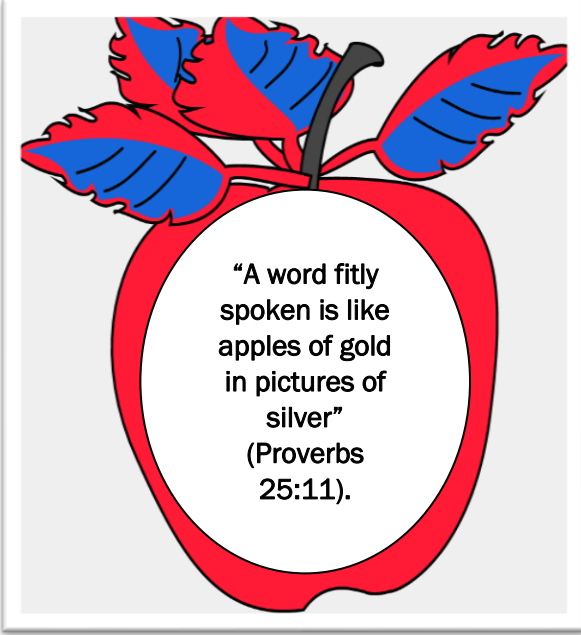


APPLES OF GOLD

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“A word fitly
spoken is like
apples of gold
in pictures of
silver”
(Proverbs
25:11).


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(All Scripture references and passages are from the KJV unless otherwise noted.
All articles are critiqued and approved by one of our church deacons.)



1. **THE STATUE OF LIBERTY** - **Galatians 5:1** - Stand fast therefore in the **liberty** by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.
2. **Galatians 5:13** - For you, brethren, have been called to **liberty**; only do not *use liberty* as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
3. **James 1:25** - But he who looks into the perfect law of **liberty** and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.



 **IN THIS ISSUE:** Losers & Winners, Hidden Treasures,
Gems From Pastor Rob, Christian Freedoms, Think on These,
For & About Seniors

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LOSERS AND WINNERS

If you are a mature Christian, having given your life and heart to the Lord who is now your Savior, you will understand what I say. First, if you think you are a loser, we were all born **losers**, sinners and headed for God's judgment. But because we accepted Jesus as our Saviour, we entered a relationship which makes us, not a loser, but a winner. Because of God's grace, we are headed for Heaven and winning perfection forever. However, before then, we can enjoy the benefits of God's grace who has WON for us eternal life and knowing His love NOW. As we surrender hourly and daily He empowers us to **win over sin and self**.

Do you think you have **failed**? Are you a sibling, parent, mate, coworker, friend, teacher, leader? We have all failed. This is why we have the marvelous privilege of hourly and daily prayer; confessing our failures and then receiving forgiveness.

If you feel you are lacking in **goodness**, our real good is based only on God's power and grace. He works through us by His Spirit working in and through us. It isn't our worth but Jesus' worth and goodness that draws others to Him. The entire moment by moment life we have now is only a fraction of the goodness to come.

We have to remember His daily blessings here in this evil world and always focus on Him and not ourselves. The old devil tries his hardest to defeat us and bring us to a negative, self-centered thought life. Instead, we can dump all negative words and replace them with His Word. We are not **alone**, but **loneliness is our choice if we** lack trust in God.

The words **love, praise, blessing, and freedom** are like silver and gold throughout the Bible. The words about **losing, failing, and no good** are from Satan, and he's going to get his reward in Hell. The word "love" (including loved & loving) is in the Bible over a thousand times..

Praise the Lord, we're on the winning team and bound for glory. It's because He loves us, and **we are loved by family, friends, and mostly God. If we have no family or friends, we have God.** *"I will never have a fear, for my Lord is ever near, And in him so often I confide; He's the keeper of my soul since I gave him full control, And he placed me on the winning side. I'm on the winning side, yes I'm on the winning side, Out in sin no more will I abide, I've enlisted in the fight for the cause of truth and right, Praise the Lord - I'm on the winning side."* (hymn in italics written by Dr. Curtis Hutson, former editor of the "Sword of the Lord.")

Instead of using a psychological approach when helping, we should maintain a spiritual focus based on **God's love and Biblical truths**. This includes expressing sorrow and sadness for what others may be going through, offering further help, and promising to pray.

LOOK FOR FREE and LAUGH – Life is not always free

"A psychiatrist is a person who will give you expensive answers that your wife will give you for free."

Teacher: We live in a free country. One little boy came walking up to her from the back of the room. He stood with his hands on his hips and said, "I'm not free, I'm four."

THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES

Ladies and gentlemen, hobos and tramps,
Bug-eyed mosquitoes and bowlegged ants!
I'm about to tell you a story I've never heard before,

So pull up a chair and sit on the floor.
Admission is free, so pay at the door.



HIDDEN TREASURES

1. **Last month's question:** In the entire Bible, how many times do you think the word "Father" is listed? **ANSWER: 3,310**
2. **This month's question:** How many times is the word "Heaven" listed in Scripture?

Gems from Pastor Rob

	<h3><i>A Patriot's Pride and Duty</i></h3>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Praise your government – patriotism – don't become bitter 4. Preach to government when it does wrong
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Colonists believed God ordained government, but not lawless government. ◆ They declared dependence on God. ◆ God is not to be separated from government. ◆ Our rights come from God. ◆ God was and is our king. ◆ Government is to restrain evil. ◆ The church is to be the conscience of the state. 	<p>HERE ARE SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nathan preached to David. b. Elijah preached to Ahab. c. Daniel preached to Nebuchanezzar. d. John the Baptist preached to Herod. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We are to be civil, but not silent. 2) Whatever is morally wrong, is never politically correct.
<p>FIVE DUTIES TO OUR GOVERNMENT:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Participate in government. Vote principles, not party, person, or program. 	

Andrew Jackson said "The Bible is the rock on which our Republic rests."

Abraham Lincoln said "All the good from the Saviour of the World is communicated through this Book...all the things desirable to man are contained in it."

Ronald Reagan said "If we ever forget we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

"Of the many influences that have shaped the United States into a distinctive nation and people, none may be said to be more fundamental and enduring than the Bible."

"The Founding Fathers believed that faith in God was the key to our being a good people and America becoming a great nation."

"Our National Motto - 'In God We Trust' - was not chosen lightly. It reflects a basic recognition that there is a divine authority in the universe to which this nation owes homage."

Christian Freedoms

We should speak up for our freedoms, vote for conservatives, especially those who have biblical values, and support those who are lobbying for the protection of our freedoms including the Christian Legal Association (David Gibbs & his son). We should stand up for what is right and for our biblical beliefs. When we think about how the world is treating us and our freedoms, which are based on the Christian foundations of our country, we are not to be surprised or embittered when men do what they do and say what they say. It also says “By George you are no longer going to take our rights away. We are fighting back, and we WILL WIN!” We are to remember that they can’t help themselves. “The plowing of the wicked is sin” (Prov. 21:4). Everything they do is sinful. They don’t know Jesus. They are lost without Christ. They don’t have the joy and peace of God within.

In Romans 12 we read “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.” This has to do with our personal relationships and attitudes. We are to “heap coals of fire on his (our enemy’s) head....Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:20, 21). Christian legal associations can and should defend our freedoms, but I don’t believe we should get sidetracked on a personal level from our mission in this world, and that is to witness to and win the lost.

Think on these...

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This world is not a friend to grace.• We are to expect persecution. Actually, this persecution is mild compared to what it will be someday.• We are to expect mankind to misunderstand us. Jesus was and is the most misunderstood person the world has ever known.• We will always be in the minority. “Broad is the way that leads to destruction; narrow is the way that leads to life eternal and few there be that find it.”• "This world is not my home, I'm just a' passin' through, my treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue, the angels beckon me from Heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore."• We can't expect mankind to understand, respect, or even tolerate us. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Therefore they lash back. The heart of man is wicked; only God can change it.• The gospel is an offense to the human heart and always will be. The gospel will divide, so we can't expect them to stand with us.• “Beware when all men speak well of us.”• If we are on God's side, we know all those who are not will be against us. The battle lines are being drawn.• Eventually we will lose more and more freedoms, and in the end there will be no freedoms left.• We believe the Church, the bride of Christ, will be raptured before the Tribulation.• The only response God expects of us in the face of intolerance is that we continue to live righteously, reflect Jesus, love the lost, pray for them, and sow the seed, God's Word. |
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“Here’s a description of any society that is taken over by the world, the flesh, and the devil: Self is its god; rock & roll is its religion; humanism is its faith; lady luck is its hope; new age is its spirituality; and political correctness is its conscience.”

Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is He the best of several ways; He is the only way.” A.W.Tozer

“Saving us is the greatest and most concrete demonstration of God's love, the definitive display of His grace throughout time and eternity.” David Jeremiah



FOR and ABOUT SENIORS

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE, SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.

- ~ When people say you look "Great"... they add "for your age!"
- ~ When you needed a discount, you had to pay full price. Now you get discounts on everything... hotels, flights, trains, all travel, but you're too tired to use them.
- ~ You forget names.... but it's OK because other people forgot yours as well.
- ~ The things you used to care to do, you no longer care about, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.
- ~ You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.
- ~ When Google, ipod, email, modem were unheard of, and a mouse was something that made you climb on a table.
- ~ Being old is good in things like old songs, old books, and the joy of neighbors, plus trips, plus attending weddings of your children, and super best is the enjoyment of having grandchildren plus great grandchildren. We have 6 children, 20 grandchildren with their mates, and now 5 great grandchildren.

HOWEVER, THE BEST is having our faith for the future securely in God's hands as we have trusted Him for the only way of salvation and eternal life in Heaven.

<p>Why can't your nose be 12 inches long? Because then it'd be a foot!</p> <p>Why do birds fly South for New Years Eve? It's too far to walk.</p>	<p>What did the horse say when he fell? "I can't gitty up."</p> <p>What do you call rabbits hopping away? A receding hare line.</p>	<p>Why shouldn't you marry a calendar? Its days are numbered.</p> <p>What creature is smarter than a talking parrot? A spelling bee.</p>
<p>Did you hear about the fire at the circus? It was in tents.</p> <p>Life is like a roll of TP. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.</p>	<p>Why is 69 afraid of 70? Because they had a fight and 71.</p> <p>Lost my job due to my bad memory. Am still employed, I just don't remember where.</p>	<p>Why are birthdays good for you? The ones who have the most live the longest.</p> <p>How many apples grow on a tree? All of them.</p>

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