-founder of *Myvesta.org.*, many of us vacation above our means. "We found that the average summer vacation will cost \$2,274, about 8 percent of the average annual income of \$27,219. How much of a bite is this going to take out of the average yearly income? Basically, you've got to work a month, or 22 working days, just to have a week's worth of fun." that "right". But with every right comes a responsibility – a stewardship. At issue with this one is how we pay for it.



THE PROBLEM WITH MONEY... IS THAT IT MAKES YOU DO THINGS THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO DO!!?????

WALL STREET, THE MOVIE



THE GREAT WAR WITHIN

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with the people. Then, in almost an instant, the high wave he was riding seemed to collapse, and he suddenly found himself being hunted, like a wild animal, by Saul. To one degree or another, we all know the feeling – family doing well, business is good, church doing okay. Then, in an instant, all seems to sour. And we begin to question, “Why is this happening to me?”

In the span of a few days, Jesus went from a triumphal entry into Jerusalem, lauded as hero, lots of friends, private escort – to, three days later, being beaten almost to death, hanging on a cross, friendless, penniless, and calling out to Heaven, “Why?”. But, to Him be the glory, the scheme of Satan could not thwart the purpose of God.

The wiser we grow, the more sure we become that a life lived for God affords the very highest, genuine quality of life that we can hope for on earth. Nevertheless, this warfare inevitably appears. Maybe at times our suffering comes as a result of our poor choice. Sometimes we understand the reasons, or maybe we cannot understand at all. In either case, we can be assured that God is working His will – if we will let Him.

Maybe it is making us stronger in preparation for a larger task than we ever imagined ourselves capable of performing. Or, maybe it’s teaching us that we are not as strong or invincible as we thought. Or, possibly it is to teach others how those who are spiritually mature respond when bad things happen to good people.

The battle within only begins in earnest when the new birth happens within our souls. Satan then strikes our trail, and he lets up, at best, for only short periods of time – continually tugging, always luring and tempting, ever troubling our souls.

We may know the reason now; we may figure it out in the future; or we may never come to know the reason at all. Yet, what we can know is that God knows. And, though it may be difficult to accept, things really do *work together for good to them that love the Lord, and to those who are called according to His purpose.* Romans 8:28 Ω

To advance, we have to begin sometimes by turning around!

OPPORTUNITY LOST

BY: TRAVIS W. LEWIS

It was approximately 6:45 this morning, Christmas Eve, 2009..... Sitting at my desk, the lone one not still in bed, I was sending out several emails that need to be in particular hands when they return to work on Monday morning.

I happened to glance eastward out the office window just as dawn was announcing its presence. And, there it was, a scene that even the most talented artist would find beyond his gift to duplicate. Though the sky was mostly cloudy, the colors in that pre-sunrise scene were simply breathtaking.

Hues of seemingly every color – blue, yellow, orange, red, violet, green, indigo -- all blending their various shades into one glorious display. And, my whole being was humbled in that unexplainable emotion when the mortal senses a possession of kinship with the immortal, the finite to the infinite.

Silently, I thought something like, “I’ve gotta’ step outside the back door and just sit and absorb this for a while. One more email, and I’ll go. Just one more note before I forget.”

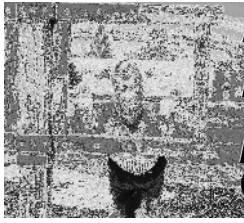
Well, the first email was followed by another and another, and, what seemed only a few fleeting seconds was actually a few minutes, and it proved costly. The next glance proved my opportunity had passed. It was gone, never again to appear in that same marvelous frame. The emails could have waited, the reminders left unwritten would have eventually floated back to the top. Any similar opportunity to fast eyes on such a masterpiece of the Grand Artificer may not present itself again for a long time, if ever again.

The lesson? Well, I suppose that such opportunities come much more often than we realize. Our society starves and searches for beauty, true and rare, and we often pay great prices and travel far to observe what we consider to be so. Yet, in His infinite awareness of our needs, God provides each of us our own grand gallery in our own private world, entry into which no fee is required, except a small portion of our time. Because man alone has the choice to stand on the portico of creation and, though possibly for only a few fleeting moments at a time, gulp in the grandeur of His art. And I vowed to not ignore such an opportunity again! Ω

AS IRON SHARPENS IRON, SO ONE MAN SHARPENS ANOTHER. PROV. 27:17



REVEILLE



Real friends are those who, after you've made a fool of yourself, don't consider it permanent damage!!

(Photo made in Williamsburg, VA; October, 2007.)

that "right". But with every right comes a responsibility – a stewardship. At issue with this right is how we pay for it. Before the common use of credit cards, most of us saved for a trip and paid with cash or traveler's checks on the road. Near the beginning of my working career, I had a wonderful boss that annually set aside one hundred dollars for a vacation in the Smokey Mountains for his family of four. It served him well. If he ran out of money, he simply came home and looked forward to the next summer's time in the Smokies. Today, with the credit card as our magic carpet, we can easily spend more than we should, and more than we will wish we had.

Myvesta found that over half of us (56.7 percent) plan to pay off our vacation credit card balances as soon as the bill arrives, a third of us (35 percent) within 12 months. For many people, that's wishful thinking," Kidwell says. "Too often, people pay just the minimum payment, not realizing how much the interest will add to the total cost of a vacation."

How out of control can it get? According to *Myvesta*, at an average interest rate of 17.99 percent, if we pay just the minimum payment for our \$2,274 vacation, it would take us thirty-four years to pay it off and cost an additional \$5,974 in interest, almost three times the cost of the vacation itself! That is not wise stewardship. However, if we pay \$208 a month, you'd close out that bill in a year at an additional cost of \$227 in interest.

So why not plan what we can truly afford? A "vacation" is to relax -- to reorient our thoughts and rearrange our priorities. Good stewardship applied toward a "vacation" allows us to return home as an enthused Christian steward, a more loving parent, a more cheerful spouse, and a more productive employee – and free from the ball and chain shackle of debt! Ω

JUST THINKIN'

BY: THE EDITOR

Well, the long winter of 2009-2010 is over! What at times seemed to be unendingly cloudy, cold days slowly but surely are relenting to the more pleasant temperatures that spring always promises. Farmers preparing to plant, cattlemen looking toward hay harvest, families planning vacations, construction businesses cranking up projects that weather has forbidden for months now, indoors sports seasons ending, outdoor sports seasons beginning. It's all inherent to the spring season. We may easily understand the reasons ancient man was prone to worship the sun, because the metamorphosis brought by spring truly seems magical. Its name alone suggests the changes it brings. What, only days ago, seemed to be only dead, lifeless soil almost overnight gives birth to new life, and lots of it. New grass seems to spring from nowhere; trees that hang lifeless for months put on new buds that forewarn of foliage and fruit to come. And, if we notice closely enough, even the general attitudes of people miraculously change as well. Spring is simply a wonderful time!

Yet, we often miss the greater value of spring's appearing. Failure to recognize the wisdom required in any great work is to forfeit a full appreciation of the designer's genius. And even more so with a whole universe! A mere moment's contemplation of spring, or the return of any of the seasons, surely offers hard evidence that its rhythmic reappearance must be by design and not by chance. And the surety of a master designer only makes its value all the more awesome! Rest assured the world offers its own arguments for "chance", but the odds are too high against random evolution, and the facts are too strong in support of an infinitely intelligent Designer.

So, as spring springs, just pause and consider its argument that there is a God, and "it ain't us"!