

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 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 (Spanish novelist, 1797-1877), was right when he said, "Error tolerates, truth condemns?"

What if Jesus was speaking truth when he said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" (John 14:6). 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.

Mary Had A Little Lamb



Mary had a little Lamb,
His fleece was white as snow.
And everywhere that Mary went,
The Lamb was sure to go.
He followed her to school each day,
T'wasn't even in the rule.
He made the children laugh and play,
To have a Lamb at school.
And the rules all changed one day,
~~Illegal~~ *il hocomo*,
To bring the Lamb of God to school,
Or even speak His Name.
Every day got worse and worse,
And days turned into years.
Instead of hearing children laugh,
We heard gun shots and tears.
What must we do to stop the crime,
That's in our schools today?
Let's let the Lamb come back to school,
And teach our kids to pray!

Take up the cross if thou the crown wouldst gain. - Paulinus

News & Notes

CONFESSION: Marcella Heffner.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each **Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.** All ladies are invited to participate in making small stuffed bears for sick and needy kids.

GOSPEL MEETING & SINGING: Aug. 25-29 (Monday-Thursday, 7:00 p.m.), Minksville (Cadiz), OH with Andy Robison. Additional details on the bulletin board.

IDLEWILD DAY: Next Saturday, Aug. 31st. Prices: Ages 2 & under, free; 3-59, \$23; 60+, \$21. Contact Betty Smith at 724-747-7653.

COVERED DISH DINNER & EARLY SERVICE RESCHEDULED: To Sunday, Sept. 22nd instead of next Sunday, Sept. 1st.

LABOR DAY COOKOUT & PICNIC: Monday, Sept. 2nd, 1:00 p.m. hosted by the Chester and St. Clair Ave. congregations at Thompson Park, Pavilion 1. Meat and drinks will be provided. Take a favorite dish, dessert, or snacks. All are invited. For additional information, call: (304) 387-1030 or (330) 386-6582.

TO HAVE SURGERY: Emma Rine will have shoulder replacement surgery on **Tuesday, Sept. 3rd** at Weirton Medical Center.

OUR FALL GOSPEL MEETING: Sept. 22-26 with Charles Pugh.

PANTRY: Graham crackers.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER & WITH CARDS: Rick Beck (minister at Weston, WV), 807 Camden Ave., Weston, WV 26452. Rick will have cancer surgery this week.

Kathy McGeehan (Mike Martin's sister-in-law), 11325 Straford Ridge Lane, Chardon, OH 44024. Kathy is undergoing cancer treatments.

SICK & SHUT-IN: VALLEY OAKS, East Liverpool: Fred Larrimore. **AT HOME:** Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Arlen & Joann Webb, Doris Dunham, Chris Lamb (David Roach's sister). **FOX:** Mary Jane Bowers. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

YOU DECIDE WHICH IT WILL BE



There are two ways to begin the day: with prayer or without it. You begin each day in one of these two ways; you decide which it will be.

There are two ways of spending the Lord's day: idly or devotionally; pleasing God or pleasing self. You spend the Lord's day in one of these two ways, you decide which it will be.

There are two and only two classes of people in the world: the saved and the unsaved. You belong to one of these two classes; you decide which it will be.

There are two great masters of men in the universe: God and Satan. You serve one of these two masters; you decide which it will be.

There are two roads which lead through time and eternity: the broad way and the narrow way. You are walking on one of these roads; you decide which it will be.

There are two places to which people will go: heaven or hell. You will go to one of these two places; you decide which it will be.

- Author Unknown - via *The Salem Story*, Florence, AL