

MY APPEARANCE

I go to see a girlfriend, my clothes are nice and neat.
I comb the hair upon my head, and shine the shoes on my feet.

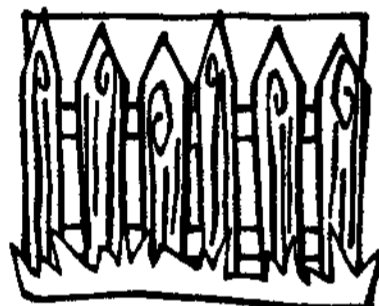
My best friend is getting married, he's asked me to be "best man."
I want to make his wedding great, so I dress the best I can.

I'll attend a funeral tomorrow, I will look my very best,
A brand new shirt and tie, plus a new suit and vest.

Now it's time to worship, I will worship God today.
My clothes won't be too tidy, and my hair in disarray

My shirt will be open, to show the hair on my chest,
And I'm not really too concerned, whether my pants are pressed.

Why is it when before men, I want to look my best,
But when I come to worship God, I don't care how I'm dressed!
- via *Ridgedale Reminder*, Chattanooga, TN (Submitted)



A Lesson From A Fence

There was a little boy with a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper to hammer a nail in the back fence.

The first day the boy had driven thirty-seven nails into the fence. Then it gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out a nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence.

"You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When we say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say, 'I'm sorry,' the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one."

- *South Florida Avenue Messenger*, via Mabelvale, AR bulletin

The tongue weighs practically nothing, but few can hold it.

News & Notes

CONGRATULATIONS: To Josh & Lindsay (Shultz) Story on the birth of a daughter, Hailey Marie on Feb. 1st. The grandparents are Jerry & Tresie Shultz, and the great grandmother is Donna Stevens. Also, David & Erin (Reed) Neese have a baby son, Reed Alden born Feb. 6th. The proud grandparents are Melvin & Charlotte Reed. Best wishes to all.

SINGING: Tonight and February 25th following the evening services.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All the ladies are invited to participate.

LADIES WORK DAY: Sat., Feb. 17th, 9:00 a.m. at the Multipurpose Bldg.

PANTRY: Tuna fish and noodles.

SICK & SHUT-IN: AT HOME: Geraldine Barrett, Mary Beth Robinson, Lloyd Cowdery, Mabel Sprout, Virginia Rickerd, Bette Gentry, Fred & Jean Larrimore, Sr., Fred Larrimore, Jr., Cheryl Stackpole, George & Betty Dunn (Pat Wright's parents). **NURSING HOMES: Fox:** Ray Baker, Ruth McMahan. **Calcutta Health Care:** Glenn Beagle, Virginia Clutter (sister-in-law of Eva Stefl). **Nentwick:** Ruby Kenny. **Rivendale:** Ione Asher. **Weirton Geriatric Center:** Edna McKitrick, Ila Plum.

ROBBERS OF JOY

In the book of Philippians Paul uses the word "joy", or some form of it, 19 times. In fact, "The Joyful Christian Mind" would be a good title for the book.

Paul would not be robbed of the joy he had in Christ. Neither should we be robbed of our joy in Him.

Paul would not allow **circumstances** to deprive him of his joy. He was in prison, but he rejoiced that the gospel could be preached "to the whole palace guard" (1:13). Also, he would not allow insincere brethren to keep him from rejoicing in Christ. He said, "whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this rejoice, yes, and will rejoice" (verse 18).

Paul would not allow **people problems** to rob him of his joy. He urged the brethren to "fulfill (his) joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." As Christians, we must not allow "selfish ambition or conceit" to rob us of our joy, "but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself" (2:3).

Paul would not allow his **past and present position** to rob him of his joy. He wrote: "We are the circumcision, who worship God in spirit, rejoice in Jesus Christ, and have no confidence in the flesh" (3:3). He could have boasted of his past life and accomplishments, but he said, "What things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ" (3:7).

Paul would not allow **worry** to rob him of his joy. He admonishes us by saying, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (4:4-6). We must not allow worry or anxiety to rob us of our valuable time, energy, and joy.

If anyone has reason to rejoice, it is the Christian, who is saved by the blood of Christ and lives in hope of heaven.

- Jerry L. Davidson, *The Voice of Truth International*

