

REMINDER

Volume XXIII

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Number 3



Dr. John R. Rice
(1895–1980)

At The Last

by Dr. John R. Rice

Note: This is the third installment of this message. In the first two segments, Dr. Rice wrote about the end result of the use of alcohol and immorality. This week, we present the remainder of this message.

III. The End of Worldly Pleasure -

“**But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth,**” says I Timothy 5:6. Those who live for pleasure will find that life is not worth living. Proverbs 14:13 says, “**Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.**”

Any good time the Devil gives ends in sorrow. Any fair promise the Devil makes is a lie. And Satan never was more deceitful than when he promised pleasure in sin. At the very time a sinner is trying to enjoy life the most, his heart is sorrowful, “**and the end of that mirth is heaviness.**”

The Prodigal Son who gathered all together and went into a far country and wasted his substance with riotous living thought he would have a wonderful time. He had what he thought would help him enjoy life—money and no restrictions on his conduct. He could drink if he wanted to, with no father at hand to rebuke him. He could waste his living with harlots, since the elder brother was not there to criticize. It appeared that he had lots of friends.

But the road of pleasure, the primrose path, the way of wine, women and song, led to a hogpen, poverty and a disillusioned heart.

You don’t always come, physically, to the hogpen before you know that the pleasure of the world doesn’t end happily. It is a surprising fact that nearly all the suicides are people who have drunk from the cup of pleasure down to the very dregs. People who drink, who dance, who enjoy worldly pleasures, soon find that there is no real peace of heart in it all. “**The end of that mirth is heaviness.**”

I drove into a filling station in Dallas, Texas and casually said to a man, “How are you today?”

He answered, “If you honestly want to know, I feel like a nut and a fool. If there ever was a man who has made a fool out of himself, I am that man.”

When I inquired the trouble, he said, “Last night when I got my pay for the week I went out and got drunk. When I woke up this morning, I didn’t have a penny left. I have no money for meals; I cannot pay my room rent; my head is nearly bursting with pain; my conscience torments me. I wasted a week’s wages, lost the respect of good people and my own self-respect; and now I have a splitting headache and a guilty conscience. I am the prize fool of the whole town!”

His “good time” didn’t end up happily. “**The end of that mirth is heaviness.**”

When I was a pastor in Shamrock, Texas, a young woman was brought to see me who had threatened suicide. When I talked to her, she said, “Brother Rice, life is not fit to live! I wish I were dead! I still have half a mind to kill myself. There is nothing that can really make one happy.

“My father gave me a good education. I have had the pleasure of travel. I have had good musical training. I belong to the country
(continued inside)

club crowd. I have danced; I have drunk cocktails; I have done everything else that a decent, nice girl would do. But I’m miserable. Nothing in the world can make one happy. And life is not fit to live. I wish I were dead!”

“I know how you can be happy,” I said. “I know where you can find peace and joy and satisfaction.”

“If you know, I wish you would tell me. I have never found anything that ended happily. You may think you are having a good time for a little while, but at last you have only an aching heart and no peace. If you know a way to be happy, I wish you would show me.”

“Let us kneel right here in this living room; and you tell the Lord what you have told me, that sinful pleasure has not brought you happiness, that sin deceives and leaves one embittered and empty. Tell Him that all Satan’s promises are clouds without rain, cisterns that can hold no water, that all his promises are lying deceits that cannot satisfy the heart. And ask Jesus Christ to come in and forgive you and save you and make you happy. Put your trust in Him.”

We knelt together. She sobbed while I prayed. Then in her own quiet way she put her trust in Jesus, and quietly peaceful she took my hand and claimed Christ as her Saviour.

She left with a peace, a joy that the world cannot give.

Oh, don’t think I am against a good time. Don’t think I am trying to take away happiness from young people. I want you to be happy. But I want you to have the happiness that will still be good tomorrow! I want you to have a good time, but fifty years from now I want you still to be having a good time. I want the kind of happiness that lasts from now into eternity.

Anybody is foolish who will start to have a good time without seeing how it will end. If your good time ends in a drunk, with a besmirched name, a soiled character and an aching heart, then it is not much of a good time. If your good time ends with a hardened heart and a calloused, embittered attitude toward life, it is not a good time. If your good time ends like that of the Prodigal Son—in a hogpen in famine time—then surely you do not want it.

Dr. Bob Jones, in a chapel talk at Bob Jones University, said, “**Happiness is not something that you find by seeking for it. Happiness is something that you stumble over on the road of duty.**”

Oh, the way to happiness is to come to Jesus and yield your heart to Him. Trust Him to forgive your sins. Trust Him to make you happy. Trust Him to help you live right. And, thank God, in Him you will find the joys that this world cannot give. He will give the peace that passeth understanding. And instead of disillusionment, every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before!

One day I walked between two long rows of women in the Ohio Women’s Reformatory. Most were young women who had landed in this penitentiary after a life of pleasure.

I warn you from God’s Word that “**the end of that mirth is**

heaviness.” Set out to serve God and trust Him to furnish happiness. “She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.” The end of such worldly pleasure is a broken heart! Alas, the end of such pleasure may be Hell itself. Do not go that road! It ends at the wrong place.

IV. The Fearful End of Human Morality and Human Religion Without the New Birth -

Many would frankly agree with me that “**wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.**” You would join in the scriptural position, “**At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.**”

Many do not commit the scarlet sin; you would never think of going that way. You know that “**her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. . . .her steps take hold on hell.**” Perhaps you know that worldly pleasure does not satisfy and that “**the end of that mirth is heaviness.**” Perhaps you would even agree that covetousness is an unsatisfying, cankerous sore that may ruin the life.

But Wait! Are You Sure That You Are Not on a Road Whose End Is Death?

Many people tell me that they live moral lives. One is a Mason who tries to subdue his passions and lives on the square and compass, he says. Another is an Odd Fellow who lives by the three links, or professes to, and tries to be a Good Samaritan.

Another tells me that he seeks to live by the Golden Rule and tries to do unto others as he wishes them to do unto him. Still others would say that they have been baptized or they have been confirmed, that they are members of churches, that they attend regularly.

To all of these I must say that if you have not personally come to know Jesus Christ as your own Saviour, if you have not depended upon Him in a definite transaction and been born again, then you are still on the road to Hell. You are still on the way of death. Oh, check up on the end of that road before you travel it further!

Proverbs 14:12 says, “**There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**” Again in Proverbs 16:25 the verse is repeated, “**There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**”

Here the Bible says there is a certain way that people follow, a way that seems right but really ends in death! People are on this way of death and perfectly sincere. People are on this way of death yet trying to be moral, trying to be religious. People are on this way of death, yet they go to church and pray and give their money.

Remember this: human ways of morality and religion lead to death!

Nicodemus—the moral man; the Pharisee; the religious, praying, tithing man—was in the way that seems right to a man, but Jesus told him, “**Except a man be born again, he cannot see**

the kingdom of God.” He said, **“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”**

If ever there were good, clean, moral men, they were the Pharisees like Nicodemus and like Saul of Tarsus before he was converted. But they were on the way of death.

In Matthew 7:21–23 Jesus Christ says:

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Not all those who say, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but only those who do God’s will about salvation.

You cannot select the way to Heaven yourself. However sincere you are, if you have not definitely come to Christ and depended on Him for salvation, the way you are on is the way of death.

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Jesus says that many will come and call Him Lord, people who have preached and prophesied and cast out devils and done many wonderful works; but to these people who have been in a way that seems right to men—a religious way, a moral way—He will say, **“I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”**

It is shocking but true that millions who are in the churches, who pray, who claim to live by the Ten Commandments or by the Golden Rule, who have been baptized or sprinkled or confirmed, are really on the way of death. They have good religion, humanly speaking; good moral standards, humanly speaking; but they have not been born of God. Their hearts have never been changed by the power of the Holy Spirit. They have never honestly trusted in the blood of Jesus Christ which was shed to save sinners. So, though they are in a way that seems right to a man, the end of it will be death, everlasting death!

Oh, how sad to have Jesus turn you away from Heaven because you were on such a good, moral way you did not think you needed Jesus Himself! You did not think that you needed to be born again!

In Matthew, chapter 22, Jesus tells of a great king who made a marriage for his son and invited many people. When they came, the king came in to see the guests, and Jesus said:

“And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Here is a sad truth. Many people want to come to the great wedding feast when the Lord Jesus introduces His bride to the

Father, want to be at the wedding supper with all the redeemed, but they don’t have on the wedding garment which God Himself must furnish!

Some reader may say, “I think my lodge garments of morality are clean enough, better than most men wear.” But only the garment of the imputed righteousness of Jesus covering your vile sins will be suitable for that occasion!

The God who furnishes the supper is the same God who must furnish the wedding garment.

If you have not been to Jesus and allowed Him to give you the garment of His own righteousness, if you have not allowed Him to cover your sins with His own merit, His own goodness, then you cannot go to Heaven.

Sinner, have you been washed in the blood? Have you really come to God through Jesus Christ? Remember that Jesus said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).** Any other way may seem to you to be safe, but it does not lead to Heaven. Any other way that avoids the new birth by personal faith in Jesus Christ and receiving Him as Saviour is a false way, and **“the end thereof are the ways of death.”**

Wait! See where the road ends before you take it! Human goodness is not enough! After all, you are a sinner, and **“the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).** **“All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Isa. 64:6).**

You think that you are good, but God says, **“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9).** Again, Jeremiah 13:23 says, **“Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.”**

You cannot make yourself good. You cannot make yourself clean. As the leopard cannot change his spots, as the Ethiopian cannot change his skin, neither can you make yourself good. Only a miracle of God can do that, a miracle of regeneration that fixes the heart itself.

So, then, human ways of morality lead but to death and Hell. And any kind of religion that does not involve a new heart, a new birth, a personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as the Saviour, cannot lead to Heaven.

Oh, beware of the road you travel! **“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”!**

Is it not strange that religion may lead to Hell the same as drunkenness? Is it not strange that self-righteous morality may lead to Hell as well as adultery? But it is true. The human heart is wicked, and your own ways are wrong ways. Your own goodness is wickedness in God’s sight.

Only as a man turns to trust Jesus Christ alone for salvation can he be received in Heaven. **“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18).** There is no other way to settle this

matter. John 3:36 says, **“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”**

No kind of religion, no kind of morality, no course of good deeds or religious rites can save a soul. Only coming to Jesus Christ in simple faith can cleanse your heart and make you clean, put you on the road to Heaven and make you acceptable to God!

Oh, get off the road that leads to Hell! Get off the road of human morality, the road of human religion that you have been depending on to take you to Heaven. Instead, take the road of simple faith in Christ, depending on Christ to do for you what you cannot do for yourself, and that is, save your soul.

VI. The End of All Sin Is Death -

James 1:15 says: **“Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”** Sin leads to death. If it is the sin of alcohol—it leads to death. If it is the sin of adultery and fornication and lust—it leads to death. If it is the sin of ill-gotten riches—it leads to death. If it is the sin of worldly pleasure—it leads to death. If it is the sin of self-righteous morality while rejecting Christ—it leads to death.

“SIN, WHEN IT IS FINISHED, BRINGETH FORTH DEATH”!

Oh, then, before you go further on the road of sin, look at the end of it! The crossbone and skull marks the way of sin. The tombstone, the wail, the dirge, the blackness of night, eternal despair, the torment of a damned soul, the lake of fire and brimstone—these mark the end of sin.

In Romans 6:23 that is clearly expressed: **“The wages of sin is death.”** But that same Scripture has another statement! **“But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”**

You see that all are sinners, and if a man takes his proper wages, gets his honest deserts, he will go to Hell. But one can take the free gift of God and have everlasting life!

Everyone who goes to Hell pays his own way. Everyone who goes to Heaven rides on a pass! **“The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”!**

You see the end of the road of sin. But you can turn your heart from sin and seek the Lord. And the moment you honestly turn from sin and put your trust in Jesus Christ, that moment He will save your soul and take you off the road of death.

What a difference there is between the end of the road for the sinner and the end of the road for one who has trusted in Christ! Daniel 12:2 says, **“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”**

All who go on the road of sin, whether it be drunkenness, adultery or self-righteous morality, must awake to **“shame and everlasting contempt.”** But those who put their trust in Jesus Christ, depending on His mercy and forgiveness and salvation, will awake to everlasting life!

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

9 HILLSONG AT THOMAS ROAD - Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia, founded by the late Jerry Falwell, is hosting a Hillsong rock “worship” concert on April 20. Decades of disobedience and compromise have produced the frightful level of spiritual blindness required to accept Hillsong’s apostasy.

Hillsong worship music began at Hillsong Church of Sydney, Australia, where the pastors are a husband-wife team, Brian and Bobby Houston, and where the worship leader was Darlene Zschech. Some years ago, Bobby published the video series “Kingdom Women Love Sex.” That was about the same time that Brian published his “You Need More Money” series on the subject of prosperity giving.

Today Hillsong Church has branches in many parts of the world, and all of them are producing “worship” music. In 2014, the New York Times reported that Hillsong is “without a doubt the most influential producers of worship music in Christendom” (“Megachurch with a Beat Lures Young Flock,” Sept. 9, 2014). Hillsong is radically ecumenical, incredibly worldly, and totally committed to Pentecostal Latter Rain heresy (e.g., gibberish as “tongues,” spirit slaying, prophesying, word of faith, women pastors, ecumenical unity as a sign of end-time revival).

In July 2015, Hillsong joined hands with Pope Frances at the Convocation of the Renewal of the Holy Spirit at the Vatican. Hillsong worship leader Darlene Zschech said on her Facebook page, “This is a celebration of unity and peace in the Renewal of the Holy Spirit. Amazing days for the Body of Christ.” Anyone who thinks that people who believe in baptismal regeneration and venerate Mary as the Queen of Heaven are in “the body of Christ,” doesn’t know the ABC’s of biblical truth. In May 2016, Hillsong New York City hosted a Women’s Conference that featured, among other things, scantily-dressed ‘cheerleaders,’ an Elvis impersonator, and a naked cowboy wearing only underwear, a cowboy hat, boots, and a guitar. ***The cowboy was Hillsong New York City’s own youth pastor, Diego Simla.***

Thomas Road Baptist Church, which is hosting Hillsong in April, is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and was long affiliated with Baptist Bible Fellowship International. Its founding pastor, Jerry Falwell, broke ecumenical ground among Independent Baptists by his affiliation with the Roman Catholic Church, beginning in the 1970s. In 1986, he stated that Roman Catholics made up the largest constituency of his Moral Majority political organization. Falwell praised Pope John Paul II and endorsed Chuck Colson’s 1992 book, The Body, which considered the Catholic Church a part of “the body of Christ.” Thomas Road Baptist Church and Liberty University are on the slippery slide of compromise that began under Jerry Falwell’s direction. His compromise started with small steps, as it always does, but the Word of God warns that **“a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (I Cor. 5:6; Gal. 5:9).**

ATTENTION ALL MEN! PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE
2018 MEN'S ADVANCE



**Friday, April 27,
 at 7:00 p.m.
 and Saturday,
 April 28,
 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

The Men's Advance has been hosted by Bible Baptist Church of Stillwater for over ten years and is attended by men from all across the Midwest. The goal of the Men's Advance is to impact

the lives of men spiritually to make a difference in their homes, churches, relationships and community.

The meeting runs on a two-day format, beginning this year at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, April 27, 2017, and concluding at approximately 3:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 28. Again this year, we will again meet at the Payne County Expo Center, just east of Stillwater. Meals are provided on-site to allow the men more time to fellowship with one another, and include a full smoked meat dinner Friday night, complete breakfast Saturday morning, and a great lunch Saturday afternoon. In addition to the Advance, a golf tournament is open to all attendees and precede the Advance earlier on Friday.

The service times and break-out sessions are the focus of the event. Here, the men are challenged to examine their lives in the light of God's Word. Both humorous and contemplative skits are interspersed to reinforce the truths presented. Special music provided by the Bible Baptist Church Men's Group and others adds to the wonderful congregational hymns, including the traditional "It Is Well With My Soul" finale.

Plan NOW To Be There!

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Bertha Segebarrt
 Cradle Roll : Volunteer Needed!
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Charity Crawford
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
 Wed. Evening Service ---- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of January 21, 2018 -

Sunday School ----- 7
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 24
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 15
 Wed. Eve. Service, 01/24/18 ----- 23

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of January 21, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 902.00
Total Received for Week of 01/21/18: \$ 902.00

- Week of January 14, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,072.05
 Building Fund ----- \$ 20.00
Total Received for Week of 01/14/18: \$ 1,092.05

- Week of January 7, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,398.36
 Christmas Missionary Offering, Dr. Greg Waller - \$ 80.00
Total Received for Week of 01/07/18: \$ 1,478.36

- Week of December 31, 2017 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 966.55
Total Received for Week of 12/31/17: \$ 966.55

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



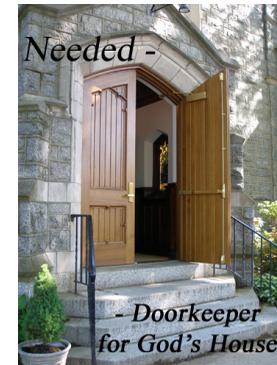
Please Remember To Be Faithful To Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.



Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Lois Mae Floyd ----- Pianist/ Organist
NEED VOLUNTEER!!!!
 Greeter
 Shayne Hooper, Brian Crawford, Charity Crawford, LeAnna White -- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, ----- Outreach
 Bertha Segebarrt ----- Custodian
 Flowers ----- Shirley White, Charity Crawford