

"LIGHT FOR OUR AGE"

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*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
Psalm 119:105*



Feature One: Editorial



Robert T. Oliver

What Time Teaches

As you read this, I have crossed the magic age of 70. That seems impossible, for I just feel like it was only short time ago that I was 30 or 40. But age does teach things that are important to know. I will share a few of these things with you in this article.

One lesson is that some of those that you thought you could always depend upon will turn away from you. I believe the apostle Paul experienced this when he wrote "for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica..." (2 Timothy 4:10). Demas is honorably mentioned in Colossians 4:14, but nothing more of him is known until he

deserted Paul.

However, we also learn from Proverbs 18:24 that "there is a friend a friend that sticketh closer than a brother". As my twilight days in this world approach, that is one of the greatest blessings for which one could ask. Throughout life, when going to someplace new, it was always good to have a friend you could ask about the journey that had been there before. Jesus has done this. He understands death, and knows of what follows. He actually told us about this journey in Luke 16. We are able to glimpse into the place prepared for the faithful after death.

Knowing what is to come is a comfort. You also learn that what this world has to offer is not really as great as it might seem. That is not to say that there is no pleasure in it, for the Hebrew writer wrote that "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward." Hebrews 11:24-25. Yet the riches we have in Christ greatly outweigh anything this world has to offer. The words of David to Solomon, illustrate this point. "And David said to his son Solomon, Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God-my God- will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord."

John warned us about loving this world too much. "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world-the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." 1 John 2:15-17.

I also understand more of the meaning of Ecclesiastes 12. I have been fortunate with my health, but I know there is much I cannot now do that I once did without thinking about it. The keepers tremble, that is, your arms develop tremors, and as you examine the rest of the chapter you understand what age does for, or rather, to you. Solomon had it right when he said at the end of his book, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

Finally, age allows you to look more longingly to see those that you have loved in life. We know that this lies ahead, for King David, when his young son died, made the following statement: "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." (2 Samuel 12:22-23). Luke 16 also teaches that we will recognize each other after death. This article should not be depressing, but rather exciting. I realize that those many years younger more than likely will not understand this, but life is a journey to eternity, and because of the sacrifice of Jesus we can look longingly for a wonderful eternity.

Feature Two: *an article by R. C. Oliver*



R C Oliver

WORDS WE SHOULD KNOW

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The Reader's Digest always features a section on *It Pays To Enrich Your Word Power*, which I recommend to all of you, for Christians should certainly be concerned about their word power. What influence do my words have upon others? This should be a concern of every Christian. Among the many words we ought to know are those to be considered in this article for they are often used in describing the greatness of our God.

1. *Omniscient*: This word is composed of two parts: *omni*, which means "all", and *science*, which means "knowledge". It therefore means all-wise or all-knowing. The Lord knows all things, he is therefore omniscient, pronounced om-nish-ent. See Psalm 139:1-6.
2. *Omnipotent*: This word is composed of two parts: *omni*, which means "all", and *potent*, meaning "powerful". It therefore means all powerful or almighty. This is also characteristic of our Lord God, He is an all powerful, almighty Being, He is therefore omnipotent, pronounced om-nip-o-tent. See Psalm 139:14, cf. Genesis 17:1
3. *Omnipresent*: This word is also composed of two parts: *omni*, which means "all", and *present*, meaning a state of being present. It therefore means "present everywhere", in all places at the same time. This is also characteristic of God, He is present at all times in all places, He is therefore omnipresent, pronounced om-ni-prez-ent.
4. *Omnivisual*: This word consists of *omni* meaning all and *visual*, meaning in this instance "to see" It therefore means to be able to see in all places at the same time, One cannot hide from God. See Psalm 139:11, 12, 15, 16. God is therefore omnivisual, pronounced om-ni-vizh-u-al.

Each should learn these words and use them, but especially should you know and understand them when someone else used them when talking with you.

Feature Three: Sandy's Women's Corner



Sandra Oliver

Editor's Note: You can read weekly articles from Sandy at the following Web site: abiblecommentary.com "Blog for Christian Women"

LET'S SEND UP A BALLOON

Last Sunday my lesson for my 4th and 5th grade class was on the mustard seed. I always enjoy this lesson because it gets such a reaction from the children. They are so fascinated by the fact that such a tiny seed can grow into such a large tree.

The application to this lesson is that anyone can serve God. Even a child can do something in the Lord's service.

As we were talking about the application, I mentioned a lady that was ill and spent most of her time in bed. She was so discouraged that she could not do the things she use to do, so she wrote scriptures on pieces of paper and tossed them out of her window onto the street below.

Time passed, and finally one day someone knocked on her door. They had picked up several of her scriptures, and they wanted to meet the person that tossed them onto the sidewalk.

Through study, this lady was able to convert this individual that came to her door. She couldn't do much, but she converted someone that might never have heard the gospel any other way.

After I told this story, one of the boys said that he would like to find some way to do something. Jokingly he said that he was going to write scriptures on paper and put them in a balloon and turn them loose. The children joke about it, and then they decided this was a wonderful way to try to teach the truth. Several of them have decided to try this to see just how far their balloon might go. They have decided that they will put the church's address on the paper to see if they will get a response.

They certainly proved my point. Even a child can do something!

Feature Four: Our Communication

Just an interesting fact: "We listen to people at a rate of 125-250 words per minute, but think at 1,000-3,000 words per minute." That gives our mind a lot of time to process the information we are hearing.

http://www.prdaily.com/Main/Articles/Listening_facts_you_never_knew_14645.aspx

Feature Five: Bible Question

Often we hear people tell others that if they want to be saved, all they need to do is believe on Jesus. So my question is, "What does it mean to believe on Jesus?"

What might seem like a simple question at first takes on a totally different appearance when we look at what the Bible has to say. For instance, James 2:19 reads: "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" If our salvation is only based on believing, then the demons will be saved. But we know that is not true because of Matthew 25:41 which reads: "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

Notice what the Bible says about faith and the great men and women in the Bible. These are all found in Hebrews 11. Verse 7 tells us "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark...." In verse 8 we read: "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going...." In fact, verse 29 tells us that all of Israel was saved by their faith. "By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned."

Do you see what the Bible is telling us about faith? For faith to save it must be an obedient faith. It is our faith that causes us to do what Jesus commands or requires. Jesus said in John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John also wrote in chapter 15:10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."

Some, but not all of Jesus' commands are as follows:

1. Luke 12:8 "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God."
2. Mark 16:16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
3. Peter by inspiration said in Acts 2:38: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Therefore, if we put in action our faith, and do what Jesus and his apostles commanded, we will be saved. If not, our faith is like that of the demons.

Humor

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore, where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to heaven," the dad replied. The boy thought for a moment and then asked, "Did God throw him back down?"

In Closing

I have enjoyed once again to visit with you through this medium. My dad would be amazed to see what can be done with today's technology. In fact, I am amazed to see what can be done and I know I can only scratch the surface. It is certainly not of my generation.

I trust all is going well with you. May God be with you till we meet again.

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