

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

CHRISTIANITY: FOLLOW THE RULES?

The following article was submitted by John Lewis and friends from, Bartlett, Tennessee.

"We stake our survival as a nation on our ability to follow the Ten Commandments.", exclaimed the father of our constitution, James Madison, over two hundred years ago. Mr. Madison realized the importance, within a nation's citizenry, of following these simple 'rules'. In his many inspired letters, the Apostle Paul set rules in place which are still to be observed. He gave us guidelines by which we should choose our church officers, as well as the motive and mode by which to observe church ordinances. He set in order the manner in which sins, committed by a member, are to be dealt with by a church. It would be ludicrous for us to consider such 'rules' unnecessary. They provide guidelines and order, for individuals and churches alike, to which we should adhere in our decision-making processes. However, Christians often appear to become obsessed with "following the rules", and forget both the ruler and the intent - the larger picture.

The Pharisees, who are examples of this misguided (Continued on page 2)

WHEN "THE WAY THINGS ARE" BECOME "THE WAY THINGS WERE" By: Travis Lewis

Having well passed the two-score-and-ten milestone. I more frequently find my conversation alluding to times unfamiliar to present company. Remembering the childhood irritation I experienced when older folks would preface their pessimism toward my generation with remarks like, "Now, when I was a child ", I now more fully understand their reference. Recalling that irritation, I try, though often unsuccessfully, to not convey those times being as sterile as I otherwise might. These references usually contended that "the way things were" times were much simpler -- and "better" -- than "the way things are now" times. Frankly, I was skeptical of those arguments then, and remain much so even to-But memories, both pleasant and not so pleasdav. ant, are wonderful gifts of God. Originated by the camera of a child's eye, and developed in the studio of a child's mind, these memories can easily remain deceptive throughout our lifetime. One of the truly amazing benefits of age, I suppose, is the opportunity to redevelop those mental photographs of youth and integrate the (Continued on page 7)

"Gentlemen, we are surrounded by insurmountable opportunities."(?!?) Pogo



THE READING OF THE WILL (PART 5) By: Travis Lewis



PREFACE: The objective of this series is to alert every reader to a certain future judgment. [For copies of previous parts of THE READING OF THE WILL, you may contact the editor at the address shown on page 2.] For every individual in whatever household or hemisphere, this day of accounting awaits in the not-so-distant future. Written in allegory, the intent this series 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. (This series is being spread over multiple, but consecutive, issues.)

At a noticeably cocky pace, a Mr. Notsubig (not'-sa-big') approaches the judgment bar. Taking note of the distinctly confident advance, Executor begins...

Executor: Please state your claim to such a reward as is at stake in this hall of judgment.

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Volume 2; Issue 2; FEBRUARY/ MARCH, 2001



REVEILLE



FACTS ARE STUBBORN <u>THINGS</u>....

IF

BY: RUDYARD KIPLING (1865-1936) If you can keep your head when all about you, Are losing theirs and blaming it on you; If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, But make allowance for their doubting too; If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,

Or being lied about, don't deal in lies, Or, being hated, don't give way to hating, And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise; If you can dream, and not make dreams your master;

If you can think and not make thoughts your aim; If you can meet up with triumph and disaster, And treat those imposters just the same;

If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,

Or watch the things you gave up your life to broken,

And stoop and build 'em up with worn out tools; If you can make one heap of all your winnings,

And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,

And lose, and start again at your beginnings, And never breathe a word about your loss.

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew, To serve your turn long after they are gone,

And so hold on when there is nothing in you Except the will which says to them, "Hold on";

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, Or walk with kings —nor lose the common touch;

If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you; If all men count with you, but none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run —

Yours is the earth, and everything that's in it, and - which is more - you'll be a man, my son!

WHO,WHAT, WHEN, WHERE??

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CHRISTIANITY: FOLLOW THE RULES?

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mindset, adhered to a set of rules that governed their lives in virtually every way. They were obsessed with all sorts of observances, such as the Sabbath. They dealt harshly with sin, living very moral lives and governed by strict rules often clarified by their own interpretations. Jesus seriously questioned their philosophy, for their set of laws and rules had actually become their religion. The Pharisees assumed the attitude that as long as their actions fell within these prescribed parameters, then they were living their lives in accordance to God's will. Do we not see this same mindset reflected in God's people today? Some congregations adopt a mindset that the peak of religious nobility is to publicly isolate themselves from other congregations who "err" by having made a choice which they consider not precisely concurrent with one or more of their selective rules. Example: Candidates for church offices are often grilled concerning their marital status - and properly so. But less often are inner values such as proven concern for men's souls, faithfulness to one's word, and the will to sacrifice self in service ever investigated. Rarely is the accuracy of his inner compass really questioned.

The teachings of Jesus reflect a different attitude. In John, Chapter 8, the Pharisees brought a woman who had just been caught in a gross sin. The law said she was to be stoned, and with this question, the Pharisees confronted Jesus. His answer — "Ye who are without sin cast the first stone"; then, turning to the disgraced woman, he admonished, "Go and sin no more.". In these two statements, he set a great precedent. What was He telling the Pharisees? In essence, He was informing them, "You have a much greater sin in your lives." They had (Continued on page 3)

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ONE WHO IS ABLE TO READ AND DOESN'T



THAN ONE WHO CANNOT **READ AT ALL.**

IS NO BETTER OFF OFF

THE READING OF THE WILL

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Notsubig: Sir, to this day I have looked forward with confidence for a very long time. I have taken great pride in maintaining a sterile existence, one that was free from the troublesome mires into which many of my neighbors fell victim. I was very careful in your fields to not expose myself to elements of controversy that would bring me anguish and exposure to criticism. Your instructors often asked for my endorsement on questions, which they felt could not be compromised, and I wisely chose to remain neutral. Some of my brothers often begged my support in matters they felt were to be governed by principles rooted within the Policy Manual. As a result, many of those dear folks, including some instructors, were detested by a great number of the workers. The success of my specific occupation lent itself to not exposing my opinions on matters of debate. As time passed, they learned that I would not subject myself to that which might taint my image. I learned to be strictly governed by the direction of political winds. To keep myself pure and unspotted before my neighbors was my ultimate goal, and I labored to that end. As a result, I was respected by all - well, all except those devout folks whom I had forsaken when they needed me. I know you are aware of the popularity that my philosophy secured. I am very proud of that, and I knew you would be as well.

Executor: (appearing to become restless as Notsubig was ending his dissertation) Mr. Notsubig, there was a generation of workers, not necessarily yours, that was exposed to a popular song in which were found the lyrics, "If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything.". All would have been well served to have heard and meditated on that verse. In your case, however, you stood for nothing, and you fell for anything that would feed the exaggerated image you maintained for yourself. The purpose for any worker whom we place in our fields is to reflect us as Lord. To have done so without having developed an understanding and love for the guiding principles of the Policy Manual was impossible. The political wind vane indeed was the instrument by which your choices were dictated. I fully understood your motives, which are well preserved within the record before us. You adopted this fatal mindset because no true relationship or (Continued on page 5)

CHRISTIANITY: FOLLOW THE RULES?

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sinned in that they did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Blinded by their dependence on rules alone, they had not placed their trust in him to save them from the penalty of sin. They had depended on abiding by a set of rules for the salvation of their souls. Jesus was telling them that there was something much greater than physically adhering to a set of rules. Real godliness reigns only when true love and Christ-like mercy are extended to our fellow man, having been spawned by love placed in our hearts by God.

He sends the same message today, "If justice were rendered without mercy, Hell would remain the sentence toward all. Because I love you, however, I show you mercy." In Jesus's reply to the adulterous woman, she does not escape without rebuke. He said, "Go, and sin no more." He knew that the woman had sinned, but his response showed unfeigned love and mercy. What an humbling feeling to truly repent of our sin to the Judge of all the Earth, then to have the Prince of Peace, the Master Teacher and Great Messiah look into our eyes and say, "Go and sin no more". He still yearns to do the same for us, whether we be saved or lost. As we lay our souls bare before him in repentance, He still says, "Go, and sin no more.".

Are rules important? Surely so, but only as long as they are means to a greater goal. Good rules are means to an end, not the end itself. The Pharisees understood righteousness as following the old covenant. Being queried about the greatest commandment, Jesus again astounded them by saying, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind". Explaining further, he proclaimed the second greatest command to be like the first, "Thou shalt love they neighbor as thy*self*". The true meaning of these simple, though profound, commands was never understood or accepted by the religious hierarchy of Jesus's day. May we more fully understand them today. Jesus was saying that the most important ingredient in a Christian life is the true attitude in our heart, which is to govern what we do with our hands. The new covenant is truly a greater covenant. May we all come to a greater realization that there is something greater than ourselves or even the church circles within which we operate. Our driving force must be something greater than rules which often become obsolete, or are abused by man to accomplish selfish goals. These are the "commandments upon which hang all the law and all the (Continued on page 7)

OBESITY IS W T D S R R P R D!?!



REVEILLE

>>>>>ISN'T IT IRONIC?<<<<< The two hardest things to handle in life are failure — and success!!

LEMONADE FROM LEMONS

A "REST OF THE STORY" STORY

The time was November 1628. The place was a small town near Bedford, England -- about 45 miles northwest of London. A son, John, was born to an itinerant tinker father, one who traveled a route through the region mending pots, kettles, and other utensils. The trade was of very low regard during that period. Nevertheless, by his teenage years, young John was following the same trade. Day after day, even as a teenager, he would push his tinker's cart from one small village to another -across the fields and streams, and through the woods, without ever realizing for what all that time alone and all those experiences were preparing him.

Though his father was determined that young John learn to read and write, his formal education seems to have been limited to what we would call a grammar, or elementary, school. Years later, as a young man, John would write that he was boisterous and "...had but few equals, both for cursing, swearing, lying and blaspheming the holy Name of God." Even as a young boy, he recounted in his later years, he would be condemned in his mind for some of the sins he committed.

When he was sixteen, he enrolled in the English army. During his three-year tenure in the military, and for the first time in his life, John became familiar with regular religious services.

Following his military stint, he married in 1648, at the age of 20. Though the name of John's lifelong mate has not been preserved, she was obviously of a very religious background. About the only material things that John's

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ELESS, AND MORE! Fear less, hope more; eat less, chew more; whine less, breathe more; talk less, say more; hate less, love more; and all good things

are yours. Swedish proverb

t is the American story — a story of flawed and fallible people, united across the generations by grand and enduring ideals. The grandest of these ideals is an unfolding American promise that everyone belongs, that everyone deserves a chance, that no insignificant person was ever born... (Excepts from inaugural address, President George W. Bush, January 20, 2001) [See page 7 for more exerpts]

THOU KNOWEST BETTER THAN I

ORD. THOU KNOWEST BETTER THAN I **KNOW MYSELF THAT I AM GROWING OLD-**ER AND WILL SOON BE OLD. KEEP ME FROM THE FATAL HABIT OF THINKING I MUST SAY SOMETHING ON EVERY SUBJECT AND ON EVERY OCCASION. RELEASE ME FROM CRAV-ING TO STRAIGHTEN OUT EVERYBODY'S AF-FAIRS. MAKE ME THOUGHTFUL BUT NOT MOODY, HELPFUL BUT NOT BOSSY. WITH MY VAST STORE OF WISDOM, IT SEEMS A PITY NOT TO USE IT ALL, BUT THOU KNOWEST, LORD, THAT I WANT A FEW FRIENDS IN THE END. KEEP MY MIND FREE FROM THE RECITAL OF ENDLESS DETAILS; GIVE ME WINGS TO GET TO THE POINT. SEAL MY LIPS ON MY ACHES AND PAINS. THEY ARE INCREASING, AND LOVE OF REHEARSING THEM IS BECOMING SWEETER AS THE YEARS GO BY. I DARE NOT ASK FOR GRACE ENOUGH TO ENJOY THE TALES OF OTH-

WITH PATIENCE. I DARE NOT ASK FOR IMPROVED MEMORY, BUT FOR A GROWING HUMILITY AND A LESSENING COCKSURENESS WHEN MY MEMORY SEEMS TO CLASH WITH THE MEMORIES OF OTHERS. TEACH ME THE GLORIOUS LESSON THAT OCCASIONAL-LY I MAY BE MISTAKEN. KEEP ME REASONABLY I DO NOT WANT TO BE ONE WHO SWEET. THINKS TO BE PERFECT -- SOME OF THEM ARE SO HARD TO LIVE WITH -- BUT A SOUR OLD PER-SON IS ONE OF THE CROWNING WORKS OF THE DEVIL. GIVE ME THE ABILITY TO SEE GOOD THINGS IN UNEXPECTED PLACES AND TALENTS IN UNEXPECTED PEOPLE, AND GIVE ME, LORD, THE GRACE TO TELL THEM SO. AMEN Ω Author Unknown

ERS' PAINS, BUT HELP ME TO ENDURE THEM

WHAT WE HAVE TO LEARN TO DO, WE LEARN BY DOING IT.?.? Aristotle





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LEMONADE FROM LEMONS

(Continued from page 4)

bride would bring along when they married were two used books -- *The Plain Man's Pathway To Heaven*, and *The Practice Of Piety*. From the reading of these books, young John began to read the Bible, and his study of the Scriptures soon became a constant practice. Though the date of his actual conversion is not known, we do know that in 1653, five years after his marriage and at the age of 25, he was baptized and became a member of the "Open And Particular Baptists".

Soon after joining the church, John discovered his ability for public speaking. He obviously had a gift to speak with simple eloquence and conviction, and as a result, very soon he was drawing vast crowds. In the fields as well as in the streets of small villages and larger cities alike, including the metropolis of London, he was continually honing his skills as he exercised his gifts. His tremendous popularity soon aroused the suspicious attention of the established church, the Church of England, and of the government that had officially condemned and made unlawful the very sort of preaching with which John was being so successful. This was a time of great political upheaval in England, and anyone that was considered a dissident of the established church was deemed a disturber of the peace. A tribute to John's influence in 1660 was that he was among the first to be prohibited from holding public meetings. Immediately, he refused to comply, and in November 1660, the thirty-two year old John was imprisoned, there to remain for the next twelve years. For a while, he was permitted short, periodical furloughs, and what would he do as soon as they released him? Immediately, he would begin to preach again, which prompted the halt of his furloughs. The remainder of his imprisonment would be mostly spent reading and writing.

On May 9, 1672, his twelve-year incarceration ended with a pardon from the King, along with the right to preach as pastor of a church in his hometown of Bedford. Needless to say, his family and friends were elated. More importantly however, as he left prison on that spring day in 1672, he carried with him the manuscripts that would eventually immortalize his name.

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THE READING OF THE WILL

(Continued from page 3)

attraction to us as Lord ever existed within your being. Admittedly, we had true children who were lured away by the fear of being rejected of men. Their mistakes will be properly accounted for. Toward you, however, Mr. Notsubig, the prevailing matter is that you entered and resided in our fields as a counterfeit child; your works and popularity at this judgment bar are as counterfeit currency. Had you used the Manual as your guiding light, you could have already known of such, and corrected your course. No record exists of your entry at the gate. In accordance, you will depart to my left. Your period of mercy has ended, and justice must now prevail.

With the departure of Mr. Notsubig, a Mr. Nekstiff briskly marches before the bar.

Executor: Please state your claim to this inheritance.

Mr. Nekstiff: Born into a family of average means, sir, you remember how they preferred that I associate with kids who were more of white-collar background. With the admonition of my parents, I accepted you at a very early age, and then got on with my life. I attained a good secular education, and in so doing, learned that I had been endowed with gifts that entitled me to a superior lifestyle, both social and economical. I knew you expected me to not condescend to those who had used less wisdom than myself in preparing for life. Actually, the more I observed them, the more I found them detestable. I sort of adopted the idea that as soon as they reached my heights of intellect and abilities, then I could afford to accept them as friends again. I was convinced that you were pleased for me to serve as a role model to whose level those of the lower sort would do well to aspire. You remember how that, wherever life took me, I joined the right worship groups and clubs, and made a point to meet the right people – I mean those of the right social and economic circles. Oh -- and also on the record, you must find all the service and offerings which I faithfully gave. In so doing, I felt the recipients to whom I gave deserved to always know from whom the offerings originated. Again, I knew you would be pleased that, especially to the lower sort, I was exemplifying a level to which they should aspire. I was

Mr. Nekstiff is suddenly interrupted by Executor....

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HOW OLD WOULD YOU BE --- IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW HOW

OLD YOU WERE???? Satchel Page







THE READING OF THE WILL

(Continued from page 5)

Executor: There is no point in going on Mr. Nekstiff. Had you paid only a fraction of the attention to the guiding principles in our Policy Manual as you have to the manuals of men, you and many others could have greatly profited. You must have suspected by finally looking upon my face, that you are not of this family. You mentioned that you "accepted me". To the best of your ability, you did just that - accept me. But I never accepted you! Those who legitimately passed into our land did so through the lone gate called mercy, preceded by an approach with a *broken heart and a contrite* spirit - sick of the life offered by the master of the adjoining farm. All those having names written in this book of life came in like manner, realizing their hopelessness, helplessness, and absence of merit to obtain adoption. So, it wasn't a lone matter, Mr. Nekstiff, of you accepting me. As with all in eternity past, the adoptive act became effective only when I accepted the one approaching in true repentance and total faith. Only modest study of the pattern set in the few years I personally spent in the fields would have revealed that your life was driven by vanity. That which motivated you was a stranger to that which motivated me. Study of my days in the fields would have readily revealed that my concern was for not only the rich, powerful, and popular, but for all people - regardless of the social, economic, or religious plane upon which they existed. We expected the same of each of our adopted children; for with passage at the gate, within each was installed a new nature – a nature absent of the pride and self-righteousness that pervaded your entire life. Your desire to flaunt your contributions was proof positive of your self-centeredness; for our Manual also explains one of the proofs of a nature likened unto ours is to give, expecting nothing in return except secret knowledge that you have pleased us as Lord. You will be escorted along the route to my left, as was your predecessor. ****** To be continued next issue... Ω

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THE REAL MEASURE OF OUR WEALTH IS HOW MUCH WE'D BE WORTH....IF WE LOST ALL OUR MONEY!?! JOHN HENRY'JOWETT

LEMONADE FROM LEMONS

(Continued from page 5)

In February, 1675, less than three years later, another proclamation from the King suppressed all unauthorized church meetings and gatherings outside the established church; furthermore, the proclamation demanded attendance at communion in everyone's respective parish. Again, John found himself behind prison bars. Another two and one-half years would elapse before he would taste freedom again. To the surprise of most, and possibly even to John's own surprise, his release would mark the beginning of his most active years.

Just over 11 years later, in mid-August, 1688, being already somewhat ill, he traveled to London by horseback in a drenching rain, which resulted in a vicious fever. He preached on August 19, and twelve days later, on August 31, 1688, within 3 months of his sixtieth birthday, he passed to his reward. The texts, wrought in the staleness and solitude of English prisons, had been published in 1678, eleven years before his death. Those manuscripts had become the first part of a book that would be considered by most in literary history as the first novel. Most noteworthy, however, the ragged, soiled manuscripts had become the book that, until this day, has been more widely read than any other in history, excepting the Holy Bible. They had become ... THE PILGRIM'S PRO-GRESS, by John Bunyan. Ω

ADS: (DO THEY <u>REALLY</u> MEAN WHAT THEY SAY?)

Should this ad appear in your newspaper.....

<u>GREAT BUY</u>: unobstructed view, pond site, 'country kitchen'; house alone worth the purchase price.

Watch out! It may really describe a place with no trees, a house with no dining room; on one side of the small lot is a swamp, on the other side is a tavern.

As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion. Proverbs 11:22





WHEN "THE WAY THINGS ARE" BECOME "THE WAY THINGS WERE" (Continued from page 1)

wisdom gained with the passage of time. This is a brief, personal review of changes that happen when "the way things are" have become "the way things were". Hopefully, for us who, with age, may access a more "macro" view of life, we can see that the way we remember times being may not reflect the way things actually were. May this effort alert us that the way things "should be" are concluded only by the way God wills them to be, instead of by our volatile feelings and changing customs.

Life was actually simpler then. But, was "simpler" necessarily "superior"? Many situations that excited me then mostly fail to do so now. The short-lived excitement of preparing for certain events has long since faded. Now, those events that stir my excitement are much different. Here is an example. "Now when I was a child", 'revival time', usually lasting from the middle of July through the middle of August, was looked forward to with much excitement by the whole family. I mean, lots of preparations had to be made. Canning of garden vegetables was being mostly finished. Summer session of school was starting, and watermelons were ripening. I was excited with knowing "company" would be visiting from neighboring communities, which meant we had to be at our very best - a new bar of P&G soap, a new pack of Juicy Fruit gum, maybe a new pair of white socks, and a good supply of shoe polish and hair tonic. Not exactly exhilarating to me now! That lighthearted excitement has long since given way to an attitude of concern that we mostly wait for these special effort meetings to become really uneasy about souls separated from God. Another example: The former excitement with the approach of the Christmas season has been replaced with grave concern with why we mostly waited, as we often continue to do, until that season to look for folks in distress, then only to throw out a lifeline and walk away without tying the line to an anchor toward which they may pull themselves toward safety and self-sufficiency. But, this takes more time and effort, and often more money and patience, all of which we can ill afford, right? Though I did not analyze so thoroughly then, I now reflect upon some events with a much more discerning attitude. An example of neighborhood concerns then was who could have pitched out a beer bottle along the roadside; though we did not think long about a fistfight at the voting precinct on election day. Great exceptions were taken to playing baseball on Sunday afternoon, while no questions were posed about firing up a cigarette inside the church house following the benediction. We properly discussed loving our neighbors, helping those in need, and God being no respecter of persons, (Continued on page 8)

*** TO BE IGNORANT OF ONE'S*** IGNORANCE IS THE MALADY OF IGNORANCE! A. A. Alcott

CHRISTIANITY: FOLLOW THE RULES?

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prophets". The first is the love we show to God; the next is our love to fellow man. If the first truly exists, the second is its inevitable offspring, and the original ten pose no problems. Are we doing that, or are we more concerned with enforcing manmade 'rules', some of which may not have Biblical origin, or have reached obsolescence? Only when our individual choices are driven by true love can we really see the church return to the cause for which it was founded, and our nation turn to God, who has sustained so great a land. Ω

A merica, at its best, is compassionate. In the quiet of American conscience, we know that deep, persistent poverty is unworthy of our nation's promise. And whatever our view of its cause, we can agree that children at risk are not at fault. Abandonment and abuse are not acts of God, they are failures of love. And the proliferation of prisons, however necessary, is no substitute for hope and order in our souls....Government has great responsibilities....yet compassion is the work of a nation, not just a government.

And some needs and hurts are so deep they will only respond to a mentor's touch or a pastor's prayer...and I can pledge our nation to a goal: When we see that wounded traveler on the road to Jericho, we will not pass to the other side.

W hat you do is as important as anything government does. I ask you to seek a common good beyond your comfort...to serve your nation, beginning with your neighbor. I ask you to be citizens, not spectators; citizens, not subjects....

A mericans are generous and strong and decent, not because we believe in ourselves, but because we hold beliefs beyond ourselves. When this spirit of citizenship is missing, no government program can replace it. When this spirit is present, no wrong can stand against it. After the signing of the Declaration of Independence, John Page wrote to Thomas Jefferson: "...do you not think an angel rides in the whirlwind and directs this storm?" We are not this story's author, who fills time and eternity with his purpose, which is achieved in our duty, and our duty is fulfilled in service to one another. This work continues. This story goes on. And an angel still rides in the whirlwind and directs this storm ...

(Excerpts from inaugural address, President George W. Bush, January 20, 2001)

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REVEILLE

ONE GOOD THING ABOUT BEING WRONG.. IS THE JOY IT BRINGS TO OTHERS.

THE READING OF THE WILL (Cont. from page 6)

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

WHEN "THE WAY THINGS ARE" BECOME "THE WAY THINGS WERE"

Continued from page 7) while demanding those of different skin color use a restaurant side window while we comfortably sat inside. Some things, however, are oblivious to the onslaught of time. These properties of life prove trustworthy and immovable as our todays become yesterdays. They are "true north"* principles, adopted by the court of heaven in eternity past and perfectly exemplified by our Lord, Jesus the Christ. Many relationships come and go. For some, we reflect upon the days while they survived, then we recall how they faded or were razed by distrust. A few endure. For any friend made on earth is a chance we take on being either hurt or made stronger. A relatively few friendships of today survive the test of time's passage; only a half-dozen or less become "trueblue". But those which survive are worth the chances we take. Even the closest and truest of our friendships are often altered by career changes, family priorities, or other inevitable episodes of life. We are continually in transit from one phase of life to another. One of life's dilemmas is to decide between what we no longer need and should be left behind, and what should be retained for future use. Much of what we consider a necessity today will be seen as, and may be, useless tomorrow. Sooner or later, even true friends will fail for lack of strength. Our earthly possessions will either be passed on to eventually become a possible point of contention between those we love, or to be dissolved and divided

among those we never knew. Our positions of employment will be filled by one who thinks he will do a better

POSTER FOUND ABOVE A GOVERN-MENT COPY MACHINE: BEFORE THROWING AWAY THE ORIGINAL, BE SURE TO PHOTOCOPY IT FOR YOUR FILES.?!?!

job – and he very well may. So what in our lives can be depended upon to be the same tomorrow? All that lasts will, in some fashion, be related to the examples set, and those "true north" principles exemplified, by Jesus. For soon, everything we see with our eyes and feel with our hands will slip from our trembling grasp, and each of us will stand alone before God. Then must we at last understand that <u>memory's real jewels</u> <u>regarding "the way things were" remain untarnished as</u> "the way things are". Ω

Look for the article "TRUE NORTH" in a future issue of REVEILLE.

WEBSITE SOON...

Plans during our second year with REVEILLE are to expand its distribution onto a website. The site will incorporate REVEILLE with other wholesome segments. Our sincere aim remains the same — to supply tools and encouragement for each reader as they strive toward higher planes of life and living in the service of God.

My personal thanks goes to David and Jaynie Harrison who have provided their professional consultation and encouragement to this endeavor thus far. The site opening will be announced as the date becomes more clear. I know I can count on you to mention our ef-

forts to the Lord. Travis