

Pastor's Pen

"If the time should ever come when women are not Christians and houses are not homes, then we shall have lost the chief cornerstones on which civilization rests", so said A. D. White.

My mother, Aleada Elizabeth Doxey Hughes, was a beautiful miracle of God's workmanship. She always dressed in modest apparel according to Christian standards. Loved home life and working with her hands (Proverbs 31:13) blessed her family.

Bishop McCabe would often sing "My Mother's Beautiful Hands":

*I almost weep when looking back
To childhood's distant day,
I think how those hands rested not
When mine were at their play.
I've looked on hands whose form
and hue*

*A sculptor's dream might be,
Yet are these aged wrinkled hands
most beautiful to me.*

There are praying hands, giving hands, friendly hands, helping hands, busy hands, but my mother's hands were beautiful. An English woman tells a story of a child who was trying out for a part in a school play. The parents began to worry about the son should he not be chosen. On the day the parts were awarded, the boy came running with eyes shining, pride and excitement. Guess what, "Mom!" he shouted. "I've been chosen to clap and cheer." The story is a lesson; we may not be

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Can you doubt the importance of Sunday opportunities in our own area?

The Lord's command... "Go Ye"... is to

Pastor's Pen

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Many years ago when Europe Crusades were common — they were conducted as military campaigns. Often regarded as holy wars. The Pope in 1095 issued a call to battle against Islam. Many set out to increase their fortunes, but some were tramps and criminals. The Pope's cry, "God wills it", had magic and thousands answered the call. Some were promised pardon for sins if they took part in the war.

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At the end of Paul's third missionary journey he was in the home of Philip the evangelist at Caesarea. He was told the enemies would bind him if he went to Jerusalem. Paul said, "What are you doing, weeping, and breaking my heart. For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." When they heard this, friends said, "The will of the Lord be done."

The will of God is not always easy to know. There are ways to help you discover his will for your life and your church. First, read the old books of God. Second, live a constant exper-

ience of prayer. Third, be unselfish. Fourth, have a passion for winning souls. Fifth, controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Pastor's Pen

John W. Hinckley Jr. shot four innocent men while pictures were being taken. One man was the President of the United States!

The professionals couldn't prove him innocent or guilty, or prove his sanity "beyond a reasonable doubt". Psychiatrists left the jurors with the assumption that people cannot necessarily be held responsible for their crimes.

Insanity, you say, the man had to be crazy, out of his mind. He knew who he was, knew what he was doing, knew that it was wrong to assassinate the President, even thought it was an odd way of trying to win fame and get the attention of a teen-aged movie actress.

Has Hinckley gone "scot-free"? History says that the gunmen who shot former President Theodore Roosevelt in 1912 was confined for 31 years, until death, after being found insane. Hinckley wounded Press Secretary James Brady for life. His murderous attempts were premeditated and deliberate. Of course he knew what he was doing and there will be a "pay day".

What would we say of Judas in the Bible? Was he just crazy? What label would you give King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel? They killed Naboth through a wicked plan and took his grape vines away for their own use. Were they going crazy, or was it sin? Did Cain have his sanity when he slew Abel? How sane was Herod the King when he ordered the head of John-The-Baptist brought in on a platter?

There is no way to justify these crimes and those of our land, apart from Sin. The Bible says of Ahab, "He had sold himself to do evil." He and his wife paid an awful price for their evil deeds.

Hinckley, still has a judgment to

face. His conscience is not free and what he has planted will bear a harvest.

Pastor's Pen

When a person says, "I'm fed up with life", his medical adviser orders him to get off his present course and take a holiday.

A Negro who had trouble with depression gave this testimony in a revival meeting: "I've not been what I ought to be; I've robbed hen roosts, I've stole hogs, I've got drunk, I've told lies, I've slashed with my razor — but thank the Lord there's one thing I've never done — I've never lost my religion!"

In Ecclesiastes 2:15: "I said in my heart — as it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me." He was in a mood in which he was trying to drive away depression. In this chapter he said, I tried pleasure and great works. I turned my eyes upon wealth and the labour of my hands. Over and over his conclusion: "All was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun." (v. 11). He said, "I have to carry such burdens; no one else has to carry such a load." Sorrow and sickness and, last of all, death itself has a way of knocking at every door. Whether we accept this in good or bad grace, each sufferer makes the familiar admission, "I'm about fed up with all this."

The Book of Psalms contains the record of men who said the same thing. One of these sufferers puts it: "I did mourn as a dove." There is something crooning and musical about such grief. He must have had his back to the wall. He did not think that God had left him; he humbly goes to the house of God and the place of prayer with simple folks.

The kingdom of God is within a christian, even though "he is fed up with the contents of life". There is

one way to solve problems — Never let go of your religion! If you have some stabbing sorrows, unending hurts, "It was from the hand of God." Ecc. 2:24.

Pastor's Pen

A special tear for Memorial Day. I was conducting the funeral service for a little baby. The rain was falling, also many tears. I noticed one young man who had turned his back to the group. I asked him later about his relation to the family. He was no kin, but said, "The death of a little baby touched him, tears were freely running down his cheeks."

With the approach of Memorial Day we are all touched by the memory of our heroes. Whittier exclaimed "Grant but memory to us, and we can lose nothing by death." Thomas Fuller made it a little clearer, "Memory is the treasure house of the mind, wherein, the monuments thereof are kept and preserved."

*"Memorial Day dawns once again,
And hearts are loyal yet!
O ye who sleep in peace serene,
Think ye we can forget
Our hero dead of days gone by
who, girded for the fray,
Laid with their lives the corner stone
Of this Memorial Day?"*

We can never close our account with those who died on the field of honor. However, in the larger realm death is always more than it appears to be. Sorrow, pain, emptiness, loneliness, and helplessness. Jesus gives us the answer, there is life on the other side of death. He said, death never will have the final victory. When the daughter of Martin Luther died in his arms he said, "You will rise and shine like the stars and the sun. How strange it is to know that she is at peace and all is well, and yet to be so sorrowful!"

We do have a special tear for our dead on this Memorial Day.

MEMORIAL
DAY

July 5, 83

Pastor's Pen

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June 24, 53

Pastor's Pen

There is one sure guide for your life. The world has always wanted to know more about God. From the beginning men have looked up at the stars, moon, and sun and wished that God would in some way reveal himself. For years men searched for God.

Finally, Jesus in Galilee was God making himself known to men - the invisible one came out of darkness to show himself to human eyes. When men looked at the stars they saw the wisdom of God; when they looked at the mountains they thought they saw the strength of God; but when they looked upon Jesus they saw - God!

Why do we not look to Jesus to satisfy our longings? Perhaps another question should come before us, how can I maintain this vital connection with God? The answer is plain: By continuing to obey Him whom we have enthroned in our hearts.

Did you know the source of trouble in this life is disobedience. Nearly all the trouble that comes to us in childhood comes from disobedience. A disobedient child has no peace and he will not let anybody around him have any. The trouble that comes in manhood or womanhood comes from disobedience. You disobeyed the laws of health yesterday and today you have a splitting headache. You disobey the laws of business and meet with ruin. You broke one of God's Commandments yesterday, and today your conscience will give you no rest. Why is this? When we disobey we enter into a struggle with a power that is stronger than we are.

If we obey God we shall have peace. I submit this to you as a sure guide for life.

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The ALTAR FLOWERS for Sunday, June 26, will be given by Mr. & Mrs. B. T. Ramsey in loving memory of loved ones.

June 17, 53

Pastor's Pen

Father's Day is filled with new responsibilities and new duties. Psalm 45:16 is full of delight, "Instead of Thy Fathers shall be Thy children." It is a hope of how we are blended together. It is not that we cast aside sacred reverent memories of the past.

But, instead of that which once you relied upon there shall be those that will rely upon you. This is not to take away from us the fathers, and bid us to forget them.

From the stand point of home we go back, and our hearts are touched with tender memories. We remember that once venerable figure. We remember how, when we were children, father stopped to play with us in our infant hours. We remember how he identified with our schoolboy interests, he became our fellow-student in the studies that were too difficult for us; and later, when we began to put our faltering feet upon the high-road of life. We recall how that wisdom with sympathy came to our aid, and how we found in him who bare the name of "father" a trusted friend.

We live under laws which are inevitable. The hour must come when we are obliged to accept the responsibility which the death of those who were dear has thrust upon us. The old die. The young must take their places in life. This is the order of the home. This golden order offers hope to fathers of faith - "Their children shall be made princes in all the earth." V. 16, members of Christ's Kingdom!

June 3, 83
Pastor's Pen

Many hands are busy! From the window of my study at the church is a view of the home where one of our members of years past lived. Judge Q. C. Davis loved that old house. Today the owner is beautifying the exterior. A large number of workmen are busy with their hands.

The New Testament is a window for us to see the busy hands of Jesus.

First, they were creating hands. "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." John 1:3.

Second, they were healing hands. Lepers in his day had to raise their hands and cry "unclean! unclean!" Jesus touched these with His hands and healed.

Third, they were compassionate hands. "I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days and have nothing to eat." Matt. 15:32.

Fourth, they were hands of blessings. "And he took the little children and blessed them." Mark 10:15-16. Any one who will come as a child will be blessed of our Lord.

Fifth, they were suffering hands. The soldiers drove nails through his hands. After the Resurrection the Disciples could see the nail scars in his hands and the place where he had been pierced. Thomas was moved by those scars.

Sixth, they were hands with a personal touch. They were filled with love and offered help to those who hurt. With his hand Jesus brought sight to a blind man.

Seventh, His hands were outstretched to a world in need. He repeats His invitation - put your hand in the nail-scarred hand. Come unto me and I will give you rest.

The Judges old house is looking like new due to the effort of many hands. Your burdened life can be restored by the hands of Jesus.

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May 20, 83

Pastor's Pen

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Many years ago when Europe Crusades were common - they were conducted as military campaigns. Often regarded as holy wars. The Pope in 1095 issued a call to battle against Islam. Many set out to increase their fortunes, but some were tramps and criminals. The Pope's cry, "God wills it", had magic and thousands answered the call. Some were promised pardon for sins if they took part in the war.

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May 13, 83

Pastor's Pen

Mother's Day - Christian Home Week - and Father's Day just around the corner! There was a man with five sons who lived in the Manchester area where William E. Hatcher was minister.

Early one morning there was a violent ring at the door-bell. It was the infidel father. He choked with excitement, "I wish you would go around to my house. My boy, Frank, is sick and has been begging for two or three days that I would come around and get you to come to see him."

The minister went and the mother took him up to the boy's room. He had burning cheeks and was not far from the gate of death. "They tell me", he said, "that I am getting better, but I know I am not. I am getting weaker." Then he said, "I know I will not get well, and I am afraid to die." The minister told him there was a way to get ready to die. The story of God's mercy as brought to us by Jesus the Son. The boy told him that they did not talk about things like that, his father would not allow it. Finally, with peace and the joy of Heaven he took the minister by the hand and said, "I understand, I understand!"

That night Frank told his mother that God would not let him die until he had a chance. He then said, "I expect to die tonight. Wake me up about one o'clock. When two o'clock comes tonight, I expect to go." A little after one, he roused up and begged that she would wake father and brothers. They came in one by one, and he simply bid them good-bye. He told his father, "I found that I could not die your way. I was afraid to go. But found the Saviour and I stopped being afraid." The father and brothers went back upstairs. He told his mother to kiss him good-night and she began to read and continued until the clock struck two. She

* * *

looked up, his hands were clasped on his breast, he moved not. He went at two, as he said he would.

He had a Christian funeral and salvation came to some members of the family, but not to the father. God grant that every Father becomes concerned with his own salvation.

May 6, 83

Pastor's Pen

Home, hotel, or boarding house, which? "And brought him to an inn, and took care of him." Luke 10:34. In the story, this Good Samaritan paying the hotel bill of a man who had been robbed and almost killed by bandits. The accommodations must have been superior. Such places are necessities.

But today we have people living in hotels, boarding houses, town houses, and apartment towers. People have taken to large apartments for more freedom from domestic duties, and more time for social life.

At this point families have begun to disintegrate. There never has been a time when so many families able to support homes of their own, have folded their tent and taken abode in some isolated island of two rooms and a bath. Their address is Room 20, 21, or 24 on some corridor.

Those of us who were brought up in the country know that the old-fashioned hatching of eggs required two to five weeks of brooding. The building industry is turning out housing wholesale. Faster than the growth of chickweed in the garden.

This is a wrong to children. Herding them into small compartments and bringing them up on the streets.

The best thing a young married man can do is buy a house. He may have to put a mortgage on the land, foundation, and roof. This is the beginning of a fortune for him and his household. Give up luxuries and the day will come when he can say, thank God this house is mine! With the coming of Mother's Day, we are reminded again of the Christian home. Whatever your living conditions, be sure Christ is present.

Apr 22, 83

Pastor's Pen

W. H. Auden said this about youth:

"To be young means to be all on edge, to be held waiting in a packed lounge for a personal call from long distance, for the low voice that defines one's future."

A personal call from long distance! I would like to say to every young person, that call has already come through Jesus Christ. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds..." Hebrews 1:1-2.

This call comes across that unbridgeable gulf between creator and creature which God in His love has nevertheless made. God involves Himself in the plight of youth and cares deeply for them. The cross is the measure of that care. His love reaches to the deepest places of human sin.

If young people make the wise choice, the rains and the winds and the floods will not cease. But even though they beat upon the house of his life and the old world may be reeling, he is resting upon a secure foundation. There is nothing that can separate him from the love of God in Christ.

Many youth will admit that they are restless. Restlessness pervades our world. Many try to escape from it, but find it impossible. Dissatisfied with themselves, waiting for a personal call from long distance.

Are you hungry for such a call? God is already on the line, pick up the receiver by faith, and seal your future.



April 25, 83

Pastor's Pen

What do you know about Communism? Perhaps your knowledge is like that of the child who said, "I am unsure about Daylight Saving Time. Maybe you can explain it to me. I can't."

Why not pay attention to some comments concerning Communism.

Lenin: "We have to use any ruse, dodges, tricks, cunning, unlawful method, concealment, and veiling of the truth."

Syghman Rhee: "Communism, Christianity and Democracy cannot co-exist. We do not try to co-exist with cholera."

Dr. Fred C. Schwary, Sidney, Australia: "Godless Communism is a danger so vast and so terrible that it staggers the mind."

Jack Lotto: "The fact is clear that the God-less Communist regime is interested in stamping out all religious belief."

J. Edgar Hoover, F. B. I. Director: "We Americans are face to face with a tyranny more monstrous, more devious, less understood and more deadly than any which has ever threatened civilization heretofore. In recent years, more than six hundred groups and organizations have been designated as Communist front organizations by official Federal, State, and Municipal Agencies."

Abraham Lincoln: "If this country is ever destroyed, it will not be from without, but from within."

Dr. Oswald J. Smith: "There is no freedom in Communism."

You must remember all of these statements were published in a free country, not in Russia. Guard your freedom, make church attendance a habit.

March 11, 83

Pastor's Pen

How are you on giving and receiving advice? Two old men were sitting on a park bench exchanging confidences. One said: "My trouble is I would never take advice from anybody." The other said: "My trouble is I took everybody's advice."

It was a comical situation when the disciples made some suggestions to Jesus, Matthew 14:15. They came to him with a bright idea. They were benevolent happy men and had measured their resources. It was evening, and everyone was tired. Hear them speak, "Send the multitudes away into the villages that they may buy themselves victuals."

Another time their advice about little children, "Send them away" and Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me."

Why did they offer this advice? Jesus knows when the sun is going down and when there is hunger. Jesus said, "They need not depart - give ye them to eat." Send them to "buy themselves victuals". No, they need not depart!

Folks do not need to go out of the church for anything that is really good. Is there bread in the church? There is bread enough and to spare.

What do you need, you will find it in the church. It is false to think that the church is narrow or a dwarf, or that it cannot feed the needs of men.

Where are our hosts of young people now? We have sent them into the village to buy bread. We were only too glad to get rid of them.

Jesus never sent them away. The church can supply all the necessities. The church never knows how much she can give until she begins to give. Jesus said "Ye need not depart, I will give you life sustaining food."

Invite everyone to come into the church and be fed.

April 1, 83

Pastor's Pen

The mystery of a watermelon seed! William Jennings Bryan once said, "I am not much of a farmer as some people claim, but I have observed the watermelon seed. It has the power of drawing from the ground and through itself 200,000 times its weight. When you tell me how it takes this material and out of it colors an outside surface beyond the imitation of art, and then forms inside of it a white rind and within again, a red heart, thickly inlaid with black seeds, each of which in turn is capable of drawing through itself 200,000 times its weight - When you can explain to me the mystery of the watermelon, you can ask me to explain the mystery of God."

In Matthew 14 it says, "At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Jesus, and he said unto his servants, this is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead..." The mystery of the resurrection!

Some feel that Herod was a Sadducee. We know that the Sadducees said that there is no resurrection. Herod felt the pressure of the eternal law of righteousness. There was a sermon he could not forget. John the Baptist had stood before him as an ancient prophet. Herod had a bad heart. "It is not lawful for thee to have Herodias as thy wife." Who would dare to interfere with such a thing.

John lost his head and the disciples took up his body and buried it. For their troubled hope "they went and told Jesus."

Later when Herod heard of the fame of Jesus he thought John the Baptist had been raised from the dead. You would have thought his name had been forgotten. But there was the recording angel dogging his steps

with an accursed memory.

We can say to Herod, not only will John the Baptist have a resurrection, but because of Jesus the first fruits, we shall all likewise rise from the dust. Thank God for that hope!

May 7, 82

Pastor's Pen

Mother's Day is coming into view again. It is a time when we think about Christianity and the home.

A Christian lady said, "we ought to practice self-denial in the home." And as she raised her arms, twenty-five thousand dollars worth of diamonds flashed on them.

Everyone should be honest with God. A man was employed to build a house. He cheated - worked in bad materials, etc. When finished, he brought the key to the owner - when to his surprise and chagrin, the owner handed him back the key and said, "I had that house built for you." He had cheated himself. I want to suggest to you young woman, look for a man that is of some account. The sheriff came to a home to levy on some of the stuff to satisfy a claim. He explained to the lady of the house the situation and kindly asked what she could part with best. "Well, levy on my husband," she said, "he's the most no-account thing here."

Mothers have a serious task as home-makers. Their work is immortal. Every true man worth his salt wants to sing the song "Home, Sweet Home".

A man should never forget his mother. Lincoln when elected as President said, "I must go and tell the dear little woman." Our Lord and Saviour never forgot his mother: No, not even when hanging on Calvary's cross.

April 30, 82

Pastor's Pen

"A Promise of Peace". What will you give for the gift of peace? On April 25, 1982, Israel returned to Egypt everything it won in the six day war. The entire Sinai including military airfields, bases, and facilities built by Israel estimated to be worth ten billion dollars. Also, oilfields, fully developed by Israel which have more than fulfilled Israel's on-going oil requirements - worth five billion dollars. Plus roads and settlements which had to be dismantled and its citizens relocated. At a cost of over two billion dollars. The Sinai alone, which Israel returned, is 24,000 square miles, or three times the size of modern day Israel itself. Israel has made this total gift with the hope of living in peace with Egypt.

Israel has given up much for the price of peace. This is what is required of everyone in relation to God - total enlistment! This is because only God can rightfully claim all that we are or ever hope to be.

Total enlistment in the context of the Bible, does not begin with the stress upon what we do; it begins with the marvelous emphasis upon what God has done to claim our complete devotion to Him. Therefore, it is nothing less than our proper response to God because He alone has the right to be our commander.

Total enlistment does not mean something extra for God. It means giving to God what is due him. I John 4:19.

It is sad, but some settle for one half enlistment! When you consider the two great problems of life - sin and death, only God can deal with these. Peace can be found in total enlistment.



April 2, 82

Pastor's Pen

Palm Sunday, a day of recognition. This triumphal procession Luke tells us was also a sad experience. As our Lord came within view of the Holy City, shining in its beauty below Him, glorious with its memories of a resplendent past, he wept at the sight, and broke in lamentations.

Does he not do the same as he stands and looks down upon Chesapeake, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, great cities of our day. Does he not say, "If Thou hadst known in this day, even Thou, the things which belong unto peace!" If men could see him standing there, would they turn from their money getting and their pursuit of pleasure? I believe they could see him if they would.

A woman in India had learned that she was a sinner, and that God is holy and cannot pass by sin. She often said, "I need some great prince to stand between my soul and God." After a while she heard that the Bible contained the account of a Saviour who had died for sinners. So she asked a teacher to read the Bible to her. The teacher began at the first chapter of Matthew, and as he read the list of names in the genealogy of Christ, the woman thought, "what a wonderful Prince this Jesus must be to have such a long line of ancestors." And when the teacher read, "Thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins," the woman exclaimed, "Ah, this is the Prince I want! This is the Prince I want! The Prince who is also a Saviour!"

This is the Prince we want - this is the Prince we need! Palm Sunday prefigures all of history, Jesus makes his triumphal entry. Will you express your "Hosanna"? Mark 11:9.



March 5, 82

Pastor's Pen

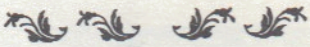
Why is it we have buildings round about set apart as churches? Into these buildings men have found hope and offered prayer and worshipped. Men have found that God cares for them.

But, what happens when men believe that God was the redeemer of their forefathers, and that he does not care for them! They become weak, divided, superstitious, and bow down to work of their own hands. They trample upon and have despised the house of the living God.

That goodly building has fallen because they were insincere and heartless. They now are worshipping their gold and other things that are dearer than all in Heaven and earth. Therefore, they do not give much thought to an unseen God. They have become more covetous. Religion does not unite them, they spend time quarrelling with each other and divide up into parties and lose their strength to do right.

We are in need now of the Galilean walking into the building and saying "Take these things hence - this is my Father's house". John 2:16. "My Father's house", think how these words must have sounded in the ears of those assembled there! He had come to redeem them from the service of the world and of their own lusts, and keep that house as a testimony to God.

My brethren, the church was consecrated, or set apart from ordinary houses. It is a blessed place and binds our holy memories of trials, sorrows, and joys together. Family relations and affections blend in this fellowship. I believe the church is necessary to you and should have your affection. "I love Thy church, O God! Her walk before Thee stand", so voiced the hymn writer.



Feb. 26, 1982

Pastor's Pen

How long have you been around? Some of you are further behind than your fathers. Have you kept up pace in the moral and Spiritual fields. Any one can see we are far behind in this area. As Dr. Earl Waldrop said, "Time has collapsed on us." It is later than we think or believe.

The tempo of life, as it relates to speed. In the days of Nero, man could travel only as fast as a horse could run, or row a boat. This remained static for centuries.

In 1830 man invented the iron horse and he could travel faster than a horse. In 1910, military aircraft traveled at forty-two miles per hour. Henry Ford made his contribution and put man on wheels in the Model T, some what faster than a horse, not much, but with a little more comfort. In 1918, at the end of World War I, man could travel at speeds of more than one hundred fifty miles per hour. Another great leap was made by 1939, with the beginning of World War II, speeds of more than two hundred miles per hour were attained. By 1945, the end of the War, man could travel four hundred and seventy miles per hour. In 1948, man broke the sound barrier. In 1956 man reached a speed of one thousand six hundred miles per hour, and then in 1960, a man traveled at the unheard of speed of eighteen thousand miles per hour.

In 1982, we have entered the space age and we continue to increase our rate of speed, leaving the horse behind in the dust. Time has collapsed on us, the horse and buggy days are past.

The real question is, have we made as much progress in religion? Have we kept pace with God? We all admit God leads and we follow, how far behind are we? I fear many are running wild

in worldly things, Satan has us in a "rat race" of corruption. Psa. 102:2.

Feb 5, 82

Pastor's Pen

100,000 Miles appeared on the speedometer of my little chariot on January 28, 1982!

I was on my way to make a visit when I happened to look down and see a string of ninety fold rolling by on the dash. My first impression was to kiss her between the eyes, but decided to pat her gently and say thanks for so many safe miles! This vehicle really likes to go, in fact due to the cheap gas she consumes when you turn the key off, she continues to cluck.

No doubt about it, she is not getting any younger, and getting old happens fast. I read something the other day on the subject of growing older. It went like this, "Everything hurts. And what does not hurt, does not work. Your little black book contains only names ending in MD. You finally reach the top of the ladder, and you find it leaning against the wrong wall. You look forward to a dull evening. You sit in a rocking chair and cannot get it going. Your knees buckle and your belt will not. Your back goes out more than you do. The little gray-haired lady you help across the street is your wife. You see a pretty girl go by, and your pacemaker makes the garage door go up."

My little chariot has never had the advantage of a garage. Most of her life has been spent as Nahum 2:4 describes "The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: They shall run like the lightnings." 2 Kings 9:20 puts a little more flavor speaking of Jehu "For he driveth furiously". When you head your car into the traffic jams of today, brother, you can't "coast"! The human body changes, it is said, every seven years. I plan to ask Kenneth Lindell if he will take my chariot into his auto

shop and give her a drink from the fountain of youth!

Oct 23, 81

Pastor's Pen

Do you want to learn? I hope that you are not one of those characters who are untouchable. Dr. A. T. Robertson was walking across the campus at the Seminary. James Porch joined him along the way. Robertson said, "I have just finished reading the Greek New Testament for the thirtieth time. Porch asked, "Is there anything left for you to learn?" Robertson replied, "I never read for five minutes that I do not find something new."

Seamen tells us that the greatest thing they fear on the high seas is a ship without a crew. The ship drifting, without compass, chart, rudder, or port. Attitudes guide us in our motivations. Man needs to keep on learning or he is likely to discover his life drifting without a port.

Jesus sets the example for us as he lingered apart from the family in the Temple. Not only was he in the Temple, but he was in the midst of the teachers. He was in a huddle with the Rabbis, observing and learning about his mission in life. In later years it was his custom to meet in the places of worship and discuss religion.

This is a great calling and challenge to every individual - assemble in the local church and learn more about their mission in life.

Jesus used an interesting word - yoke. The Greek meaning as used by Jesus has this meaning: "To take the yoke of learning." You become an apprentice. As you follow a teacher you take his ways. Jesus is saying, "If you will learn to live as I live, believe as I believe, you will find life to be happy, rich, and easy."

Never cease to learn. The Pastor asked a six-year-old girl who came to profess Christ - "Have you had an experience with Jesus?" She replied in simple faith, "I do not know. I only

know Jesus said, 'come unto me', and I believe Him and I have come."

Jan 29, 82.

Pastor's Pen

Erasmus, long years ago wrote about being a school teacher: "is next to being a King. Do you count it a mean employment to imbue the minds of your fellow citizens in their earnest years with the best literature and with the love of Christ, and to return them to their country honest and virtuous men?"

The young people today of our schools face a confused world. Our times have been referred to by various names, such as the atomic age, or the age of chaos, the age of frustration, the age of political change, or even the age of anxiety. Whatever name we use to label the one in which we live, we know that mankind desperately needs saving.

Many youth have lost insensitivity to their personal needs and fall for temptations to waste their talents. Moral laxity confront them at every turn.

Christianity is often misunderstood and in some cases misapplied. Religion may appear too demanding, with unreal restrictions on one hand, and unrelated to present problems on the other. In the early church there was a group known as the Judaizers. They insisted that before a person could become a Christian, he must become a Jew. In the book of Galatians, Paul dynamited that idea and blew it to smithereens. Faith is the thing that saves!

The young person is trying to find himself and be a person in his own right. Christianity can be a great help. It will take the intellectual prowers of an Erasmus, plus the tongues of men and angels, to do the job.

If young people are to be returned to their country honest and virtuous men, every body must share the load. It is certain we cannot lead others where we ourselves have not been. We

cannot produce in others what we ourselves have not achieved.

Jan 15, 82 -

Pastor's Pen

may be glad also with exceeding joy." I Peter 4:13.

In my sermon on Sunday evening I referred the ministry of suffering. I used some facts Dr. Pentecost revealed in The Religious Herald concerning L. D. Johnson. The whole tone of Dr. Johnson's life sounded like that of Job.

"Born in Oklahoma, his father died the month he was two and his mother one year later. He and his two brothers - three little stairsteps two, four, and five" - were taken into a home of his grandparents and raised by them. At the time they were seventy and sixty-five.

While a teenager, death claimed both grandparents and his older brother.

Richard, L. D.'s son, died at four and a half.

L. D.'s daughter, Carole, was killed in an automobile accident on December 21, 1962, the day following her 23rd Birthday, while traveling to Greenville, S. C. to spend Christmas with her family.

In a sermon on death, Dr. Johnson spoke of Jesus being Lord of life and death. In the final paragraph of that sermon he used the expression of gratitude "God can be trusted."

Many people suffer but endure by the power of His might. I read of a man who said, he came to a better appreciation of the place and ministry of suffering, as a means of preparing him for better Christian living, when he heard another man pray, "Lord, don't send only sunshine or our lives will be a desert. Send us some storms that we might be strong." Prosperity will often be the down fall of many, but when you endure the times of depressions strength comes. Suffering saints often tell me of blessings received.

"But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall be revealed, ye

Jan 8, 82

Pastor's Pen

A most unusual New Year's Eve Service! To be honest, it was like the man compelled to go the second mile. I hadn't planned to attend, and by the way my organist nor music man showed up!

Anyway, I was on my knees as the New Year arrived and my picture was made to prove it. The Police of Chesapeake are a fine group of men and several of them visited the church as 1982 dawned. They had taken in tow a twenty-three year old would be robber of the church. I hope he becomes a reformed thief!

This reminds me of a story told by Bob Terrell. Writer for The Asheville Citizen-Times. A Negro lady tried to lift a shopping bag from a customer in a local store. "Early Friday morning two women in Canton prepared to come shopping in Asheville. As they backed the car out, their car ran over a neighbor's cat, and killed it.

In a hurry, they decided to conceal the cat's death. At least temporarily! They decided to stuff the body into a shopping bag and throw it in a revine. As women will, they began to talk, and as they pulled into the parking lot, the victim was still in the bag on the back seat.

They decided the best way out of the dilemma would be to stuff the carcass into a trash receptacle on the street. But there stood a policeman by the garbage can. The women hurried on, still clutching the shopping bag as they entered a downtown store.

Again, as women will, they began to examine a pair of gloves and soon the cat was forgotten. The woman carrying the cat set the bag down beside her and centered her attention on the merchandise.

That's where fate stepped in - in the form of a stoutly built woman looking for a soft touch. As she walked past the shopper, the woman dipped at the knees, and in smooth motion, hooked the shopping bag and headed for the door.

Safely outside, the thief stopped in a crowd - and peeked inside the bag to see what prize she had captured.

At first it looked like a fur piece. Small, maybe, but furry.

She looked closer. It was a cat! No doubt about it, it was a cat! And it was a dead cat at that!

She fainted. Just like that, she hit the sidewalk, flat on her back. People worked over her, and brought her out of the haze. She looked about, wild-eyed.

"My stealin' days is done," she shouted. "I'll never steal nothin' else." And she bolted down the street and was lost in the crowd.

New Year's wish - Lord, grant conviction and reform to our church thief.

Dec 24, 1981

Pastor's Pen

Jesus and you is what Christmas is all about. Bruce Barton wrote a book, "The man nobody knows." Do you know the Incarnate Son of God?

His Birthday is celebrated around the world and his death has changed people in every walk of life. His resurrection has given to man a new future and his Holy Spirit has given man a new nature.

Jesus changes things. He can and will if permitted change some things in your life.

Think for a moment about some of the changes on record. Mary and Joseph, two nobodies were changed into world renowned figures. A common feed manger was changed into a baby bed in the city of "bread". A group of sleeping shepherds were changed into evangelists of good tidings. Wise men changed their direction of travel returning home. He changed a trip to Jerusalem at the age of twelve into a course in religion for the intellectuals of His day. He changed men of fish into fishers of men; He changed a tax collector into a writer of truth. He changed water into wine, changed a storm into calm, and hunger into satisfaction. Bless His name he changed despair into delight, blindness into sight, lameness into leaping, funerals into celebrations, and sinners into saints.

He can change you! His own death became everlasting life and His bodily absence became His spiritual presence. And He is ready to change you and me.

Jesus is God in flesh, the Great Shepherd, the Light, the Bread of Life, the Living Water, the Resurrection and the Life, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

He made the trip Christmas to change you.



Dec 18, 81

Pastor's Pen

"I'm glad it is over with," is often a remark folks make about Christmas! They have hustled and hurried through the season to the extent that they are glad to get it over with.

If this is your case, you have missed the most joyous season of the whole year. Shopping, parties, cooking, and a mountain of things, have caused you to rush past the spirit of Christmas. Be glad that Jesus came, rededicate your life anew in his service.

Joe Ingram wrote a note about "Satchel" Paige, a black baseball pitcher. I think what he said, has some bearing on how to enjoy the Christmas Season. The whole philosophy of the pitching great is most interesting. He gave six rules for good physical and mental health.

First, "avoid fried meats which angry up the blood.

Second, if your stomach disputes you, lie down and pacify it with cool thoughts.

Third, keep your juices flowing by jangling around gently as you move. (Hanging loose prevents back and neck aches.)

Fourth, go very light on vices such as carrying on in society. The social rumble ain't restful.

Fifth, avoid running at all times. Don't hurry about with unnecessary job pressures just to be hurrying.

Sixth, don't look back. Something may be gaining on you. Unnecessary worry is always preoccupied with the past."

Some of his rules are on the lighter side of life. As the clerk said to the customer: "So you are looking for a gift for the woman who has everything? Why not get her this calendar which will remind her when the payments are due!" Beloved, let us not get caught up in this swapping and trading of

gifts. May the joy of Bethlehem become a coveted one in your heart - it will last all year.

Dec 11, 1981

Pastor's Pen

"I Thinkism", is the affliction of many. Are you suffering from that disease?

You may or may not know about this modern problem in the church.

It works like this, when you hear the word of God read or preached, you respond that you know what the Bible says is so, then you add, "But I think . . ."

Human nature is strange. A man can read in the Bible about how he ought to live, give, and serve. Then turn right around and say, "but I think." God has planned out a way for a man to live, a way for him to have fellowship, a way for him to use his talents, and a way for him to get to Heaven. Yet, a man will insist on having a better way to do things.

The church belongs to God, Jesus is the head, and the Holy Spirit is the guide. In the face of Bible truth some Christians practice "I Thinkism" on the church. They know better how to run the church! They never stop to pray and beseech the head of the church to be Lord! Brethern, the church is bigger than man and we ought never assume the church can prosper by "I Thinkism".

This can be dangerous to an individual. Naaman (2 Kings 5:11) almost missed being healed by this philosophy. Faced with word from Elisha the man of God, Naaman was upset and said, "Behold, I thought". The great military man wanted to add his own two cents. The prophets message may be the word of God, but "I Thinkism" has a better method.

The end of the story is good. Because Naaman repented and surrendered himself to follow God's Word. One last word for you. When it comes to your personal life, your church, and your home, don't depend upon "I Thinkism".

Dec 4, 81

Pastor's Pen

"A wild bull in a net" is the way Isaiah 51:20 referred to the tragic conditions in Israel. Sin and idolatry had left them powerless.

What a picture — a wild bull, the symbol of strength. He has massive shoulders; he shakes his rugged head; see his flaming eyes; watch him as he paws the earth; behold his switching tail. He is now making a charge and nothing can withstand his onward push. Everything and everybody gets out of his path. Irresistible! But a wild bull in a net, tied with small string becomes powerless, how pathetic!

But there is something more tragic than that. Here is a young man with education, with health, and with great physical strength. But he is in a net. He is fettered by habits of evil and bound by chords of a besetting sin.

Here is a young woman with all the charm and grace of young womanhood. She has placed her life at the feet of Jesus. Magnificent! On the other hand, we see another young woman "in a net", tied by cords of fashion, bound by some sinful habit as a slave.

Satan is skilled in the use of the net. He puts the unconverted asleep and flings his net over the converted. Satan may get you gradually or suddenly. His goal is entanglement. Samson was gradually encircled in the net of sin. David was caught in the net by sudden temptation. Demas having loved this present world departed the service of God.

Some are caught in the net, like Judas and never get free.

Do you have a besetting sin? There are several ways of trying to escape. Some may say I'm beaten and there is no victory. Then there are those who try by self-effort, using the scissors of good resolution, cutting a bit of cord here and there. No matter how much

you try or struggle, you will never do it by that means. The Gospel has a provision for you through the Lordship of Christ. "He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the captive free."

Nov. 27, 81

Pastor's Pen

will bless us all. Psalm 100.

How long is 100 years? We bid farewell to brother Roland C. Lynch last Monday. His life measured several months beyond that monumental figure in time.

I remember the first meeting with this prince of a man some thirty-four years ago. I stopped by his store and sat by an old stove for a chat. He began to relate some facts about the family. His wife was not living, however, "he praiseth her". Proverbs 31:28. I had never heard a man give such honor to his wife! He spoke of her business ability and willingness to labor keeping the affairs of home in order. Also, he spent some time giving the facts about each of the children. He spoke of jobs during hard times and how different friends had helped him to get on his feet in business. Our conversation ranged far and wide. With a twinkle in his eye he spent some time telling about his mother being a wonderful cook.

I never talked to a man with so much thanksgiving in his heart. He had nothing but praise for his Creator, family, and friends. Mr. Lynch demonstrated his appreciation to God with his service to the church. Serving as Trustee, as a Deacon, a regular in attendance at worship. I might also state that he was an excellent judge of a sermon. He spoke of great preachers and preaching with a discerning spirit.

Mr. Lynch reminded me of a woman who kept a diary which she called her "Pleasure Book". Every day she wrote about the nice things that had happened to her. In times of need or distress she had but to look back to remember all the wonderful things that had happened. She had mastered the fine art of being thankful.

Thank you brother Lynch for your greatness in Thanksgiving, the lesson