

Two Scrawny Frogs

A man who had just purchased his first house in the country came into town and asked the owner of a restaurant if he could use a million frog legs. The proprietor asked where he could find so many frogs. "I've got a pond at home just full of them," the homeowner replied, "They drive me crazy night and day."

After they made an agreement for several hundred frogs, the farmer went back home. He returned a week later with two scrawny frogs and a sheepish grin on his face.

"I guess I was wrong," he stammered, "There were just two frogs in the pond, but they sure were making a lot of noise!"

Application: We watch the news and think the whole world is as bad as the broadcasters portray it. Our neighbor runs down the government so much that we think that this is the worst possible country in which to live.

If the weather outside is one degree above room temperature and the sun is shining, we say, "My, isn't it hot out." If it is one degree below room temperature and slightly overcast, we talk about how dreary it is outside.

We hear a few malcontents murmur about their brethren, and we think the whole church is moments away from apostasy. The next time you hear a lot of noise about how bad things are, just remember: It may be nothing more than a couple of chronic complainers who have little to do but grouch and croak.

Two things are at work: 1) The complainers have time on their hands. The non-complainers are busy with life, bearing burdens and enjoying blessings. They are not speaking. Often the only voice heard is that of the murmurer.

2) We have the very human tendency to want to hear and believe the shocking, the ugly, and the tragic. Good news does not spur interest unless it benefits us directly.

Solution: Don't assume the worst when two scrawny frogs start croaking.

"As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife. The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body" (Prov. 26:20-21). "The north wind brings forth rain, And a backbiting tongue an angry countenance... As cold water to a weary soul, So is good news from a far country." (Prov. 25:23, 25).

1 in 5 Chance of Crashing

"Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body" (1Cor. 6:18).

One out of five Americans now suffers from a sexual disease. According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, 56 million people in the United States are infected with a sexually transmitted disease, and more than half of those sufferers have sexual diseases that are incurable. These awesome statistics mean that young women and men have a one out of five chance of getting a spouse (or significant other) who is infected. Those are pretty depressing odds. You wouldn't ride in an airplane if you had a one-in-five chance of crashing. Conclusion? "Safe sex" isn't safe; it's high-risk. "Free sex" isn't free; it's very costly. The only safe sex is chastity until marriage and fidelity afterward. (From Phyllis Schlafly)

Not only does one face the danger of being infected by some dreadful disease

when he commits fornication, but he sins against Almighty God and himself. When Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph, he responded, "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9) God Himself makes the rules and we would be exceedingly wise to abide by them.

Bible Puzzle #2

Can you find the books of the Bible in the paragraph below? Answers will be in the bulletin next week.

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman, in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu keeping him occupied for hour. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving the puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund-raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "the books are right there in plain view, hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is the books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking some where in this paragraph waiting to be found. Happy Hunting.

A Moments Wisdom

Where will you be when you get where you are going?

God has shown us that He wants meat for sacrifices, yet we often give Him tofu.

(Tongue-in-cheek, prb) Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right, and the other person is the husband.

There is nothing so annoying as to have two people talking when you're busy interrupting.

Integrity can be difficult to maintain in a world that demands you change with the wind. I would maintain that giving thanks is the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.

Blessed are those that can give without remembering and receive without forgetting.

It is impossible to feel grateful and depressed in the same moment.

If men can make penicillin out of moldy bread, God can make something useful out of me.