

## FORM OR SUBSTANCE

- Roger A. Rush, Marietta, Ohio -

The apostle Paul wrote to the young preacher Timothy, *"But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these"* (2 Timothy 3:1-5), NASB).

What I find so disturbing about that warning is the fact that Paul was writing about religious people, men who have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. That simply means they wouldn't let their religion interfere with their lives.

Paul could not have described more vividly current conditions in the religious world if he had written those lines yesterday. Folks want Christianity without inconvenience. In most churches today, Sunday night and Wednesday evening services are a thing of the past. People are too busy to attend, so the services have been eliminated. Saturday night and early Sunday services are now in vogue so that folks can free-up the Lord's Day for golf, fishing, boating, and family outings. Religion is fine as long as it doesn't interfere with our lives.

The same is true in regard to morality. Christianity no longer demands upright living. Right and wrong are relative issues. What may be wrong for me may be right for you. Live your own life, do your own thing.

Folks, that simply is not true! Christianity and morality are inseparable. *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age"* (Titus 2:11, 12, NASB).

Do you have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof? Is your religion one of convenience or conviction? - via *West Virginia Christian* (Jan. 2022) -

## Some Things you Should NEVER Be Sorry For

Gerald Cowan

Being honest with God.	Thinking before acting.
Always telling the truth.	Being patient.
Your faith in Christ.	Being courteous and kind.
Living a pure life.	Helping a fallen brother.
Acknowledging and repenting of sin.	Being merciful.
What you give to the Lord's cause.	Correcting those who are in error.
What you do in service to Christ.	Being willing to forgive.
Doing your best.	Being loyal to the church.
Hearing before judging.	Standing upon your principles.

- via *Bulletin Gold* -

*A Christian should not follow the crowd, but rather show them the way.*

## News & Notes

### GOSPEL MEETING

Hanoverton, Ohio----- May 21-25 ----- Steve Stevens

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

**BROTHERS WORK DAY:** Next Saturday, May 27th, 9:00 a.m. to work on projects that need attention here at the building.

**GRADUATION PARTIES:** Brett Thompson, Saturday, June 10th, 2 to 6 p.m. at our Fellowship Building. Brett graduated from East Liverpool High School.

Also, Aiden Haught (grandson of Skip & Sue Haught), Saturday, June 10th, Noon to 4 p.m. at the Weirton Heights Church of Christ Fellowship Building. Aiden graduated from Brooke High School.

**PANTRY:** Baked Beans.

**SICK & SHUT-IN:** *Weirton Medical Center:* Debbie Waite (Skilled Care, Room 614). *At Home:* Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Mike West, Becky McKitrick, Blondena Orr, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Lori Rowand (John Sprout's niece). *Fox - Chester:* Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). *Fox, Pepperberry Suites, Chester:* David McCoy. *In Ohio:* Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon OH 44432.

## "How Great Thou Art"

All of you are familiar with the hymn *"How Great Thou Art."* It is probably my favorite hymn, and my favorite verse in the song is the third verse, although every verse is excellent. I'm going to go through this third verse phrase by phrase and make a few comments on the words.

It begins with *"And when I think."* That is exactly what we should be doing as we partake of the Lord's Supper. Think deeply about the meaning of what you are participating in, and that Jesus made a point on the night before His crucifixion that His apostles then, and all Christians forever after should remember Him by celebrating this memorial every Sunday. Please don't let your mind wander at this most significant time.

The next words are *"that God His Son not sparing, sent Him to die."* God the Father and His Son had been together in perfect harmony from eternity past and they loved each other with a perfect love, and yet the Father was willing to have His Son leave Paradise to come to earth where He would suffer horribly on the cross while also being totally humiliated, treated as ordinary criminal.

*"I scarce can take it in"* should express our attitude of amazement and gratitude that we have a God who loves us so much that He would make that sacrifice.

*"That on the cross my burden gladly bearing"* says that we were the ones who should have been hanging on the cross, for it was our sin, not His, that He was dying for. And He did it gladly for the joy set before Him of defeating Satan, sin and death, and thereby having us with Him for eternity.

*"He bled and died to take away my sin."* When we partake of the fruit of the vine, we acknowledge that it is only by the blood He shed that we can have remission of our sins, past, present, and future.

After we have contemplated all of this, what more can we say but, *How Great Thou Art.* Let us think about our Savior as we partake of this memorial.

By Ronald Johnson, Searcy AR (via *Magnolia Messenger*)