

Tchula ordered to pay state auditor delinquent fees

Associated Press

The Mississippi Office of the State Auditor is warning four local governments to pay their delinquent court assessments fees within 30 days, or face consequences.

Court assessment fees collected from misdemeanor offenses and traffic violations are required by law to be deposited with the state treasurer every month. The towns of Raleigh and Tchula (CHOO'-luh), the city of Shaw and Coahoma County each have not properly appropriated between \$14,000 and \$69,000 in court assessment fees to the state treasurer.



STACEY PICKERING

State Auditor Stacey Pickering alerted the four local governments Monday, March 12, that they will receive formal demands if they do not appropriate their feeds within 30 days. Such demands, not yet issued, could lead to legal action.

Bless the Lord...bless His holy name

By Gary Andrews

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Sometimes I find it hard to sleep and get up early in the morning because I have something on my mind. Most of these times of insomnia I have a particular subject on my mind and until I get up and talk with the Lord about it, I cannot ease my mind of these thoughts.

My family and I have been thoroughly blessed and I wonder if I have praised God enough for all the blessings He has given me. I once heard a pastor say to his congregation, "What if we wake up in the morning and all we have is what we have thanked or praised God for?"

A Psalm of David tells us, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name."

Have you ever thought that the word "Bless" also means "Praise"? Everything we have or ever will have is given to us by the Lord God and many of us never take the time to say "Bless you Lord" or "Praise you Lord" or "Thank You Lord."

Many will tell you that the Lord had nothing to do with their success and that through hard work and dedication on their part they earned what they have. It is a sad day when anyone would think this, especially a child of the Living God, but there are many people in the world today that will tell you this. It is a sad day that when people believe all of their riches came from within them and what they have done to obtain them. They live it up on earth and never realize that when their time comes to an end what is going to happen to all of their riches.

They are certainly not going to take it to the grave with them. These riches are going to someone else to squander and use as they see fit or either to someone that will say "Bless you Lord" and use these riches for the kingdom of God.

In verse two of this Psalm we are told, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."

What is your definition of benefits? Again, many of us do not think that all we have is a benefit of the Lord. Where would we be without Him and what would we have if the Lord God had not created us and give us a world to live in? Not only has He given us a world to live in but He has given us a Christian nation to live in. We are the most blessed nation in the world and have riches beyond belief compared to others in this world. To the ones of us that complain about what we don't have should really stop and thank God for what we do have. There are many people in other countries that don't have the luxuries that we enjoy and complain about.

The Psalmist started his chapter with "Bless the Lord" and ended his chapter with "Bless the Lord." In everything we do or say we should bless the Lord's Holy Character. He is a merciful God, a forgiving God, and a gracious God. If it were not for the grace of God where would any of us be? Whether we are His child or not, each one of us will stand before Him on judgment day and give an account of how we spent our life and what we did for Him. Our God wants to be praised and when our time on earth is done and we go to eternity with Him, this is what we are going to be doing. Why should we praise God; because He is God.

Prayer: Father God, I do praise you in everything. You are the light of the world and I give you all the praise for all you have blessed me with. Thank you for loving a sinner such as I. Amen.

Suggested daily Bible readings: Sunday - Psalm 103:1-22; Monday - Nehemiah 9:1-6; Tuesday - Revelation 7:9-17; Wednesday - 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Thursday - Daniel 2:19-23; Friday - Psalm 115:1-3; Saturday - Acts 12:21-24.

Gary Andrews is the author of *Encouraging Words: 30-days in God's Word*. To obtain a copy go to his website www.gadevotionals.com.



Living With Children

By John Rosemond

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Parents of children who habitually lie can breathe a huge sigh of relief - The New York Times says that budding Pinocchios are more intelligent than kids who tell the truth ("Is Your Child Lying to You? That's Good," Alex Stone, January 5, 2018). The Grey Lady's announcement is based on studies done in the 1980s in which young children who disobeyed an instruction and then denied having disobeyed were discovered to have higher IQs than those who admitted disobedience. A subsequent study found that most adults cannot tell when children are lying, a finding that seems - on the surface, at least - to confirm the previous study.

The question, of course, becomes: Does perfecting the art of lying make a child smarter or does being smart lend itself to lying? Which comes first, dishonesty or a high IQ? Your author will not attempt to unravel that puzzle. I will, however, mention that people who habitually lie are known as sociopaths. So, whereas the NYT sees it as good news that some children become inveterate liars at an early age, teaching a child to lie in the hopes he or she will become smarter as a result is not recommended. Unfortunately, today's parenting culture seems to put a higher premium on a high IQ than it does morality. Consider that one regularly sees bumper stickers advertising children's academic

achievements - you know, that "My Child Is an Honor Student at Cutabove Academy" thing, but none that publicize children's moral sturdiness, as in, "My Child May Not Be the Sharpest Knife in the Drawer, But She Is Polite and Hard-Working." How many parents do you know who have enrolled their kids in after-school tutoring in manners? It would appear that a good number of today's parents are more concerned with achievement than character.

The guilty parties would never admit it, of course. If asked, "Given the choice, would you rather that your child make straight A's or always tell the truth and strive to never hurt another person's feelings?" they will lie. Which is sociopathic. Which may go a long way toward explaining why some straight-A kids are incorri-

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gible liars, or vice versa.

The New York Times piece also mentions research finding that punishment does not deter, much less rehabilitate, most childhood liars. That's consistent with my experience. The thrill of getting away with a lie seems to greatly outweigh any possibility of negative consequences. Not surprisingly, money "talks" to the aspiring sociopath, says the NYT. When compensated sufficiently, young liars will tell the truth. That fails to justify the immorality of paying for morality. Another way of saying the same thing: Paying a sociopath to not behave like a sociopath is sociopathic. Furthermore, the researchers in question failed to say that paying for honesty brought about permanent transformation; therefore, it is safe to say it did not.

What does? Well, I don't think any one solution fits all kids, but here's an interesting story: Two parents once told me they successfully fought fire with fire. They began lying about everything and anything - what was for dinner, what movie they were going to, that they were going to raise his allowance - to their nine-year-old aspiring sociopath. No morality lectures, mind you, simply lie after lie after lie. This went on for several weeks before he "got it" and begged them to stop. They did, promising more of the same if he relapsed. He's been lie-free for three years now.

Your great-grandparents called it "reverse psychology." They were right about most things parenting.

Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.

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