

A Moments Wisdom 2016

“Nor shall I believe that you are in the Spirit except I behold in you the fruits of the Spirit.” (Desiderius Erasmus, Enchiridion, 1503)

“We often hear it said: ‘If God existed there would be no wars.’ But it would be truer to say: ‘If God’s laws were observed there would be no wars.’” (Yves M. Congar; God, Man and the Universe, 1950)

In no one else in all history do you find an abiding hatred, an immortal hatred except against our Lord ... The hatred against Christ has never weakened even after twenty centuries ... because He is still an obstacle – an obstacle to sin, to selfishness, to godlessness, and to the spirit of the world. (Fulton J. Sheen, The Eternal Galilean, 1934)

A lot of folks who want the world to change are unwilling to change themselves.

The person who invented the eraser had the human race pretty much figured out.

The best time to begin serving the Lord is in your youth; the second best time is today.

Friendship is like a bank account. You cannot continue to draw on it without making deposits.

To profit from good advice requires as much wisdom as it takes to give it.

If your mind should go blank, don’t forget to turn off the sound.

The reason some people get lost in thought is because it is unfamiliar territory to them.

Few people ever carve out success with cutting comments.

My child helped me snap beans today; she saved the bad, threw the good away. I thought how patient God must be, when I help Him as she helped me.

You wouldn’t worry about what people think of you, if you knew how seldom that they do.

People’s minds are more often changed through observation rather than argumentation.

Good listeners are not only popular everywhere, but after while they also know a few things.

The only people who die from hard work are those who kill themselves trying to avoid it.

Horse sense is something that horses have that keeps them from betting on humans.

Never ruin repentance with an excuse.

If you think you have all of the answers, you've probably misunderstood the question.
The reason good ideas die quickly in some peoples' heads is that the idea cannot survive in solitary confinement.

Give to a pig when it grunts and to a child when it cries, and you will raise a fine pig and a bad child.

The pessimist may be right in the long run, but the optimist has a better time during the trip.

It takes the same amount of mental energy to plan as it does to merely wish.

The heaviest load to carry is a bundle of grudges.

Fear knocked on the door. Faith answered. There was no one there.

Now and then we need a tumble, even if it just keeps us humble.

Pain makes you think; thinking makes you wise; wisdom makes pain bearable.

We are only young once, but some are immature indefinitely.

If you believe what you like in the Bible, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Bible you believe in, but yourself.

It is a sad comment on our time that out of 100 men, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian.

I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proof I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of men. (Benjamin Franklin, During the Constitutional Convention, 1787)

Hope is one of the ways in which what is merely future and potential is made vividly present and actual to us. Hope is the positive, as anxiety is the negative, mode of awaiting the future. (Emil Brunner, Eternal Hope, 1954)

The highest knowledge we can have of God in this life is to know that He is above all we can think concerning Him. (Thomas Aquinas, De Veritate, 1259)

If you neglect another day, you have a day more to repent of, and a day less to repent in.

Pitch the Good Book to your child while he is young, and they won't throw the book at him when he is older.

Idol worship is often done during idle time.

When death knocks, you will come as you are.

Haste is usually to save minutes, after hours have been wasted.

If you think of this world as a place intended simply for our happiness, you might find it quite intolerable; think of it as a place of training and correction and it's not so bad.

It takes both hands to lay hold of eternal life; you will have to let everything else go.

A thankful heart speaks more eloquently to God than the most persuasive tongue.

There is no book in the Bible called Resolutions of the Disciples; however, I have often read the Acts of the Apostles.

Never stand around begging for that which you have the power to earn.

I want to be so full of Christ that if a mosquito bites me, it will fly away singing "There is Power in the Blood."

The church is a gift from God; assembly required.

Faith: Forwarding All Issues To God.

God forgive us, in an hour like this; that we have been dry Christians, preaching a dynamite gospel and living firecracker lives.

I have more trouble with myself than with any other man I have met.

Old age is like climbing a mountain. The higher you get the more tired and breathless you become, but your view becomes much more extensive.

We are often faced with great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.

A man's mind, stretched by a new idea, never goes back to its original dimensions.

A loud voice cannot compete with a clear voice, even if it is only a whisper.

If you spend your day looking for easy work, you will go to bed tired.

The only people who die over hard work are those who kill themselves trying to avoid it.

Indifference is something that persons with low moral character often pay back to you with interest.

If there is anything that we wish to change in a child, we should first examine it and see whether or not it is something that could be or should have been changed in us.

Science may have found a cure for most evils, but it has found no remedy for one of the worst -- the apathy of human beings.

Time is of more value than money. One can always get more money, but he cannot get more time.

It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them.

The only way to honorably settle a disagreement is on the basis of what is right, not who is right.

Life asks us to make measurable progress in reasonable time. That is why they make fourth-grade schoolroom chairs so small, so we won't fit in them at age 25.

The truth that makes men free is often the truth they do not want to hear.

When you meet temptation, turn to the right.

If the wind will not serve, take to the oars.

It is much easier to be critical than to be correct.

Courtesy is the shortest distance between people.

It has been said that our anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength.

We always admire the other fellow more after we have tried to do his job.

One thing you can give away and still keep is your word.

Borrow trouble if you are foolish enough to insist on doing so; but, do not lend it to your neighbors.

When choosing sides between power and patience, choose the side of patience.

There is not medicine like hope, not incentive so powerful, and no tonic so powerful as the expectation of something better tomorrow.

Take from a man his wealth, and you hinder him; take from a man his purpose and you slow him down. But take from him his hope, and you stop him. He can go on without wealth, and even without purpose; but, he will not go on without hope.

Someone has said that the only Bible which millions of people read today is the daily example of Christians, your example and mine.

Prayer is the language of the children of God. He who is begotten of God speaks this language. He calls God Abba, Father, in the true spirit of supplication.

Bereavement is the deepest initiation into the mysteries of human life, an initiation more searching and profound than even happy love. Bereavement is the sharpest challenge to our trust in God; if faith can overcome this, there is no mountain which it cannot remove.

Pure wisdom always directs itself towards God, and the purest wisdom is in knowing God.

Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.

We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light. (Plato)

How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a weary world. (Shakespeare)

Supremely blessed are those who are famished and parched for perfect acceptance, for they shall be gorged.

There is more hunger for love and appreciation in this world than for bread.

If Darwin's Theory of Evolution was correct, cats would be able to operate can openers by now.

You have to be with a child today to be in his memory tomorrow.

We can no more spend major time on minor things than we can spend minor time on major things.

If you are fortunate enough to take the elevator to the top, it becomes your responsibility to send it back down for others.

Just because you don't have a problem, doesn't mean the problem doesn't exist; believing this is so, is the definition of privilege.

The brook would lose its song if we removed the rocks.

Things turn out for the best for people who make the best of the way things turn out.

Prosperity is a great teacher, but adversity is a greater. Possessions pamper the mind, but privation trains and strengthens it.

Being overcome with envy is like running into the ocean; the deeper you go in, the harder it is to get out.

Reputation is what folks think you are; personality is what you seem to be; character is what you really are.

Is it better to appreciate things you do not have or to have things you do not appreciate?

To have beauty is to have only that; to have goodness is to be beautiful, too.

Maturity begins to grow when you can sense your concern for others outweighing your concern for yourself.

When people share their fears with you, share your courage with them.

Experience is not what happens to you; it is what you do with what happens to you.

Sitting in a church building doesn't make you a Christian any more than sitting in a henhouse make you a chicken.

You are your own doctor when it comes to curing cold feet.

Ten two letter words that can change the world: If it is to be, it is up to me.

A good angle to approach any problem is the TRY-angle.

Digging for the facts is better than jumping to conclusions.

An eye for an eye only makes the world blind.

The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace.

Truly loving God is loving Him like a Hero who actually saved you from stuff rather than as a Santa Claus who merely gave you some stuff.

A house without a roof would scarcely be different than that of a family unsheltered by fellowship with God.

Always listen to others express their opinions; it probably won't do you any good, but it will make them feel better.

Yesterday is experience; tomorrow is hope. Today is getting from one to the other as best we can.

Beware of too much explaining, lest you end up by too much excusing.

People who don't mind their own business, either have no business or no mind.

There may be times when you cannot find help, but there is no time when you cannot give help.

If you want a rainbow, you first need to be patient while it rains.

God loves each one of us as if there was only one of us to love.

There is no better way to thank God for your sight than to give a helping hand to someone in the dark.

No matter what your lot in life may be, build something on it.

A truly wise father will find switching opportunities when he discovers his children on the wrong track.

When angry, count to ten; when very angry, count to one hundred.

Nothing is easier than fault-finding; it takes no talent, no intelligence, no self-respect, and no character to set up in the grumbling business.

Don't knock the weather; without it, nine out of ten people would be unable to start a conversation.

No man can think clearly when his teeth are clenched.

Do not allow idleness to deceive you; when you give him today, he also steals tomorrow from you.

If a care is too small to be made into a prayer, it is too small to be made into a burden.

You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people, than you can make in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.

The few who do are often the envy of the many who do not.

Hate is always tragic. It is as injurious to the hater as it is to the hated. It distorts the personality and scars the mind.

Many people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.

Humility is a virtue; timidity is a disease.

If a gentle answer turns away wrath, then not using gentle words may turn wrath in your direction.

Children cannot be made good by making them happy, but they can be made happy by making them good.

The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it.

Adversity brings out talents, which in prosperous circumstances would have lain dormant.

Don't wish for more than you are willing to work for.

To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.

One of the hardest things in life is to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

One cannot antagonize and influence at the same time.

Everyone wants to succeed; some want to succeed so much that they are willing to work for it.

Cooperation with others in the congregation is critical for survival. Think about the banana; every time it leaves the bunch, it gets skinned.

Gold is tried by fire; brave men by affliction.

Work to become, not to acquire.

Prosperity tests the fortunate; adversity the great.

Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

There are two kinds of people who don't say much: those who are quiet and those who talk a lot.

All sunshine soon makes a desert.

What we weave on earth is what we will wear in heaven.

Storms make oaks grow deeper roots.

Some people are so busy learning the tricks of the trade that they never learn the trade.

Waste no time on arguing about what a good man should be. Be one.

Habits begin as cobwebs, but soon become cables.

It was not weakness which made Christ hang on the cross; it was obedience to the law of sacrifice, of love. For how could He save us if He ever saved Himself?

The highest lesson God wants to teach us is to "trust Him regardless." If everything made sense to our understanding we would need no faith.

Sometimes the majority only means that all the fools are on the same side.

I don't have to attend every argument I'm invited to.

Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% of how you respond to it.

Morality is truth in full bloom.

There's too much said for the sake of argument and too little said for the sake of agreement.

The truth, which is indestructible, has a way of accumulating against pride and arrogance, and then sweeping them from its path.

You must act in your friend's interest whether it pleases him or not; the object of love is to serve, not to win.

Do not be content to just know the Truth; move your heart to love it.

The humblest citizen of all the land, when clad in the armor of a righteous cause, is stronger than all the hosts of error.

Parenting is the one job where the better you are the less you will have to do it in the long run.

It is possible to give everything away and become richer. It is also possible to hold on too tightly and lose it all.

Do not mistake activity for accomplishment.

Failure to hit the bullseye is never the fault of the target.

Remember: God will always have the last word.

I am the inferior of any man whose rights I trample underfoot.

Sin arises out of mistrust. Man is afraid to trust the divine destiny and to accept his limits. The rebellion that follows is a decisive act of repudiation, a trusting of self over against God.

He came to save us, not from poverty or from ignorance or from the ghetto, but from our sins. Sin must be dealt with first.

The New Testament is the history of the life and the testimony of common men who rallied to the fellowship of Jesus Christ and who by their faith and preaching remade a world that was under the thrall of a Roman army. (Woodrow Wilson, Address, May 1911)

The Old Testament teaching about God's wrath finds its logical expression in the statement of the Psalmist: "His wrath is for a moment, His faithfulness life-long" Psalm 30:6.

God made Sun and Moon to distinguish seasons, and day and night, and we cannot have the fruits of the earth but in their seasons: But God hath made no decree to distinguish the seasons of His mercies. In Heaven it is always Autumn harvest; His mercies are ever in their maturity. (John Donne, 1624)

The best proof of God's existence is what follows when we deny it.

Time is precious, but truth is more precious than time.

God is on the lookout for persons with hearts perfect toward Him. He is not a talent scout looking for somebody strong enough or good enough. He is looking for someone with a heart set on pleasing Him and an eye single to His glory. He will do the rest.

The Psalms are our Bread of Heaven in the wilderness of our Exodus.

No one will make a good leader who wants to do it all himself or who wants all the credit for doing it.

God never puts one in a space too small to grow in.

You can always tell when you are on the right road in life; it is narrow and uphill.

The person who insists on seeing with perfect clarity before deciding, never decides.

Some states have discovered true perpetual motion. They give some folks welfare so that they can invest the welfare check in the state lottery so that the money that comes in from the lottery can be given out as welfare.

If you like yourself more after spending time with someone, he or she is a true friend. If you like yourself less, he or she is not a true friend.

If a thing goes without saying, let it.

When all men speak, no man hears.

Most people know how to say nothing; very few know when to say nothing.

Definition of a good speech: a great beginning, a strong ending, and not too much distance in between them.

Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for power equal to your tasks. (Phillips Brooks, Perennials, 1898)

While we inherit our temperament, we must build our character. (William L. Sullivan, Worry! Fear! Loneliness! 1950)

God never draws anyone to Himself by force and violence. He wishes all men to be saved, but forces no one. (John Chrysostom, Sermon, c388)

We do not usually learn that Christ is all we need until we reach that place where He is all we have. (Vance Havner; 1901-1986)

Do the best that you can. The people who count will know that about you. prb (2Tim. 4:16-17)

Truth is seldom at the extremes of human opinion. prb (Prov. 16:25)

If you want something done right, give the task to someone who is already busy. prb (Matt. 25:28)

When arguing with a fool, be certain he is not similarly engaged. G. Dehoff (Prov. 26:4)

Money and power do not change a man. They merely amplify what was already there. (Prov. 23:7)

Some days you get the bear. Other days the bear gets you. C. V. Isinghood (Prov. 27:1)
The farther back you can look, the farther forward you can see. Winston Churchill (Rom. 15:4)

You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him. (Rom. 5:6-8)

A man can't go anywhere while he's straddling a fence. (Matt. 12:30)

All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen. Emerson (Psalm 19:1)

Think about what others should be, and then start being that yourself.

Criticism, like rain, should be gentle enough to nourish a man's growth without destroying his roots.

Letting things go in one ear and out the other is bad enough, but it's worse when things go in one ear, get all mixed up, and come out the mouth.

The Christian revelation pictures God as sovereign and majestic and holy. When he unveils Himself, "The Lord lays bare His holy arm." To suggest that He is a sort of folksy dodderer sitting in a rocker upstairs is the height of blasphemy. (Martin E. Marty, *The New Shape of American Religion*, 1958)

One must read the Bible continually to prevent the image of truth being obscured in us. (Julian Green, *Journal*, 1961)

The love of money has been in all ages, one of the passions that have given great disturbances to the tranquility of the world. (Samuel Johnson, *Rambler*, October 6, 1750)

We can never call one another "brother" until we have learned to call God "Father." (Fulton J. Sheen, *Religion Without God*, 1928)

It was not for punishment that He formed us, but to share His goodness, inasmuch as -- He is a good God. But inasmuch as He is a just God, His will is that sinners should suffer punishment. (John Damascene; 700?-754? *Exposition of the Orthodox Faith*)

The Bible has a lot to say about our mouths, our lips, our tongues, for our speech betrays us. What is down in the well will come up in the bucket. (Vance Havner, 1901-1986)

You who believe what you like of the gospels and believe not what you like not, believe yourselves rather than the gospel. (Augustine, *Contra Faustum Manichaeum*, 400)

Contentment consisteth not in adding more fuel, but in taking away some fire; not in multiplying of wealth, but in subtracting men's desires. (Thomas Fuller, The Holy State, 1642)

Hell could not be Hell without the despair of accursed souls; for any hope is a refreshment, and a drop of water, which would help to allay those flames, which as they burn intolerably, so they must burn forever. (Jeremy Taylor, Twenty-Seven Sermons, 1651)

Gambling is a great way of getting nothing for something.

One cannot get very far in life if he keeps trying to cover his tracks.

The longer one carries a grudge, the heavier it gets.

Whenever one kills a little time, he also murders a lot of opportunity.

Bad habits are like a comfortable bed: easy to get into, but difficult to get out of.

Grandpa used a tranquilizer, too; but, he called it work.

Feel sorry for the person who feels he must win at everything.

A lie may take care of the present, but it has no future.