

March 6, 2022

Viewpoint from the **Valley Grove Church Of Christ**

Things My Mama Said

By Dee Bowman

“If you fall out of that tree and break your neck, I’m gonna wear you out!” Sometimes we don’t think before we go out on some limb. It’s foolish to be where we don’t belong, even if it’s a bit exciting. “Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18).

“If you can’t be happy, you can at least smile while you’re not.” That may seem like an oxymoron, even patently foolish, but it’s just good advice. Fact is, even when you’re upset or discouraged, a smile can bring a measure of relief, both to yourself and to others. “A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance; but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken” (Proverbs 15:13). How about a smile, now?

“You aren’t going out and make your mother ashamed, are you?” Solomon said, “A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother” (Proverbs 10:1). You can’t do wrong without a poor influence being exerted. It behooves every one of us to consider how the Father feels when we deliberately do things that are wrong.

“If you can’t say something nice, maybe you shouldn’t say anything at all.” How often we retaliate with some verbal outburst against someone with whom we disagree, or someone we just plain don’t like. What progress is it? What is gained by it? “The prudence of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression” (Proverbs 19:11). I’ve finally learned that sometimes the best defense is no offense at all.

“You kids get out of this house; and don’t slam the door!” Rules are part of life; and rules-keeping is what progress is all about. How many times have you heard your Mom or Dad tell you to be in at a certain time (and don’t slam the door!), or how often have you heard last minute instructions that have become almost boring because you’ve heard them so often? Because they are familiar, does that make them any less true? Actually, God’s rules don’t change and we would do well to pay careful attention when He says, “don’t slam the door!” “Hear counsel and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end” (Proverbs 19: 20).

“You’re gonna finish your plate before you go out and play.” How often has a great plan failed for a lack

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of perseverance. If it's any good, it's worth working for. If it's any good, it's worth finishing. How many times little difficulties have rescinded our efforts and halted our enthusiasm. "The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets" (Proverbs 22:13).

"This hurts me more than it hurts you." I never understood that — It was the seat of my pants that were on fire. It didn't seem to hurt her at all. Not until I saw a tear in her eye a few minutes later did I understand what she meant. Then one day, I was about to spank one of the kids and I caught myself saying, "this hurts me more than it hurts you." "Spare the rod and spoil the child" (Proverbs 13:24).

"You better shape up or I'm gonna tell your daddy on you." There is someone to which we must answer. That's so even regarding the smallest things. As I'm wont to say, we need to "be wise small." Actually, Mom didn't have to tell the Father; he knew already. "The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge, and he over-throweth the words of the transgressor" (Proverbs 22:12).

"Can't you hear me? Listen, I'm talking to you." We so often don't hear because we don't want to. We don't listen because it gets in the way of what we want to do. It's very foolish to make a habit of not listening — especially to vital things. "He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul; but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding" (Proverbs 15:32)

"You're not going to wear those socks to church; they've got holes in them." It is just so that every man must examine himself. If we will, we'll often see that we have a hole in some of our socks, that we need to be careful what we wear out in public. It's a serious matter to allow one's dirty or mismatched sox to delay his progress, or restrict his coming to the Lord. Oh, to see ourselves as He does. We are too often prone to self-justification, even self-forgiveness. "Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" (Proverbs 20:9).

"I still love you — even when your pants are dirty and you look like you haven't washed your face in a week." "Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth" (Proverbs 24:17). True love learns patience. True love looks past imperfections, little warts, a little dirt on the face. That doesn't mean that a person who loves tolerates sin; it means he tolerates the sinner, having had a little dirt on his face, too. What love God has manifested to us! What love has His Son Jesus shown in embracing us in all our dirtiness?

I love you, Mom.

Made To Be Filled

By Gary Henry

“Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.” (Psalm 107:8, 9)

One of life’s most important insights is the understanding that we were created to be the recipients of God’s glory and grace. We are vessels. We are instruments. We are personal beings to whom (and also through whom) God intends to communicate the benevolence of His own character. When we learn to see ourselves in this way — as existing for the purpose of receiving God’s goodness — we’re then able to glorify Him in a higher way than we ever could have done in the past.

There is, as the old saying goes, a God-shaped hole in our hearts that only God can fill. Philip James Bailey said it this way: *“Naught but God can satisfy the soul.”* Most of us recognize that God is perfectly able to fulfill our needs, just because He is our Creator. What we perhaps don’t recognize as well is that God is the only adequate fulfillment of our needs. Having been made for this very purpose, if our hearts are not filled with Him, we can only die. Between life and death, there is no middle way.

It marks a huge step in the growth of any person when he or she learns the truth of Jesus’ statement, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). It’s also important, however, for us to see that what we’re to give is that which we’re intended to receive from God: His goodness. We were created not merely to be receptacles of God’s grace, but channels through which that grace would be conveyed to our fellow human beings.

Paul’s prayer for his Christian friends in Rome was typical of his wish for Christians everywhere else: *“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”* (Romans 15:13). There is simply no higher request that we can make, at least insofar as our human needs are concerned. When we see that this is the meaning of life — to be filled with God ourselves, and then to communicate Him to others — we can begin to fulfill the “potential” for which we were made.

“It is the goodness of God, and a desire to communicate this good, that inspired creation. We are designed to receive God’s goodness.” — William Law

Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually from our worship together and hope to see you again.

Memory Rules

- Forget each kindness that you do, as soon as you have done it.
- Forget the praise that falls to you, as soon as you have won it.
- Forget the slander that you hear, before you can repeat it.
- Forget each spite, each slight, each sneer where ever you may meet it.
- Remember every kindness done to you, what're its measure.
- Remember praise by others won and pass it on with pleasure.
- Remember every promise made and keep it to the letter.
- Remember all the happiness that comes to you in living.
- Forget each worry, and each disaster, be hopeful and forgiving.

— *Author Unknown*

In most cases, the “ity’s” (*charity, purity, humility, liberality, etc*) lead us down the right path, while the “ism’s” (*racism, egoism, humanism, hedonism, denominationalism*) are a sure path to hell.

A nominal Christian (*if such a term may be rightfully employed*) is one who follows Jesus so long as the Master’s teachings do not infringe upon his life’s practices.

March Birthdays: The 18th Amy Hisaw; The 25th Megan Morgan.

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Sunday

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.

Worship 10:30 A.M.

Worship 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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