

A Moments Wisdom 2017

A weakness recognized is a weakness half overcome.

I do not care much for your faith if it cannot be seen. Lamps do not talk; they shine.

Sometimes it takes a lot of scratching around to get out of a situation we were itching to get into.

Between the great things that we cannot do and the small things that we will not be bothered to do lies the great danger that we will do nothing.

Wisdom is knowing what to do next; skill is knowing how to do it; virtue is actually doing it.

Many have fallen by the edge of the sword, but even more have been fallen by the edge of the tongue.

Ignorance is not necessarily the source of our troubles. It is not knowing when we are ignorant that causes most of our problems.

As a blossom cannot tell what becomes of its scent as it wafts away on the breeze, so a man cannot tell what becomes of his example that rolls away from him in the presence of others.

Why do we admire patience in the driver behind us, but not in the one ahead of us?

Perhaps the most valuable result of education is the ability to make yourself do the things you have to do when they ought to be done, whether you like it or not.

The mechanics of a good apology are not difficult to understand. A bad apology is cagey and ungenerous, an attempt to avoid taking full responsibility. Good apologies are about stepping up.

Don't wish it was easier; wish you had more strength. Don't wish for less problems; wish for more patience. Don't wish for less challenges; wish for more wisdom.

If a man has an empty stomach, it refuses to let him rest until he fills it up. Too bad an empty head doesn't do the same.

A rumor is as hard to un-spread as butter.

The fire you kindle for an enemy often burns you more than him.

Hate is like acid. It can destroy the vessel in which it is stored as well as the object upon which it is poured.

Some people build walls against the winds of change; others build windmills.

Covetousness makes a man miserable, because riches are not means to make a man happy. (Jeremy Taylor, Holy Living, 1650)

We are always making an offering. If we do not give to God, we give to the devil. It is a continuous process going on all the time. (Vance Havner)

There are two loves from which all good and truth come: love for God and love for the neighbor. And, there are two loves from which all evil and falsehood come: love of self and love of the world.

The sins that we should hate most are not those of our neighbor but our own. These are the only sins over which God has given us immediate power. (Raphael Simon, Hammer and Fire, 1959)

In a day of tranquilizers, we are likely to make an aspirin pill of religion. The word of God is not a lullaby to put us to sleep but a reveille to wake us up. (Vance Havner)

Tradition: the widespread acceptance of something which was at first of questionable merit, and perhaps still is.

A significant cause of troubles in this world is when the ignorant are overly filled with confidence and the intelligent are too full of doubts.

The highest reward one can receive for his toil is not what he gets in this life, but rather what he becomes by it.

We learn while we teach.

Friendship doubles our joy and divides our sorrow.

Fear of failing is the father of failure.

There is no right way to do a wrong thing.

Wisdom is a comfortable retreat and shelter for us in our advanced years; but, if we do not plant it when we are young, it will give us no shade when we are old.

Cynicism masquerades as wisdom, but it is the farthest thing from it.

A certain amount of opposition is a help, not a hindrance. Kites rise against the wind, not with it.

Ability is of little value without dependability.

Critics are people who watch a battle from a high, distant place, then come down and shoot the survivors.

Before you put someone in their place, make certain you are in your place.

Every time you open your mouth, you let people look into your life.

Nothing seems to age folks faster than not thinking.

Too many people cast their bread upon the water hoping it will come back toasted and buttered.

So, you don't know all of the answers. That's okay; you probably won't be asked all of the questions, either.

If a discussion generates more heat than light, it doesn't provide answers, but does make people angry.

God will either lighten our load or strengthen our back.

Flattery is the reverse side of malicious gossip, and this coin is quickly and easily flipped. Beware.

Unhappiness is not knowing what we want and killing ourselves trying to get it.

People are rich based on who they are, not what they have.

He who cannot obey, cannot command.

The woods would be silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to an all-knowing God.

Our darkest hour is still only 60 minutes long.

If fifty million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing.

Adversity creates heroes.

Faith is taking the first step even though you cannot see the whole staircase.

Glassware, fine China, and reputations are easily broken and never completely repaired.

A tongue does not weigh much, but most people have trouble holding theirs.

Don't belittle; be big.

To cure jealousy, see it for what it is, a strong dissatisfaction with yourself.

Wise men think without talking; foolish men talk without thinking.

A face without a smile is like a lantern without a light.

Character is what you are willing to do when the spotlight is turned off, the applause has died down, the audience has gone home, and no one is around to give you credit.

The humility of hypocrites is, of all pride, the greatest and most haughty. (Martin Luther)

A conceited person never gets anywhere because he thinks he has already arrived.

When most people put in their two cents worth, they aren't overcharging the true value of their opinion.

You cannot keep the birds of sorrow from circling over your head, but you can keep them from nesting in your hair.

It takes less time to do things right than it takes to explain why you did it wrong.

The Lord never stops giving us reasons to praise Him.

Ability brings responsibility.

Here is the formula for failure: try to please everyone.

Opinions founded on prejudice are always sustained with the greatest violence.

People sensible enough to give good advice are usually sensible enough to offer none.

People who get something for nothing often express disappointment that they didn't get more.

Hats off for the past; sleeves up for the present; chin up for the future.

There was a father who was criticized by his neighbors for making his sons hoe corn while the other boys were playing at the swimming hole: "Why do you make your sons work so hard? You don't need all that corn." He replied, "I am not raising corn; I am raising boys."

The biggest disadvantage in life is to have too many advantages.

God made us as we are in order to use us as He planned.

Vanity is the delusion that someone may be paying attention to us; paranoia is the delusion that everyone is.

It is better to be alone than to be in bad company.

What we often pray to God is not that His will be done, but that He approves our will.

Sympathy is your pain in my heart.

America is not a Christian nation. There is only one Christian nation: God's people, the church of Jesus Christ.

A good measure of a person is what they do when given power.

Some of the best legacies you can leave your children are good memories.

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

Nothing makes the good old days better than a good imagination.

Enjoy life, but anticipate heaven.

One who asks a question may appear to be a fool for five minutes, but one who never asks a question remains a fool forever.

Folks who fly off in a rage often make crash landings.

Character is not made in a crisis; it is only exhibited in one.

Talking without thinking is like shooting without aiming.

Many parents are so anxious to give their children what they didn't have that they neglect to give them what they did have.

To have the peace of God, one must be at peace with God.

Nearly everything can be bought at a reduced price, except satisfaction.

Thinking well is wise; planning well is wiser; doing well is wisest.

There is nothing about which we are more mistaken and the rest of the world so correct than the estimation of the value of our own importance.

Laughter is the shortest distance between two people.

The reason why some sermons go in one ear and out the other is that there is little in between to slow down the traffic.

Whether or not a person goes to church regularly does not depend on how far he lives from the building but rather how far he lives from God.

If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?

If criticism had any power to harm, the skunk would be extinct by now.

Life's most valuable things cannot be seen, weighed, measured, bought or sold.

The best way to prove Christianity is to live it.

Anyone can hold the ship's helm when the sea is calm.

Some men will wrestle with their religion; they will write for it, fight for it, die for it, anything for it, except to live it.

Joy is not a sign of the absence of suffering, but of the presence of God.

Having a lot on your mind is not necessarily a sign of intelligence.

Nostalgia is longing for a place you wouldn't want to move back to.

There are few things more frightening than ignorance in action.

When you think you have nothing more to give, you can give encouragement.

Some are wise and some are otherwise.

A judicious, diligent, and pious wife is the soul of a great household; she introduces order there for temporal welfare and future salvation. (Francois Fenelon, 1688)

It is always easier to understand what the Bible says than to understand what somebody else thinks it meant to say.

It will remain as long as the sun – as long as the sun rises and sets: that is, as long as the ages of time shall roll, the church of God – the true body of Christ on earth – will not disappear. (Augustine, 415 AD)

An expert seaman is tried in a tempest, a runner in a race, a captain in a battle, a valiant man in adversity, a Christian in temptation and misery. (Basil, 379 AD)

The difference between a prejudice and a conviction is that you can explain a conviction without becoming angry.

There are a lot of folks who mistake their imagination for their memory.

Do not fear tomorrow; God is already there.

To be without some of the things you want is an indispensable part of happiness.

A smile is the lighting system of the face and the heating system of the heart.

Courage is like love; it needs hope to nourish it.

As one grows wiser, he talks less and says more.

It sometimes shows a fine command of the language to say nothing.

Nothing is easy to the unwilling.

There is always free cheese in the mousetrap, but you never see a happy mouse there.

Nothing dies more quickly than a fresh idea in a closed mind.

Be careful of your thoughts; they could turn into words at any moment.

The trouble with the world is not that people know too little, but rather that they know too many things that aren't true.

God will mend a broken heart if you give Him all of the pieces.

Happiness is the byproduct of trying to help others.

Children are more likely to close their ears to advice and open their eyes to examples.

“Even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God.”

(Aeschylus, 524 BC)

“We advise all who feel hemmed in by a closed and stifling world to open the Old and New Testaments. They will there find vistas, which will liberate them, and the excellent food of the only true God.” (Emmanuel Suhard)

“Every philosopher and statesman who has discussed the subject of human governments, has acknowledged that there can be no stable society without justice, no justice without morality, no morality without religion, no religion without God.” (James Gibbons)

“There would be more marriages made in heaven if there were more young people who with the thought of their future children, were prayerfully willing to give God a voice in their final decision.” (Leo Trese)

“The work of divine justice always presupposes the work of mercy; and is founded thereon.” (Thomas Aquinas)

When a man is in love with himself, he is unlikely to have much competition.

Guidance means that I can count on god; commitment means that God can count on me.

Kindness and love have converted more people than zeal and eloquence.

Many a false step have been made by standing still.

It takes only a few minutes to discover in others the faults we fail to see in ourselves in a lifetime.

Mind your temper; the emptier the pot, the quicker it boils.

It's usually the person who blows his horn the loudest who is deepest in a fog.

Self-expression is good; self-control is better.

If you want to be miserable, spend much time thinking about yourself, what you want, what you like, when respect you think people ought to pay you, and what others may be thinking about you.

Do not look at where you fell, but at where you slipped.

Smiles never go up in price nor down in value.

The best reformers in the world are those who start with themselves.

Only put off for tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.

The best way to ease your own troubles is to help others in theirs.

It is better for things to go in one ear and out the other, than for it to go in one ear, get scrambled around between the ears, and then come out of the mouth.

May you have the hindsight to know where you have been, the foresight to see where you are going, and the insight to know when you have gone too far.

The Christian life doesn't get easier; it gets better.

We filter incoming messages through the prism of our prejudices.

"Kindness is irresistible when it is sincere and without mock smiles and assumed masks. For what can the most unconscionable men do to you if you persist in being kind toward them?" (Marcus Aurelius)

A politician thinks of the next election; a statesman thinks of the next generation.

Don't just entertain new ideas; put them to work.

Humor is the hole that lets sawdust out of a stuffed shirt.

Your soul is nourished when you are kind; it is starved when you are cruel.

"The grace of God transcends all our feeble efforts to describe it. It cannot be poured into any of our mental receptacles without running over." (Vance Havner)

You can plow the field and sow the seed, but what will you do without rain? Likewise is the Divine blessing of grace.

American Christianity is in crisis, because some have marketed as a religion of good people getting better. It is a religion of sinful people scripturally addressing their failure to be good.

"Grace is given, not to them who only speak their faith, but to those who live their faith." (Gregory of Nazianzus)

God's grace will not take us to where it cannot keep us.

No one is so empty of grace as he that thinks he is full.

Grace is glory begun, and glory is grace fulfilled.

"I compare the troubles which we have to undergo in the course of the year to a great bundle of sticks, far too large for us to lift. But God does not require us to carry the whole at once. He mercifully unties the bundle, and gives us first one stick, which we are to carry today, and then another, which we are to carry tomorrow, and so on." (John Newton)

“A man can no more take in a supply of grace for the future than he can eat enough today to last him for the next 6 months, nor can he inhale sufficient air into his lungs with one breath to sustain life for a week to come. We are permitted to draw upon God's store of grace from day to day as we need it.” (D. L. Moody)

“I am graven on the palms of His hands. I am never out of His mind. All my knowledge of Him depends on His sustained initiative in knowing me. I know Him, because He first knew me, and continues to know me. He knows me as a friend, One who loves me; and there is no moment when His eye is off me, or His attention distracted for me, and no moment, therefore, when His care falters.” (J. I. Packer)

What is the effect of grace in your life? When you've experienced grace and you feel that you've been forgiven, you're a lot more forgiving of other people. You become more gracious to others.

Grace puts its hand over our boasting mouths, and shuts them once for all.

The grace that does not make a man better than others is a worthless counterfeit. Christ saves people, not IN their sins, but FROM their sins. Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord.

No one finds life worth living; he must make it worth living.

Christ established His church to save sinners, not to serve dinners.

Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil's reach as humility.

Let your conscience be your guide. Let God be your conscience's guide.

An optimist laughs to forget; a pessimist forgets to laugh.

There is no pain medication more effective than a mother's kiss.

A friend thinks of you when others are thinking of themselves. A true friend will not visit you in prosperity unless he is invited; but, when you are in adversity, he will call on you without an invitation.

A pleasant possession is nearly useless without a friend with which to share it.

The highest form of giving comes from the bottom of one's heart.

Never pick a quarrel -- even if it's ripe.

Biting remarks are often the result of snap judgments.

God's help is only a prayer away.

If you can see some good in everyone, everyone will come to see some good in you.

It is better to forgive and forget than to remember and resent.

Little strokes fell great oaks.

“The grace of God transcends all our feeble efforts to describe it. It cannot be poured into any of our mental receptacles without running over.” (Vance Havner)

“In the church we have a Christless churchianity and a churchless Christianity, a form of godliness without power, form without force, ritual without righteousness.” (Vance Havner)

A house is built with human hands, but a home is built with human hearts.

You can find friends almost anywhere, but you cannot find enemies everywhere; you have to make them.

The injuries we do to others and those we suffer ourselves are seldom weighed on the same scale.

Temper may get you into trouble, but it is pride that keeps you there.

In the presence of eternity, the mountains are as transient as the clouds.

Failure is often the line of least persistence.

It is surprising how many people unselfishly neglect their own work in order to tell you how to do yours.

He who commits injustice is forever made more wretched than he who suffers it.

The Lord knows the way through the wilderness; all I need to do is follow Him.

Do you know of one thing much more clever than learning to speak several languages?

Learning to keep your mouth shut in one.

The only graceful way to accept an insult is to ignore it; if you cannot ignore it, laugh at it; if you cannot laugh at it, it's probably deserved.

While time may fly, we are still the navigator.

Evil often triumphs, but it never conquers.

The only thing that can keep growing without nourishment is an ego.

There is no reward for finding fault.

In jealousy, there is more self-love than true love.

Between the great things that we cannot do and the small things we are unwilling to do, there is the danger that we will do nothing.

Young folks should cultivate patience with old folks so that when they become old folks they will have patience with young folks.

When you choose to look at the world with a narrow view, how narrow it seems. When you look at it in a mean way, how mean it seems. When you look at it selfishly, how selfish it seems. But when you look at it in a generous, friendly spirit, what wonderful people you will find in it.

The main difference between a gossip and a vulture is that the vulture will wait until the person is dead before tearing him apart.

One moment of patience may ward off a great disaster; one moment of impatience may ruin an entire life.

Middle age is when you wonder who put quicksand in the hourglass of time.

Many of the troubles in our lives come from too much time on our hands and too little time on our knees.

The jealous are troublesome to others but a torment to themselves.

A group of hotheaded people are like a book of matches; it takes one to set off the whole pack, and destroy it, too.

The one good thing that can be said for egotists is that they seldom talk about others.

Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.

Happiness is like a butterfly, which, when pursued, is always just beyond our grasp, but which, if you will sit quietly, may alight upon you.

A sharp tongue is the only edged tool that grows keener with constant use.

Learn to pause, or nothing worthwhile will ever catch up with you.

Examine the contents, not the bottle.

Hope is putting faith to work when doubting would be easier.

Improvement begins with I.

Many of life's failures are men who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.

A pessimist is someone who looks at the land of milk and honey and sees only cholesterol and calories.

Peace is the deliberate adjustment of my life to the will of God.

Some people have nothing to say, but you often have to listen a long time to find that out.

In just two days, tomorrow will be yesterday.

You deprive yourself of the very best that there is when you fail to accept the wisdom contained in the Bible.

Our fears always outnumber our dangers.

Ego is that certain something that enables a man in a rut to think he's in the groove.

A task without a vision is a drudgery; a vision without a task is a dream; a task with a vision is victory.

Repentance is to be sorry enough for sinning that you actually stop sinning.

How a man plays a game shows something of his character; how he loses shows all of it.

Make no judgments where you have no compassion.

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

Eventually, many of us will meet for the first time, and in Christ we are always sure that Christians never meet for the last time.

There is in repentance this beautiful mystery – that we may fly fastest home on broken wing.

Gratitude tries to return more than has been received.

There is nothing final about a mistake, except its being taken as final.

“Life is like a grain of wheat: to plant it is to recognize its value; to keep it is to destroy its value. The planted Christian counts life dear not unto himself but unto God.” (Vance Havner; 1901-1986)

“Men shun the thought of death as sad, but death will only be sad to those who have not thought of it. It must come sooner or later, and then he who has refused to seek the truth in life will be forced to face it in death.” (Francois Fenelon, Spiritual Letters, 1700)

“For the greatest and most regal work of God is the salvation of humanity.” (Clement of Alexandria, Paedagogus, 220)

“His wisdom and power in creating an ant or bee is no less than in the making of the sun and its spheres.” (Judah Halevi, Cuzari, 1135)

“Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones; and, when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake.”
(Victor Hugo).