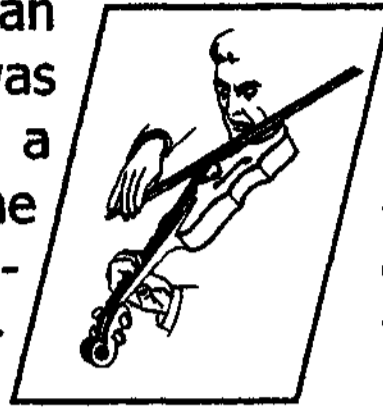


MAKING THE MOST OF ONE STRING

The story is told of Italian (1782-1840), that as he was cult piece of music before a his violin snapped — yet he ing beautifully. Then with- strings broke, and he con- g with only one string.



violinist Nicolo Paganini playing an extremely diffi- large audience, a string on continued to play, improvis- out warning, two more tinued the composition play-

When he completed the composition, the audience gave him a standing ovation. When the applause eventually stopped, he nodded at the conductor to begin the encore. The violinist smiled at the audience and shouted, "Paganini and one string!" Placing his instrument under his chin, he played again with that one string.

With the above thoughts in mind, Coach Lou Holtz once said, "The longer I live, the more convinced I become that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it." Supporting his conviction with Scripture, we can note the response of Paul and Silas as they sat in stocks in prison. Instead of bemoaning their lot, they made use of the "one string" they had left — they prayed and sang praises to God (Acts 16:25). As a result of their godly influence, the jailer and his entire household were baptized into Christ (Acts 16:33).

Are we allowing life's adversities to discourage and immobilize us? With God's help, let's make the most of the "one string" we have left, and complete our spiritual composition (2 Timothy 4:7; cf. Philippians 3:14; Hebrews 12:1).

As long as we keep in tune with Christ, we can sing even when all is dark (Acts 16:19-25).

- Mike Riley, El Paso, TX, via *Berryville Bible Beacon*, Berryville, AR

A NEW SONG



An older lady was complaining about a new contemporary song used in the worship service at her church. A fellow worshipper responded, "Why, that is not a new song it is a very old song! David sang that song to Saul."

The older lady replied, "Well now, for the first time, I understand why Saul threw his javelin at him when he sang."

"Add to ... knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience ..." 2 Peter 1:5, 6

God is a safe dwelling place in life's storms.

News & Notes

CONFESSION: Dylan Heinselmann.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER: Mary Nelson, Jenny Rhodes, Terri Shultz Sprout (Jerry Shultz's sister), Jim Smith (preacher at Langeloth, PA).

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

ANNIVERSARY: Frank & Rose Higginbotham began their work with this congregation, Dec. 22, 1964, and are now entering their 44th year here. This is a milestone! Best wishes to them as they continue to do the Lord's work.

NEW YEAR'S EVE GATHERING: Monday, Dec. 31st, 6:00 p.m. at the Multipurpose Building. All are invited to bring a covered dish and enjoy this evening of food, fellowship, and singing..

PANTRY: Pancake Mix & syrup. Also, 10 turkeys are needed to provide holiday dinners for those in need. See David Malcomson.

CONTINUE TO REMEMBER: The following have serious health or physical concerns: Bette Gentry, Dan Williams (Sharon's husband), Cole Bellon (Michelle Hanlon's nephew).

SICK & SHUT-IN: TRINITY WEST, STEUBENVILLE: Gene Miller, Thurman Riggs (nephew of Eva Stefl). AT HOME: Helene Wilson, Jack Board, Neva Owen, Harry & Imogene Nice, Doris Dunham, Don Parsons, Ella Beagle, Diane Robinson, Lloyd & Virginia Ferrell, Bette Gentry, Dan Williams, Lloyd Cowdery, Mabel Sprout, Virginia Rickerd, Fred & Jean Larrimore, Sr., Fred Larrimore, Jr., Cheryl Stackpole.

NURSING HOMES: Fox: Ray Baker. Pleasantview N. Retirement & Rehab., Salem: Ruby Kenney. Weirton Geriatric Center: Edna McKitrick, Ila Plum. Aspen Manor, Wellsburg: Ione Asher.

Five **FIRSTS**

1. Give God the **FIRST HOUR** of the day.
2. Give God the **FIRST DAY** of the week.
3. Give God the **FIRST PORTION** of your pay.
4. Give God the **FIRST CONSIDERATION** in every decision.
5. Give God the **FIRST PLACE** in your heart.

