

# THE LEVITE

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## 10 Reasons

You are an integral piece



## The American Dream Or American Nightmare - II



## Spiritual Entitlement Is someone carrying you?

## Forsake Not

*"...as ye see the day  
approaching"  
(Hebrews 10:25)*

 **HPC** HODGENVILLE  
PENTECOSTAL  
CHURCH  
*Pentecostal by Experience - Holiness by Choice*



# 10 REASONS I BELIEVE FOLKS SHOULD GO TO CHURCH

Brother David Webb  
Senior Pastor - Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

## Hebrews 10:24-25

In our modern society, there is little commitment to attending church. If they attend at all, many consider it optional.

According to Pew Research only 17 percent of Christians in the U.S. go to church "at least" once a week.

This trend began in the nominal churches. (Come to think of it, this is why they are nominal!) First, people started missing the mid – week service. Later, Sunday night attendance dropped. Currently, in certain denominations, two Sundays a year put you in good standing. Pastors and preachers in many places fear mentioning this lest people quit attending altogether, so fickle is this lot of "Christians". At last, some churches have come to view these people as a source of revenue, willing to wink and nod if they will make some pretense at a tithe.

Some Baptist churches in Louisville, KY, are merging because 80% of the people are not there 80% of the time. Their rolls are loaded with people that they rarely or never see. One pastor said he had 400 on Sunday morning and 12 on Wednesday night. The Easter and Christmas crowd are such a phenomenon in some churches that it is difficult to handle, requiring extra service times to accommodate the crowd. Wrongly, but understandably, regular attenders may stay away and become annoyed at the insincere crowd that inundates the facility during these two occasions. I have one Brother in my congregation whose father will not attend church at Easter or Christmas for this reason. Unfortunately, church and church family are no longer a priority having been replaced by family outings, mowing grass, the NFL, and hunting to name a few.

Sis. Debbie Woolett said, "God knows if it's an excuse or a reason." I must say that, after being in the ministry for 22 years, I have heard some far out excuses. One family missed for 3 solid weeks because they had "allergies". Funny though, they never missed one day of school, were never late to work, and never missed the school activities.

The danger exists that this trend will slip into the Holiness church. In fact, UNLESS we actively resist it, it WILL

become the norm in our churches. Even now, there is no doubt this process is already underway in some places. We must be accountable and faithful. We can resist this degradation with accountability.

Accountability is the key to bucking this trend. Would you consider missing work without calling in? Would you miss supper without calling home to let your wife know that you were going to be late? Brother and Sister, I, nor your Pastor, have a plot to control and track your life. If we did, we would be wrong. This is not about control. The fact is that I am accountable to God and to my flock. How would it seem if the Pastor didn't show for service and didn't tell a soul? Unacceptable, that is what! Please consider that you are fighting the wrong entity.... the Pastor is not your enemy — Satan is. Think with me for a minute about that feeling you get when you know you should call and let the Pastor know you are going to be out of service.....analyze that feeling for a moment. Is it a desire for privacy? Is it embarrassment?

Is it that you feel you don't need a keeper, and you resent having to let someone know your whereabouts? Now...where does that feeling come from? Is it pure? Does it reflect Christ? Fellow Christian, all of us need a keeper. It keeps us out of trouble and on the path we should be on.

Not one of us can maintain the kind of spiritual preparedness that is needed in this day and time without accountability to our spiritual chain of command — myself included. That accountability is the little bitter pill that will keep you off the golf course, out of the deer woods, and off the lake when you know very well where you should be on Sunday morning. It protects you and ultimately those who are looking to your example. Do any of you really think that one trip to the lake is all that you will make when you should be at church? Of course not! In fact, I would say that it is only a first step in your backsliding.

So many of you are on the fringes. One leg in, one out. If you were on the roof of a 50 story building with one leg over the side and one on the roof, would you feel safe? Wouldn't you appreciate folks pointing out the danger? Well, the precipice you are hanging that "out" leg over is a lot deeper and hotter than anything below

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## PHILIP THE FAITHFUL

Brother Doug Webb  
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

**Acts 6:3** Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. <sup>4</sup>

But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. <sup>5</sup> And the saying pleased the

whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip,...

**Acts 8:5** Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. <sup>6</sup> And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. <sup>7</sup> For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. <sup>8</sup> And there was great joy in that city.

**Acts 8:26** And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. <sup>27</sup> And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority... <sup>28</sup> Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. <sup>30</sup> And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

**Acts 21:8**, And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. <sup>9</sup> And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

One of the great needs of the church today is faithful men and women—people who consistently carry out the work of the Lord without being primed, pumped, and pushed to do so. The church needs men and women who do what they do just because it is in their character to do so.

In the text, we are told about how the Apostle Paul and a group of his traveling companions are going to Caesarea, and they enter into the home of a man known as Philip the Evangelist. Luke, the author of Acts, identifies him as being “one of the seven”, which speaks of seven men who were chosen by the Apostles in Acts 6, to oversee the distribution of funds to the widows of the church that were in need. The requirements set forth by the Apostles for those that were to be chosen for this task were that they be men “of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom.” The fact that Philip was chosen for such a task tells us that he must have been a FAITHFUL LAYMAN, for had he not been faithful, he would have never been chosen to be a deacon.

Let me insert here that if anyone expects to be elevated in the work of the Lord and entrusted with a position of responsibility in the church, they need to prove themselves faithful without a position or a title first. They should show themselves trustworthy, reliable, and diligent in the handling of their

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that building, and you have several other souls tied to you that may go over with you! I say this with all concern for your soul...*you are in danger of not making it.* I want to cordially invite you in...into the inner circle. Look at the folks that are all in, those that are faithful AND accountable. Does it appear they are doing ok? Are they damaged by being faithful to the house of God? What could you possibly gain by missing services? What are you holding on to outside church?

One common reason for missing church is work. This is very difficult for Pastors. We all want you to make a living and provide your family, as we must for our own families. We also understand the principle of the ox being in the pit, but Brother.....it can't be in the pit every service. At that point, by definition, it is no longer an emergency but a problem. Christians, you cannot make it this way. The spirit of the antichrist is working even now trying to force the saints to make the decision to miss church indefinitely for work. We understand we are not being asked to have 666 put in our forehead or hands, but we are being asked by our employers to break the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment of working on Sunday (the new testament day set aside to rest).

If employers are bold enough to ask us to work Sunday, then we should be bold enough to say no! If loved ones are rude enough to ask us go on a picnic with the family and miss service, then we are not rude to say no. If someone drops by on Wednesday evening, then we should have enough backbone to say, "We're going to church, so load up and go with us." The more we make church attendance non-negotiable, the easier it becomes. People will learn not to ask.

Remember, church people are like cars...they start missing just before they quit.

**Ten Reasons I Believe Folks should come to church**

1) **The Bible Commands it.** Just as the Bible commands us...

- *Love your neighbor as yourself, and*
- *Thou shalt not kill.*
- It also says in Hebrews 10:25, "*Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together..... and so much the more, as you see the day approaching.*"

2) **People who love to go to church are special to God!** "Wait a minute," someone said, "Everyone is special!" David, a man after God's own heart said these

words— "I was glad when they said unto me ..let us go to the house of the Lord."

3) **Church is the safest place to be!**




- 20 percent of all fatal accident take place in a vehicle.
- 17 percent of all accidents occur in the home.
- 14 percent of all accidents occur to pedestrians walking along streets and sidewalks.
- 16 percent of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
- 32 percent of deaths occur in hospitals.
- But you will be pleased to learn that only .001 percent of all deaths occur in worship services at church!

4) **Where do you hear from God?** Many of us were saved, sanctified, and Spirit filled while attending a church service. How quickly we grow out of the need to continue. I also believe you will be held accountable at the judgment for the things you could have heard and didn't.

5) **Jesus didn't make excuses when he carried your cross!** If you couldn't get by with the same excuse to **miss work** as the one you give to your pastor to miss church, then you shouldn't give that excuse to the God that saved you from Hell! If some folks missed work as much as they missed church they would be fired.

6) **You're casting your vote!** "Voting for what?" you might ask. Our attendance is a vote each time to keep the church going or shut it down. Ironically, if leadership announced that they were shutting down certain services, people would throw a fit! Yet, on the other hand, they won't be faithful. Friend, that is being hypocritical.

7) **You are developing patterns for your family.** You may say, "Well, I make sure my kids are there." When you choose that overtime over God's time you are telling them that the almighty dollar is more important to you than almighty God. They are watching you. Remember what you do in moderation, they will do in excess.

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8) **You're showing where your priorities are!** When you are at church, you are telling the world you choose.....

God over work, God over family, God over fun, God over fishing, God over football, God over hunting.

9) **Be there to do your part.** Many may say, "Well, I don't do anything. I'm not really needed." On the contrary, Romans 12:4 – 6 says, <sup>4</sup>For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: <sup>5</sup>So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us..." Have you ever said.....

- I don't need this nose – cut it off.
- I don't need my little toe – cut it off.
- I'm right handed, I don't use my left – cut it off.

Someone like this has a handicap! When we are absent from the church, it becomes crippled.

**If you're a ...**

- Musician – The music suffers.
- Choir member – The choir suffers.
- Sunday School Teacher – The class suffers.
- Altar Worker – The altar suffers.
- Singer – Song service & special singing suffers.
- Layman – The service suffers.

10) **You should come so you won't miss it. It could be ...**

- That the service you miss is the one to which the backslider you've been praying for comes.
- That person you've been inviting shows.

- The service that God brings you out of your trial.
- That you receive the Holy Ghost.
- That you are divinely healed.

**Finally —**

*"Ten Little Christians came to church all the time; One fell out with the preacher, then there were nine.*

*Nine Little Christians stayed up late; One overslept on Sunday, then there were eight.*

*Eight Little Christians on their way to Heaven; One took the low road, then there were seven.*

*Seven Little Christians, chirping like chicks; One didn't like the singing, then there were six.*

*Six Little Christians seemed very much alive; One took a vacation, then there were five.*

*Five Little Christians pulling for Heaven's shore; One stopped to take a rest, then there were four.*

*Four Little Christians each as busy as a bee; One had his feelings hurt, then there were three.*

*Three Little Christians couldn't decide what to do; One couldn't have his way, then there were two.*

*Two Little Christians each won one more; Now don't you see, two plus two equals four.*

*Four Little Christians worked early and late; Each brought one, now there were eight.*

*Eight Little Christians if they double as before; In just seven Sundays, we have one thousand twenty four.*

*In this jingle there is a lesson true; You belong either to the building, or to the wrecking crew."*

10.9.8.7.6.5.4.3.2.4.8.10.24



**BALANCING THE SCALE - Sis. Cortney Astor** (correction)

**Ephesians 5:22:** "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."

v<sup>25</sup>: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"

The following conclusion was inadvertently omitted from "Balancing The Scale" in

the last issue of The Levite (Volume 3, Issue 4)

Every relationship isn't guaranteed to be perfect all the time, but the good news is that it can be! I will be the first to admit I haven't always done it perfectly, and I don't always get it right. However, I know that if we keep an

open heart and allow the Lord to change our attitude, spirit, and mind, we can experience a happy marriage as the Lord has intended for us. How the scales balance will differ from couple to couple, but you know what you can do to help balance your own scale! So do it.

**Philip the Faithful** - continued from page 3

own personal business affairs. For if a person cannot properly care for the things of their own, how can they be entrusted with the things of God?

The requirement for a deacon “of honest report” tells me that Philip was a man with a good name both inside and outside the church. It also tells me he was a reputable man who kept his word, paid his debts, provided for the needs of his family, and faithfully supported the work of the Lord. He was a man that had a heart for God, a love for the brethren, and a burden for souls.

The second requirement was that they be men “full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom.” Philip was that kind of man. He was a man in whom the fruit of the Spirit was manifest and the gifts of the Spirit were in operation. He was a man of prayer who knew how to get on his knees and get a hold of God. A man of “wisdom” who knew the Word of God and applied its principles to the way he lived every day.

After Philip faithfully fulfilled his office as a deacon, the Lord called him into another area of ministry. In Acts 8, we see him going down to Samaria and preaching the Gospel of Christ unto them. As he did, revival broke out: miracles were wrought, demons were cast out, and people were saved by grace. It seems to me that “Philip the Faithful” fit wherever God placed him. In Acts 8:26, we see where an angel of the Lord speaks to Philip and tells him to go unto the desert at Gaza. It is there that he witnesses to an Ethiopian eunuch of great authority, and, after sharing the gospel with him one-on-one, he leads him to salvation. Apparently, it made no difference with Philip whether he was preaching to a multitude or witnessing to one; Philip

was a faithful witness for the Lord wherever he was. After this, in Acts 8:40, we see him traveling through the cities of Azotus preaching, for wherever Philip went the Gospel went. These things should speak to us that we, like Philip, should faithfully share the Gospel to whosoever, whenever, wherever the opportunity avails.

Please notice in the text in Acts 21 that the author is careful to point out that Philip had four virgin daughters that prophesied. This little tidbit of information tells me that Philip had not only been faithful in ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of others, he had also been a faithful father in ministering to his children at home.

May I say here to both laity and ministry, in all the work you do...don't forget THE LORD'S WORK AT HOME. If there is anywhere we need to be a faithful witness it is at home. If anywhere, home is where prayer ought to be most fervent, the power of the Holy Ghost most prevalent, and revival fires need to burn most bright.

I believe the promotion and the blessing of the Lord that we see in Philip's ministry and life were a direct result of him being a man of faithfulness. I also believe that the spirituality of his four daughters was a direct result of his having lived a consistent Christian life before them every day.

Philip's life as a faithful layman, a faithful deacon, a faithful minister, and a faithful father testifies to all of us that the harvest of living a faithful life is a harvest worth reaping in this life and in the life to come. Revelation 2:10 ... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.



## 6 SPIRITUAL ENTITLEMENT

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I was born October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1988; therefore, I am part of what is known as “Generation Y” or Gen-Yers (someone who is born between 1980 – mid

1990s). Most people would be more familiar with another description of my age group—“The Millennial Generation” or Millennials. Much has been written about us, as well as, vast research and money spent trying to figure out who we are. In that research you will find some positives like:

we are fast learners and very good with technology. Along with that you will also find many negatives, for example: we are generally lazy, we *hate* criticism, we are likely to move back in with our parents because we are unable to live on our own, and we believe strongly in entitlements. While all of these character traits are disturbing, becoming a generation that feels entitled is the most dangerous to me.

You don't have to be a scholar to see that we have be-

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**Spiritual Entitlement** - continued from page 6

come a people that feel we deserve more than what we actually do deserve. I am thankful to have lived in a home that taught me principles about work ethics and Godly values. I can remember getting my license and needing (wanting...) a truck to drive. My father could have went out and bought me the truck I wanted— a 4-door Chevy Z71 with mud tires and a lift kit so high that you needed an elevator to get in. Instead, he got me a 1920 (it felt that old anyway) red S10 that had real AC (rust holes that allowed air flow) and over 300k miles. It may seem odd now, but I don't remember throwing a fit or being ungrateful for that old hunk of junk. I was just glad to have something to drive.

Fast forward to 2017. We live in a time when we are being cheated somehow if we don't have the latest iPhone, or we are being punished if somehow we aren't able to buy everything that we want. Large movements are based solely on the promise of giving what is not earned and getting what is not deserved. I feel this is a major pitfall for today's society, but there is something that is more concerning to me, and that is when I see these same ideas and behaviors manifesting themselves inside the church.

Do you ever stop to think about the possibility that your church could be different than the way it is right now? Fol-

low me for a moment...you nor I have a monopoly on either God or His Spirit. We cannot make Him save someone, we cannot make Him heal someone, we cannot make Him fill someone with the Holy Ghost; yet, service after service we act like we are entitled to these divine miracles. James 1:17 says: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.* He blesses us with gifts because He loves us, not because we deserve any of it. I wonder if God sometimes ponders the thought of withholding the Holy Spirit from a congregation just to see if they appreciate it when He returns.

Ask yourself this question: Do you expect others to carry you into the presence of God? I am sure you answered a resounding, "NO," but let's look honestly at this. Do you actually contribute to the song service, or are you just someone that reads the words in a hymnal while your mind is elsewhere? When is the last time that you volunteered to stand and give God glory for the blessings that He daily bestows upon you and your family in a testimony service? What about in the altar service after the preacher has delivered his heart; do you respond, or do you make a motion towards the front only to find a corner where you can hide away from those pesky altar workers. The sad reality is that about 10% of most congregations bring 100% of the power into a service....i.e., Spiritual Entitlement. We have become lazy and lethargic in our approach to spiritual matters. Sure we are glad when a singer is prayed up and sings us into the presence of God or a preacher is able to become that Holy conduit from the throne room of heaven, but don't dare ask me to lead or push a service in any way. Pardon me for being so plain, but we have become the same spoiled brats that we hate seeing in the world. We despise the very thought of someone getting something that he or she has not worked for, and yet, Sunday after Sunday, thousands will gather to ride the prayers and praise that someone else offers.

I challenge you to act like your church depends on you for a move of the Holy Ghost. Elevate your church's spiritual meter instead of being the liability that most are. Shock your pastor this coming service and be on time. Do something crazy like being the first one in the altar.

Remember, we don't deserve any of the benefits God gives us.





## THE AMERICAN DREAM OR THE AMERICAN NIGHTMARE

Brother Don Woolett © 2008 (reprinted by permission)  
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

It is very clear and evident that the founding fathers never intended the First Amendment to mean freedom from religion. This has been recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court many times over the years. In the case of *Zorach v. Clauson*, 1952, the Court said, "We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a supreme being...We sponsor an attitude on the part of government that shows no partiality to any one group and that lets each flourish according to the zeal of its adherents and the appeal of its dogma." Furthermore, in the case of *Church Of The Holy Trinity v. United States*, the court also noted: "Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian...This is a religious people. This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation...we find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth...These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation."

As we should clearly see, it was never the intention of the Founding Fathers to banish any reflection of religious convictions from public life. It was quite to the contrary, in fact. I find it interesting that the very day after the very first Congress adopted the First Amendment to the Constitution, Congress passed a resolution urging President George Washington to proclaim, "...a day of public thanksgiving and prayer." Therefore, we can see it has never been the intention of the Founding Fathers to separate the state or the public from any influence of the church. Rather, it was meant as a way to protect each of us from being forced into a particular religion by government. It was not meant to censor religious expression by individuals or by churches. Another interesting note is that when the Constitutional Convention was debating in 1789, Benjamin Franklin proposed that each day's session be opened with a prayer.

So, in our past, we have never separated God and prayer from our public life. The fifty-six brave men who signed the Declaration of Independence had this to say: "For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." Daniel Webster once made a statement that I find profoundly interesting. He said: "Lastly, our ancestors established their system of government on morality and religious sentiment. Moral habits, they believed, cannot safely be trusted on any other foundation than religious principle, nor any government be secure which is not supported by moral habits." Though some would have us believe that the First Amendment means a hostility toward religion and toward public expression of religious belief, this thought is completely contrary to the spirit of the Founding Fathers, and really contrary to other aspects of the First Amendment.

But, what about our responsibility as citizens. How far should we go and how much should we do in our relationship to our country and its laws, and government officials? God has instituted three distinct areas of influence and responsibility in our lives:

- 1) The home and family,
- 2) The Church
- 3) Civil government

We are subject to each area in its proper sphere of influence. Christians are citizens of two worlds. One is the spiritual world that Christ ordained at Calvary, and the other is the natural or physical world [which God also himself created]. Romans 13, 1 Peter 2, and other Scriptures teach us that we are to submit ourselves to civil government authority and obey the laws of the land. Romans 13 also teaches that government officials are ministers to us for good and have the duty and responsibility to punish those that do evil. However, if and when civil government authority violates Scriptural principles, we, as citizens, have the higher duty and responsibility to obey God rather than man. [Acts 5:29]

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***Dream or Nightmare*** - continued from page 7

The founding Fathers established our Constitutional form of government for our benefit with the Constitution as the supreme law of the land, not the various branches of government. Therefore, any laws, regulations, statutes, or executive orders in violation of the Constitution are invalid and without legitimate enforceable authority. Anyone who possesses power and authority does so because God allows it. Psalms 62:11 proclaims, "...power belongeth unto God." Even Satan himself is known as the prince and power of the air and possesses power on earth to deceive mankind. However, God commands us to resist the Devil. Therefore, we, as Bible believing Christians, have the mandate to resist authority that would cause us to commit sin or violate God's will or principles. In fact, that is exactly how our country was founded.

Preachers, ministers, civil servants, or government officials who violate God's ordained purpose for government should be asked to step down from their office or be voted out of office and replaced by someone who we feel would fulfill God's Divine call and will. Civil laws which violate Scriptural precepts must also be repealed. The Constitution of the United States has given "We The People" the right and responsibility to repeal such laws and cause good legislation to be enacted. The Scriptures also command us to pray for those in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all Godliness and honesty. [1 Tim. 2: 1-2] When we stand up and say "NO" to officials who are breaking the law, we are not only fulfilling the Constitutional purpose enacted by the Founding Fathers, but we're fulfilling the Biblical mandate to properly provide for our own and those of our own house. [1 Tim. 5:8] God commands us, as much as lies within us, to live at peace with all men. However, there comes a time when we must stand our ground by being assertive and, as true citizens of both worlds, proclaim Christ above all!

**Quotes By Famous People About Freedom**

*"The American Dream is not just about money and material advancement. It is a dream of freedom"* [Alan Keys]

*"We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future upon the capacity of each and all*

*of us to govern ourselves, to sustain ourselves, according to the Ten Commandments of God."* [James Madison]

*"The Constitution is not an instrument for government to restrain the people, it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government—lest it come to dominate our lives and interests."* [Patrick Henry]

*"A contempt of the monuments and the wisdom of the past, may be justly reckoned one of the reigning follies of these days, to which pride and idleness have equally contributed."* [Samuel Johnson]

*"Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen who would protect the rights and privileges of free people."* [Dwight D. Eisenhower]

*"I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there; in her rich mines and her vast world commerce and it was not there. Not until I went to the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."* [Alexis de Tocqueville]

*"Whatever makes a man a good Christian also makes a good citizen."* [Daniel Webster]

*"Posterity: you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."* [John Quincy Adams]

{Quotes from "In Conclusion" taken from: The Patriot's Handbook by George Grant, Ph.D. Highland Books}

**Protecting The Family**

I believe it is the supreme responsibility of every parent (dad, mom, grandparent, etc.) to protect their family from anyone or anything that might do them harm. [1 Timothy 5:8] Our First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and expression, free exercise of religion, the second amendment right to keep and bear arms, and many times freedom of association are being attacked on an almost daily bases.

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***Dream or Nightmare*** - continued from page 9

There are evil people in this world, seemingly without conscience, who would seek to do others injustice. They'll steal your identity, prey on senior citizens, and abduct children. They often look for ways to bring law suits against you and me for personal gain. Many make a living out of getting something for nothing. They are turning the American Dream into the American Nightmare.

First of all, let me briefly explain, though some may disagree, my view on Christian passivism and when Christians may or may not be permitted to defend themselves and their families from an attack, either spiritual or physical. The Scriptures tell us in Psalm 62:6, "He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defense;..." Then again in Proverbs 24:29, the Scripture says, "Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work." I do not believe that Christians have a right or mandate to retaliate when slandered or insulted. Such insults do not threaten the personal safety of a Christian. Defending one's self against a mugger, robber, or rapist or terrorist is a different story, however. As author Don Boys, Ph.D says, "Christians don't shoot to kill. They shoot to stay alive!"

From my studies and experienced observation, a Christian doesn't have a right to retaliation or personal vengeance. However, one does have a Scriptural and Constitutional right to defend himself, his family and his property. Remember, also, that Jesus, as gentle and mild as he was, drove the moneychangers out of the temple with a whip then turned over their tables. He also stood in their way so they couldn't pass through. (Mark 11:15 & 16). It is clear to me that God holds men responsible for being armed and prepared to protect and defend his family. Jesus taught in Luke 22:36 that if one doesn't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one.

Pacifist beliefs do not stand up to the harsh reality of our fallen world nor is pacifism to be reconciled to the clear teachings of Scripture. Consider Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Jesus himself told us in St. Luke 11:21, "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace".

English Common Law states that a man's home is his castle (or palace). I believe that includes your family and possessions occupying or associated with your castle. A burglar (rapist, robber, pervert, predator, etc.) who has no regard for the sanctity of your home would likely have no more regard for your physical well being. He or she is not breaking into your home accidentally and presents a "clear and present danger." In my opinion, the use of force to stop violence is not the same as the initiation of violence. I fully agree with Don Boys when he says that if you permit a murder or rape of an innocent child when you could have stopped it, than you are morally responsible for it! (see also, Matthew 24:43)

1 Timothy 5:8 teaches, "*But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*" I believe these provisions are not only food, clothing, shelter, proper education and medical care, etc., but protection from harm as well (Exodus 22:2).

Nehemiah 4:14 states, "*...Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives and your houses.*"

Proverbs 25:26 teaches us that, "*A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.*" Ecclesiastes 10:4 states, "*If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences.*"

Therefore, from these and other Scriptures, it is clear to me that God holds man responsible for being prepared to stand up for his family and acquaintances and even for being armed, if necessary, and prepared to protect his family. I would never want to be found to be "worse than an infidel" by allowing someone to harm my family when I have a means to stop them. [see Matthew 24:43]. Revenge is in God's hands; protection for our family and Christian brothers and sisters is our responsibility. God, himself, says he is our defense. However, I do believe we, as individuals, have a definite mandate from God to defend and provide for our families. That way, we can keep part of the American Dream from becoming the American Nightmare!





## KNOW YOUR BENEFITS

Brother Danny Compton  
*Sunday School Superintendent  
 Hodgenville Pentecostal Church*

A great benefits package can change a person's life. The obvious benefit of pay is usually the first thing people think about. The benefits of experience and training are sometimes

overlooked because they just come along with being hired; however, make no mistake about it, experience and training are priceless benefits. Some of the big ticket items in a benefits package are health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, vacation, personal time off; and, depending on what type of job it is, a spending account and mileage may also be offered. Something people don't tend to think about when they are young and breaking into the workforce is retirement; so, to all of you young adults out there, you need to know that time is on your trail. I encourage you to take part in your employer's retirement savings program. If your employer does not offer a plan, you need to start saving on your own today. I have heard business owners say it is very rewarding to see the positive effects that a great benefits package can have in the lives of the people that work for them.

Have you ever noticed that people usually know what companies offer the best benefits? Those are jobs that people line up to get. When these companies hire, it's done as an event with a schedule in a special location to handle the crowd. All because everyone wants the benefits they have to offer.

The greatest benefits package ever offered is to the Christian! Psalm 103:2 says, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:"

If we as Christians do not know or have forgotten our benefits of being a child of God, how can we expect the lost to get excited about the possibility of becoming a Christian? We will come in contact with people from time to time that need to hear that hell is real and that they are going there if they do not get saved, but we cannot beat everybody we meet over the head with hell and punishment and expect people to flood our churches. When an employer hires people they do not put all the emphasis on how hot or hard the work is. They tell about the benefits of working for them. They put a well-dressed person with a smiling face across the table to entice you to work for the company they represent.

Yes...HELL IS REAL, and if your name is not found in the book of life you will unfortunately go there. Revelation 20:15 says, "And whosoever was not found written in the

book of life was cast into the lake of fire." However, 2 Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

The Lord is not limited in the benefits He provides or to whom He provides them. Psalm 50:10 says, "The Lord owns the cattle on a thousand hills." Acts 10:34 says, "The Lord is no respecter of persons." So as children of God, we must learn about the promises of God. We must know our benefits! If we don't know our benefits two things happen: 1) We live below our privileges, and 2) We communicate the wrong message to everyone in our sphere of influence when we live below our privileges.

I wonder what would happen if we truly knew the benefits of being a child of God and shared with our communities about these benefits? I dare say that everyone reading this has tangible evidence of the benefits offered to a child of God. We must share our testimonies with others and know our benefits! According to Psalm 103:2 we are not to forget his benefits, which means we must learn them.

I could never cover all the benefits of being a child of God, but let's just start with our text:

Psalm 103:2-5 "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

1. He forgives all our iniquities.
2. He heals all our diseases.
3. He redeems our lives from destruction.
4. He crowns us with loving kindness and tender mercies.
5. He satisfies our mouths with good things.

Colossians 1:12-14 says He delivers. James 1:5-6 says He gives wisdom. John 16:13 says He provides guidance. Psalm 91 says He provides safety and protection. John 10:10 says He gives abundance. Philippians 4:19 says He provides complete provision across the board.

We serve a great God who wants whosoever to receive all of the benefits He has to offer, and He wants us to utilize those benefits to the fullest. Therefore, we must learn and not forget from where our help comes!

Psalm 68:19 "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation . Selah."



# A YEAR END LOOK AT QUOTES FROM HPC...

(Compiled by Sister Genell Webb)

**It's not hard to put an uncertain future in the hands of an unchanging God.**

*Brother Matthias Dement*

**You're going to miss out on God's blessing because you're not flying high enough.**

*Brother Drew Munafo*

**If it's not your business, don't make it your business.**

*Brother David Webb*

**Where there is unity, there is always victory.**

*Brother David Webb*

**We have to choose to trust God. Trust is a choice.**

*Sister Joyce Grant*

**A place of prayer is a place of prevention, protection, provision, and power.**

*Brother Jeremy Spurlock*

**His commandments are not grievous; the opposite of grievous is glorious!**

*Brother Enoch Snow*

**Bringing our children up in the admonition of the Lord is giving them what they need to succeed.**

*Brother Jeremy Spurlock*

**Brother, I like you, but I don't want to use your toothbrush. That's how I feel about my spiritual experience. I've got to get it for myself.**

*Brother Enoch Snow*

**The Word of God is our insurance. God puts His stamp of approval when we use His blueprint.**

*Brother Jeremy Spurlock*

**The importance of the insignificant: it's the little things that hold everything together.**

*Brother Jeremy Spurlock*

**Are you a giver, a taker, or a difference maker?**

*Brother David Webb*

**It is a ministry to be an altar worker.**

*Brother David Webb*

**The vast majority of great moves of God have been because of one person saying yes.**

*Brother Alan Sumner*

**There is a spiritual side to meeting a physical need for someone.**

*Brother David Webb*

**A grudge is the heaviest thing to carry around.**

*Brother David Webb*

**If your God is dead, come and talk to mine.**

*Brother Don Miller*

**If you want to live an effective Christian life, don't let people see you down and in despair. Jesus has gone through more than we'll ever go through. Don't be stubborn and hard headed.**

*Brother Bill Watson*

**Just because you feel like you're a minority doesn't mean you're wrong. Any minority plus God is a majority.**

*Brother Andrew Astor*

**We're not going to heaven to look back at history. We're going to heaven to look at His story.**

*Brother Jon Brock*

**Missions is vital to vision. A mission minded church is a church that is alive.**

*Brother Jeremy Spurlock*

**We cannot let the coldness of the hour take away our passion.**

*Brother David Webb*

**Life doesn't have to be fair for us to give thanksgiving and praise to the Lord.**

*Brother Zane Estis*

**I don't want worry to take over my worship, but I want worship to take over my worry.**

*Brother Jimmy Deckard*

**Life is life and holiness is holiness. You either live it or you don't.**

*Brother Thomas Pearman - 14 years old*