

The Secret of Contentment

Levi Sides

“And having food and raiment let us be therewith content” I Timothy 6:8

A recent visitor to a cemetery in London found a grave marker with this inscription: “She died for want of things.” Along side that stone is another which reads: “He died trying to give them to her.”

In a laughable yet tragic manner these epitaphs suggest the folly of living and working only for this world’s goods. Whenever someone is so enamored by earthly possessions that acquiring them becomes his primary goal, he encounters frustration and disappointment. This is true because man is a spiritual being in flesh and can never be fulfilled by material things.

People can easily develop an insatiable appetite for things while neglecting to fulfill the real cravings of their hearts with the “bread of life” (Jn. 6:35). Riches simply do not satisfy, and the more a man gets the more he wants!

The person who knows the Lord and whose affection is centered upon “things above” (Col. 3:1) can find perfect contentment even with the bare necessities of life. That is why Paul the Apostle could write “...having food and raiment let us be therewith content.” To many this is a rough recommendation. How do we translate this advice in to action? Try these guidelines:

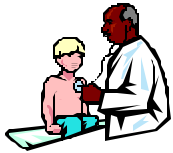
1. Do not overestimate material possessions. Jesus said, “...A man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15)

2. Do not fret over what you do not have! One day King Ahab was pouting in his palace (I Kings 21). Flinging himself across his bed, he turned his face to the wall and refused to eat. What was wrong? He wanted to buy a certain vineyard and the owner would not sell. Ahab was a wealthy man! But, all he could think about was this vineyard he did not have. Many are content with their property until they focus envious eyes on a choice possession of another.

3. Do not overlook what you do have! Contrast what you are with what you might have been but for the grace of God. Stop looking at the things you do not have long enough to focus on the things you do have! Have you discovered the secret of true contentment?

Sick

Continue to remember in prayer: **Mar-guerite Charles, Margaret Kratz, Lyn Anderson, Martha Keith, Miriam Majors, Betty Jenkins, WJ Wood, Jonnie Charles, Buddy Martin, Tim Darr, Jim Dorsett, Fred Hill**



- Michele Nikkel will have a procedure on June 8 in Charlottesville.
- Velma Vaughn, **Collin Gregory's** sister, is in LGH,

Sympathy is extended to Josh Whitlow in the death of his uncle, Willard Helms.

Sympathy is also extended to Jo Hartman in the death of her sister-in-law, Jo Ann.

Happy Birthday this week to:



Eric Earnhart—6/8
Bob Garby—6/9
Austin Whitlow—6/9
Peggy Paxton—6/12
Sarah Cook—6/13

MAY ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Hormel Real Bacon Bits, assorted Ziplocs. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!

*Remember the container that is going to Tanzania this summer. We are collecting items for the Stafford and Farigi Paul families until June 14th. If you need another shopping list, see Jeanny.



WOW

Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, June 9, at 10:30.

Also the Group will be going to Harbor Inn on June 14 after morning services. Sign up so they can save you a seat!!

Upcoming Events:

Be making your plans now to join us for an all team picnic on July 4. More details to come.



Teens

June Events



Grad Dinner—6/7

Devo—6/10

Lock In—6/12 (sign up sheet on board)

TBS—6/14

Salem Baseball—6/15

Devo—6/17

VCC—6/21-27

Summer Youth Devo—6/29

Tubing Trip—6/30

As you can see Luke has lots of things planned. Make sure you check out the youth bulletin board for events and sign up sheets.

The Youth will be going down the James River again this year. This was a great event last year and anyone who would like to come and spend the day in the water or just join us for a picnic on the river bank see Luke or Jo Ann for the forms!!



????????????

There will be a Discovery Club Meeting next Sunday at 4:00.

Virginia Christian Camp

starts in 2 weeks!

Are you ready?



Change in Programming- Beginning Sunday, July 5th, the "Good News Today" program will take the place of "Preaching the Gospel" on Sunday mornings on Fox 21/27. "Preaching the Gospel" aired from 8:00-8:30 a.m. "Good News Today" will air from 7:30-8:30 a.m. James Watkins will still be the speaker.

For Your Information

Weekly Reminders

SUMMER TEACHING QUARTER

The new Summer Quarter of teaching starts today. Special thanks to all spring teachers!

GRADUATION BANQUET

Our annual Graduation Banquet will be today after morning services. Make plans to stay for the fellowship dinner and honor our grads this year.

2009 SUMMER SERIES

Our annual Summer Series will feature Barry White this Wednesday. Make plans to be here to hear all of the speakers that are lined up for this summer.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The monthly Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, June 13 at Famous Anthony's at 8:00 AM.

EDP MEETING

There will be an EDP Meeting next Sunday at 4:00.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

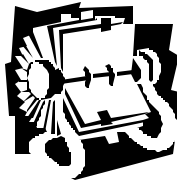
The forms for this year's student accomplishments are located in the foyer. Please pick one up and fill it out for your child(ren) and return to the office by Sunday, June 14.

Prayer list:

Marguerite Charles
Lyn Anderson
Martha Keith
Miriam Majors
Betty Jenkins
WJ Wood
Margaret Kratz
Jonnie Charles
Jim Dorsett
Tim Darr
Velma Vaughn
Michele Nikkel
Peggy Paxton
Fred Hill

Activities:

Grad Dinner—6/7
WOW Meeting—6/9
Youth Devo—6/10
Men's Breakfast—6/13
Harbor Inn Lunch—6/14
EDP Meeting—6/14
Discovery Club Meeting—6/14
TBS—6/14



But Still She Died

Announcements	Fred Altizer
Song Leader (AM)	Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (AM)	
6/7	Richard Simms
6/14	Jerry Anderson
6/21	Danny Guard
6/28	Wayne Dixon

Preside at Communion	Tom Richardson
Serve Table	Adam House David Brown Tom Rogers Sam Valentine

Closing Prayer	
6/7	Roger Mays
6/14	Barry White
6/21	Greg Edwards
6/28	Jim Cooke

Song Leader (PM)	Jason Oldham
Opening Prayer (PM)	
6/7	Mitch Jearls
6/14	AC Janney
6/21	Glenn Hartman
6/28	George Mellon

Scripture Reader	Nathan Pelfrey
Closing Prayer (PM)	
6/7	Josh Whitlow
6/14	Don Pettit
6/21	Mike Durham
6/28	Eric Earnhart

Serve Table (PM)	Garrett & Bradford Durham
-------------------------	---------------------------

Song Leader (Wed)	Bob Garby
Prayer (Wed)	
6/3	Fred Altizer
6/10	Charlie Gwaltney
6/17	Gene Benefield
6/24	Jim Cooke

Open/Close Bldg Greeters	Danny Guard Bush/Gilpin
---------------------------------	----------------------------

Nursery Attend	Hazel McFalls Lisa Valentine
Ushers	Norris Gearhart Curtis Oakes
Handouts	Jim Harrington Bob Martin Cameron Brown Paul Mays

Alternates	Lyn Shrader
Prepare communion	Peggy Paxton Mitzi Pettit
Cards & Pencils	Caroline & Jimmy Harrington

Last weeks attendance 5/28&6/3/09

Bible Class—1556	Worship Service—200
Sunday Eve.—155	Wednesday Eve.—173
Contribution—\$6424	

She was born on February 12, 1912. At the age of 9 weeks Elizabeth Gladys (Millvina) Dean became the youngest passenger aboard the RMS Titanic. On April 15, 1912, she became the youngest of some 800 survivors of the Titanic's ill-fated voyage. On October 16, 2007, she became the only remaining survivor of the infamous shipwreck when 96-year old Barbara Joyce West Dainton died in Truro, England. On Sunday, May 31, Millvina became the last survivor of the Titanic to die. She was 97 years old.

In the back of their minds, every passenger aboard the Titanic knew they would one day die (though likely few had ever given it much thought). None would have guessed they would perish while aboard the "unsinkable" Titanic; but over 1500 did. Likely, of those 800 plus who were rescued who had memories of that night, death would afterward become a frequent thought. To be certain, everyone aboard that ship was going to die, whether it had struck that iceberg or not.

Everyone who reads this article will one day die (barring, of course, the Lord's return- I Cor. 15:51, 52; I Thes. 4:17). At some point in time, there will only be one person left who is now reading this. There will only be one person left who attended worship at West Side today. And, even though that may well be many years in the future, that person (like all the others) will still die. Death is the lot of each of us (Heb. 9:27). Like Millvina Dean, you may on occasion be rescued from death's grip; but you will eventually succumb to it.

Knowing that death will have the last say (as far as this world's events are concerned), we should make preparations for its inevitability. Like Millvina Dean, some will live to ripe, old ages. Like many aboard the Titanic, many will die far too young and much too quickly. However, for the faithful Christian, death need not be feared. It is but a step (I Sam. 20:3) between time and eternity; a river (i.e. the Jordan) to be crossed; a chasm to be spanned. And, for the faithful child of God, it is the door to a vast eternity of joy and an endless period of praise to God (Rev. 21:1-7). Are you prepared for that day?

-Eddy