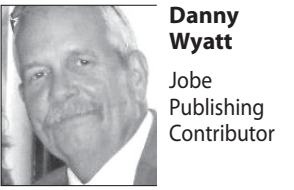


Bargain Hunting



Danny Wyatt
Jobe Publishing Contributor

“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

I have been noticing lately that a lot of people are excited about what they consider to be bargains in life. The price of gas has dropped a great deal, and so people are happy and will try to take advantage of such while it lasts.

Some of the local food outlets have milk and eggs priced lower than they have been in a while, and many will make an extra stop when shopping just to take advantage of such prices.

Many people are coupon shoppers and will

get very good bargains because of their use of these money-saving features. I suppose all of this is good. I suppose it saves some people a good deal of money when used properly.

What remains a puzzle to me however, is this: The best bargain to be found anywhere is Jesus Christ and his word, and yet many only seem to have a sometimes commitment to the Lord. Many will come to worship God and study his word only when it is comfortable or convenient. I guess they must figure that the bargain on gas, milk, and eggs is greater than the bargain of forgiven sins.

Remember, one cannot have just a little Jesus. He must be the passion of your life, or one day you will find that your coupon offered by Christ will have passed its expiration date.

Landmarks



Jason Abston
Jobe Publishing Contributor

If each of us sit and listen to the “old folks” in our family we are sure to hear some old stories, and learn something about ourselves. We may learn why we are who we are. Your grandparents may seem old-fashioned and backward. In their day, they probably thought the same about theirs.

Each generation has worked to make the lives of their kids better than theirs. Parents and grandparents want their children to go beyond them and become something better.

Many of us have grandparents that may not have graduated from high school, or they may not be able to read. When they see one of their children or grandchildren doing something they’re unable to do, they are filled with pride.

I remember the pride that my grandparents had when I graduated high school and began technical college, and I am sure that the grandparents of others felt the same when their grand-

children reached a landmark in their lives.

The landmarks that we set are a starting point for our children. Irresponsibility can remove the landmarks that earlier generations have laid and make the challenge for the children much harder.

If a man is successful in his work and is able to send his son to college and his son in return squanders all that the father has worked so hard for, then the children of that man must start from scratch in hopes of achieving the success of their grandfather and then handing it to the next generation.

As King Solomon said in Proverbs 22:28, “Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.” The road of life continues and each step forward that we take is one less step our children must travel. If we are irresponsible and backslide on the road we travel in life, we add more challenging steps to the road of the next generation.

Please take a moment to pray for the condition of families today. When families struggle, our entire nation struggles.



Letter to a Grandchild

Dear Grandchild,

I don’t know if you and I will ever get to know each other. Maybe God will grant me the time. However, I’m writing you this letter just in case he has other plans for me. I will put this letter away, hoping it will find its way to you in years to come.

I’m writing this letter to apologize for the deplorable mess my generation has left for you and your generation. I only hope that you can salvage some of the little decency left in the world.

I’m sorry that we used up the world’s energy sources and was too stupid to see what was coming.

My generation is too greedy to see what is happening. We are too busy to really care about future generations.

We have polluted the once sparkling and clean streams and lakes. We have poured tons of foul-smelling industrial waste into the streams, smothering the life of all things living there. All in the name of Progress!

We have darkened the once blue and pure skies with smoke and deadly fumes. We have overused our natural resources to the point of no return. All in the name of Progress!

Grandchild, I am truly sorry! We have elected men to public office who have literally ruined the image of our great nation by scandal, bribery, and lust for power. Yet we have stood by and let it happen and falsely convince ourselves that it is an accepted way of modern life.

We throw trash and garbage along our highways by the ton and then complain about taxes. Tax money is used to clean up the mess.

During the last non-presidential election, only 36 percent of the American people came out to vote. Yet the other 64 percent will spend the next four years complaining if the government raises taxes or inflation is on the rise. This 64 percent has no right to complain about anything the government does, right or wrong.

Some of our high schools employ an armed guard to watch for the dope pushers, who destroy thousands of young lives every year,

Yet the pushers, when caught, are usually let off with nothing more than a suspended sentence.

We have good, sound laws, but we fail to enforce them. We try to tell other countries how to run their affairs when we can’t even run our own properly.

This year’s grain crop is the biggest in years. We have so much grain that there aren’t enough rail cars to haul it. Still, there are people in the U.S.A. going hungry.

I only hope your generation will not be so apathetic in such matters. Politicians spend millions of dollars to campaign for an office that pays a small fraction of that, yet the elderly in some cases are forced to eat dog food because we have grossly neglected our duty to them.

The communists love to see figures like these. It proves to them that we are growing apathetic. We used to have pride in this country, but the almighty dollar has taken the place of Pride and God.

I pray, grandchild that your generation will learn from the mistakes of mine.

I hope your generation will stand firm and once again our nation can hold its head high for all the world to see!

See to it that elected officials perform their jobs in a respectable and honorable manner.

Take good care of our nation grandchild. My generation didn’t! Again, I profoundly apologize for a generation of greedy, apathetic, and prideless people.



LET’S TALK ABOUT

By **CAROL PERKINS**
Jobe Publishing Contributor

Be Good

“Be good,” the mother said as she sent her child home with her grandparents. “You all call me if you need me.” She is wasting her words. First, kids are much better behaved without their parents, and second, no grandparent would tattle on a grandchild. At least I wouldn’t. Some might threaten to call when the child is jumping from couch to chair to another chair, but grandparents still know how to discipline. The problems arise when two or more children come to visit. Have you noticed that many grandparents refuse to keep more than one at a time? There is a reason for that.

When adults tell kids to “be good,” I think about how children (and teenagers) might want to say the same thing to their parents. Kids see the goodness in their parents, but they also see times when they would like to put them in time out! What upsets a child the most and makes him nervous and afraid and embarrassed? Here are a few:

1. Fussing and fighting. Mama and Daddy may kiss and make up, but the kid is left with the battle scars. Parents should be good.

2. Silence/pouting among adults are almost as bad as fighting. Mama goes off and pouts while Daddy won’t talk. Think about how a child feels.

3. Having a fit! Mama gets mad and throws things. Daddy hits a wall.

4. Storming out of the house gives a child a fear of abandonment. Will he come back? Where has he gone?

5. Public embarrassment such as cussing out the referee at a little league game, dressing like a streetwalker for a PTA meeting, trying to be a teenager in front of a child’s friends...the list goes on and on, all of which are humiliating.

6. Getting drunk, taking drugs, smoking pot, and even cigarettes do not make a child happy. How many adults have said, “I can do what I want; I’m the adult?” Really?

We owe it to our children and grandchildren to BE GOOD, but it’s not any easier for us than it is for them. If we don’t behave, maybe our children and grandchildren should tell on us and let us sit in time-out for a while and think about our infractions. Just think, if we all were good, we’d be “do-gooders.” By the way, this is my Dr. Phil moment.

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