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Missing the Mark

By: A. K. Chancellor

(Taken from the November 1982 edition of the Remnant)

This may seem like an unusual topic, but this is what sin is all about, and it is included as part of the definition in some of the root word for sin - it is to "miss the mark" the result being "to not share in the prize." What is the prize? Eternal life, which has its beginning here on earth while we still have a choice.

It is good to know for what reason I was made or created, and if that is properly understood, then it ceases to appear strange when I feel like shouting and praising God, when I get happy, carried away in the Spirit. This knowledge of how I ought to conduct myself gives me liberty to do what ought to be considered normal in the first place - freedom to sing and pray and testify of God and his goodness right in the midst of a crooked and sinful world.

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor, and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Rev. 4:11). Do you get the message herein stated? God is to be praised, which includes the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). For all have trespassed God's laws, thus failing in their conduct to glorify him.

"If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart" (Mal. 2:2).

We are here for the purpose of praising God of both giving and getting glory to his name. We do the first of our own volition, with our own lips, but the other we do by conducting ourselves in such a manner as to prompt praise from the lips of others for the grace and goodness of God.

How is the child of God to live? Carefree! You are not to be laden down with cares, anxieties over what will be, or possessions or the like. God is to be our all in all, our portion in this life. Peter tells us "casting all (Yes, ALL) your cares upon him, for he careth for you." If you could see what kind of a relationship God wants with us, the daily walk, that unbroken trust, that joy, peace, and etc. that has been willed to us and provided for us - if we could but enter into these things with a relaxed confidence, would we not then praise him aloud and often?

I do not imply that we are to live careless in our conduct, but carefree from attachments to this world and with full trust in God that he will supply what ever need may require. Surely we may know sadness when it comes to seeing our loved ones lost, and sins committed right before our face, and God's name profaned on every hand, but this should not stop our own praise to him in front of those who may be fortunate enough to hear us, nor should we blush to shout and openly glorify God. Away with timidity of this kind!

God gives me life and breath, yes and all, my good companion, family, food, shelter, transportation, saints to associate with, health, finances enough to meet my needs, but above all is salvation, and in this I do rejoice. It may not be my nature as some count it nature, but it is my privilege to sing praise to God, and to sacrifice the fruit of my lips in behalf of his goodness and greatness. We miss the mark if we do not praise him. Is it a sin not to praise God? The angels do it gladly and we have more reason to do so!

How OLD Ought I to Be?

Anonymous

"Dear Mother," said a little maid, "Please whisper it to me -
Before I am a Christian, How old ought I to be?"

"How old ought you to be, dear child, Before you can love me?"
"I always loved you, Mother mine, Since I was tiny wee."

"I love you now, and always will," The little daughter said,
And on her mother's shoulder laid Her golden, curly head.

"How old, my girlie, must you be, Before you trust my care?"
"Oh, Mother dear, I do, I do - I trust you everywhere."

"How old ought you to be, my child, To do the things I say?"
The little girl looked up and said, "I can do that today."

"Then you can be a Christian, too, Don't wait until you are grown,
Tell Jesus now you come to Him, To be His very own."

Then as the little maid knelt down, And said, "Lord, if I may,
I'd like to be a Christian now." He answered, "Yes, today."



Prayer of the Month

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for all the grace and strength you daily give us. We ask for your guidance as we go about our daily lives, that we may bring glory and honor to your name, and be a blessing to others.

Amen

Testimonies

As a child, I was very privileged to grow up in a good Christian home. My mom has been saved many years and my dad has been the pastor of our church ever since I can remember. Yet, that did not make me any better than any other child in this world. My parents could teach me right from wrong, but they could not decide how I would live my life as I grew up. That decision was all mine.

As I went through elementary school, I did some things I knew were wrong. They may have seemed harmless and little to some people, but it doesn't change the fact that I knew they were wrong and did them anyway. That was sin. I felt so guilty. I really hated that feeling and I knew I had displeased God. So, when I was about 10 years old, God dealt with me in a Sunday morning service, and I turned my life over to him. I will never forget that Sunday morning! God heard my plea for forgiveness, had mercy and gave me peace within. Soon after He sanctified me, and has kept me from sin ever since that glorious day. I know He will continue to keep me if I will always keep Him first in my life. What a wonderful life is found in serving God!

Melody Nunn

Age 19

Committing all things to God, and then trusting, is the surest way to gain a living knowledge. - A. K. Chancellor

Stories for Boys & Girls

Family Worship Time
By Geneva Garmen
(Taken from the Remnant)



Hello boys and girls. I have a question for you. This question is for parents and older folks, too. Do you, as a family, take time to pray together? This story will help us understand how important it is for families to pray together.

Betsy and her mother knelt together by her bed to pray. Betsy liked to pray and she really believed that God listened when she talked to Him. But, something bothered Betsy.

Approaching her mother, she asked, "Mother, do you and daddy pray? I have never heard you pray. Why do you insist that I pray?"

Taken by surprise at the questions, Betsy's mother replied, "I want you to pray, Betsy, so you can grow up and be a good girl."

"Oh," replied Betsy, "If I must pray to be good, shouldn't you also have to pray to be good?"

Tears stung mother's eyes as she saw her little girl's sincere brown eyes searching her own. She immediately realized how much they, as parents, had neglected prayer time with their daughter. She realized that Betsy needed to see a better example of Christian parents.

I have sweet memories of our family worship times when all the children were at home. In addition to reading the Bible or a Bible story, sometimes the children would discuss their problems. Then we would all kneel to pray. The little ones always prayed first, as it was not unusual for them to fall asleep before everyone had prayed. When worship time was over, the older children carried the little ones to their beds. This time spent together kept us close to each other and to God.

Although children grow up and begin their own lives, the good seeds planted and the sweet moments of togetherness will always be viewed as precious memories.

Many "older" children and children of today are familiar with this little prayer that I recall as being the first prayer I learned to pray.

Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep,
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.

While this is a sweet child's prayer, the concern for everyone should be the condition of their soul. Where will your soul spend eternity if death should come? For those who are saved and praying every day like they should, heaven will be their final home.

Boys and girls, and older folks too, take time to pray. In this busy age when it is easy to neglect our spiritual responsibilities, take time to pray together in family worship. You will have many precious memories and Biblical principles that will be a blessing to you throughout your life.

Family Worship

We gathered around the piano, To sing praises to our Lord,
We listened to the reading, Of God's precious Holy Word.

We listened to a story, About the right way to go,
With happy little faces, Listening ears, and eyes aglow!

We knelt down to pray together, To talk to our God above,
It brought us closer to Him, We learned of His great Love.

Then all too soon children left us,

Time came to make their own way,
Some followed in His footsteps, Others decided to go astray.

Now Mother kneels before Him, Continuing her family prayer,
Calling all names before Him, She hopes to see them, there.

When Heaven's gates are open, Our burdens we'll lay down,
I want to hear, "Well done, This is your reward and crown."

Youth-Led Revival November 8th-12th, 2000
Please contact us for more information!!

The Church of God
118 West Main
PO Box 6187
Moore, OK 73153

(405) 794-2765

Website: <http://www.geocities.com/moorecog>

Pastor David Chancellor
Email: dchancellor@juno.com

Spanish translation available in Services

Service Times:

Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00p.m.
Sunday School	9:30a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30a.m.
Sunday Young People's Service	4:45p.m.
Sunday Children's Service	5:00p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00p.m.

We have literature available for those who would like to study the Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.



Excerpts from *A Crop of Sayings* by A. K. Chancellor

(Available for ordering through the website)

By no other means can we correctly weigh the things that we hear, except by the Word of God.

Our troubles can become gateways to untold blessings, if taken right.

Jesus came to save us from our sins, not to excuse us from the obligation to live holy.