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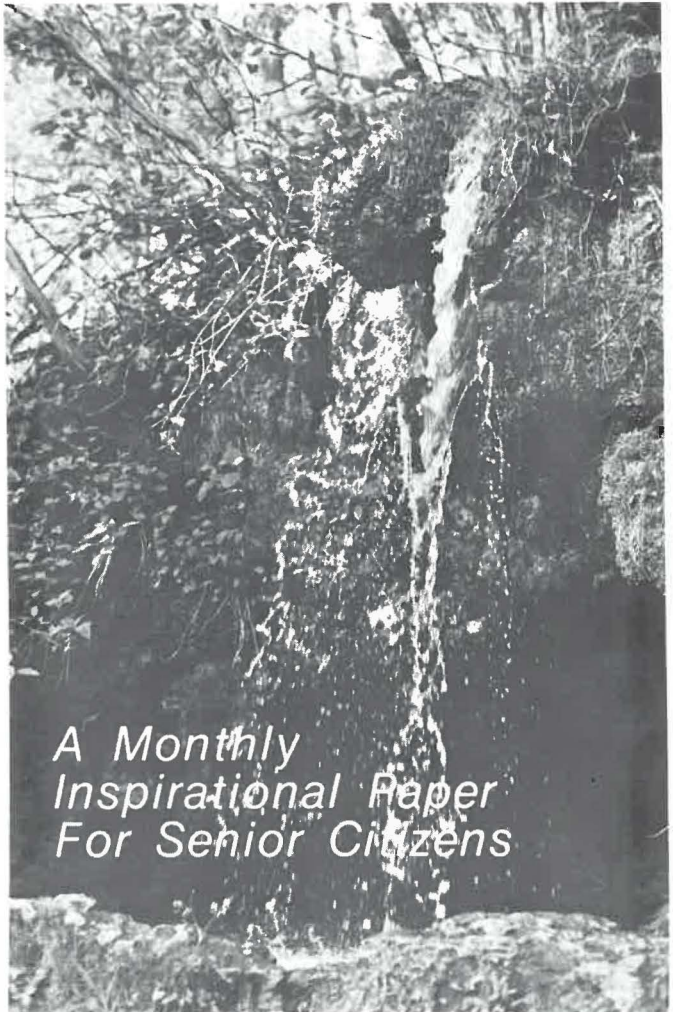
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*A Monthly
Inspirational Paper
For Senior Citizens*

APRIL, 1980



Worry..

Affects Your Relationship With God

by

Dr. Lehman Strauss

Each time Christ used the word "therefore" He followed it with the command, "Take no thought", meaning, "Don't be anxious; don't worry." The first reason why we are not to worry about material things is because worry will affect our relation with God. There is a terrible spiritual danger involved in worrying about material things.

What are the real interests in both major political parties in our country? Both are interested in material things, what Christ called "treasures upon earth." Now that is all one should expect from an unbeliever. The man of the world is worldly, worldly-minded, and his whole concern is about "the things that are in the world" (I John 2:15). But here our Lord is speaking to His own followers, and He wants them to know that there is that element of temporalness, transitoriness, and decay in the treasures of earth. Moth and rust will corrupt them and thieves will steal them (6:19). The things of this world inevitably perish. They all fade and pass away.

"Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (6:24). To worry about the temporal is to sacrifice the eternal. I never knew a truly spiritual Christian who was obsessed with the things of this world. Once a man's heart is gripped with worry about

things, his whole being is affected. What he thinks and does are reflective of the true condition of his heart. Worldly things take hold of the whole personality making demands upon the total person. A materialistic spirit affects one's relationship to God. If we are worrying about things, we are unspiritual. Whom are you serving? It is either God or mammon.

Paul said to Timothy, "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world" (I Timothy 4:10). Demas' love for the world controlled his actions. He might not have been aware of it, but it was true nevertheless. "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15). In His parable of the Sower, the Seed and the Soils, our Lord said that "the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful" (Matthew 13:22; Mark 4:19; Luke 8:14). The pleasures of this world are dangerously damaging to the Christian, preventing spiritual growth and hindering his fellowship with God. My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we should not worry about material things. There is something quite subtle about this which most Christians do not see until the damage has been done. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon."



REFLECTIONS of FAITH

*edited by
Kathy Jo Kirkbride*

Proving That God Is True

To prove that God is true
In this life of mine
Is a task that is great, immense
And sublime.
To prove it to myself, my God
And my neighbor
Will require great skill,
Devotion and labor.
To profess it is one thing,
To prove it's quite another.
Though I "O.K." myself,
What thinketh my brother?
And should I receive from both
A big nod,
Yet how will I rate when I
Stand before God?
As I thought and prayed
About what I should do,
And how to proceed in
Proving Him true,
There came His answer
As clear as a bell—
Go according to my Word
And all will be well.
And so I've decided
And thus will I do,
I'll study God's Word
And prove that He's true.
What else for proof could a
Mortal ever give
Than to learn of God's graces
And in them to live?

—B.J. Jennings

Which Cross

I can carry a shiny, silver cross,
Or I can bear a more rugged, heavier one...
Can I bear it without the applause of men?
Can I still love though my love is unreturned?
Can I bear it when forsaken and it seems to be in vain?
If my hopes are shattered by brute reality—
If my dreams for the future disintegrate—
If all I cherish goes far beyond my reach—
Will I still choose to follow
And bear a rugged cross?

Easter

by
Paul Sewell

On Sunday, April 6, a contradiction in traditions will take place. It will be a peaceful disagreement by the fact that no harsh words will be exchanged and physical violence will be omitted. On this day a religious holiday will be celebrated throughout the world...Easter. While Christians celebrate the Easter holiday on April 6, some countries and religions will not follow suit. History marks three separate traditions in the origin of this sacred holiday.

Early in the eighth century, an English historian wrote of a festival to welcome spring season. The festival, which was called "Ostara Eostre," was held in celebration of nature's resurrection from the winter season. From this festival, the popular tradition of "Easter egg" hunting first began. A Greek myth also conveys this idea in telling a story of a goddess who seasonally returns in time to welcome the spring season.

Easter for the Jewish nation is celebrated during Nisan, which is the first month of the Jewish year. Easter is historically during the Passover which is described in Exodus 12. For the Christian religion, history again serves as the arbitrator in the development of the Easter season. Because of the history recorded in the Bible, the born-again Christian can celebrate the Easter season in a spirit of victory. The Christian faith observes Easter as a Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday, continuing through Good Friday, and climaxing on Easter Sunday. For the Christian, Easter is not a time of mourning Christ's death, but rather the celebrating of His prophesied and promised resurrection from the dead.

The dating of Easter has also presented a conflict in the parallel of the holiday with history. March 21 is posted as the pagan festival of Ostara Eoster, while the Jewish calendar sets the fourteenth day of Nisan aside for Easter. The Christian Holy Week, moreover, has been modified at different times in an effort to unite the contradicting dates. By rule of the English Parliament, Easter was set on the first Sunday following the second Saturday in April.

While the warming temperatures of spring's arrival remind us of nature's resurrection, we as Christians should also be reminded of Christ's death and resurrection. Easter is not the pagan holiday which is so greatly exaggerated and advertised in today's commercial atmosphere. It is neither a special Sunday set aside to entertain children with candied eggs and chocolate rabbits, nor a time to display spring's new clothing styles. Easter Sunday is the born-again Christian's day to emphasize their praise and gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice which Christ made for us, and the miraculous resurrection which gave us the victory of eternal life.

As Christians, we sometimes wait until special seasons such as Christmas and Easter to seriously ponder the miraculous wonders of Christ. Holidays also become mere traditions of symbolism in today's complacent society. Do we as Christians really live in the victory of our Savior's resurrection? If so, then shouldn't every day be a celebration in reflection of Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection?

Daily Walk Through God's Word

April 1980

Verse: John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Keith A.

April	Morning John	Evening Exodus
1	1	1&2
2	2	3&4
3	3	5&6
4	4	7&8
5	5	9
6	6	10&11
7	7	12
8	8	13&14
9	9	15
10	10	16
11	11	17&18
12	12	19
13	13	20
14	14	21
15	15	22
16	16	23&24
17	17	25
18	18	26&27
19	19	28
20	20	29
21	21	30
22	Acts 1	31&32
23	2	33
24	3	34
25	4	35
26	5	36
27	6	37
28	7	38
29	8	39
30	9	40

As Christians across this nation trade a life of godliness for a life of pleasure-seeking, it is encouraging to know that there are still believers attempting to follow the guidelines of conduct set down in the Bible. May Dow realizes that the elderly people in the church have responsibility before God to be patterns for the younger people and says, "I want to be an example as stated in First Timothy."

Being forced to take care of a younger sister while her mother worked, she has seen God's care for her since a child keeping both her and her sister safe. She also worked away from home when she was 14, but remained stable in those trying circumstances. She has attended church all her life, and she is now a member of Maranatha Baptist in Columbus, Ohio.

Her now-deceased husband, who had a vast knowledge of the Bible, impressed upon her the importance of reading God's Word. "My life is wrapped around the Bible," she now explains. "I can't go to sleep without reading the Bible."

Prayer is also an integral part of her life. She states, "I believe in prayer so sincerely." While she recognizes that bringing petitions to God is a necessary part of prayer, she does not forget thanksgiving. "I give thanks to the Lord even for the bad things," she reveals. "I know He is not pointing me in the wrong direction."

Although she must depend on other

Verse For The Month:

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Philippians 2:13

Servants

Wharton

people for her transportation, May usually attends church. "Sunday is not Sunday unless I can give my Lord the 'whole day,'" she declares.

She believes that one of her gifts is the ability to work with children. "I love kids," she says. "I've worked with them all my life." Her interest in young people extends to her praying and giving; she is a Torchbearer for Cedarville College, which is a program which emphasizes regular monthly giving to the college, and has prayed much for the completion of the high school and gymnasium buildings at Maranatha Christian School.

Because of her interest in young people, she is also involved with Awana, a international children's program, based on Biblical content. Now in her fourth year as a leader for the children, she says she will "stay with it until the Lord calls me home." She took the basic training and test to become an Awana leader, and now listens to twenty young people recite verses they have learned. She enjoys this and admits that handbook and devotion time are the most important Awana events.

May Dow realizes that Bible study, prayer, fellowship with other believers, and the other responsibilities we as Christians have are commanded by God, and that we are obligated to obey his commandments in all circumstances.

Note Worthy

by
Michelle Randall

A young, tender-hearted actress once visited a sick girl with the thought of cheering the young invalid with her vivacious and pleasant conversation. The girl was a devoted Christian, and the actress was converted as a result of her words and patience in spite of her sickly condition. The actress desired to become a true follower of Christ so she told her father, the leader of the theater troupe, of her conversion and her desire to abandon the stage. She felt she could not live a consistent Christian life and still be an actress. Her father was shocked and explained that her resolution would result in the loss of their livelihood. Because of her love for her father, she consented to fill the published engagement scheduled for several days hence. The hour of her appearance arrived, and because she was a general favorite, a large audience had assembled. The curtain rose, and the young actress stepped forward amid the applause and repeated:

"My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;

For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, My Savior Art Thou;

If I ever loved Thee, My Jesus 'tis now."

She said nothing more and leaving her audience in tears, retired from the stage, never to appear again. Through her influence her father was converted. They became a team and won many to Christ through their evangelistic efforts.

Thought For The Month

"Life is harmonious when the heart is in tune with Christ."

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.

"Why do you keep a bowl of goldfish on your desk?" the businessman was asked. He replied, "It's relaxing to have something around here that doesn't complain or ask for a raise whenever it opens its mouth."

Commenting on the same type of problem, Robert West said, "Nothing is easier than fault-finding; no talent, no self-denial, no brains, no character are required to set up in the grumbling business."

A United States senator complained about the length of some of the material published by the government printing office. He pointed out that an explanatory pamphlet on the reduction of the price of cabbage seed required 2,500 words while only 1,821 were used in writing the Declaration of Independence!

"Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words. When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God" (Ecc. 5:1-7).

"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise" (Prov. 10:19).

"A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards" (Prov. 29:11).

"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: For they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking" (Matt. 6:7).

John Wesley said, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

That means we are to be "doers" and not just "followers." People who speak volumes of empty words usually end up on the shelf. They have done nothing to help others and are castaways as far as service is concerned.

Let's Chatter

edited by

About a Matter

Sharon Lahaie

The late Jack Benny remarked after receiving an award, "I don't deserve this, but I have arthritis and I don't deserve that either." We could turn this observation around and say, "I don't deserve this affliction of arthritis, but I have many blessings for which to be grateful, and I don't deserve them either."

I don't deserve this difficulty...but neither do I deserve the priceless gift of life. I don't deserve this bitter disappointment, but neither do I deserve the wonderful friends who always stand by me when I need them most. I don't deserve this sorrow, this valley of despair, or this tribulation, but neither do I deserve God's comforting assurance, His compassionate love, or His constant companionship. I don't deserve this financial reverse or these unpleasant circumstances, but neither do I deserve such a wonderful family, such a great country, or such freedom.

Let us learn to be thankful for everything—even the undesirable things we don't deserve...and especially the beautiful things we don't deserve. "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thess. 5:18).

Quizzle by Larry Lim

Quote a Verse: Find the answers to the clues and write in the corresponding blank. The finished puzzle will form a scripture verse.

Clues:

1. the fifteenth letter of the alphabet
2. to present (to someone)
3. appreciation
4. toward (someone)
5. a, an, and
6. master
7. on behalf of
8. opposite of she
9. state of being
10. beneficial
11. sounds like a golfer's warning
12. possessive for a man
13. kindness, sympathy
14. lasts, continues
15. always, endless

1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	
14	15			

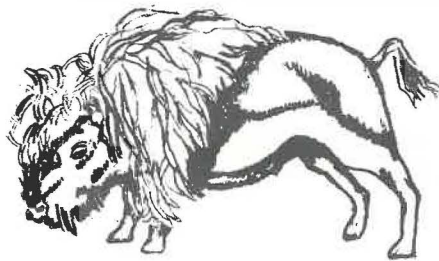
Looking At God's Creation

by
Michelle Randall

Many years ago, buffalo were free to roam the country. With the settling of the West, however, came a gradual decrease in the number of buffalo. They were killed for food, for their hides, and some were even killed to "get them out of the way." But, with careful management and protection, the buffalo has increased, and now about 14,000 buffalo live on ranges and parks throughout the United States.

The significant fact about today's buffalo is that he exists at all. This is also true of Christians. When Christ was on earth and people began to believe in Him and to change their lifestyles, others did not look kindly on them. Many Christians were killed for their faith.

But, the buffalo (and the Christians) survived. We must, however, give credit where credit is due. The buffalo, being very hardy, had much to do with his own survival. He lived through rough, wild winters when there was little food and through



blistering, hot summers when there was little water.

The Christian, too, has survived rough, dry periods. There were times when they had to meet in secret gathering underground in the catacombs of Rome or had to walk miles into the forest to be sure that no one saw them. There were times, too, when it was difficult to find other Christians with whom to fellowship. No one was sure who could be trusted

with their secret belief in Christ.

Perhaps the buffalo's most valuable asset is his inbred herd instinct. If one buffalo is ill or injured, the herd forms a protective circle against predators. Christians seem to have this "instinct" also. Whenever one Christian is going through a rough time physically or having some spiritual problem, other Christians are willing to help. Even if one can not help physically, he can uphold his friends in prayer.

God never leaves His creation on its own. He gave buffalo the instinct and the power to survive through all these years and He has watched over His children since creation. This assures us that He will not abandon us now.



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But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:14

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PUZZLE

Answer: Psalm 107:1 (KJV)



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