



December 12, 2004 #2550



For Keeps

Growing up I used to play marbles with some of the neighborhood boys. We would draw a circle in the dirt and put some of our marbles inside it. Then we would take turns attempting to "shoot" the marbles out of the circle. The ones shot out of the circle would be kept by the shooter.

However, I wasn't allowed to play marbles "for keeps"--that is, keep the marbles I won. My parents insisted that when the game was over, all the marbles would be given back to the original owners. This prevented anyone from losing their marbles. It was all just for fun.

Life is like a game of marbles, and it's played "for keeps". We use our energy aspiring to whatever we choose. We spend our time pursuing goals that catch our interest. However, once used, time is gone "for keeps". We don't get it back.

When this life is over, we will give account of what we did with our time, ability and opportunities. If we were good stewards of what the Lord gave us, He will richly reward us. If we were unfaithful, we will have to live with the dreadful consequences. There is no getting it back to do over again. No second chance. No excuses. The game of life is "for keeps". Live so that you will not regret how you lived.

Ron Adams
North San Diego c/C
via Karns "The Messenger"



There's a Place for You at West Side!

With the approach of 2005 here is much excitement and anticipation at West Side! Planning sessions are taking place. Goals are being set. Ideas are being considered and implemented. The appointment of additional elders and deacons will increase the workforce and strengthen the resolve. Soon each member will have in hand a copy of these goals and plans. What an opportunity for each of us to get more deeply involved in God's great Cause!

What about you? Where do you fit? What will you contribute? Each of us has a place in God's Kingdom. Each of us has a place at West Side. The picture will not be complete without you in it. The load cannot be pulled without your assistance. The goals can never be accomplished fully without your support in every way.

Let your elders know of your desire to do your part. Tell them you want to be included in whatever way you can. God's army is an all-volunteer organization. It needs the talents you possess, the time you can contribute and the passion and compassion only you can bring.

There is a bright light shining on the horizon. That light is the dawning of a brighter day of service for all of God's servants here. Don't let this opportunity slip by you. Let's make 2005 the greatest year of growth in West Side's illustrious history. Let's make it the year in which every individual gives his all for the service of his King. This can't happen if it doesn't involve you. You are the key to our strengthening and growth for the coming year. There's a place for you at West Side. Resolve to do your part and fill it with an even greater resolve than ever before. Now, what can you do, and how can we help you do it?

Eddy

The Effect of Sin in Our Lives

As Satan convinced Eve in the Garden of Eden that "one little sin won't hurt," so the devil tries to convince us today that sin is a minor thing, and we should not be too concerned about it. BUT--if we learn to view sin as God pictures it in the Scriptures, we'll be more aware of its power. Consider what sin does in our lives:

Sin always hurts the sinner! Various kinds of sins hurt the sinner physically. We have all seen the effects of alcohol and drugs on addicts. We just cannot violate God's laws without paying some consequences. Even when sin doesn't hurt one physically, the sinner is still hurt mentally and spiritually. The "*peace of God which passeth understanding*" (Philippians 4:7) just doesn't reside in the heart of a sinner!

Sin hurts the sinner's loved ones. No one can go into sin without hurting those who love him. When a child does wrong, parents suffer. When adults

commit sin, they break the hearts of those closest to them. But even if it were possible to sin without hurting anyone on earth, we would still hurt God!

Sin separates the sinner from God. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God drove them out. The reason: *"Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you that He will not hear"* (Isaiah 59:2). In other words, when we refuse to listen to God, he will refuse to listen to us!

Sin becomes a habit for the sinner. We often kid ourselves that we can "quit any time". But it isn't that simple, regardless of what sin we are talking about. The sad true fact is that many people listen to Satan and believe the false promises and are made slaves to sin.

The wages of sin is death. Romans 6:23--*"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* What sin had done to us, Christ overcomes when we come to Him in obedient faith.

Ed DeVault

God's Gifts Are

Think of all the bounties Christians have! God's gifts are:

- * Undeserved for no one can earn them
- * Unlimited bounded only by the extent of God's love
- * Unfailing since God does not sleep nor vacation
- * Unexpectant as God's motive is not to be repaid
- * Unerring for Jehovah never gives the wrong thing
- * Unequivocal since the Almighty's gifts are not veiled
- * Unfeigned as the Lord is sincere in His care
- * Unparalleled for surely the world can offer no such
- * Unsearchable since they are past finding out.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

James 1:17

What About Your Funeral Sermon?

In the last several weeks I have come to a greater realization that each of us has an undeniable appointment with death. The Hebrew writer stated, *"And as it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27). David made a statement that is true with us all: *"there is but a step between men and death"* (I Samuel 20:3). One of the rare customs of our day is the funeral sermon, and most of us have listened to scores of such orations. Do we realize that, some day, perhaps soon, it will be our funeral others will attend? If the truth were spoken on that occasion, what would be said?

Since we shall not live forever on this earth, we surely need to heed the warning of Isaiah to Hezekiah, *"Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not*

live" (II Kings 20:1). The brevity and uncertainty of life and the time of judgment make it imperative that we set our spiritual house in order; that we maintain a vibrant, godly position before the One Who gave us life (Revelation 2:10; 4:13).

Shall we conduct ourselves in a way that, when we die, our lives will still preach a noble sermon like Abel? *"And through it he being dead still speaks"* (Hebrews 11:4). or will we be like the wicked man who died, *"to no one's sorrow"* (II Chronicles 21:20)? Will it be said of us that we failed to glorify the God Who made us (Daniel 5)? Or will devout men lament our passing (Acts 8:1)? Will we have conducted ourselves selfishly like Cain (Genesis 4:9) or lived courageously like Joshua (Joshua 1:7; 24:15)? Jesus wept at a tomb, but we as His followers do not sorrow as the world does when Christians die (I Thessalonians 4:16-18). We strive to number our days so as to wisely spend our moments upon the earth (Psalm 90:12).

In Job 3:17 we learn there is a place where, *"the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest."* Indeed, Jesus made it plain that it would be better for some, *"if they had never been born"* (Mark 14:21). Since no one is sure of life, and no one knows the day of his death, we must be wise enough to make God *"our refuge and strength"* (Psalm 46:1).

Christians can have *"boldness in the day of judgment"* (I John 4:17) because the God of hope can fill us with all joy and peace in believing. It was under the deepest duress that Paul wrote that the same Lord who stood by him in life would *"preserve me for his heavenly kingdom"* (II Timothy 4:18). However, some people, reaping as sown, will miss glory. Many will have so lived that the crowd they join will be marching in the wrong direction and to a destiny that is not to be desired.

Our life is but a vapor (James 4:14), just a passing shadow and a flower that fades away. If the Lord preached your funeral sermon, or mine, what would He say? Would He say, "Enter in to the joys of the redeemer" or "Depart from me, I never knew you"?

Gene Stilwell

Nothing is so contagious as an example. We never do great good or great evil without bringing about more of the same on the part of others.

PRAYER REQUESTS

SICK: at home: Brian Bush, Marguerite Charles, Duane Crowe, Jeff Foley, Dan Hudgins, A.C. Janney, Joe & Grace Myers, Ethan Rogers, Evelyn Scott, Evelyn White. Eli Blevins, Helen Graves' brother, MICU, LGH, bleeding behind brain. Sandy Garby will see a surgeon on the 14th to schedule gall bladder surgery. Sarah Grace Smith, Community, severe pneumonia. Gail Burton will have surgery on her neck which could leave her paralyzed. Rena Willis, a cashier at Wal-Mart, is recovering at RMH from extensive surgery to repair damage from a gunshot wound; she has a 3-yr. old son. Lorraine Vaughan, Kelsey MacIntosh's grandmother, is in LGH, recovering from surgery. Steve Driscoll's dad (a friend of

D.C. Dunnaville), who is recovering from surgery to his esophagus. Joyce Carter, CCU, LGH. Peggy Evans, friend of the Boyds, is having lung problems. Lorraine Walker, mother of a co-worker of Mitch Jearls, is not doing well following a stroke. Continue to remember: Lynn & Mary Anderson, Faye Burnette, Ivy Bush, James Cooke, Jim & Addie Dorsett, Rick Guard, Steve Harrah, Walter & Betty Jenkins, Rob & Gloria Kinney, Margaret Kratz, Oliver & Miriam Majors, Glenna Manning, Ken McLaughlin, Jo Musgrove, Curtis Oakes, Charlie & Jessie Puckett, Lacy Rowe, Gary Sartain, Annette Shrader, Josh Whitlow's grandfather, Effie Wimmer (was able to be out last Sunday), W.J. Wood.

Names will remain on this list for four weeks without an update. Please give all updates to Glenna.

RESTORED: Jeff & Rebecca Durham

SYMPATHY: to the family of Junior Agee, who died as a result of his injuries from a robbery; to the Tim Wilkes family in the loss of their 2-yr. old grandson Ethan Bayless.

OTHER: Remember our missionaries the Staffords and the Pearsons; Steve & Cindy Hall, Ty Stricklin, Allen Crawford & Josh Simmons and the 300,000+ armed service personnel serving the world over. Amy Patria, David Wilcox, Cindy Rice (BCC student, homebound, would love cards, calls *See paper bulletin for information*); Carrie Carpenter (studying w/Brian Anderson, Eddy's cousin).

CONGRATULATIONS!

Will Brooks placed second in the District DECA competition. He was also the overall winner for Quick-Serve Restaurant Management. Good job, Will! We're proud of you!

FISHERS OF MEN COURSE

Registration forms are on the table in the foyer. Deadline to register is December 20. Baby-sitting will be provided for children through 4th grade age. A sign-up sheet is posted if you would like to avail yourself of this service.

THIS WEEK AT WEST SIDE:

Today: TTT Planners meet, 4pm.

Monday: Area-wide preachers' meeting, 10:30am. Ladies' Night Out, 7pm at the Edwards'.

Tuesday: Happy birthday to Rosemary Bush!

Wednesday: Bible Study, 7pm. Happy anniversary to Levi & Essie Graves!

Thursday: TNT Bible study, 7:30-8:30pm. Happy anniversary to George & Bonnie Mellon!

Friday: Happy birthday to Dotty Collins & Whitney Faw!

Saturday: Happy anniversary to Danny & Cha Guard!

Sunday, 12/19: Happy birthday to Eloise Murray!

FROM BURT JONES:

"I just listened to my CD of the singing of the West Side congregation during my recent visit there. To say that I am impressed would be an understatement. There is more potential in the little finger of most West Side members than there is in the entire body of most congregations. I only hope that you will continue to glorify God in the way which you did while I was there. I am so very, very honored to be a part of the West Side EXPERIENCE!"

DECEMBER ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Dale's steak sauce, Crystal-Light fruit flavors, Dryel (dry-cleaning for dryer).

Ten Steps to Reach Lost Friends that Everyone Can Do

1. Prayerfully identify 1-3 people you know who are not Christians.
 2. Pray fervently for their salvation every day.
 3. Be a blessing to your friends.
 4. Invite each to a meal (no agenda), just to get better acquainted.
 5. At an opportune time, ask each one for prayer requests. Check back.
 6. Invite each one to outreach events, Bible class or church.
 7. Be there for them when they need help.
 8. Continue praying and seeking opportunities to expose them to the gospel.
 9. Tell them why you became a Christian.
 10. When they come to Christ, help them grow and become more involved in the church.
- Phil Sanders

"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not away from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou has delivered thy soul. --Ezekiel 3:17-19

December 2004

Announcements. Charles Gwaltney
Reader (PM). Ethan Rogers
Preside. Colby Allen
Serve. Kirk Gilpin, Glenn Hartman, George Mellon, Tom Rogers
(PM) Mike Durham, Don Pettit
Opening Prayer
12/5 Charles Gwaltney, (PM) Tom Duff
12/12 Danny Guard, (PM) Rob Kinney
12/19. Collin Gregory, (PM) Bobby Martin
12/26 Tom Richardson, (PM) Wayne Dixon
Closing Prayer

12/5..... D.C. Dunnaville, (PM) Jim Bush
 12/12..... Mitch Jearls, (PM) Luke Guard
 12/19..... David Brown, (PM) John Hawks
 12/26..... Fred Altizer, (PM) Jim Harrington
 Pick Up Cards..... Cameron Christian, Weston Rogers
 Greeters..... Dixons, Murrays
 Open/Close Building..... Lyn Shrader
 Care of Communion..... T. Sartain, D. Tucker; alternate, V. Gearhart
 Song Leaders
 Sunday... (AM) J. Durham... (PM) D. Brown.... (Wednesday) B. Garby
 Care of Baptismal Garments..... Charmaine Bush
 Ushers..... Herbert Baker, Charles Maness
 Nursery..... Wanda Martin, Dorothy Mays, (PM) Wanda Mickens
 Alternates..... Bob Garby, Tom Rogers
 Sermon Outlines..... Mike & Cameron Christian, Tom & Weston Rogers

OUR RECORD... 12/1, 5 /04

Wednesday.....	149
Sunday Bible Study.....	165
Sunday Morning Worship.....	181
Sunday Evening Worship.....	135
Contribution.....	\$8,772.00
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