

- ① Devil's Got A Hold
- ② these Roses may fade + die.
- ③ ONE Dumbell



## STUDY #6 IN THE BOOK OF TITUS

"The Path of Godliness" 3:1-7

### TEXT:

- v. 1 Be reminding them to put themselves in subjection to rulers, to authorities to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,
- v. 2 to be speaking evil of no one, to be uncontentious, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.
- v. 3 For we were at one time also foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.
- v. 4 But when the kindness of God our Saviour and His love for mankind appeared,
- v. 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.
- v. 6 Whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
- v. 7 In order that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

### INTRODUCTION:

Thus far in our series of studies on Growth Toward Godliness, we have looked at the Process of Godliness, the Picture of Godliness and the Perversion of Godliness in chapter 1. We have seen the Parish and Godliness or the picture of godliness in relationship in the body of Christ. And then we have looked at the Platform of Godliness in the latter part of chapter 2. it is AN A WORK OF God's Grace.

We now turn our attention to the third and final chapter in this Letter. Today we are going to be looking at the Path of Godliness as the apostle spells out for us the present and the past in light of what has been done for us upon the cross of Calvary.

- v. 1 Be reminding them to put themselves in subjection to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed

Paul now turns to some practical areas and points up what Titus needs to be telling the folks on the island of Crete with regard to their responsibilities to those who are in authority over them.

He says, "be reminding them." I believe by the word "them" he is referring to all the groups that we have looked at back in chapter 2, the older men, the older women, the young women, the young men and the bondslaves. These citizens of Crete have a responsibility in

- ① Process
  - ② Picture
  - ③ Perversion
  - ④ Parish
  - ⑤ Platform
  - ⑥ Path
- The Practical  
Salvation  
Sanct. Faith  
Service

Too Much of  
this Saved to  
serve business

Godliness is  
the result of  
learning to  
live w/ divine  
Authority

Heb. 5:8

Vertical lived out on  
The horizontal!

What we Are  
is our witness

What you see is  
what you get

Trained by His  
Grace.

Island People  
became law  
unto them  
selves!!

Ju. 21:25



Destroy Confidence  
in our leadership  
to provide An excuse  
For Rebellion + Anarchy  
"Everyone did that"

Servant  
Submission  
Sacrifice

-2-

Relationship to Authority \*\*\*

seven areas to manifest their godly lifestyle.

1. The first thing they are to do is to "put themselves in subjection to rulers."

1 Timothy 2:1-3 "I am exhorting, therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, giving of thanks be made on behalf of all men; on behalf of kings and all those who are in a place of prominence, in order that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all piety and reverence. This is good and pleasing in the presence of God our Savior."

Romans 13:1-7

"Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except that which God has established: the authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted; and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. If you do wrong, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword for nothing; he is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrong doer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment, but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him. If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor."

1 Peter 2:13-17

"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men; whether to the king as the supreme authority; Or to governors who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong or to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover up for evil, live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone. Love the brotherhood of believers. Fear God. Honor the king."

Watchman Nee in his book Spiritual Authority says, "God could forbear their murmurings in the wilderness ten times, but He could not allow them to resist His authority. Man's sins God can bear and forbear, but rebellion He cannot stand, because rebellion is the

The Path!



principle of death, the principle of Satan. Hence, the sin of rebellion is more serious than any other sin. Whenever man resists authority, God immediately judges. How solemn this is."

2. Next the apostle says, "to authorities to be obedient"

The perfect example of the lawabiding citizen ought to be the Christian who is obedient to the authority that is over him.

This reminds us of chapter 2:9,10 - "Be urging bondslaves to be in subjection to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering but showing all good faith in order that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in every respect."

It is by submission, sincerity, supportive action, not stealing and showing all good faith that we beautify the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

J. Grant Howard in his book Knowing God's Will and Doing It points up an interesting observation along this line. "You are driving along the freeway late one evening in a hurry to get home. There is very little traffic and it hasn't rained in days. There are no patrol cars in sight. Your car is in good shape and your tires are brand new. The sign says 'Speed Limit 55 MPH.' You process all of that data through your mind and then you decide whether you will stay at 55 MPH or go 65 MPH and get home sooner. What is the will of God in this matter? Well it is clearly revealed in the scriptures that every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities and the one who resists this authority has opposed the ordinance of God. In this case the authorities have determined that 55 MPH is the speed limit. If you are programmed with that Biblical truth, you will head for home in the will of God at 55 MPH. But let us say you decide to go faster and take your chances of getting caught. Or you are not paying any attention to your speed and it creeps on up to 65. In either case, you are out of the will of God. The will of God is that you obey the speed limit set by the civil authorities. A lot of Christians know the facts of the scriptures, but their minds haven't really been renewed by these truths and their lives haven't really been transformed by them. They obey when it is convenient rather than on the basis of conviction."

3. The third thing that is mentioned in this first verse is "to be ready for every good deed."

It is not only to be submissive and to be obedient, but it is to be positive, ready and available for every good deed.

- ① Submissive.
- ② Obedient.
- ③ Positive.

Sunday A.M.  
w/ Pearl!

Submissive  
Sincere  
Servant  
Supportive

\*\*\*

Easter  
Sunday!  
Mercer

Pos.

NC9.



Wednesday — May 11

Read: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

## IT TAKES WORK!

But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself rather to godliness. 1 Timothy 4:7

**T**HE apostle referred to godliness more in 1 Timothy than in any other epistle (see 2:2; 3:16; 4:7,8; 6:3,5,6,11). This highly prized Christian quality, referred to as a "mystery" (3:16), may be defined as a good and holy life growing out of a deep reverence for God.

But how does it come about in our lives? Are we to pray for godliness and then sit back and wait for God to pour it suddenly into us? No, that's not how we become godly. *It takes effort on our part!* First Timothy 4:7 says we are to train (exercise) ourselves to be godly. Think of it like this: Suppose a young gymnast wanted to compete in the Olympic Games. How would she reach her goal? First, she would have to be totally committed to that goal. Then, she would have to make tremendous sacrifices of her time. She would have to spend hours every day doing conditioning exercises and practicing her routines. She would work under the skilled eye of a coach who could point out the smallest flaws and correct her technique. She would also follow a strict diet.

So it is with godliness. If we want to become more godly, we must commit ourselves to it. We must see ourselves as "in training," exercising strenuously and vigorously. Through prayer and yieldedness we put ourselves under the guidance of our "coach," the Holy Spirit. We must discipline ourselves to read, study, and obey God's Word. Just praying for godliness won't do. We must realize that it takes work! — D.C.E.

*Every day more like my Savior,  
Every day my will resign,  
Till at last Christ reigns supremely  
In this grateful heart of mine. — Brandt*  
**No pain — no gain.**



Submitter  
Sergeant  
Supporter

Submission to His will  
Obedient to His word  
Available for His work  
in & Through

-4-

If I were to summarize these three responsibilities in verse 1, it is to be submissive, obedient, and available.

There are some tremendous overtones to this verse in our relationship to God, who is the sovereign authority. We really learn what godliness is all about as we are submissive to His work in our lives, obedient to His word, and available as the channel through which He can work to bear fruit toward godliness in our lives and toward salvation in the lives of others who do not know him.

Why's to  
What's  
Gal. 2:20

v. 2 to be speaking evil of no one, to be uncontentious, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

4. The fourth thing that Paul challenges Titus to be teaching them is "to be speaking evil of no one."

Back in chapter 2:3 Paul said, "older women, likewise, are to be worthy of reverence in their behavior; not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teachers of that which is good."

Pascal said, "I hold it to be a fact that if all persons knew what each said of the other, there would not be four friends in the world."

Back of someone who is finding it necessary to speak evil of one in authority over him, he is manifesting his rebellion and resistance by speaking in an evil way about this person.

It was Paxton Hood who said, "When we advance a little into life, we find that the tongue of man creates nearly all the mischief of the world."

The Japanese have a proverb which says, "The tongue is but three inches long, yet it can kill a man six feet high."

5. The next phrase is "to be uncontentious."

This is the fifth admonition from Paul to Titus as to what he is to be reminding the folks on the island of Crete as to how they are to display their godly lives.

Getz points out in his book, "Contentious people, people who are always starting arguments and quarrels and fights are frequently selfish and jealous people. They are motivated by earthly wisdom. James speaks pointedly to this issue: 'But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.'

John Wesley Tongue on  
The Altar!  
Altar wasn't big enough

Acts 18:  
Resisting  
&  
Reviling

Easy to  
do this on  
the horizontal  
when it has  
been done on  
the vertical!

Mistake in  
The Bulletin!

James 1:19  
"3:

#5

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In contrast James also described the results of heavenly wisdom, 'But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.' Contentious people are also often insecure people. Insecurity drives individuals in two directions. Some become reclusive and withdrawn. They seldom open their mouths and retreat from any kind of competition. Or they become domineering and authoritarian personalities. They cover up their insecurity by controlling everyone else. They can't accept defeat. It threatens them terribly so they become winners. They over-achieve and then work like crazy to stay on top. When their position is threatened in any way, they will resort to even non-Christian tactics to defend themselves against their fear of failure. This kind of man often puts other people down to build himself up. He becomes a victim of a subtle, even unconscious, selfishness that is reflected in all kinds of ways: authoritarianism, arguments, quarreling, gossip, backbiting, critical remarks, cursing and even physical violence."

6. The apostle says to remind them to 'be gentle.'

Getz goes on to point out "Both in his letter to Titus and Timothy, Paul instructs Christians to demonstrate an attitude of gentleness, not only toward other believers, but toward unbelievers. Writing to Titus he said that we are to be gentle, showing every consideration for all men. And then Paul says why. 'Remember', he says, 'that we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.' Paul then reminds these New Testament Christians that it was 'the kindness of God our Saviour and His love for mankind that saved them, and not because of their righteous deeds, but according to his mercy in Christ Jesus.' In other words, says Paul, demonstrate the same gentleness and mercy toward nonChristians that God showered on you when He saved you. Be as patient with their shortcomings as the Lord was with yours."

This is the characteristic of one who is willing to yield and submit in a situation without harsh words. It is one who is kind and manifests this kindness with a soft touch, and who, when speaking, speaks of a wisdom which is from above.

7. "showing every consideration for all men."

This is the seventh thing that Titus is to be reminding them about there on the island of Crete.

Dealt w/  
Self!  
Matt. 12:  
Forgiveness -  
Multi-Million  
\$20.00

thy Gentleness  
has made me  
Great.

Eph. 4:32



## INTRODUCTION:

(Through the Year with Warren W. Wiersbe: 366 Daily Devotionals edited by James R. Adair)

A mother and her little son got on an elevator to go to the doctor's office. At the second floor a group of people got on, among them a rather large woman. As the elevator sped upward, the quiet was broken by a scream from the lips of the plump passenger. She turned to the mother and said, "Your son just bit me!"

The mother was horrified, but the little boy had an explanation: "She sitted in my face and I bitted her!"

What took place on that elevator is taking place all over the world: people and nations bite each other because they get sat on or crowded.  
p. 329

## Games For When We Are Older

- (1) Sag, You're it
- (2) Pin the Toupee on the Bald Guy
- (3) 20 Questions Shouted Into Your Good Ear
- (4) Kick the Bucket
- (5) Red Rover, Red Rover, The Nurse Says Bend Over
- (6) Simon Says Something Incoherent
- 7. Hide <sup>And</sup> ~~the~~ Go Pee
- (8) Spin the Bottle of Mylanta
- (9) Musical Recliners

(Received via e-mail from Warren Powell, October 21, 2000)



**Retirement** The message of this to all of us is clear. Those primitive societies which exhibit exemplary cultures for the older members do so largely through keeping the elders involved in the daily fabric of existence. We should do no less. Resist the gold watch! The important question is not, "What are you retiring from?"; it is, "What are you returning to?"

p. 231

(11-62)

### **Aging**

Mastery of self-efficacy does not come all of a sudden--but it is never too late to start. You can't run a marathon without first running one or two miles. You can't walk if you are in an armchair. You can't smile when you are frowning. The first step is the hardest. And yet limits broken become new expectations. After Hillary climbed "unclimbable" Mount Everest, hundreds of others now have. After Roger Bannister broke the unbreakable four-minute mile barrier, hundreds of others now have. After we have broken the stereotypes of what older people cannot do, there is a floodgate of opportunity opening for us all.

p. 240

(11-62)

### **Death**

2 Dying is not popular. It has never caught on. That's understandable; it's bad for the complexion. It also upsets your daily routine and leaves you with too much time on your hands.

George Burns

3 When we are familiar with death we accept each week, each day, as a gift. Only if we are able thus to accept life--bit by bit--does it become precious.

Albert Schweitzer

p. 241

(11-62)

49 Death I want to die in full stride, hopefully pursuing rather than being pursued. The American Indian found it dishonorable to die in bed, and we must not forget that death was Patrick Henry's second choice.

p. 242

(11-62)

50 Death We have no comfort zone with death. Our alienation from our own terminus pretends that our death is somebody else's job to preside over--like Woody Allen's fabulous quote, "I am not afraid of dying--I just don't want to be there when it happens."

p. 245

(11-62)



The last pet dies!  
I shave w/ electric shaver: Hit a ditch this morning & sliced a wrist.

## AGING IS . . .

What's a Young Guy like You doing in An Old Body like That!!

1. When everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.
2. The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.
3. You feel like the night after and you haven't been anywhere.
4. Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
5. You get winded playing chess.
6. Your children begin to look middle-aged.
7. You finally reach the top of the ladder and find it leaning against the wrong wall.
8. You join a health club and don't go.
9. You begin to outlive enthusiasm.
10. You decide to procrastinate but never get around to it.
11. You're still chasing women but can't remember why.
12. Your mind makes contracts your body can't meet.
13. A dripping faucet causes an uncontrollable bladder urge.
14. You know all the answers but nobody asks the questions.
15. You look forward to dull evenings.
16. You walk with your head high, trying to get used to your bifocals.
17. Your favorite part of the newspaper is "25 Years Ago Today."
18. You turn out the light for economic rather than romantic reasons.
19. You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
20. Your knees buckle and your belt won't.
21. You regret all those mistakes resisting temptation.



22. You're 17 around the neck, 42 around the waist and 96 around the golf course.

23. You stop looking forward to your next birthday.

24. After painting the town red, you have to take a long rest before a second coat.

25. Dialing long distance wears you out.

26. You're startled the first time you are addressed as "an old-timer."

27. You just can't stand people who are intolerant.

28. The best part of your day is over when your alarm clock goes off.

29. You burn the midnight oil until 9:30 p.m.

30. Your back goes out more often than you do.

31. A fortune teller offers to read your face.

32. Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when you watch a pretty girl go by.

33. The little gray-haired lady you help across the street is your wife.

34. You get your exercise acting as a pall bearer to your friends who exercised.

35. You have too much room in the house and not enough room in the medicine cabinet.

36. You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.

(P. 740) 99

I've gotten to the Age where I need my false  
teeth + my hearing aid before I can ask  
where I left my glasses.

Silver - hair

Gold - Teeth

Lead - seat

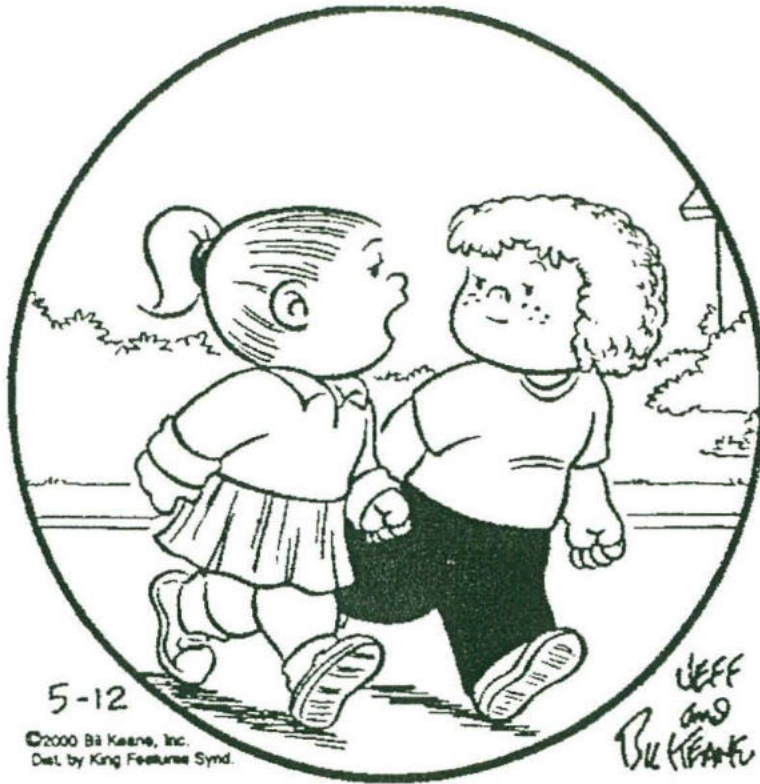
Gas to heat a house

Stainless Steel in the  
Joints -



# INTRODUCTION:

I enjoyed Family Circus the other day:



"My grandma hurt her back, so they made an X-rated picture of her."

(source unknown)

68 Old Age: Suffering From A New disease:  
Mental Pause!

69 Bumper Sticker: "Ever stop to think + Forget to Start Again."

70 Mature Couple went to Hawaii on Their  
45th Anniversary  
He's going back to Get her on Their  
50th



## Don Anderson Ministries

From: Nesom and/or Beth Burt <nesomandbeth@thegateway.net>  
 To: <Undisclosed-Recipient:@georgetown.igg-tx.net;>  
 Sent: Monday, August 07, 2000 7:02 PM  
 Subject: Senior citizen

A senior citizen was driving down the freeway when his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Pete, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on the interstate. Please be careful!"

"Heck," said Pete, "It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!"

Senior's Question: "whatever happened to preparations 'A' Thru 'G'?"

- You Know You Are Getting Marvelously Mature when...
- 1. ~~You & your teeth don't sleep together~~
  - 2. ~~it takes two tries to get up from the couch.~~
  - 3. ~~Your idea of weight lifting is standing up.~~
  - 4. ~~Getting lucky means you found your car in the parking lot.~~
  - 5. ~~wild oats have turned into prunes & All-bran~~
  - 6. ~~Some days you are the dog & other days the hydrant.~~
  - 7. ~~its harder & harder for sexual harassment charges to stick.~~
  - 8. ~~Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.~~
  - 9. ~~You can live without sex but not without your glasses.~~
  - 10. ~~You got cable for the weather channel.~~



TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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Aging

321-01

Another way to tell if you've gone over the hill is a change of interests. Do you find yourself interested in early-bird specials and doggy bags? Have terms like arthritis, cellulite, crow's-feet, varicose veins, sunspots, and pacemakers entered your vocabulary? Have products like Polygrip, Geritol, Preparation H, Depends, and stewed prunes become household items?

When you begin noticing stretch marks, multiple chins, wrinkles, and folds—and your belt buckle is disappearing—it might be a sign that changes have occurred. A confirmation is when your upper arms hang and shake as you walk and your derriere drags on the ground.

When you put on your makeup with a trowel and your hair turns gray or even blue . . . you've probably gone over the hill. That is the time when you wish you could have some of Dick Clark's cells put into your body.

You can tell if you're over the hill when you put tenderizer in your oatmeal.

You can tell if you're over the hill when you get more get-well cards than junk mail.

You can tell if you're over the hill when your favorite exercise is a good brisk sit.

You can tell if you're over the hill when you begin using words like spry, plasma, salt-free, and fast temporary relief.

You can tell if you're over the hill when it takes a half-hour to wake up your leg.

You can tell if you're over the hill when you attend seminars on death planning, nutrition education, and grief therapy.

You can tell if you're over the hill when you believe that regularity is more important than popularity.  
pp. 6-7

Aging

321-02

We grow old not so much by living but by losing interest in living.  
p. 26

Aging

321-03

I started going bald very early. In fact, in high school I was voted "Most Likely to Recede."  
p. 38

77 Cont'd



TOPIC	REF. #	TEXT
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Aging

028-015

**SIGNS**

It's not the crying V's of geese  
A-flying overhead.  
Nor the inconspicuous buckbrush  
Suddenly, strident red.

It's not the horses hairing-up,  
The creek a-turning brown.  
Or the ash tree getting gussied up  
In her saffron dressing gown.

It's not the blue-tinged frosty morn,  
The coyote getting bolder,  
The faint ache in my steel-pinned leg  
Reminding me I'm older.

It's not the spring-green grasses,  
Now a tannish monochrome.  
I know that fall's upon us—  
Our cats are coming home.  
p. 120



TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Finishing	208-09	<b>A Rare Treat</b>

We was settin' on the bunkhouse steps while twilight fled the  
dark,  
Sorta takin' in the newness of the spring,  
When a one-eyed pickup topped the rise and coasted to the gate,  
Startin' questions as to who that wreck could bring.

In the dim light left to see by one old man stepped nimbly out,  
Startin' ancient spurs to singin' in the dusk,  
Gittin' drowned out completely as he halloowed-up the camp  
In a manner best described as plenty brusque.

Seemed the boss had sent 'im out to help with brandin' fer a spell,  
Though we wondered at what help ol' gramps could be,  
Takin' odds he'd draw his wages in the span of seven days  
As the drives began to stiffen hip and knee.

We dropped 'im on the shortest rides and had 'im mark the ears  
As we [were] taken turns at all the other jobs,  
While he roused us up each mornin' with a verse of "Clementine"  
That'd loosen up a winter teepee's stobs.

Well, we lost our bets and eat some crow as two months came and  
went  
'Cause by now we never cut 'im any slack,  
Fer he'd [fill] in on them other tasks as circumstance required  
With a skill that showed us all a master's knack.

As the last big bunch was penned and stripped and irons were  
gray with heat,  
The boss showed up a leadin' one old bay,  
Askin' quiet and plumb politely, when the wagon-boss came  
'round,  
If he and that old man could drag that day.

Since we'd penned the cows from handy traps and had a world of  
time,  
Frog had planned to let the old man drag a few  
So we figgered on a bit of rest with them two ropin' heels,  
Thinkin', after two months time, that it was [his] due.

They never missed a loop or stopped their horse till we were  
through,  
Makin' bag and earmark count at two-oh-six,



TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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And the boss was sorta grinnin' with some mischief in his eye  
As he interduced us all to Granpa Hicks.

The old man straightened slowly as he coiled that limber twine,  
A twinkle in them eyes that once were brown,  
Sayin', "Boys, I'd like to thank you for the way you do your jobs,"  
And died before his body hit the ground.  
pp. 78-79



No offense, but some of you don't have any business reading this today. Normally, I do not restrict my column to any special group of people. But now I must. This time it is for Christians only. Everything I write from now to the end is strictly for the believer in Christ. If you're not there yet, you can toss this aside because you lack a major ingredient: the power of God. Non-Christians are simply unable to choose righteous paths consistently. That divine response upon which the Christian can (and must) draw is not at the unbeliever's disposal. That is, not until personal faith in Jesus Christ is expressed.

But if you know the Lord, you are the recipient of limitless ability . . . incredible strength. Just read a few familiar lines out of the Book, slowly for a change:

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).

. . . "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me (2 Corinthians 12:9).

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, . . . that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man (Ephesians 4:14, 16).

. . . He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature . . . (2 Peter 1:4).

And one more:

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Wait a minute now. Did you read every word--or did you skip a line or two? If so, please go back and slowly graze over those five statements written to you, a Christian. It's really important.

Okay, what thought stands out the most? Well, if someone asked me that question, I'd say, "Special strength or an unusual ability from God." In these verses it's called several things: strength, power, divine nature, ability. God has somehow placed into the Christian's insides a special something, that extra inner reservoir of power that is more than a match for the stuff life throws at us. When in operation, phenomenal accomplishments are achieved, sometimes even miraculous.

Let's get specific.

It boils down to the choice of two common words in our vocabulary. Little words, but, oh, so different! "Can't" and "won't."

We prefer to use "can't."

"I just can't get along with my wife."

"My husband and I can't communicate."

"I can't discipline the kids like I should."

"I just can't give up the affair I'm having."

"I can't stop overeating."

"I can't find the time to pray."

"I can't quit gossiping."

No, any Christian who really takes those five passages we just looked at (there are dozens more) will have to confess the word really should be "won't." Why? Because we have been given the power, the ability to overcome. Literally! And therein lies hope in hoisting anchors that would otherwise hold us in the muck and mire of blame and self-pity.

One of the best books you can read this year on overcoming depression is a splendid work by two physicians, Minirth and Meier, appropriately entitled Happiness Is a Choice. These men agree:

As psychiatrists we cringe whenever [Christian] patients use the word can't . . . . Any good psychiatrist knows that "I can't" and "I've tried" are merely lame excuses. We insist that our patients be honest with themselves and use language that expresses the reality of the situation. So we have our patients change their can'ts to won'ts . . . .

If an individual changes all his can'ts to won'ts, he stops avoiding the truth, quits deceiving himself, and starts living in reality . . . .

What a difference one word makes!

"I just won't get along with my wife."

"My husband and I won't communicate."

"I won't discipline the kids like I should."

"I just won't give up the affair I'm having."

"I won't stop overeating."

"I won't find the time to pray."

"I won't quit gossiping."

Non-Christians have every right and reason to use "can't," because they really can't! They are victims, trapped and bound like slaves in a fierce and endless struggle. Without Christ and His power, they lack what it takes to change permanently. They don't because they can't!

But people like us? Hey, let's face it, we don't because we won't . . . we disobey because we want to, not because we have to . . . because we choose to, not because we're forced to. The sooner we are willing to own up realistically to our responsibility and stop playing the blame game at pity parties for ourselves, the more we'll learn and change and the less we'll burn and blame.

Wish I could find a less offensive way to communicate all this, but I just can't.

Oops!

Chuck Swindoll



\* Philippians 2:3,4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

It would almost seem that everyone of these seven things mentioned in these first two verses have to do with a man's relationship to authority over him because each of them speak to that matter.

In this relationship with the authority that is over you the responsibility is to be submissive, obedient, available so that you can be ready to perform every good deed as is necessary; fourth, not to be speaking evil of that authority, not fighting it, but rather being gentle and displaying the Christ-like attitude by showing every consideration for all men.

v. 3 For we were at one time also foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

Now the apostle is going to give us the reason we need to demonstrate these seven qualities that he has outlined in the first 2 verses. The reason is before we became Christians we were like the majority of the human race described in the following six ways.

Paul, in writing to the Ephesians in chapter 2:11,12 says, "Therefore remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called uncircumcised by those who call themselves the circumcision that done in the body by the hands of men. Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world."

1. In the past we were first foolish.

\* The psalmist said in Psalms 14:1 "The fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"

\* 1 Corinthians 2:14 "The man without the spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them because they are spiritually discerned."

2. Secondly, he says, "In those days we were characterized as being disobedient."

The fruit of rebellion and resistance toward God manifests itself in the disobedient heart.

7 things  
rel. to Author.

Don't Get  
discouraged  
About Crete  
we were  
that way once

Swindoll  
living in  
rebellion under  
wrong Authority



3. The third, we were "deceived."

\* 1 John 1:8 says "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

Pride - I can handle it; Master of Fate  
Intellectualism -  
No Need - Sensual life style is where its AT..

4. The fourth characteristic of our old lifestyle is we were "enslaved to various lusts (desires) and pleasures."

The man who is enslaved to his old nature is dead in trespasses and sins according to Ephesians 2. And these various manifestations are described in Galatians 5:19-21 "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy, drunkenness, orgies and the like. I warn you as I did before that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Reproach  
Repulsive  
to be A Slave  
to Anything -  
Drugs - Drink -  
Depression...

5. The fifth characteristic that is given here is "spending our life in malice and envy."

Because our former life was lived with ego and pride at the center of everything, it was also lived in an antisocial fashion in this sense, that everyone else is a competitor to be beaten. And when someone is more successful or more appreciated, envy manifests itself.

Ego & Pride =  
Malice & Envy

6. The sixth manifestation of the old life is "hateful or hating one another."

\* 1 John 2:9ff  
"Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother, is still in the darkness.  
Whoever loves his brother lives in the light and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.  
But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded him."

Guthrie points out "If Titus should despair of the Cretan character, he should remember his own past experience, for retrospect is often salutary in helping us to understand the magnitude of God's grace. The past is described by means of a list of vices which may at first sight seem exaggerated, yet Paul elsewhere uses similar language of his converts' pre-Christian experience. When the apostle says "We ourselves also were sometimes foolish", he means that we were without spiritual understanding. Next on the list are "disobedience", which is directed towards God and "deception" which is related to man. The Greek word for "deceived" suggests a false guide leading astray.



TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
<b>Trials</b>	814-01	<p>George Matheson had an Arena experience, and because of this impending calamity his fiancée broke their engagement. That alone would not make him a spectacle. But the comforting power of his God came down upon him at that dark hour, lifted him to spiritual vision, and caused him to write:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">O Love, that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">O Light, that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to Thee;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">O Joy, that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">O Cross, that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, And from the ground, there blossoms red, Life that shall endless be.</p> <p>That spectacle of the brilliant, soon-to-be sightless young man, forsaken by his earthly love, yet bathed and upheld in Christ's, has halted many a sinner in his way. George Matheson's blindness has revealed God to many another. It was not given to punish Matheson. It was allowed to manifest the power of God to bring blessing to the world.</p> <p>So God taught me through the years to view my own trials as platforms in today's Arena. I thought this concept was original with me, but one day my husband found that Hudson Taylor had formed the same opinion many years ago. He said: "Difficulties afford a platform upon which He can show Himself. Without them we could never know how tender, faithful, and almighty our God is." I found it so too.</p> <p>pp. vii-viii</p>
<b>Guidance</b>	814-02	<p>How very important it is to obey the Lord, <i>step by step</i>! We cannot know how much may hinge on one single step. The whole course of a life might be changed by just a step.</p> <p>p. 8</p>



The metaphor of slavery is then used to illustrate the Christian's former servitude to lusts and pleasures. This combination is well known in Greek ethics, but for the Christian looking back on his pre-conversion state, it would have greater meaning than for the Greek moralists. Only the freed man can appreciate to the full the abjectness of his former state of slavery, living or spending time in malice and envy reflects the essentially anti-social nature of the former life, for both words emphasize malignity. The climax is reached in hateful and hating. The former of these two words in the Greek is found only here in Biblical Greek and means 'odious.'

v. 4 But when the kindness of God our Saviour and His love for mankind appeared.

After Paul tells Titus what to be telling them with regard to their responsibility toward authority, he reminds them of what they were in past time. And now with the word "but", he forms the contrast and tells us what and who made the difference.

There are two things that are said about God in this fourth verse: first, the kindness of God our Saviour; and secondly, his love for mankind.

Kindness = Action Love = Attitude both unconditional + unchanging

It is these two qualities or attributes of God that form the foundation stone for the whole doctrine of salvation.

v. 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

Whereas in verse 4 we see His kindness and His love, in verse 5 we have the mention of His mercy.

This kindness and love and mercy caused Him to move into action to save us.

Negatively, it was not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness. "But" is the contrast, positively, "according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit."

Nowhere in the scriptures do we ever have a statement that salvation is something which is earned.

Ephesians 2:8,9 "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith; and this not from yourselves. It is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast."

Godliness is the result of a relationship!

What  
Who

Foundation  
For  
Salvation

Kindness  
Love  
Mercy

\*\*\*

\*\*\*



Romans 4:3-5 "What does the scripture say? Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness."

The phrases in this fifth verse that have been under scrutiny by theologians and others for years and have formed the basis for many divergent teachings is the phrase "by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit."

Man  
What Form  
Getz points out "The statement 'He washed us through washing of rebirth' has caused some discussion among Bible interpreters. Some feel Paul is referring here to water baptism, a means of God's grace in saving us. If this were true and a necessary part of salvation, we are hard put to explain the fact that this kind of baptism is administered by man, making his actions a necessary part of the process of salvation. This hardly correlates with the concept of salvation by grace through faith that Paul is emphasizing in this passage and which also permeates the New Testament, including the fact that even Old Testament saints were made righteous by faith, apart from works. Furthermore, if it were true that water baptism is a part of the process of salvation, we would also be hard-put to explain the nebulous description of baptism in the New Testament; a nebulousness that is obvious because of the variety of opinions regarding the nature and form of baptism among noted Bible scholars. It is far more logical from the whole of scripture to interpret Paul's statement here as the eternal cleansing that takes place when we are regenerated by God's Spirit as a response to the truth He brought to light when He was sent into this world by Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit in a unique way revealed to us the word of God. And it is the word of God that has become the divine means whereby we can be born again and cleansed from our sin. It is through the word of God that we learn of Christ's redemptive work at the cross. As Peter stated, 'For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.'"

Eph. 5:  
washing of  
the water of  
the word.  
Ps. 119:95  
Gaebelein in the Annotated Bible points out "The washing or bath or regeneration is the new birth. Of this our Lord spoke to Nicodemus in John 3 and also to His disciples when he washed their feet, 'He that is washed or bathed need not save to wash his feet but is clean every whit, and you are clean but not all.' He spoke in these words of the fact that His disciples, except for Judas, were born again and therefore they were clean every whit. The washing has nothing whatever to do with water baptism. Water baptism cannot save nor help in the salvation of the sinner. It cannot produce regeneration. What is the renewing of the Holy Spirit?"



It is distinct from regeneration. The Holy Spirit is the active agent in the new birth, imparts the new nature and then indwells the believer, and as such he does his blessed work by renewing the inward man day by day. He is shed upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour and gives power to all who walk in the Spirit."

Homer Cant in the Pastoral Epistles says, "There are other scriptural references which pair the ideas of water and the Spirit as imparting our salvation, and to them we turn for aid in understanding verse 5. John 3:5 makes new birth dependent upon water and the Spirit. 1 Peter 1:23 makes new birth resultant upon the word of God and the Spirit. Here the water would seem symbolic of God's word. Ephesians 5:26 supports this symbolic identification 'that he might sanctify, having cleansed it by the washing of the water in the word.' Hence the washing, which secures regeneration, is that cleansing bath of justification whereby the effects of Christ's death are applied to our sinful hearts. This is done through the instrumentality of the word of God which reveals man's sin and God's provision. Renewing refers to something which is entirely new in kind, not merely new in time. The impartation of the Holy Spirit makes us new creatures in contrast to the old condition of life. The Spirit has been bestowed through Christ, who is also called our Saviour here. Thus all persons of the Trinity are involved in the salvation of the sinner. The washing and the making new are the two basic elements of our regeneration, both of which are the work of God."

v. 6. Whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

In this sixth verse the apostle is referring to the Holy Spirit from verse 5. He is the "whom that is poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour."

It is at the point of salvation and involved in salvation that the Spirit of God is the great regenerator, the giver of life, and also the one by whom we experience daily renewing. It is He who is poured out upon us richly at the point of salvation by faith. And this salvation is through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

v. 7. In order that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

In the seventh verse we have the statement of purpose behind all of the kindness, love and mercy of God in providing salvation.

It is "that having been justified by His grace."

Sal  
Godliness  
Glory

Justification is simply the act of God in making a sinner righteous

Justification  
Sanctification  
Glorification

Purpose  
behind the  
Kindness,  
Love &  
mercy...

regenerating  
renewing  
restoring



Grace —  
Past  
Present  
Future

by forgiving his sin and adding to him the righteousness of God which has just been described back in verse 5. This act of God is an act of his grace. He was not obligated to do it. It resulted from his kindness, his love and his mercy. In his grace he provided salvation. It is made available to us by the single condition of faith, for the purpose that we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

John 1:12  
Rom. 8:16, 17

This phrase "the hope of eternal life" occurs back in verse 2 of chapter 1: "In the hope of life eternal, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago."

1:2

Romans 8:15ff

\* "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear; but you received the Spirit of sonship, and by Him we cry, Abba, Father.

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Now if we are children, then we are heirs; heirs of God, and co-heirs with Christ; if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory."

\* Galatians 4:4ff

"But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, To redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, Abba, Father.

So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and since you are a son, God made you also an heir."

The ultimate purpose behind all of God's activity in the provision of salvation which has been so beautifully described for us in these previous verses is so that by His grace we might become heirs. Born again by His Spirit, we are made sons in his family.

\* John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name which were born not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but of God." And as a result of that eternal transaction of being born again by the spirit into God's family, we are also made heirs and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. And it is according to the hope of eternal life.

The glorious future anticipation of believers is the fact that although they are absent from the body, they are eternally with the Lord.



Lock points out in his paraphrase "There is one thing of which you must remind them all, free and slaves alike. That is, to be loyal subjects to the government and its official, to obey any commands which they issue, to be on the lookout, to help in any kind of good work, to speak evil of none, to avoid all quarrels, not to stand on their own rights, but to be large hearted, never failing to show gentleness to anyone. This is our bounded duty, for there was a time when we were as void of understanding as they are now. We too were disobedient, easily mislead, slaves of passions and pleasures of many kinds, passing our life in ill will and envy of others, worthy of hate and hating one another. But when in gracious love for man our Saviour God unveiled His plan, twas not for merit of our own, but of his pitying care alone. He saved us by a heavenly birth, cleansing away the stains of earth. And on our heads in rich largess pouring his spirit's holiness. All this he did that so being justified by his free gift, we might become heirs through hope of eternal life."

#### CONCLUSION:

This is probably one of the greatest passages that shares the doctrinal teaching with regard to salvation by faith and the regenerating, renewing work of the Spirit of God in our lives in answer to that faith.

Paul begins the passage by reminding them with regard to their responsibility toward authorities in their godly lifestyle. They are to be in subjection to rulers, obedient to authority, available to every good work. They are not to be speaking evil, or uncontentious, but gentle, showing every consideration.

In verses 3 and 4 the apostle describes the old way of life as being foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

In verses 4-7 he describes God's activity, moving on the scene of confusion, chaos, and creating through the great plan of salvation the hope of eternal life.

What are the lessons that we learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The godly lifestyle manifests itself in submission, obedience and availability to the authority that is over them.

Submissive to His will  
Obedient to His word  
Available for His work "in" & "through"



LESSON #2: The godly lifestyle is manifested by a large-hearted consideration, when in disagreement.

LESSON #3: It helps us appreciate the present by looking at the past.

LESSON #4: Salvation is a complete act of God's work, + Grace

LESSON #5: The ultimate purpose for God's plan of salvation is so that we might become heirs with Jesus Christ of all that God has in store for us in eternity.

The Olympic Games gave birth to one of the most unusual stories in sports. It concerns an 800 meter runner from British Ghana. He had trained years for the privilege of representing his country in the zenith of athletic competition. His day arrived for the preliminaries in the 800 meters. The finest two-lap runner in British Ghana waited patiently. All the months of training and the miles he had run daily were soon to be put to the great test. The first two preliminary races were run. Then came his turn to attempt to move into the finals at Rome and into the hearts of his countrymen. "Attention, attention! Will the 800 meter runner from British Ghana please report to the check-in official," echoed the voice through the stadium. He was not there. Athletes, coaches and officials began frantically looking for this young athlete, but he could not be found. The race went on without him. The stadium buzzed. Where was he? What had kept him from running in the biggest race of his life? They found him asleep, saving his strength for an all-out effort in the race. He had dozed off just before the starting gun was fired and missed the greatest opportunity of his athletic career. All his sacrifice and work had been for nothing. The biggest tragedy comes when a person sleeps while God is calling him to start in the race of life. God by his grace provides every person with an opportunity to this new start, a new lease on life. The moment we enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by faith, the starter pulls the trigger that launches us into the great Olympiad of the universe. What a needless tragedy it is to sleep through the race and miss the eternal victory in Christ.

"Behold, now is the accepted time. Behold, now is the day of salvation."



# U.S. needed the shock of Khomeini's 'slap,' Walter Cronkite says

By STEWART DAVIS  
Austin Bureau of The News

AUSTIN — Americans should be leading rather than swept along, or worse, trampled, by the revolutionary times in which they live, Walter Cronkite said Friday.

"Our job — if our ideas of civilization, of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are to survive — is to contain and utilize for future enrichment a great flood of events that are flowing together at this place, our world, at this time, today," Cronkite said.

The father figure of broadcast journalism delivered the leadership challenge in a symposium on the 1980s at the Lyndon B. Johnson Library on the University of Texas campus.

His appraisal of where America

Americans lived through the Industrial Revolution 150 years ago.

Americans may have needed awakening, he said, because they have fallen into cynicism and a "me generation" that threatened our political and social fabric.

Americans have been suffering from a new meanness, "a stinginess of spirit as well as of purse."

"We may be developing what someone has called the 'life-boat ethic,' a tendency to take care of ourselves and let the rest swim, or whatever," Cronkite said.

The "me generation," Cronkite pointed out, consists of self-gratification and makes little room for such concepts as responsibility, sacrifice, conservation, cooperation and discipline."

AMERICANS also have suffered



TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Discipline	830-09	<p>An undisciplined inner life—one that is attached to the world even as it seeks to fight it—is misery defined. Some of us live spiritually like a person on a diet who has a freezer full of Häagen-Daz ice cream. If you're serious about the diet, you'll get the ice cream out of the house, right? Otherwise, you'll simply make yourself miserable. We halfheartedly want to follow God and live holy lives, all the while surrounding ourselves with temptation.</p> <p>p. 76</p>
Appetites	830-10	<p>How can we experience the virtue of detachment? It is an impossible task to slowly disengage ourselves from every errant passion. What we need instead is a powerful war of engagement, which we find by <i>attaching</i> ourselves to something else.</p> <p>When I proposed to my wife, out of love for her I was rejecting every other woman. My affection for Lisa was such that it eclipsed any other romantic interest. <i>Intense love for something inevitably leads to rejection of something else.</i> "A more intense enkindling of another, better love (love of one's heavenly bridegroom) is necessary for the vanquishing of the appetites . . . By finding satisfaction and strength in this love, one will have the courage and constancy to deny readily all other appetites."<sup>11</sup></p> <p>11. John of the Cross, <i>John of the Cross: Selected Writings</i>, Ed. By Kieran Kavanaugh (New York: Paulist Press), p. 79.</p> <p>p. 80</p>
Suffering	830-11	<p>Learn to suffer with patience. God will send frequent and probably great suffering into your life. This is His doing; He has chosen it; accept it.</p> <p>JEANNE GUYON</p> <p>p. 121</p>
Selfish	830-12	<p>The Scripture speaks of no real Christian who has an ugly, selfish, angry, and contentious spirit. Nothing can be more contradictory than a morose, hard, closed, and spiteful Christian.</p> <p>JONATHAN EDWARDS</p> <p>p. 147</p>



TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Purpose	830-13	<p>In 1990, Whom-O, the company that makes Frisbees, shipped 7,000 plastic disks to a nun who works at an Angolan orphanage. The chairman of the company, John Bowes, received the following reply: "The dishes you sent are wonderful. We eat all our meals off them. And the most amazing thing has happened. Some of the children are throwing them as sort of a game. This may be an idea for you."<sup>8</sup></p> <p>Frisbees can double as dishes, but they were made to be something else. Using them as plates is a devaluation of sorts—any flat object can hold food, but not every round object can fly so far and so well.</p> <p>Likewise, we can devalue our lives with artificially busy pursuits. Humans can spend seventy years living for the next paycheck, the next sexual experience, the next vacation . . . or the next chance to cheat someone. But we were made to fly in God's will, and that's where we'll find the glory of virtuous life on earth.</p> <p>8. <i>Sports Illustrated</i>, June 11, 1990. pp. 174-75</p>