

## SERMON IN EXCUSES

- "I can't" - Philippians 4:13: "I can do..." People make this excuse that haven't even tried to do what they've excused themselves from.
- "I don't know enough" - John 8:32: "...the truth shall make you free." You are free from sin, just tell others that truth.
- "I don't have time" - Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom..." Set priorities. We all have the same amount of time.
- "Get someone else" - Isaiah 6:8: "Then said I, Here am I; send me." There are works only you can get done; there's no one else.
- "It can't be done" - Mark 10:27: "...with God all things are possible"; Mark 9:23: "...if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."
- "I'm just too tired" - Isaiah 40:31: "But they who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; ...they shall run, and not be weary..." Labors of love are never tiring.
- "I'll do it later" - 2 Corinthians 6:2: "...now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation." Tomorrow never comes for procrastinators.
- "I know I should do it, but..." - James 4:17: "...to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Hmmm, let's get doing!
- "I might fail" - Matthew 28:20: "...I am with you always..."; Romans 8:31: "If God be for us..." Jesus did not convert everybody, but He gave them a chance to believe.
- "I really don't like to..." - Romans 15:3: "For even Christ pleased not himself..."; Luke 9:23: "...let him deny himself, and take up his cross, daily..."  
- A. J. Hendrix, via *The Biblical Messenger*, San Angelo, TX

### 10 Reasons I Never Wash

A preacher out of Louisville, Kentucky published a list of "10 Reasons I Never Wash" to parody the thread-bear excuses people give for not attending church. Among the "reasons" were:



1. My parents always made me wash as a child.
2. People who wash are hypocrites; they think they are better than other people.
3. There are so many different kinds of soap, I could never decide which one was right.
4. I used to wash, but it got so boring I stopped.
5. I still wash on special occasions; like Christmas and Easter.
6. None of my friends wash.
7. I'm still young; when I get older and need it more, I might decide to start washing.
8. People who make soap are only interested in your money.
9. I'm so busy I just can't find the time to wash.
10. There isn't any need to wash, people expect you to do it all over again in a few days.

*The Green Plain Proclaimer*, Hazel, KY  
(submitted)

*If absence makes the heart grow fonder, how some folks must love the church!* - Gerald Teague

### News & Notes

**CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies to help make bears for small children.

**PANTRY:** Oatmeal & cereal.

**LADIES WORK DAY:** Next Saturday, Oct. 25th, 9:00 a.m. to assemble care baskets for the elderly and shut-ins.

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Bob & Scharlotte Cyphers (Bob is scheduled for a lung biopsy tomorrow; Scharlotte has a medical consultation, Oct. 28th); Richard Clutter (Eva Stefl's brother), Crystal Baker (Connie Cowdery's daughter) has to have four more months of chemo. Her address: 145 Beechwood St., East Liverpool, OH 43020.

**OTHERS WITH PHYSICAL PROBLEMS:** At Home: Jack Board, Geraldine Barrett, Fred & Ilene Rayl, Danielle Wilson (granddaughter of Bill & Carol Stillwell), Don Reynolds, Bertha Seman, Pauline Clutter, Bobby Hadley, Mabel Sprout, Virginia Rickerd, Harry Nice, Dan Williams, Blondenia Orr, Jenny Rhodes, Bette Gentry. **Remember and encourage others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. They are listed on the bulletin board.**

### MEETINGS & LECTURES

Eight Mile

Oct. 19-24

Frank Higginbotham

WVSOP (Moundsville)

Oct. 26-30

Different Speakers

### MISTAKES

Erasers are such handy things  
On pencils, there's no doubt.  
A few quick rubs, the wrong words go,  
Mistakes are soon rubbed out.  
But errors of a different sort  
That cannot be erased,  
Are often spilled from someone's lips,  
And cannot be replaced.  
And with each thoughtless spoken word,  
Sharp as a leopard's tooth,  
The harm we do is just as great,  
As some widespread untruth.  
But with those careless spoken words,  
Erasers play no part.  
The mark we leave, by word or deed,  
Cuts deep in someone's heart.

- *Bulletin Digest* -

There are some interesting lines found in the Bible. Take this one from 1 Kings 10:27: "The king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones." Wow! When the top guy prospered, everyone prospered. That is like saying they had so much money, the money was as common as stones. We could surely use King Solomon to help in our economy today, couldn't we? We can't lose our sense about what the Bible says about much riches though, can we? In His parable of the sower in Matthew 13:22 there is a line that reads, "...and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful." Our money, even a small amount of it that we might have, is entrusted to us. Remember the account found in Mark 12:41-44 where Jesus is watching those who came to cast their money in the temple treasury? That widow cast all that she had and was praised by Jesus for doing so. It is not always what you have, it is what you do with what you have that counts!

- *Jumpstart #564*, Gastonia Church of Christ,  
Gastonia, NC