

## **Life's Little Lessons IV**

### **Keep the Bible Out of School**

“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isa. 5:20).

“The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that a fifth grade teacher violated the First Amendment's supposed 'Separation of Church and State' by placing a Bible on his school desk. This 'doctrine of separation' is attributed to Thomas Jefferson. However, it was Thomas Jefferson who, while President, asked that the Bible be used in public schools for their reading curriculum. Jefferson said: 'I have always said, and always will say, that the studious perusal of the sacred volume will make us better citizens.' Isn't it ironic that in the name of Jefferson the very thing he advocated is now being struck down by our judicial system?” (From Pulpit Helps, July 1993, p. 5)

### **And Criminal Behavior Comes In**

“Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward” (Isa. 1:4).

School teachers were asked in 1940 to describe the top disciplinary problems faced in the classroom. They listed: talking, chewing gum, making noise, running in the halls, wearing improper clothing, and not putting wastepaper in the wastebasket. The top disciplinary problems faced by teachers today are: rape, robbery, assault, burglary, arson, bombings, and murder. (From James Dobson's Magazine, Focus on the Family) The morals in this country are in a rapid decline and, if not improved, the end can only be disaster.

### **Hunting Field Mice**

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matt. 6:33).

A man bought a new hunting dog. Eager to see how he would perform, he took him out to track a bear. No sooner had they gotten into the woods than the dog picked up the trail. Suddenly he stopped, sniffed the ground, and headed in a new direction. He had caught the scent of a deer that had crossed the bear's path. A few moments later he halted again, this time smelling a raccoon that had crossed the path of the deer. Then a turkey, a rabbit, and so on, until finally the breathless hunter caught up with his dog, only to find him barking triumphantly down the hole of a field mouse.

Often Christians start out with high resolve, putting the kingdom of God first in their lives, but their attention is soon diverted to things of lesser worth. One pursuit leads to another until they've strayed far from their original purpose. Let us do our best to put first things first.

### **Worry, Worry, Worry**

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?” (Matt. 6:25).

According to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, the word "worry" comes from an old English word which means literally "to choke or strangle." Truthfully, that's what worry does to us. It chokes and strangles us, leaving us in a miserable, depressed condition. Worry is a self-

imposed curse which we can be avoided. Someone has rightly said, "If it's bad enough to worry about, it's bad enough to pray about." Paul said, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6-7).

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Psalms By Heather Blake**

A hole in my heart remains  
From so many earthly "good-byes"  
Fill it, Lord, with Thy comfort  
And with hope for Heaven's "hellos."

As I am discouraged  
A psalm of your gospel I read  
Before I lay down to rest  
Beautiful words soothe my weary soul  
Comfort and joy, peace and hope  
Come to my mind through your promises.

From the waters I rise  
A new creature born again  
Filth of flesh, pain of heart washed away  
Pure, finally pure.

The Lord looks down on me in kindness  
The Lord can see my heart's true hope  
The Lord will be my strength  
My power comes only through Him.

I have what I need  
I have more than I will ever need  
I will be content with what I have  
And praise His name for such blessings.

God is forever and forever  
He is the absolute and always  
His right hand encloses existence  
His eye sees to the heart of the atom -  
Yet He has chosen to look upon His servant  
Yes, even this poor wretch He loves.

### **Top 10 Predictions No Matter Who Is In Power In Washington**

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still work.
3. The truth will still be the truth.
4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-approved preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.

7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room in the Kingdom of God.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save lost souls.

### **Satan's Garage Sale**

Once upon a time, Satan was having a garage sale. There, standing in little groups were all of his bright, shiny trinkets. Here were tools that make it easy to tear others down for use as stepping stones. And over there were some lenses for magnifying ones own importance, which, if you looked through them the other way, you could also use to belittle others, or even one's self. Against the wall was the usual assortment of gardening implements guaranteed to help your pride grow by leaps and bounds: the rake of scorn, the shovel of jealousy for digging a pit for your neighbor, the tools of gossip and backbiting, of selfishness and apathy. All of these were pleasing to the eye and came complete with fabulous promises and guarantees of prosperity. Prices, of course, were steep; but not to worry! Free credit was extended to one and all. "Take it home, use it, and you won't have to pay until later!" old Satan cried, as he hawked his wares.

The visitor, as he browsed, noticed two well worn, non-descript tools standing in one corner. Not being nearly as tempting as the other items, he found it curious that these two tools had price tags higher than any other. When he asked why, Satan just laughed and said, "Well, that's because I use them so much. If they weren't so plain looking, people might see them for what they were." Satan pointed to the two tools, saying, "You see, that one's Doubt and that one's Discouragement — and those will work when nothing else will."

### **A Moments Wisdom**

- A cloud cannot cast a shadow unless the sun is shining behind it.
- When circumstances knock you on your back, realize that from that position you are looking up.
- To settle a problem with shouting is like unsnarling a traffic jam by blowing horns.
- To choose well among old things is almost equal to inventing new ones.