

A Better World Begins With Me

Probably nobody believes the world is as good as it could or should be. We often see corrections needed in everyone but ourselves. Consider this: you cannot admire, approve, justify or recommend in yourself what you cannot admire, approve, justify and recommend in others. There is some merit in the idea of seeing ourselves as others see us, but it is not necessarily safe or valid. We need, instead, to see ourselves and all others as God sees us - at least as God intends us to see, measure and evaluate all things, by the standard of His word.

We can change persons and things for the better in three steps. First: Think better thoughts (Proverbs 4:23, Philippians 4:8, and 2:5). Second: Aim higher, set better goals and make better plans (Philippians 3:13-17). Third: Act better. Do better things. Do not follow the world, but do only what you know God will approve (Romans 12:17, 1 Corinthians 15:33).

You can actually improve the world by reminding yourself that a better world - actually a better anything in the world - begins with me/you. To change people, set them an example of what you want them to be (1 Timothy 4:12, Matthew 7:12). It will work in the family; the home as God would have it - not only in marriage, but in parenting and in sibling relationships too. It will work in the school - a competitive environment for young persons. It will work in the job or business - a competitive environment for adults. It will work in the community, the nation, and the world - law enforcement, social standards, morality, entertainment, social statement. It will work in the church too - you may have thought the church is the one place that "has it right". Not so. Not even among us in the church of Christ. Calling oneself a Christian does not mean it is so. Wearing the name does not mean one does not have to measure up to the standards God has set for Christian people. But the point in all of these is that if any of them is going to be better, it must begin with me, with us - with any and all who want it to be better.

Why should you make things better if and when you can? First, because if you do not do it, it will probably not get done. Second, it will be better, if only to the extent that you are better. Third, simply because improvement is desirable in every person and every aspect of life. Nobody is so bad that God cannot make something good and honorable of him. And nobody is so good - so perfect - that there is no room for growth and development.

- Gerald Cowan, Dongola Church of Christ, Dongola, IL - via *Bulletin Gold Extra*

It is not the years in your life, but the life in your years that counts.

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To Russell & Margie Martin & family at the passing of Margie's mother, Betty Wilson. God bless and comfort this family in their sorrow.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Jason & Carrie Wright on the birth of a son, William Jess. The proud grandparents are Melvin & Charlotte Reed. Best wishes to all.

BIBLE CAMP: Begins tomorrow through Saturday, July 4th at Tomlinson Run State Park. If you can help, see Gerald Clutter.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Canceled for this week. Resumes next Tuesday, July 7th.

ADDRESS: Virginia Ferrell, c/o Jim & Beverly Pinney, 5760 S.E. 21st Lane, Ocala, FL 34480. Phone: 352-624-2550.

MEN'S BREAKFAST & NURSING HOME VISIT: Both of these events have been rescheduled for Saturday, July 11th.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: July 20-24, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Adult Class: J. D. Conley.

PANTRY: Canned carrots.

THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS: Weirton Medical Center. Rich Robinson. Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh: Helena Rice (age 6). At Home: Crystal Baker, Herb & Beulah Rice, Noni Scadden, Ilene Rayl, Docie Moore, Jack Board, Betty Carlin, Ruth Brewer, Harry & Imogene Nice. **FOX NURSING HOME:** Ruby Eddy. Remember others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. Check the bulletin board.

These Are The Gifts I Ask

- Henry Van Dyke -

These are the gifts I ask
Of Thee, Spirit serene:
Strength for the daily task,
Courage to face the road,
Good cheer to help me bear the traveler's load,
And, for the hours of rest that come between,
An inward joy in all things heard and seen.
These are the sins I fain
Would have Thee take away:
Malice, and cold disdain,
Hot anger, sullen hate,
Scorn of the lowly, envy of the great,
And discontent that casts a shadow gray
On all the brightness of a common day.