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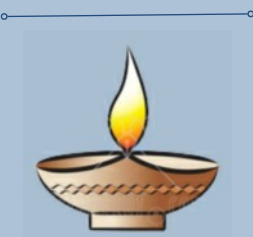
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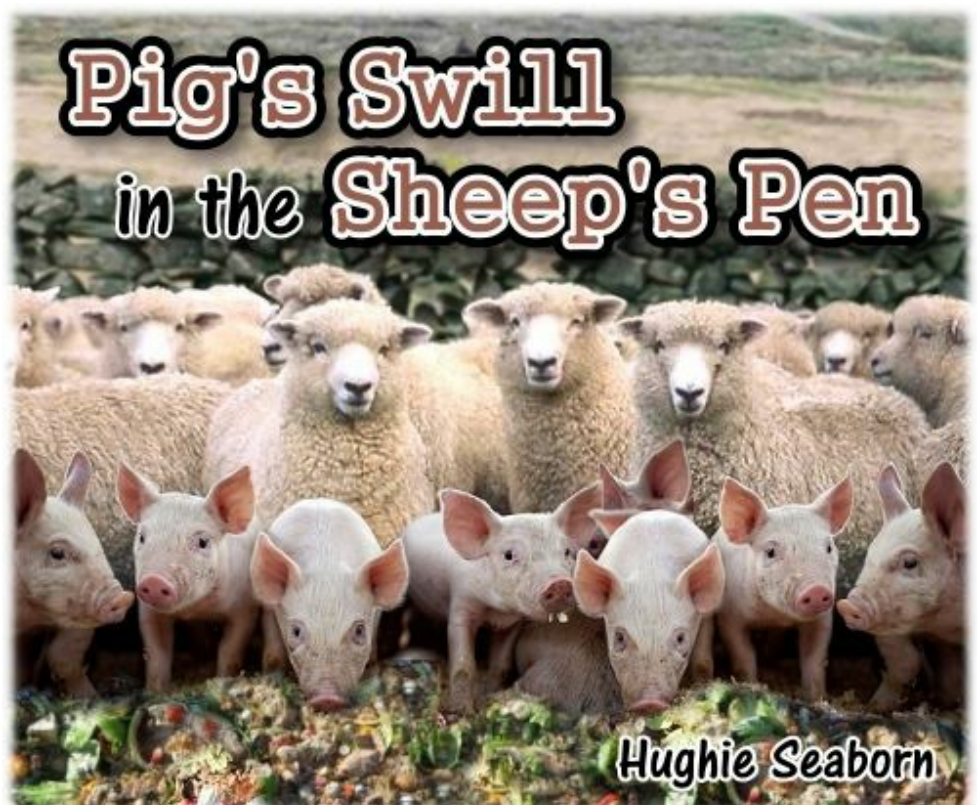


"But the path of the just is as the shining light,  
that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."  
Proverbs 4:18

## **Heads Up!**

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FEATURE ARTICLE - PIG'S SWILL IN THE SHEEP'S PEN - *by Hughie Seaborn*



Back when I was a lad, it was common for local pig farmers to drive around in our city in their trucks, usually under the cover of darkness, collecting left over food scraps from hotel kitchens, restaurants, cafes, bakeries, milk factories, etc. On the back of their trucks they carried a couple of evil smelling, empty 44s (200 litre drums) with the tops cut out of them, which they used as containers to collect any kind of food, from any source, that was considered unfit for human consumption.

This was then taken back to their pig farms and fed to their pigs. ***It was called Pig's Swill.***

I enjoyed watching what happened back at the farm when the pig farmer emptied the rotting, stinking swill into the feeding troughs. The pigs wallowed in it, and hogged it down like they hadn't been fed for a whole week. If you didn't know better, the way pigs react to Pig's Swill, you would probably think it is the most delicious, and most wholesome food in the whole world.

But friends, pigs are not a very good example of any creature that should be consulted on the subject of food quality. Just because of their very animated and noisy display while eating, doesn't mean pigs are experts in regard to public health and safety, not to mention good table manners. In fact, Pig's Swill is usually unable to be safely consumed by practically any other creature on the face of the planet, without becoming violently ill, but pigs enjoy it with total immunity. As a human, Pig's Swill will give you a fatal dose of food poisoning pretty shortly after you take the first mouthful.

Perhaps I should point out that it is now illegal, in most developed countries of the world, to feed swill to pigs that are bred for human consumption.

### FEEDING THE FLOCK OF GOD

*Acts 20:28-31. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."*

*1 Peter 5:1-2. "The elders which are among you I exhort...feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind."*

There are a number of important truths that can be gleaned from Acts Chapter 20, regarding both the quality and source of the spiritual food that is being dished up for Christian consumption in contemporary Christendom. The chapter also instructs us what we, both Shepherd and sheep, must do, to ensure that we are being nourished with wholesome Sheep's Fodder and not poisonous Pig's Swill.

### PASTORAL AUTHORITY

**Firstly**, I want to bring our attention to just how far the contemporary church has moved from Scripture in regards to Church authority. Church authority, or Pastoral authority, is clearly taught all through the Book of Acts, and the modern church's disregard for it, I think, can easily be demonstrated.

In verses 17 and 18 of Acts Chapter 20, we read about the Apostle Paul, that he has come ashore at Miletus after an extended missionary journey, and that *"...from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. And*

*when they were come to him..."* he gave them a number of instructions that we will look at, in a bit more detail, as we progress.

If you take a look at a map of that area, you will find that Ephesus is a fair way north of Miletus. The distance between Ephesus and Miletus by land, taking into consideration that there is a large bay separating the two cities, is about 60 kilometres.

Scripture illustrates that the church Elders at Ephesus recognised Paul's pastoral authority over them. They recognised it enough, so that Scripture records the words in verse 18, *"And when they were come to him..."* They came to him!!!

The modern church member's response, in regard to pastoral authority, is different today than what it appears to have been, back in the day when Paul sent for these Ephesian church elders.

How would we respond today if we were presented with the same situation? Would we respond as the Ephesian elders did? I think I'd probably struggle with that, especially if I had to walk, or ride a donkey that distance.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MESSAGE

**Secondly**, we need to recognise that the message that Paul had delivered to the Ephesian elders must have been very important. Important enough for him to presume that the Ephesian elders would actually do what he asked them to do – that is, take a long journey over land, or by sea, and come to meet with him.

When they arrived, verses 17 through to 27 of Acts 20 reveal that Paul spent most of his time reminiscing about the past, reminding the Ephesian Elders about his Christian relationship with them, about all that they had experienced together, and also about his ministry as an Apostle among them. From verse 28 and through to verse 31, however, Paul changes from speaking about past events to speaking about future events.

Paul's message was of immense importance initially to the Elders of the fledgling churches, but they were recorded in Scripture for the benefit of, not only past church leaders and their congregations, but also for those throughout the entire church age.

These verses of scripture in the Books of Acts and 1 Peter also have serious implications for us who live in the perilous closing days of the church age, but unfortunately, most Christians, even Independent Baptist ones, completely miss a couple of grave issues that are addressed here.



Paul tells the assembled Elders, *"Take heed!"* Beware! There is a serious issue being addressed. And it is addressed not only to the sheep in their care, but also to the Elders themselves. Firstly they are to take heed unto themselves, *and then* they are to take heed to the flock, over which the Holy Ghost has made them overseers.

The church leaders are just as much, if not more, exposed to the dangers Paul is going to describe in the following verses, as are the people that God has entrusted into their pastoral care. *The spiritual security of God's lambs is only as secure as the spiritual vigilance of His Shepherds.*

*Zechariah 13:7* warns that if you *"...smite the shepherd...the sheep shall be scattered."* The Devil knows that truth, and he's aggressively smiting a multitude of Shepherds in our day – with disastrous consequences for the sheep.

The Pastors of the churches have a responsibility to be vigilant, sober and alert to the dangers that are surrounding the sheep's pastures on all sides, firstly on behalf of themselves, and then on behalf of the Lord's flocks that have been entrusted into their care.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FLOCK

The protection and nourishment of the Lord's sheep is a serious responsibility that has been delegated to the Elders, or the Pastors of the Church. The sheep are precious in God's sight, and their protection is vitally important to Him. How important? In verse 28 of Acts 20 the Shepherds are commanded to *"...feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."*

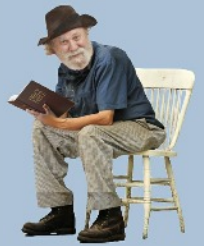
Don't read the words and miss the message of what is being said in this verse. This isn't saying that the Shepherds are to *"...feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with Jesus' blood."* Nor is it saying to *"...feed the church of Christ, which he hath purchased with his own blood,"* even though both those statements would be true. No! God worded it this way. The Shepherds are to feed the church of God, which God Himself has purchased with His own blood. It's God's own blood that purchased our redemption!!!

There is a bit of theological controversy regarding the translation of this particular verse of Scripture – whether it should read the *"church of the Lord,"* or whether it should read *"the blood of His own Son."* But one of my commentaries says it this way: *"This passage must be allowed as an incontestable proof, that the blood of Christ is here called the blood of God, as being the blood of that Man, who is God with us,—God manifested in the flesh."*

In my way of thinking, understanding the truth that it was God's own blood that was shed for our sins, should have some effect upon how we view the seriousness of the rest of what Paul had to say *to* – and also what he had to say *about* – the elders from the church at Ephesus.

### DEACON TRUE SEZ -

Us deacons met with the Preacher last Satidy mornin' to do some planning for the Camp Meetings comin' up in October. We wuz sittin' aroun' a table in the kitchen at church drinkin' coffee, with the preacher writin' down all our idears when we heard the front door of the church make that squeakin' noise it makes when somebody jerks it open real fast. Then we heard them steppin' out mighty fast on their way to the preacher's office, "clackety, clack, clack."



The preacher looked up and rolled his eyes. Junior Hawkins said, "Sounds like trouble, preacher." He nodded his head and said, "Sounds like Betty Appel. Back in a minute," and he went to investigate. We didn't hear what wuz said, but we heard her "clackety, clackin' " her way out the door. Before he could get back to us we heard her comin' in the door again and down the aisle. It only took 30 seconds or so and she was on her way out again.

She didn't get real far down the aisle that time before she was comin' back down again, and then she left at a pretty good rate of knots, but this time she didn't have as much "clackety, clack" in her heels.

When he finally wandered back in the preacher looked like the family cat that just swallowed a turkey gobbler, so old Ezra said, "Preacher, you know we always back you up. I reckon we got a right to know what wuz said in that little sashay with Miz Appel. You know we're plenty tight lipped and can keep a secret. Come on, spill the beans."

"Awright, but you're sworn to secrecy on penalty of losin' your fishin' licenses if you tell."

We all leaned in close so's he could tell us on the QT.

He said, "Miz Appel wuz real upset with Elvirey for playin' Amazing Grace too fast on Sunday mornin', and for wearing the same hat she planned to wear next Easter, and for ever'body likin' Elvirey's cherry pie better than hers, and a few other real important things like that. And she wanted to know what I was goin' to do about it."

I asked, "What did you tell her?"

Preacher said, "I told her we are goin' to lay the Bible right on it, and she headed out the door."

"But we heard her come back in again twicet more."

"Yep, the first time she wanted to know what I meant by 'layin' the Bible right on it' and I told her we would lay 1 Thess. 4:11 on it. She nodded her head and started out the door, and then came back to ask what that verse said.

I told her it said, 'And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;' "

Well, we all had a good chuckle and decided we'd have to memorize that verse, just in case Miz Appel ever decided to unload on any of us.

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## WHO FEEDS THE FLOCK?

Both Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5:2 command that the Elders, or Pastors, are “to feed” the church, or the flock of God. Something here in this important instruction to Church Pastors, and to church members, is also generally misunderstood, or resisted, by many Christians today.

The word feed actually relates to the pastoral care that a Shepherd exercises over his flock of sheep. To feed the flock applies not only to the act of *feeding* the flock with suitable nourishment, but it also applies to *protecting*, *guiding*, and *guarding* it. It relates not only to the Pastor’s duty of *properly instructing* his congregation in the Word of God, but also of *governing* the church, and also of *securing* it from its enemies.

What God is saying here is that He’s got a vested interest in these sheep. After all, He’s purchased them with His very own blood. And He’s not about to jeopardise His highly valuable, purchased possession, by entrusting them to Shepherds who are a bit blasé about the sheep’s spiritual value and security.

Strict instructions, directly from the mouth of God, demand that the Shepherds are to feed His sheep. Each Shepherd is responsible for feeding the sheep in his particular sheep fold. Or, let’s put it another way. Each Pastor is commissioned, by God, with the task to feed the congregation of his particular local church. And each Pastor is instructed regarding what food he is to feed God’s sheep. As well as that, the Pastor is instructed what he is to protect his congregation against eating.

As stated previously, today we have a serious problem in Christendom regarding the quality of some of the food that is being fed to God’s sheep. Anyone with even a basic knowledge of Scripture knows that. But it’s not just the quality of the food that is a problem. In my way of thinking, a worse problem is the source of the food.

According to Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5:2, the solemn responsibility to feed God’s sheep falls to the Pastor of the Local Church. Who else has been given authority to feed the flock of God which He purchased with His very own blood?

Is there anywhere in Scripture where it is stated that this serious task can be delegated to anyone else? Well, yes there is! But it has to be under the oversight of the Shepherd – the Pastor.

In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul instructed young Pastor Timothy to train up men in the Word, and those who were properly grounded in the Scriptures, and who demonstrated that they understood the spiritual truths of what they had

learned from Timothy, and who were faithful to that truth, and to serving in the church, could, according to this Scripture, be delegated to teaching also.

Paul said, “...*the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*”

If that were not the case, then the church would have no one but the pastor teaching and preaching from the pulpit. We wouldn’t have Sunday School teachers teaching our children either. The Pastor would have to do it all himself. Never the less, the delegation of teaching and preaching responsibilities in a local church should be under the oversight of the Shepherd, into whose care God has entrusted His flock of precious lambs.

And this is where we see a great evil happening in the Church in our day. *The Pastor no longer has any control over what his congregation is being fed, nor over where the food is coming from.*

## PIG FARMERS FEEDING GOD’S LAMBS

It’s the Shepherd’s God-given role to feed God’s sheep, as well as to determine what they’re being fed, but his authority is being usurped by pig farmers who insist that he needs their help to feed them. These impostors also insist that he needs their help in choosing what to feed God’s sheep, and also when to feed it to them.

In some churches, even Independent Baptist ones, the Shepherds are clearly at fault, but in many others, they are not. Not entirely anyway. Providing the Shepherd knows the difference between wholesome Sheep’s Food and poisonous Pig’s Swill (if he doesn’t, he’s not yet ready to be a Shepherd) and providing he is warning God’s flock not to carelessly consume food that hasn’t been provided, or at least scrutinised by him, then the fault really lies in two other places.

1. The fault lies with the pig farmers who are chucking their unsolicited Pig’s Swill over the fence into the Sheep’s Pen, and,
2. The fault lies with the sheep who are all too willing to quickly and recklessly hog into Pig’s Swill as soon as it lands in the Sheep’s Pen.

Our opening Scriptures actually identify the source of the problem, and why it is that God gave Shepherds the oversight of His flock. They also instruct exactly what food the Shepherds are to feed His sheep.

Reading on in [Acts Chapter 20](#) we see that Paul warned, “*For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of*

*your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."*

God has not been caught by surprise that the Church Age is plagued by false teachers and seducers who are used as instruments of Satan to draw away His sheep from the safety of the Shepherd and the Sheep's Pen. God knew beforehand about our particular time in history. He has warned us – we who belong to the Church at the end of the age – that these pig farmers, these servants of Satan, will appear on the scene as angels of light to deceive God's Shepherds, and also His sheep. And true to His Word, if you have eyes to see, you will see these impostors – these pig farmers – everywhere.

Paul closes off this warning in Acts 20 with the words recorded in verse 31. *"Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."* This impending threat of pig farmers gaining easy access to God's flock of sheep, feeding them Pig's Swill, was of such seriousness to Paul – and to God – that it caused the Apostle to actually shed tears about it, night and day.

And the terrible thing is that, even though he gave the warning, Paul knew full well that it was still going to happen. "I know – I know, he said – I know that after I depart, this is what's going to happen." And it won't be the unchurched that will be the problem. It will be through professing Christians that Pig's Swill will be introduced into the sheep's diet. It will be pig farmers in Shepherd's clothing!!!

But it doesn't have to happen in our own particular Sheep's Pen, my friends. Not if we've got Shepherds who take Paul's warnings seriously. Not if we've got Pastors who teach their congregations the difference between Sheep's Fodder and Pig's Swill. And also, not if we've got Pastors who are wise and bold enough to stand against the continuous appeals to become members of the local Pig Farmers Network, or Fraternal.

### **WHOLESOME FODDER OR POISONOUS SWILL?**

So, what is the food that God has provided for the Shepherd to feed His flock? How can we tell the difference between good Sheep's Fodder and poisonous Pig's Swill?

Even if there was nowhere else in all of Scripture, Acts Chapter 20 has made it clear what the Shepherd is to feed God's sheep.

In verses 20 and 21, Paul said *"...I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, Testifying*

*both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."* In verse 24, Paul said that his ministry was to *"testify the gospel of the grace of God."* In verse 25 he said he had been *"preaching the kingdom of God"* among the people, and in verse 27 he said that he had *"not shunned to declare...all the counsel of God."*

Anything that fits within the parameters that Paul describes here, is pure, unadulterated Sheep's Fodder.

What is Pig's Swill? Verse 30 describes Pig's Swill as *"perverse things"* that pig farmers chuck over the fence of the Sheep's Pen, unannounced, hoping the lambs will like it, and then run after them as part of their herd. Anything that is outside the parameters that we just read Paul describe, is Pig's Swill. Anything that contradicts the Word of God is Pig's Swill.

### **THEREFORE WATCH!!!**

If you know of some professed Christian ministry, a church, a university or college, or some religious group, that has taken it upon themselves to offer something that they claim to be of spiritual nourishment to you, without the knowledge of your own Shepherd, then you need to be very, very careful that you don't end up swallowing a fatal dose of Pig's Swill.

If you have a question about something in the Bible and your source of spiritual learning is the Internet, then again, you need to be very, very careful that the spiritual advice you receive, and swallow, is according to sound doctrine, and not according to the twisted interpretation of the apostate churches, that may sound good, but is actually poisonous Pig's Swill dressed up to appear as wholesome Sheep's Fodder.

If someone, even in your own church, should recommend to you a book, or a You Tube video by this Apostle, or that Prophet, or some other big name preacher or teacher, promoting some newly discovered truth about things like Four Blood Moons, or how we all need to love each other and get together in unity with people of other denominations, then you need to check with your Shepherd that you aren't being enticed with an unhealthy serving of Pig's Swill, innocently disguised to look like Sheep's Fodder.

If you should venture into what is called a "Christian Bookstore", or if you should look through any glossy Koorong catalogue, you will see poisonous Pig's Swill everywhere. All beautifully prepared, and presented, to appear like a genuine Lamb's Smorgasbord. You will be encouraged to have a taste of the latest "Christian" book, or video created by famous Christian producers, or



recorded self-esteem massages, or “worship” music from some famous Christian Rock band, all presented in such an appetising way, so as to make any unwary lamb of God start drooling at the mouth.

You might even end up being seduced into thinking that what you see is even more appetising than what your own, God-appointed Shepherd has been feeding you in the Sheep’s Pen! But it’s Pig’s Swill. It’s poisonous Pig’s Swill.

Or what about the numerous pig farmers who appear on the TV screens early in the mornings? Sadly, even though professing Christians have been warned repeatedly about the Pig’s Swill these impostors keep dishing up – even Independent Baptist Christians – they can’t seem to resist having just one more little helping of their toxic brew.

Or what about that para-church organization that keeps requesting your money so that they can continue to establish God’s Righteous Kingdom in faraway lands? – not by preaching the Gospel to the lost, but by doing social works for the poor! They also are pig farmers distributing Pig’s Swill.

In Acts 20, and 1 Peter 5 we read precisely who it is that has been commissioned to feed God’s sheep – the flock He purchased with His own blood. It isn’t the so called Christian authors with their glossy covered books. It isn’t the preachers from Pentecostal, New Evangelical or Emergent Churches who distribute their books and recorded messages in the Christian bookstores, or over the Internet for filthy lucre. It isn’t the famous Christian rock band with their worldly music. It isn’t the numerous para-church organisations who milk millions of dollars out of Christian pockets for temporal social works. It isn’t

some You Tube preacher from another country. It isn’t even the highly educated college professor who can’t understand plain English and work out that God created everything in six literal days. No! God has been very specific as to who has been commissioned with the serious responsibility of feeding His lambs, the lambs that He rounded up Himself, and added to each local Church.

Speaking to the Overseers – the Elders – the Pastors of the church, Paul said in **Acts 20:28**, *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”* And again in **1 Peter 5:1-2**, we read *“The elders which are among you I exhort...feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof...”*

In **Acts 20:29-31**, Paul adds the fearful warning of what is in store for those sheep who are unfortunate enough to have a Hireling for a Pastor, and not a true Shepherd. *“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch!!!”*

“Watch” he says!!! Keep your eyes open. Shepherds, be vigilant for pig farmers who are determined to heave Pig’s Swill over the fence into the Lord’s Sheep Pens.

But it’s not just the Shepherd who needs to watch. The lambs need be watching too, that they won’t be fooled by usurper pig farmers into substituting their God given Shepherd’s diet of nourishing Sheep’s Fodder for their poisonous Pig’s Swill.

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(Adapted from the message “Pig’s Swill in the Sheep’s Pen” at: <http://www.coastlinebaptistchurch.org.au/other speakers.html> )



## Lifting Up The STANDARD

*“WHEN THE ENEMY SHALL COME IN LIKE A FLOOD, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL LIFT UP A STANDARD AGAINST HIM” (ISAIAH 59:19).*

An Outreach Ministry of FairHavens Baptist Church  
[www.fairhavensbaptist.net](http://www.fairhavensbaptist.net)

CHALLENGING AND ENCOURAGING GOD’S REMNANT TO REMAIN FAITHFUL



## Therapy for the Funny Bone -

'And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?' the reporter asked. She simply replied, 'No peer pressure.'

---

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother,

"I've decided to become a minister when I grow up."

"That's okay with us, but why?"

"Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up front and yell at everybody, than to sit back here and be bored."

---

The supervisor at work recently made a casual comment about Sam's shaggy mane of hair. He then went on to extol the virtues of a good haircut, which, he insisted, makes an elderly man look younger and a younger man seem more mature.

"How would a haircut make a middle-aged man like me appear?" Sam asked.

"Still employed," was his answer.

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[William McDonald has been a full time Bible teacher for over 40 years. His writing's include, "God's answers to man's questions" and 'The Believer's Bible Commentary'. He has also served on the Board of Directors of 'Good News for Catholics', based in California.]

Tolerance can be a virtue, but it can also betray an inexcusable weakness of character. We admire the person who tolerates differences where no great issue is at stake. He allows for a variety of preferences, methods, and unimportant viewpoints. He would rather be killed for a sheep than for a lamb.

But there is another form of tolerance that is despicable. That is the willingness to remain silent when God's name is blasphemed or Christ is dishonored. It is the treachery of silence when truth is on the scaffold. It is the unwillingness to speak out against evil. Tolerance that condones deceit and unrighteousness is sin.

Those who think that Jesus was always tolerant should read Matthew 23, a denunciation of hypocrisy. This passage proves forever that our Lord was capable of scathing indignation at the pretense of religious leaders. Or they should read Revelation 2:20, where he condemned the Church in Thyatira for tolerating a woman teacher named Jezebel.

Paul, too, was intolerant of evil. He even mentioned names, something that is considered unacceptable in evangelical circles today. He delivered Hymenaeus and Alexander to Satan, that they might learn not to blaspheme (1 Timothy 1:20). He didn't hesitate to single out Hymenaeus and Philetus as false teachers (2 Timothy 2:17). And he denounced Alexander the coppersmith by name for his evil behavior (2 Timothy 4:14).

John also had the courage to name Diotrephes as one who loved to have the pre-eminence (3 John 9). It seems that the church today has lost its capacity for godly intolerance. As Robert G Lee said, *"We live in a world of invertebrate theology, jellyfish mortality, seesaw religion, India rubber convictions, somersault philosophy that tells us*

*what we already know in words which we do not understand."*

The writings of William Barclay are another case in point. Barclay denies the deity of Christ, the inspiration of the Scriptures, the miracles of Jesus and his substitutionary atonement. He believes in the eventual salvation of all mankind. Yet his books are sold in the majority of Christian bookstores. He is widely quoted by prominent evangelical leaders. And multitudes of Christians study his books on the specious excuse that 'they contain such valuable background information'. The fact that he is a heretic, a blasphemer and a deceiver is not important. Neither, apparently, is the honor of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A missionary to India was right on target when he wrote, *"Toleration has become so tolerant, that evil is included in that tolerance. We are in danger of becoming 'moral cows' in our plump comfortableness."*

It is an ungodly tolerance that has allowed so many pulpits in America to be filled with "false apostles and deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostle's of Christ."

Detecting a resemblance to conditions in Elijah's day, J. Sidlow Baxter writes, *'Such are the people who today, with sickly kindness, will tolerate teachers of errors in our pulpits because they are such smooth-mannered and amiable gentlemen. They would rather allow error to be preached and souls to be deceived than hurt the preacher's feelings. Let Baal be worshiped rather than drought come! Let the cancer kill its victim rather than the cruel surgeon use the knife! ...The best thing that could happen to some so-called Christian ministers of today is that they should be denounced in God's name by their hearers.'*

#### *IT IS A SINFUL TOLERANCE...*

[1] that refuses to castigate a false church system that leads millions to eternal destruction with its perverted gospel.

[2] That honors its head as a great evangelist at the same time that he is condemning evangelicals as wolves.

[3] That labels God's prophets as divisive when they denounce its idolatry, its immorality and its other heresies.

[4] That sends converts back into its deadening clutches.

What has happened to the church of the martyrs?

We have an enormous craving for popularity. This is the stuff of which false prophets are made. We have a desire to avoid unpleasantness at all cost. A desire like this keeps us from confronting, from intervening when we should. We have a distaste for being different. We find it easier to

move along with the crowd, to drift with the tide. It is all too easy to remain silent when we are in an adverse theological climate. We are 'slaves who dare not to be right with two or three.'

We have lost the capacity for being angry. We are not easily enough disturbed. We are in the sorry state of having no capacity for indignation. We are experts at putting off decisiveness simply because we don't want to act.

Sometimes we are too blinded by friendship to stand against wrong. When a Christian spoke out against E J Carnell's book 'The Case For Orthodoxy' because it argued against the inspiration of the Scriptures, a friend of the author said 'Well you do not know him personally as I do. He is a gracious gentleman, a godly man.'

Jay Adams was right when he said *'In some circles, the fear of controversy is so great that preachers and congregations following after them will settle for peace at any cost - even the cost of the truth - God's truth. The idea is that peace is all- important. Peace is a biblical ideal ... but so is purity. The peace of the church may never be bought at the price of the purity of the church. The price is too dear.'*

Ecumenism and catholicity are two great buzzwords today. Let's all get together. Don't do or say anything to rock the boat. Doctrine divides, they say. What we need is unity. What we really need is to contend earnestly for the faith in a day when it is being attacked, diluted and denied. We will be tolerant in matters of indifference but intolerant of departure from the truth of God. With Luther, 'Here we stand. We can do no other.'

Bishop J C Ryle also wrote:

*"Controversy in religion is a hateful thing. It is hard enough to fight the devil, the world and the flesh without private differences in our own camp - but there is one thing which is even worse than controversy and that is false doctrine being tolerated, allowed and permitted without protest or molestation ... "*

Three things there are which men ought never to trifle with:

A little poison

A little false doctrine

A little sin.

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The USS Astoria on Aug 8, 1942, was struck by Japanese fire at the battle for Savo Island in the Solomon Sea. Signalman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Elgin Staples was washed overboard after an explosion of a gun turret. Wounded, he floated with help of a lifebelt.

Another ship rescued him and returned him to the Astoria that was still afloat although the captain was making an

effort to save the ship. The ship sank and Elgin was back in the water.

Midday the USS President Jackson picked him up (along with 500 others) and took him to Noumea. On board, Elgin hugged his precious lifebelt and looked at it for the first time. It had been made by Firestone Tire and Rubber Company of Akron and had a registration number.

When he got home to Ohio, he asked his mom, who worked for Firestone, the significance of the number and she told him that every worker had a unique number for quality purposes.

He quoted the number and his mom said, "That was my personal code."

Good thing Mom did a good job making that lifebelt.

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## WHY THEY STOPPED SINGING ON SUNDAY - John R. Ecob (from the Herald of Hope magazine)

An article by Thom Schultz on [www.churchleaders.com](http://www.churchleaders.com) asks why people no longer sing at Church.

He says: *"Looking around the church last Sunday, I noticed that the majority weren't singing. And most of those who were singing barely moved their lips. The only voices I actually heard were those on stage with microphones."*

*That's been the case for years now—in churches large and small. What used to be congregational singing has become congregational staring.*

*Even when the chipper 'worship leader' in contemporary churches bounds on stage and predictably beckons everyone to 'stand and worship,' the people compliantly obey the stand command, but then they turn into mute mannequins. What's behind this phenomenon? What happened to the bygone sounds of sanctuaries overflowing with fervent, harmonizing voices from the pews, singing out with a passion that could be heard down the street?"*

Shultz concludes there are a number of unfortunate factors: *"Increasingly, the church has constructed the worship service as a spectator event. Everyone expects the people on stage to perform while the pew-sitters fulfill the expectation of any good audience—file in, be still, be quiet, don't question, don't contribute (except to the offering plate) and watch the spotlighted musicians deliver their well rehearsed concerts."*



*It seems it's paramount for church music to be more professional than participatory. The people in the pews know they pale in comparison to the loud voices at the microphones. Quality is worshipped. So the worshippers balk at defiling the quality with their crude crooning. It's better to just fake it with a little lip syncing."*

It seems to me that any church that runs its service along such contemporary lines is no place for genuine believers who go to Church to hear the Word of God preached by men who live in the Word daily. The old hymns, and many modern hymns written by men like John Peterson and Albert Smith, come out of real personal experience with the Lord and a deep understanding of Biblical Truth whereas the modern "Hillsong"-type music is a repetitious racket composed by novices with no spiritual depth. God doesn't need 150 decibels to hear our worship. A Chinese Christian told a friend their house-church sang in whispers so the Communists would not hear them.

Give me that kind of Church any day.

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## Gold From Ophir

### A Very Small Remnant

By Jerry Wilhite



In Isaiah's day Israel's iniquity had her destined for destruction despite the many sacrifices, incense, religious meetings, feasts, and prayers. God, however, withheld his fury due to a very small remnant (Isaiah 1:9). Not just a remnant of righteous ones, but a very small remnant at that.

For the most part, Bible believing and behaving churches in Africa are not large, but they are important because of the restraint they place on God's hand of punishment. Each of them is a very small remnant in their respective place. Take for example the southern African country of Angola and the small remnant there.

A retired veteran missionary and dear friend wrote asking us to pray for Angola where he served many years ago.

While there are four "Baptist" groups there, they have women "pastors" and dancing as part of public worship. The population in a land size nearly twice that of Texas stands at over 12 million with 4 million of these being in Luanda, the capital. Life expectancy for the men is 47, and for the women 51. The official

language is Portuguese with about 80 tribal languages. Current information reveals only three sound, yet small Baptist congregations. All "Baptists" comprise less than 0.1% of the population living among 47% animists, 14% Protestants, and 38% Roman Catholics.

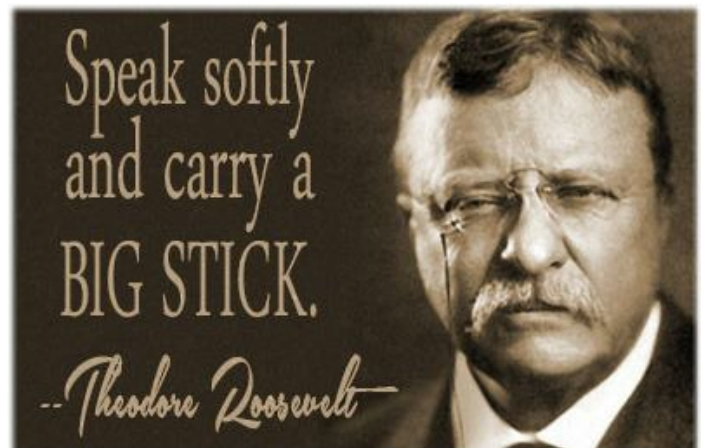
Thank the Lord for a very small remnant in Angola, but the same could be said for other countries and continents as well. Australia, the Americas, Asia, and Africa have been spared much of the judgment of God due to very small remnant churches in their midst. God's children and God's churches, though seemingly insignificant in the world's eyes are surely significant in our Lord's eyes. Are you part of God's very small remnant? If not, why not?

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## THE MAN IN THE ARENA - Teddy Roosevelt

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat. ~ *Teddy Roosevelt* - Excerpt



from the speech "Citizenship In A Republic" - delivered at the Sorbonne, in Paris, France on 23 April, 1910.

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For the **LOVE**  
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DR. TERRY L. COOMER  
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# The Words God Chose To Use

By Pastor Tom Hill

## HARPAZO



She was a young church serving the Lord during the time of fierce persecution in the city of Thessalonica. Paul wrote her two letters, that we know as First and Second Thessalonians. In the first letter, we learn that the church had those who misunderstood the truth concerning those who had died and concerning the resurrection of believers. Paul's correction concerning the resurrection of believers is found in 4:13-18. In v. 18, in the form of an imperative (command), Paul said that they (and we, as God's people), are to literally keep on comforting one another with "these words." This work of comforting or encouraging deals with the fact that believers will one day be caught up together with those who have died in Christ. Many refer to this event as the "rapture."

The word "rapture" is relatively a new word. It is applied to the two words – "caught up" – found in 1 Thessalonians 4:17. "Rapture" comes from the Latin word, "raptus." The word "raptus" goes back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Raptus means "to seize, to carry away." If you have ever heard of a bird of prey called a "raptor," you now have the understanding of what "raptor" means. They simply seize their prey, and carry it away.

The whole verse reads, "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." The words "caught up" are from the Greek word HARPAZO. HARPAZO means "to seize, to carry off by force, to snatch out or away" (Thayer's Lexicon). The context, as with many Greek (and Hebrew) words, often determines which meaning is to be used. For instance, in [John 10:28](#), Jesus said, *"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."* The word "pluck" is the word HARPAZO. Thus, it would carry the idea of "to carry off by force" which has an inference of violence. Jesus was saying that our salvation is secure in Him as the Good Shepherd, and that not one can carry off by force those who are His sheep, for they are securely in His hand.

HARPAZO is used thirteen times in the New Testament. Five of those times, the word is used in the sense of "to snatch out or away." In [2 Corinthians 12:2](#), Paul used HARPAZO to describe his being *"caught up to the third heaven."* Luke used it in [Acts 8:39](#) in describing Philip's being *"caught away"* after dealing with the Ethiopian eunuch. John used it in [Revelation 12:5](#) of the Savior Himself when He was *"caught up unto God and His throne."* That is how it is used in 1 Thessalonians 4:17. There is also another thought often associated with HARPAZO – speed. Speed is what Jude had in mind when he used the word in [Jude](#)

[23](#) when he said, *"And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."* The word is "pulling."

When we compare this passage with what Paul said about the resurrection of the saints in 1 Corinthians 15:52, it becomes very clear how that speed is involved, with our being caught up, or being snatched out of this present world, and our being changed in the moment, in a twinkling of an eye. The word "moment" tells us the speed of HARPAZO. "Moment" is the word ATOMOS. That is a moment of time that cannot be divided up. It is indivisible. We will be given our new bodies at that time that Paul described to the Philippians as *"fashioned like unto His glorious body"* ([3:21](#)).

There is something else interesting in the word HARPAZO. Verbs also have what is known as "voice" associated with them. It is either active or passive in voice. If it is active, that means that the subject acts upon itself. For example, when Jesus said *"As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep"* ([John 10:15](#)), He spoke of Himself doing the action when He declared *"I lay down My life for the sheep."* HARPAZO appears as passive in voice. That means that another acts upon the subject. Who is that Another? It is the Lord Himself. He will do the work of HARPAZO. We will be snatched away by Him. Remember what the Savior said in the upper room to the disciples in dispelling their fear? [John 14:3](#), *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*

No matter whether we call it the "rapture" or the "resurrection of the saints," it an event that is going to happen. It must happen. As God's people, we are to be always ready for that time. That does not mean that we are to become inactive in our witness for the Lord. If anything, it means that we need to be more conscious of our witness to a lost and dying world. In the Great Commission that Jesus gave in [Matthew 28:18-20](#), Jesus said, *"Go ye therefore."* The word "go" functions so as to say, "as you all are going." That tells us that our responsibility is not only when we go visit the new people down the street, but that our responsibility is to be continual, day in and day out.

The resurrection is coming. The Lord is returning. Are we ready? Are we being the witnesses that we must be to all, not only by the words from our lips, but from the behavior of our lives?

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John Wesley was about 21 years of age when he went to Oxford University. He came from a Christian home, and he was gifted with a keen mind and good looks. Yet in those days he was a bit snobbish and sarcastic.

One night, however, something happened that set in motion a change in Wesley's heart. While speaking with a porter, he discovered that the poor fellow had only one coat and lived in such impoverished conditions that he didn't even have a bed. Yet he was an unusually happy person, filled with gratitude to God.

Wesley, being immature, thoughtlessly joked about the man's misfortunes. "And what else do you thank God for?" he said with a touch of sarcasm.

The porter smiled, and in the spirit of meekness replied with joy, "I thank Him that He has given me my life and being, a heart to love Him, and above all a constant desire to serve Him!"

Deeply moved, Wesley recognized that this man knew the meaning of true thankfulness.

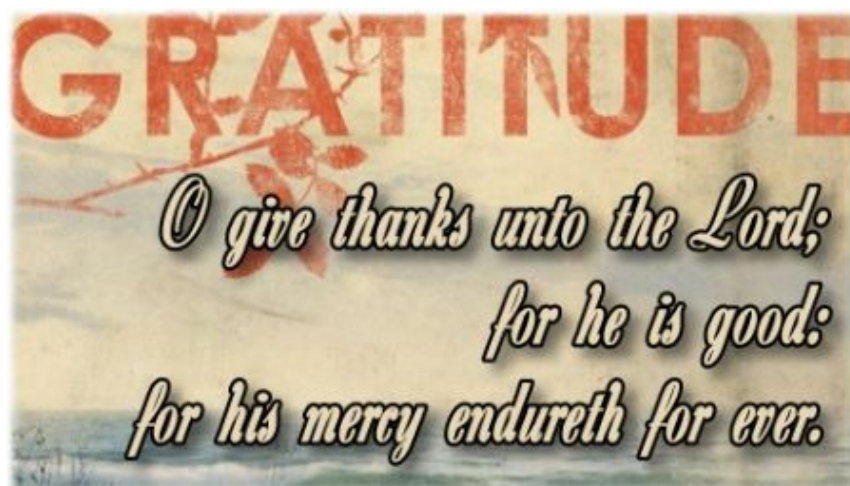
Many years later, in 1791, John Wesley lay on his deathbed at the age of 88. Those who gathered around him realized how well he had learned the lesson of praising God in every circumstance. Despite Wesley's extreme weakness, he began singing the hymn, "I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath."

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This is the holy reasoning of love; it draws no license from grace, but rather feels the strong constraints of gratitude leading it to holiness. ~ Charles Haddon Spurgeon

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John Newton, the former slave-ship captain, was so grateful for God's gracious dealings with him that when the vicarage at Olney was refurbished he had two



sentences from Isaiah 43:4 and Deuteronomy 15:15 painted over the fireplace of his study:

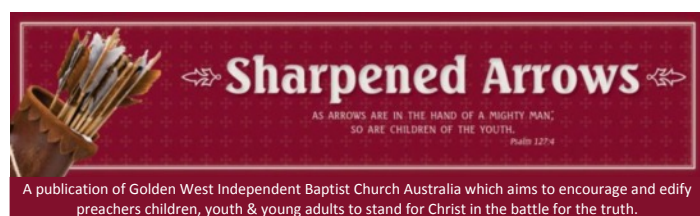
*'Since thou wast precious in my sight thou hast been honourable: but thou shalt remember that thou wast a bond-man in the land of Egypt and the Lord thy God redeemed thee.'*

We must not live in the past but dare not forget God's providential provision in life's experiences and allow our sense of thankfulness to fade.

One of the saddest moments in the Gospels is pictured in the words of Jesus when he said, *'Where are the nine?'* (Luke 17:17).

He was asking as to what had happened to the nine men who had known such wonderful release from the misery of leprosy and had forgotten to come back and say, 'Thank you, Lord.'

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## NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

- Give me a task too big, too hard for human hands, then I shall come at length to lean on Thee, and leaning, find my strength. ~ W.H. Fowler
- Cultivate the habit of speaking aloud to God. Not perhaps always, because our desires are often too sacred or deep to be put into words. But it is well to acquire the habit of speaking to God as to a present friend while sitting in the house or walking by the way. Seek the habit of talking things over with God -- your letters, your plans, your hopes, your mistakes, your sorrows and sins. Things look very differently when brought into the calm light of His presence. One cannot talk long with God aloud without feeling that He is near. ~ FB Meyer
- Adversity stirs us up and causes us to look at life differently. We are forced to deal with things on a deeper level. Nothing causes self to cave in like suffering. And once our religious facade begins to wear thin, God moves in and begins teaching us what real Christlikeness is about. ~ Selected
- A man's life is always more forcible than his speech. When men take stock of him they reckon his deeds as dollars and his words as pennies. If his life and doctrine disagree, the mass of onlookers accept his practice and reject his preaching. ~ Charles Spurgeon
- A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you, and were helped by you, will remember you. So carve your name on hearts, and not on marble. ~ Charles Spurgeon
- "Genesis is the opening crescendo of Scripture, for God does not begin the book with a timid, tentative note or two. He begins it with the thunder of drums as worlds leap out of nowhere to populate the skies. He begins it with the crash of cymbals as the human race falls into sin. He begins it with the blare of trumpets heralding the inundation of a world" ~ John Phillips, Exploring Genesis

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## 9 MOST DANGEROUS APPS FOR KIDS - Felicia Alvarez, Crosswalk.com Contributing Writer



<http://www.crosswalk.com/family/parenting/kids/9-most-dangerous-apps-for-kids.html>

In 2013, a twelve-year-old girl was lured away from her home by a 21 year-old-man. Once they met, he took her to a motel and took advantage of her. How did this little girl meet this terrible stranger?

Through an app called *Whisper* on her handheld device (yep, the one her parents bought her). And *Whisper* is only one of many dangerous apps, apps that every parent should be aware of.

### THE SCARY TRUTH

"The bad guy's not just at the bus stop anymore. He has entrance right into your kid's bedroom and hand-held cellphone device." Sexual predators can target your children even when your child is in the room down the hall. And sexual predators aren't the only problem. Cyber-bullying and exposures to sexually inappropriate content are additional concerns.

New apps are constantly being created, so it's important to monitor what your child downloads. Being aware of the online tricks predators use will help you know what to look for. So here is a current list of some of the most dangerous apps:

**WHISPER** - This app allows you to post secrets anonymously and also allows you to chat with other users in your geographic area.

**WHY IT'S DANGEROUS:** Many children are drawn to communicating with strangers, feeling that their secrets are safer with them than with their friends. This app is a perfect tool for ill-intentioned strangers looking to connect with young people because it allows you to exchange messages with people nearest to you (so anonymity can be easily lost).

**YIKYAK** - All Yik Yak users are anonymous. They don't create a profile or account, but they can post comments that are accessible to the nearest 500 people (within a 1-5 mile radius).

A psychiatrist called this the most dangerous app he'd ever seen because it "can turn a school into a virtual chat room where everyone can post his or her comments, anonymously. Untruthful, mean, character-assassinating short messages are immediately seen by all users in a specific geographic area."

**WHY IT'S DANGEROUS:** This app is causing problems in schools across the United States, with students maliciously slandering teacher, staff, and other students. In fact, several schools have now banned smart phones from campus because of this particular app.

**Kik** - A free app-based alternative texting service that allows texts/pictures to be sent without being logged in the phone history. (Similar apps: Viber, WhatsApp, TextNow)

**WHY IT'S DANGEROUS** – Makes it easier for your child to talk to strangers without your knowledge since it bypasses the wireless providers' short message services (SMS). Children also think they can "sext" without parents finding out. In addition, strangers can send your child a "friend request."

**SNAPCHAT** – Allows you to capture an image or video and make it available to a recipient for a specific time. After that time limit is up, the picture/video automatically disappears forever...or so Snapchat claims. (Similar apps: Poke, Wire, and Wickr)

**WHY IT'S DANGEROUS** – Kids can receive (or send ) sexually inappropriate photos. This app also makes kids feel like they can "sext" or send inappropriate pictures without consequences because the image will self-destruct automatically. The truth is that nothing sent over the internet disappears. There are always ways to retrieve and capture those images.

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#### **THE GROCERY LIST IN THE DINING TABLE -**

I used to work for a man who owned an antique shop.

He would buy at auction worn out, beat up, scarred, battered, cracked and faded old relics, and then restore them and sell them for a thousand dollars or more.

I once saw him turn a cigarette burn on top of a chest of drawers into a beautiful wood knot and nobody could ever guess that it had ever been anything else.

On some of the finer pieces he put a French Polish finish that required coat after coat of lacquer (made up of shellac flakes and ethanol - very interesting story where they got the shellac flakes from).

The French Polish finish dried fast, which was good because it might take 20 or 30 coats of lacquer to get a

really good glossy finish. It was applied by hand with a "rubber", a soft cloth wrapped around a handful of cotton wadding and filled with shellac.

I watched him apply coat after coat of finish to a table, adding microscopic layers of lacquer one after the other until it built up and up and finally mirrored his face in it.

My favourite example of furniture he resurrected was the large red cedar table we refinished. We stripped off all the old lacquer until we found at one end of the tabletop a grocery list that a previous owner had "engraved" into the tabletop when they used a dull pencil to write a grocery list for their monthly trip to town.

"Flour, sugar, beans, potatoes, butter, etc." were written there, deeply scarring the old table. One of us called out to the boss, "Hey, Max, we're going to have to sand this back really deep to get this grocery list out."



Thinking back, I wonder if 1/16 of an inch would have been enough to take out the ancient scars of someone's grocery list written deep there. Max came out the back of the shop and had a look, and said, "Just leave it there. Clean up the surface all across the top, and just leave the list as it is. Somebody will come in and see that and fall in love with it and buy the table just to get the grocery list."

We all laughed and shook our heads, but he was the boss and knew more than we did so we left it.

The boss put a nice finish on the table and put it on display in the showroom, grocery list and all.

Sure enough, a few days later a lady came in to look for an old table, found the grocery list, went into raptures over it, paid megabucks to buy it, and then raved on and on about the grocery list when we delivered it. She even rang the boss the day after and carried on like a pork chop over her grocery list. She liked the grocery list more than the table. (Sorta makes me wish we'd kept our Jillian's homework she engraved in our dining table, and not sanded it out when we gave it a facelift some years ago.)

#### THE WORK THE RESTORER DOES IN US -

That was almost thirty years ago, but it still makes me think of the laborious and painstaking work the Lord does

on us and in us as he restores the worn out, beat up, scarred, battered, cracked and faded old relics that come to Him in helpless faith.

*Joel 2:25 "And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you."*

That's what the apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote, *"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"* Philippians 1:3-6

How long does it take to grow a preacher? Oh, only about 80 years or so.

The problem is that they usually die at about 65.

It is a work in progress.

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## Heads Up! - Back Issues Archive



### Heads Up!

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