

Missing the Point

Orville and Wilbur Wright were excited. On December 17, 1903, they had finally succeeded in keeping their homemade airplane in the air for 59 seconds. Immediately they rushed a telegram to their sister in Dayton, Ohio, telling of this great accomplishment. The telegram read, "First sustained flight today fifty-nine seconds. Hope to be home by Christmas." Upon receiving the news the sister was so excited about the success that she rushed to the newspaper office and gave the telegram to the editor. The next morning the newspaper headline read, "Popular Local Bicycle Merchants To Be Home For Holidays."

One of the greatest stories of the twentieth century was missed because an editor missed the point. But who has not made the same mistake in reading the Scriptures? If one is too casual about it, he might learn some truth but miss that which is most important. For years Charles Hodge has been saying, "Familiar Scripture should be read more closely." That advice is well worth heeding, but all Scripture should be read more closely to let the deep meaning sink into your heart. Read the Bible. Read it carefully. And don't miss the point. "Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

"It Doesn't Matter Which Way You Go"

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15)

In the children's fantasy *Alice In Wonderland*, Alice came to a junction in the road which led in different directions, and asked the Cheshire Cat for advice. Alice said, "Would you tell me please, which way I ought to go from here?" The cat said, "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to." "I don't much care where," said Alice. "Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.

That cat had it right! If we don't know where we want to go, any fork in the road will do. Making the wrong choice in a children's story may only lead to adventure, but in real life it can lead to disaster. Moses said to the children of Israel, "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live..." (Deut. 30:19)

I Asked

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isa. 40:28-31)

I asked for Strength,
And God gave me Difficulties to make me strong.
I asked for Wisdom,
And God gave me Problems to solve.
I asked for Prosperity,
And God gave me a Brain and Muscle to work.
I asked for Courage,

And God gave me Danger to overcome.
I asked for Love,
And God gave me Troubled people to help.
I asked for Favors.
And God gave me Opportunities.
I received nothing I wanted,
but I received everything I needed.
(Author Unknown)

The Unknown Future

Life is a book in volumes three –
The past, the present, and the yet-to-be.
The past is written and laid away,
The present we're watching every day,
And the last and best of volumes three
Is locked from sight – God keeps the key.

Life By The Numbers By Dee Bowman

Four ways to make this year better:

1. Plant to do some fence building. Work on relationships, those that are good and those that aren't. (1John 4:7-11)
2. Make good interest on your investments. If you invest in heavenly things, your reward will be eternal life. What better interest? (Col. 3:1-3)
3. Get on a good diet. Trim off the bad stuff. Get rid of sin in your life. Work on some area where you're flabby. (John 6:35)
4. Learn the joy of contentment. Let the important things have their due attention, but learn not to major in minors. (Phil. 4:11-13).

Life is not a matter of:

1. Who you are, but what you are.
2. What you have, but what you give.
3. Where you are, but why you're here.

Which Class Are You?

There are just two kinds of people, no more, I say.
Not the sinner and the saint, for it's well understood,
The good are half bad, and the bad are half good.
Not the rich or the poor, for to rate a man's wealth,
You must first know the state of his conscience and health.
Not the humble and proud, for in life's little span,
Who puts on vain airs, is not counted a man.
Not the happy and sad, for the swift flying years
Bring each man his laughter and each man his tears.
NO; the two kinds of people on earth I mean,
Are the people who lift, and the people who lean.
Wherever you go, you will find the earth's masses
Are always divided in just these two classes.
And, oddly enough! you will find, too, I mean,

There's only one lifter to twenty who lean.
In what class are you? Are you easing the load
Of overtaxed lifters, who toil down the road?
Or are you a leaner, who lets others share
Your portion of labor and worry and care.

A Moments Wisdom

- Poverty is not a shame, but being ashamed of it is.
- A man can often stand his own poverty better than he can stand the prosperity of another.
- The poorest man in the world is the one who is always wanting more than he has.
- Faint praise is disparagement.
- He who praises everyone, praises no one.
- In doing what we ought, we deserve no praise.
- The highest praise for a man is to give him responsibility.
- Judicious praise is to children is what the sun is to flowers.