

TOLERATION

John Gipson, Little Rock, AR

If I read the signs of the times correctly, we consider intolerance to be the greatest sin imaginable. Tolerance, on the other hand, has been exalted as the chief of all virtues. And woe be to that person who would speak out against *any* religion, or claim that Christ is the *only* way to the Father. Such intolerance!

Forgive me if I have the sneaking suspicion that there are those who are willing to tolerate everything because they believe nothing. If everything is innocuous, toleration is easy. Apparently, the only exception the tolerant are willing to make is intolerance to those whom they perceive to be intolerant. In that case, no quarter will be given, and toleration vanishes.

But what if Caballero* was right when he said, "Error tolerates, truth condemns"?

What if Jesus was speaking the truth when he said, "*I am the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me*"? Where is your toleration now?

Preachers would do well to heed the words of Elizabeth Achtemeier, "As preacher your job is to preach the text, not apologize for it." And that goes for all of us who seek to share the gospel of Christ.

- via "The Sower", Arthur Church of Christ, Arthur, IL

* (Caballero, pseudonym of Caecilia de Faber - Spanish Novelist, 1797-1877)

Are You Wasting Yourself?

You may not have heard it said, but it is true nonetheless: You can't waste time, or even save time. Telling one to not waste time is like telling fish in the ocean not to waste water. Actually, what we do has no influence or impact on time at all. Time remains constant, no matter what we do. We can waste our opportunities. But really, what we waste is ourselves. Next time you start to say, "I'm just wasting time," change it to, "I'm just wasting myself."

- The Encourager, Dongola Church of Christ, Dongola, IL

The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.

News & Notes

CONFESSION: Mickie Barrett.

SPEAKERS TODAY: Our speakers today are Glenn Logston (a.m.) and Jeremy Main (p.m.).

SURGERY TOMORROW: Linda Wiersbicki at Allegheny Hospital in Pittsburgh.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All the ladies are invited to participate in making bears for sick and distressed children.

BIRTHDAY: Jack Board's birthday is Monday, Feb. 15th. Encourage him with a card. His address: 2322 Ranch Road, Decorah, IA 52101.

PANTRY ITEMS: Pancake mix & syrup.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Marilyn Miller, Crystal Baker.

THOSE WITH MEDICAL CONCERNS: Helene Wilson, Linda Wiersbicki, Geraldine Barrett, Marilyn Miller, Crystal Baker, Betty Carlin, Leo Cameron, Harry Nice. **In Iowa:** Jack Board. **Check the bulletin board for others who are shut in.**

BE OF GOOD CHEER

You cannot be SOUR and be a Christian! True Christianity chases gloom. Solomon said, "*A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones*" (Proverbs 17:22), and again in chapter 15:13, "*A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance.*" More than once Jesus commanded His disciples to "*Be of good cheer*".

The industrious bee does not stop to complain that there are so many poisonous flowers and thorny branches in his road but buzzes on, selecting the honey where he can find it and passing by the places where it is not. There is enough to complain about and find fault with, if you have the disposition. We often travel on a hard and uneven road. But, with a cheerful spirit and a heart to praise God for His mercies, we may walk therein with comfort and come to the end of our journey in peace.

- Waurika Church of Christ, Waurika, OK -
via *Bulletin Digest*

— Take Time —

- > To pray, God requires it!
- > To read the Bible, it's God Word.
- > To go to church, we need the fellowship.
- > To make good friends. It makes life worth living.
- > To rest, our body requires it.
- > To smile, it brightens the lives of others.
- > To tell your family members you love them.
- > To enjoy nature, it is God's gift to you.
- > To be kind to your pets and feed the birds - they are God's creatures.
- > To blow the dust off your mind - read good books.
- > To visit the aged, someday we'll be old.
- > To help the bereaved, we too shall be there.
- > To visit the sick, our day will come!
- > To enjoy your home, you worked hard for it.
- > To be kind to children, they have a rough road.
- > To encourage and help our young people.

- Author Unknown,
adapted from *Pulpit Helps*