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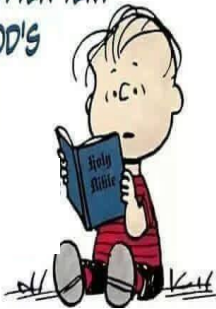
Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass
It's about learning to dance in the rain

Dance Classes Here

October Newsletter

Rx For The Soul

THERE IS NO BETTER TEACHER
THAN THE HOLY SPIRIT
& NO BETTER TEXT
THAN GOD'S
WORD.



"People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use." Kierkegaard

To preach in Greek means
'to herald divine truth'

A little healthy FEAR
never hurt anyone. Pr.1:7

Can you buy happiness?
No, but it's *promised* in that
Blessed means '*Happy* &
Surrounded with favor'.
Confer its use in Psalm One
and the Reattitudes



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Whoever You Are...Be A Good One!

We exited our train in East Glacier Park, where the only businesses I saw was the Train Station itself, a General Store and a huge lodge across the way that sat back 1000' behind a perfectly landscaped lawn.

This became the scene that resonated in my mind, as I watched the train steal *silently* away... on to the next stop. Tears came to my eyes. I wondered why? But the memories made since boarding in Portland then Seattle, the people we'd met and gotten to know, the rich experiences in viewing God's handiwork as the train wound thru the Northern Rockies were overwhelming to me. Gratitude to my daughter - & her husband - who joined us at West Glacier Park, was abundant. It was my own bucket list they'd wished to fulfill and fulfill it they did! 8 planes, 8 states & Amtrak plus the visit to friends in Montana later - we even flew home **1st class!**

Life can be truly wonderful.
Sometimes...!

Last month, I wrote of death. That the man who died yesterday had plans for last night. We don't have tomorrow!

Ironically, in the 22 days I was gone, I've known **four** people who died! And just today, I attended the funeral of a great neighbor, making **five**. Two dear friends from Palm Harbor died, both of cancer. And a daughter of one of my dearest friends was killed in a

car wreck. I wept all day ..

Such is life; the good comesand also the bad. We are all terminal. No one escapes this life alive! This life is short; it's the next one that counts!

Some folks think if they never acknowledge God - He won't have the final say! He will anyway.

Others believe death is a part of life. I don't believe that. God didn't create us for death, but for life. Death is an enemy and foreign - we should never embrace it. Death is the curse for sin, and Jesus paid the penalty of sin.¹ Those who know Him will never die, according to Jesus' words.²

What then?

If nothing else, life is a series of contrasts! These contrasts demand we make choices - voluntary or not. No choice is often a choice!

This translates that we learn to make good choices over bad. I've found that being a believer in God has greatly diminished many of my prior bad choices - that led to battlefields of my own making! (Life is hard enough without *those* kind!) Because I'm now guided by a new plumbline - holy scripture!³ I'm set *free* ⁴ - from indecision & confusion.

Some contrasts are confusion vs. the light of understanding. Anger vs forgiveness is also a choice. Proverbs says 'make no friends with an angry man lest you learn his evil ways.'⁵ This is learned behavior vs. acting out (much like animals do- just 'reacting'). Clearly a choice! We're not primal; we're designed to "think."

Some people, - perhaps many - just coast thru life. Making do. Just Surviving.

Living from one event to another. In football, that is called playing 'defensively.' But **teams that win** go on the offense, taking territory as though it was theirs! They play 'decisively...'

I read on Twitter, *people will tell you to keep your eye on the goal. But truly successful people will tell you to enjoy the journey!*

Too few of us do that....We think a new car, a better job, a nice house will make us happy. But not if we're always '**seeking**.'

I pray daily for my loved ones that they will become comfortable in their own skin, unaffected by what others feel, *to think* - & be able to enjoy life's journey! That they will surrender to God in utter abandonment.

I'll be a new grandmother soon. It's another contrast. New life vs death.

There's a hyphen on every tombstone - It's the dash of **now!** That's all we have in the scope of living! **Only we** can determine if our lives are good for something. Or, whether we are **passive** - and good for nothing! Christianity is not passive non-resistance. The gospel by its very nature is *confrontational* because God demands a decision of us! Pull up your big-girl/big-boy pants and wade into the fray of living life on purpose! Then go to bed at night exhausted & gratified!

*Morning is God's way of saying one more time - **Go** make a difference; Touch a heart; Encourage a mind, Inspire a soul & Enjoy the day.* Unknown-FB. Smile.

Who will hold back the encroaching evil in your 'world'... if you don't? "**Go** into **ALL** the world and preach....!" You're called!

A Memphis Billboard



*My tongue
is the pen
of a ready
writer
Ps. 45:1*

A book is the only place in which you can examine a fragile thought without breaking it, or explore an explosive idea without fear it will go off in your face. It is one of the few havens remaining where a man's mind can get both provocation and privacy.
~Edward P. Morgan

Be renewed in the spirit of your minds. Ephes 4:23

References 1) I Pet. 3:18, II Cor.5:21 2) John 11:25 3) Ps. 119:105; II Tim. 3:16 4) John 8:32,36 5) Prov. 22:24 6) II Cor.5:19 7) Matt. 7:13 8) Rom 10:1-4

I asked SIRI on my phone to define 'good' for me. She said among other things, "even the smallest amount of something spoken or written." I didn't expect that! But *I'm not sure she understood me*, which is her most common response to me...She also said "morally excellent, virtuous, righteous..."

People of all walks of life and religions have their own definition of what is 'good.' Mother Teresa is an example, due to her self-sacrifice in the slums of India - where *living* steaks walk over dead bodies in the street. But selflessness is the criteria in defining *good*.

There's a problem though. Jesus said "no one is good except God alone." Why? *I don't know*. But here's what I think...! I don't think anyone could ever be saved if there

was something in them worth redeeming...Let me explain.

People come to God out of need. Whatever they've looked to for strength or their 'religion' is no longer enough for them. They've come to **know their need** for a Savior!

Yet...there is something in all of us that wants to think we're worthy. It's called *human pride*. It's when we see ourselves at our worst, that we look upward. (*Religious* people disagree though -they feel worthy.)

But Jesus didn't come to establish another religion. The world was full of it before He came! Buddhism existed 500 years earlier. The difference in Christianity from all world religions is this: All of them strive to reach up to God. The gospel shows God reaching down to us...!

'God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.'⁶ He intervened in the human condition to bring salvation to all who would receive His free gift.

A new problem. Jesus warned **many** would take the broad path to destruction and **few** the narrow path to life.⁷ That's because receiving salvation requires submission to God's plan of salvation.

Every false religion and counterfeit church exists because they're all busy following man-made rules to win God's approval. **PRIDE**.

"...they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For being ignorant of the righteousness of God, & seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's rightness."⁸ God is Good!

We Will See...? Our Trust Must Be In God.

Ask
Agatha



*ONE kind word can change
someone's entire day...*

At first we have sin, then
we find sin has us.
Billy Graham

Some people say I have
ADHD oh look a squirrel!

"To forgive is to set a
prisoner free...and discover
that the prisoner was you."
Lewis B. Smedes

Dear Agatha: I don't think I'm out of step when I say I'm so disappointed with politics today. It's all so crude & lacks any dignity anymore. How can I vote my conscience without holding my nose? **Viv**
Dear Viv - My sympathy is with you, Viv. But realize that politics is part of the worldly system, controlled by Satan in societies who have little regard for God. Christians must live in that culture, but we don't dare take our lead from it. It is enemy territory!

Anything that makes sin look good & righteousness look foolish, is worldly. If we make choices based on how worldly people do, who don't love God, we too are worldly.

This election, believers must not be distracted. The

United States is in ICU, and it requires our rapt attention.

But, you answered your own question, Viv. The word 'conscience' in Greek simply means 'to know.' We must follow it now, not the world!

Fact is, no one really knows what the outcome will be Nov. 8. Nor do we know the future, but God does. We don't have to fear the future - He is already there! And we can know His eye is upon the righteous who fear him, Psalms says. Best is that the federal gov't isn't our source! The Father takes care of us.

Donald Trump at best, may not be able to solve the many dilemmas the U.S. faces. More... he could just become another narcissistic tyrant running the show....

But what we **do know** by experience are the lies of the woman who was just revealed by Wikileaks to have negotiated the release of uranium to Russia via the Clinton Foundation! Her baggage is lie built upon lie.

What we also **do know** is if you call yourself a believer you can't align yourself on the side of gay marriage & abortion. Voting a liberal ticket endorses these! We do **know** that's not God.

Scripture addresses this whole matter! Eccles. 10:2 says, "The heart of the wise inclines to the Right, but the heart of the fool to the Left." Isaiah 32:6 says fools Speak & Do. The question is, do they outnumber the righteous people in the USA...?

