

In Praise of Crazy

By: Dr. James L. Snyder

I made the mistake the other night of complaining out loud. It is one thing to complain under your breath so that nobody hears you or knows what you are complaining about. But when you complain out loud, then you run the chance of somebody hearing you.

"What are you complaining about," my wife said directing the question to me.

My wife has a delicate way of backing me in a corner where I have to say what is on my mind. Fortunately, I do not have much of a mind for anything to get on. Unfortunately, my tongue is not attached to anything and so it is loosey-goosey.

Since my wife asked me, I let go on a very eloquent rant against crazy. At this point, I forget the exact crazy that set me off. But it does not matter. If it were not one thing, it would be another thing. I have tried throughout my life to be an equal crazy complainer. If you are crazy, you can be sure I am going to complain about you.

"You, in particular," my wife was directing this toward me, "ought to be quite thankful about all the crazy people in the world."

I do not want more crazy people in this world. Enough is enough already, move on.

"Really," my wife argued, "you ought to be happy about all the crazy people in the world."

I finally broke down and asked her what in the world she was talking about.

She looked at me, paused as if she was collecting her thoughts and then said, "You should be thankful that there are so many crazy people out in the world. The more crazy people there are, the more you are going to fit in. If for some reason we could eliminate all the crazy people in the world you would be a very lonely person."

She continued her explanation by saying, "Every crazy person takes the focus away from you. If there were not enough crazy people out in the world people would focus on you, complaining about how crazy you are."

At least it gave me a new perspective on the world around me. Also, a new appreciation for crazy. I began to see her point of view, as humbling as it was, and realize that crazy has a place.

After some deep reflection on the subject, I have come to the point where I want to praise crazy. I never thought of it along this line, but everybody has the right to change his or her mind about anything. Personally, I would like to change my mind for one that really works.

One man's crazy is another man's delight. What is crazy to one person may be something rather important and enjoyable to another. After all, who am I to say what is crazy and what is not crazy. It is important to find someone else with something that you can truly appreciate.

I thought about that and what Solomon said, "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones" (Proverbs 3:7-8).

Instead of spending so much time complaining about other people, I need to exercise the fine art of appreciation and learn how to praise people on their terms.

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Trusting as we Travel

By: Dawn Reed

Last Friday, I drove to Baghdad, KY to meet some ladies who were planning a retreat for minister's wives. It will be in September at Cedarmore. (More info to come later!)

It's been almost 20 years since I went with our youth to camp at Cedarmore. On those trips, I was on a church bus full of teenagers and hadn't been driving. I tend to not pay attention to the road when I'm a passenger.

Making a trip back to "camp" required assistance. I put the address in Maps on my iPhone to guide me. Cedarmore was 163 miles from home and it would take me approximately two hours and 35 minutes to make the journey. There were 15 turns, merges and exits I would need to make; it was all plotted out for me. All I had to do was follow the directions.

Throughout the drive, I was amazed at my GPS. It was like Siri was looking right over my shoulder.

Occasionally, I made turns that made no sense at all, but I kept going. I followed the blue arrow on my phone the entire time, and do you know what? I made it exactly there! How amazing is that?!

Isn't it even more amazing that I put my complete trust in an

app on a cell phone that guided me to my destination? I have never met Siri nor do I know where she came from or lives, yet each time she told me to turn, merge or exit, I did so-fully believing she knew what was best. Even when it looked sketchy!

So, how in the world can I NOT trust my Father in heaven to lead me and guide me every single day? He loves me WAY MORE than Siri does and He has the best path EVER! Proverbs 3:5-6 relates specifically to both driving AND living! "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths".

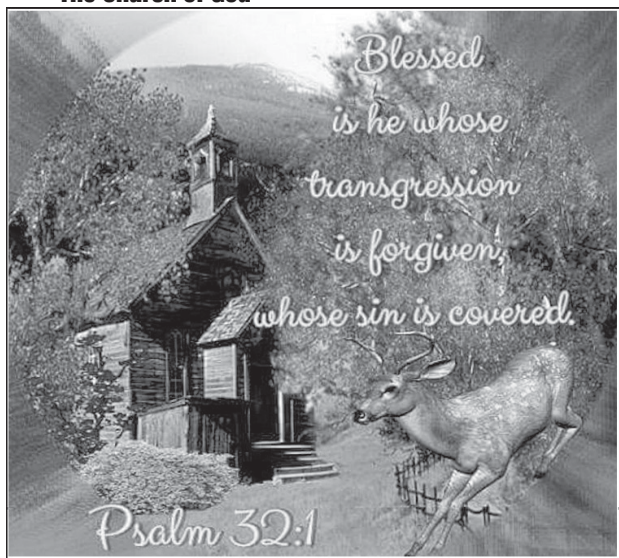
If we are followers of Christ, we know our destination: heaven. We WILL get there one day! Until then, we are on a journey. There will be turns we don't expect, times when we must travel slowly and times we will have to wait. Some days there will be bumps in the road; some days it will be wonderfully smooth and the sun will be shining so gloriously you will want to take a picture.

We can know and trust daily that God is with us, watching over us and will get us exactly where we need to be!

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