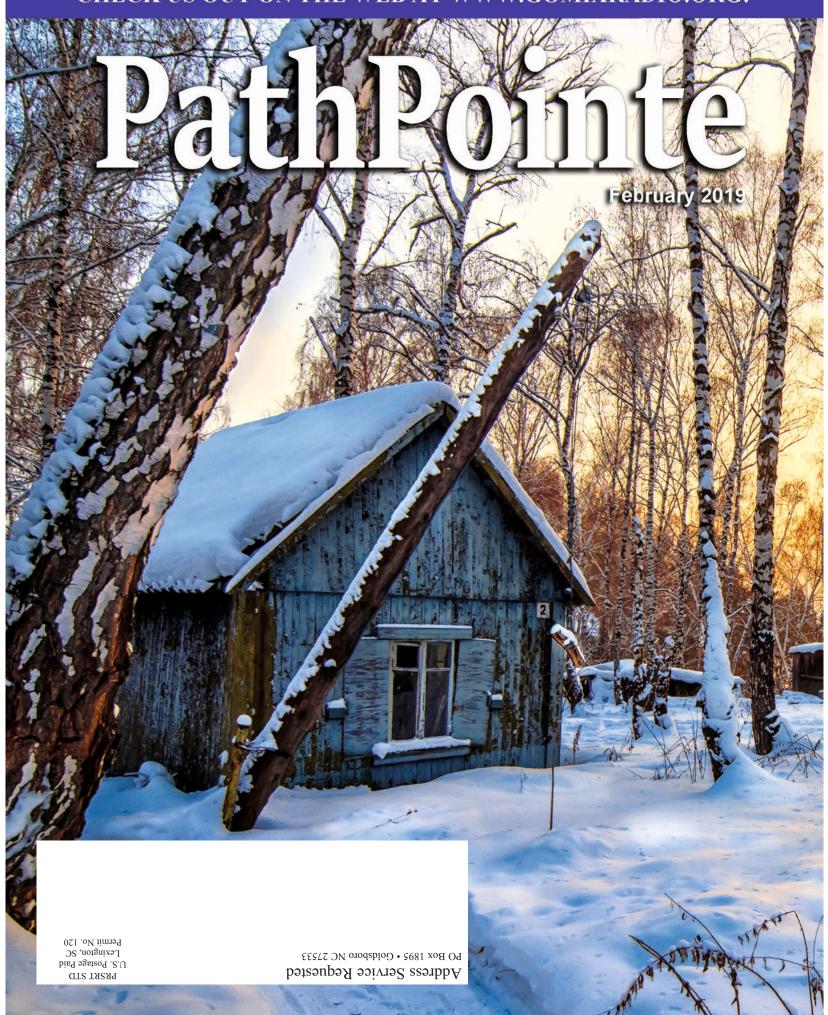


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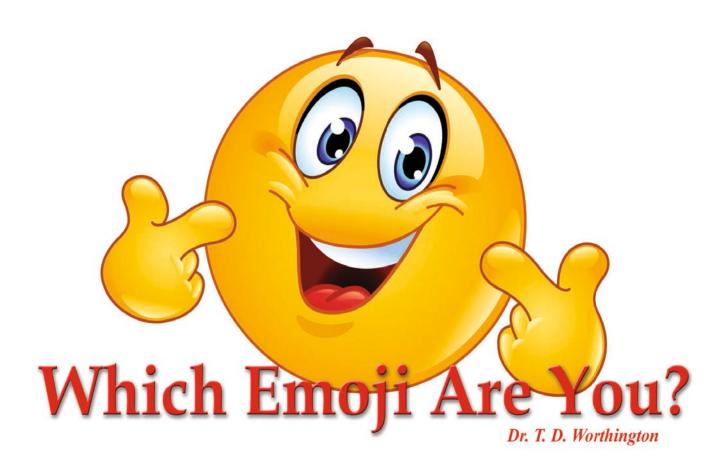
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So it's official. We are evolving backwards. First, there were cave paintings from which written language and art evolved, and now we are back to images with "*Emoji*".

Do you remember the very first emoticon that started making the rounds? Supposedly, they've been around since 1982. We used ":-)" read sideways to denote a smiley face long before emoticons turned into emoji, those small, colorful, and fun images used in digital communication.

They took off in the 2010's, and now there are 2,666 emoji in the Unicode Standard as of June 2017. One hundred fifty seven new emoji were allotted for 2018. Just imagine, we can pepper our text messages, emails, and social media with over 2,800 officially sanctioned symbols of all shapes, sizes, and colors. If you want to shrug your shoulders or wink your eye, there is an emoji for that!

Emoji have pretty much evolved into characters for a new millennial language. Most all modern electronic devices come equipped with an emoji keyboard. The Oxford English Dictionary chose the face-with-tears-of-joy emoji as its "word" of the year in 2015.

Some say these images are the future of a universal language. "Emoji",

from the Japanese meaning "picture character", is in many respects language-like. Some believe it will be the new universal language, following up on the old SOS signal. Man will be able to communicate with emoji characters across all language barriers. Such a change, could even be used by the anti-Christ to help usher in his one-world government.

Some believe that embracing emoji is the only option if people want to interact productively in the future. Someone who is not using them is not an effective communicator and therefore not effective in inducing an emotional response. For example, in most dating sites, survey results show

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greater success at finding a match among people who use emoji more regularly in their online messaging. The same survey also found emoji users were more likely to want to get married.

Although human language existed from the creation of man (Adam communed with God and with Eve), it is doubtful if writing was actually necessary. Later, as the need for nonverbal communication was needed for recording events, it is those cave paintings that are believed to be the first form of sophisticated human communication. These paintings were amazingly universal as they focused primarily on animals. Ancient paintings in Central America look amazingly identical to the paintings found in Egypt or China.

It also turns out that communicating with symbols is unique to the human species. In fact, it's one of the standout features that distinguishes us from all other life. Many animals, including the chimpanzee, can be taught to recognize and utilize symbols, but they've never been taught to create them for themselves.

Scientist even say that your use of emoji can reveal your personality type. For example, French speakers use four times as many heart emoji than other languages. French is the only language where a "smiley face" does not top the usage list. Arabic speakers use four times the average number of flower and plant emoji. Russian speakers use three times the average rate of romantic emoji. Australia's emoji use includes double the average amount of alcohol-themed emoji, and 65% more drug emoji than the average. Americans lead the use of a random assortment of emoji &

categories, including skulls, birthday cake, and LGBT designations.

Another study reveals that the people using positive emoji tend to be more agreeable in nature. In other words, people who use smiley faces are probably people in the real world who are more smiley to people.

Another factor identified was that people who commonly used emoji were more socially receptive and open in sharing their feelings. It was also determined that people who were more aware of how they come across to others were less likely to use sad emoji.

Our Language Has Gotten Simpler.

If you sent Shakespeare a cool joke, he might respond like this: "with mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come." By the 1960's we might respond with: "Man, that was the coolest and grooviest joke I've ever heard." By the 1990's it was reduced to: "Gosh"

Dude, that wus funnie." By the 2000's it was: "LOL :-)" Today, it's just a laughing emoji. But, in a world of snippet text messages perhaps emoji serve a vital purpose. In the 1950's, psychologist Albert Mehrabian determined that only 7 percent of communication is verbal (what we say), while 38 percent is vocal (how we say it—tone of voice) and 55 percent is nonverbal (what we do and how we look while we're saying it; your body language). Therefore, when we're not communicating face-to-face, the vast majority of our communication skills are negated.

Emoji have become a way to convey the tone and non-verbal context behind our texts. Emoji work alongside snippets of text as a way to give more contexts to a message.

In the real world, the use of hand gestures and expressions play a vital role in the way we communicate with someone. It helps them understand our meaning. When you can't see the





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person you're communicating with, an emoji is an effective option. It's how you emotionally express the feelings hid in your words. Your choice of emoji can dramatically alter the meaning of the sentence it's included in and how you should respond.

Imagine receiving this message from your best friend: "I tripped and hit my head on the kitchen table" followed by that iconic laughing face. Their words communicate that your friend had an accident, but the emoji lets you know that they are apparently not hurt seriously. It is the emoji that lets you know how to respond.

Chances are you've seen the pain charts used at the hospital. You can pick a number illustrated by an emoji to describe your level of pain. Many companies are also using a scale of smiley faces when asking for feedback on their services. It is believed that using emoji can give a greater depth of insight than regular words or numbers, especially across language or cultural barriers.

So, let's take a test; an honest but personal evaluation.

First Question: What emoji would most consistently describe your personality and demeanor?

Second Question: What emoji would your spouse (parent, child, or closest friend) choose as identifying your most consistent personality or demeanor? Would it be the same as yours?

Do your loved ones seldom see a smiley face on you? God wants his children to display joy in their lives. Of course, God is not interested in giving you a temporary smiley face. He has no interest in giving you a shallow happiness that melts in the heat of adversity. He wants to give you something that will last. Has something been taken from you? Your health? Your house? Have you buried a dream? Have you buried a marriage? Buried a friend? As you look at these burial plots of life, is your smiley face buried there, too? If so, you may have substituted courageous joy for contingent happiness. Happiness is always dependent upon a circumstance.

Perhaps your loved ones might use the emoji of a hot temper, laziness, or envy to describe you. Could it be the emotion of constant worry or pouting best defines how others see you? God wants us to clearly display our position as His children.

"Be ye therefore followers (imitators) of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us..." Ephesians 5:1-2

If we're going to imitate Him, then we have to ask ourselves the question: What do our faces communicate to those we encounter? Do people leave our presence feeling like they've seen the face of God? If it's true that a majority of our communication is nonverbal, we'd better pay attention to what our faces look like.

"...therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God..."
Genesis 33:10

A man named Jacob spoke these words to his brother, Esau. May this be our testimony also.

I know there are times when sharing the fact we are hurting, broken, or vulnerable can be a good thing. Sometimes that is the only way to discover the help we really need. Yet, we also need to utilize the power within us to overcome the adversity the world throws at us and become someone that will make the world a little more thirsty for what we have in Christ.





Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry over forty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries.

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According to the dictionary, summer is defined as "a period of fruition, fulfillment, happiness, and beauty," while winter's definition in contrast is "a period of time characterized by coldness, misery, barrenness, or death." Good grief! That's where we are now. It wasn't so bad with all the Christmas lights and decorations, but now they're gone, and all that is left is winter!

More importantly for our emotional lives is that winter is dark. For the nearly one in ten people who suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder *(or from winter depression)*, their infirmity stems more from a lack of light than it does from the cold. It is hard on all of us to go from 15 hour days to days with nine hours or less of sunlight. Winter also can be a lonely time for many people because there might be less interaction with others on a daily basis. People go straight home from work and huddle in for the night.

There is one thing we prize in the winter more than in the summer, **the fire**. Most



have central heat now, so most of us never see the fire that keeps us warm in the winter. It did not use to be that way. Early in the morning we would rise to kindle the flame. On those cold winter days we would value the fire in the fireplace or stove. How many hours would we bask in its cheerful glow!

Let this be a reminder to value and prize our Lord, who is the constant source of warmth and comfort in every time of trouble or hardship. Let us draw near to Him just as we would draw near to the warm fire on a cold winter's night. Let us find joy and peace in His presence. Let us wrap ourselves in the warm garments of His promises, and go forth to labors which we might accomplish during this season. It will not be well with us if we fail to plough by reason of the cold such as the sluggard, for he shall beg in summer and have nothing.

During the winter season, many people assume the sun emits less heat than during the midsummer. But while we are shivering with the cold, the fact is that the mighty furnace of the sun is glowing with the same heat as in July. The simple reason why we all shiver in January is that our globe lies at another angle, *away from* the solar furnace, and only receives its indirect radiations. The change is not in the sun but in our position.

There is only one way by which nature turns winter into spring; it is by bringing the face of the earth into a new position towards the sun. Then the snow will vanish, the seeds sprout, the grass peeps out, the buds open, and the sun will renew the face of the earth. Even so, there is but one way to be delivered from a spiritual winter which depresses many Christians. It is by turning back to God so that His face may shine upon us. Then we shall walk in the broad, full light of His countenance without stumbling. Then we will finally thaw out and display a newness of life as the seed within you will germinate and bring forth fruit.

So, what about you? Maybe it's time to do a little spiritual thawing out by letting the radiance of God warm you in His presence - and then you can reflect that glow to those around you. Moses came down from the mountain and his face did shine. So should ours, even in the midst of winter.

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Artist Spotlight - The Powell Family

Upon the retirement of the *Royal Descendants Quartet* in December 2013, baritone singer, Tony Powell, saw God opening a door for his family to embark on a new music ministry. Now, nearly five years later, The Powell Family has made friends all over North Carolina and Virginia. They have presented their music in churches, auditoriums, fundraisers, campgrounds, restaurants, and fairs – anywhere they have the opportunity to praise the Lord in song. They have recently completed work on their fifth recording project, and their music has been played on radio stations all across the southeastern United States. Tony comments, "We consider music to be a gift from God and a wonderful way to share His love with others. I'm so grateful that He allows us to bring Him glory by singing together as a family."

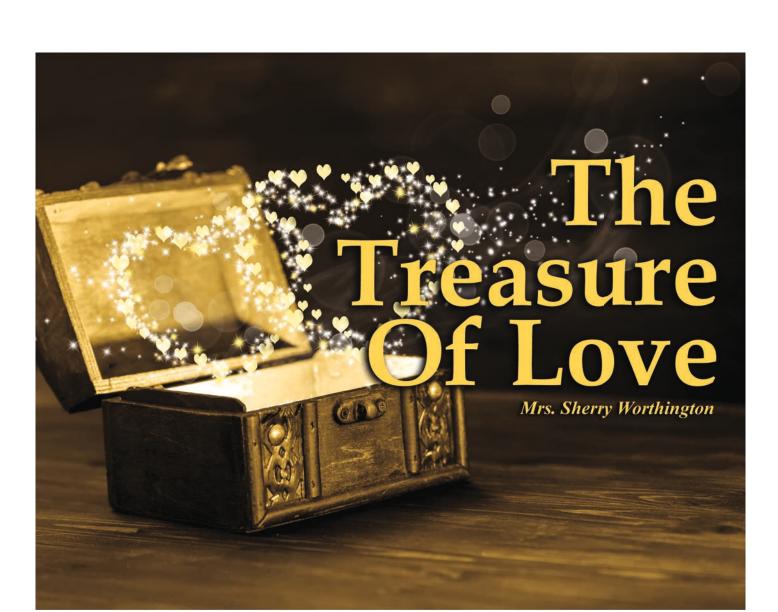
When their ministry was launched, the kids were young. Cameron, who primarily sings bass now, was 17. Christopher, who served as the group's "sound man," was 14. Mollie was only 9. "Having the kids participating fully in our ministry has given us a wonderful opportunity to introduce Southern Gospel music to younger congregation members," says Joy, the matriarch of *The Powell Family*. "It also helps

us connect in a more meaningful way with those young people, hopefully inspiring them to dedicate themselves to serving the Lord."

While Christopher no longer travels with the ministry, there are still five members of the group. Cameron's new bride, Marissa, has become an essential part of the family's endeavors on the road. She does a little bit of everything: helping with the sound equipment, serving as the group's photographer and videographer, and sometimes helping the four singers remember the lyrics!

On March 16th of this year, *The Powell Family* will host a special concert to celebrate their fifth anniversary in gospel music at Harvest Temple Pentecostal Holiness Church in Roanoke Rapids. The event will begin at 6:00pm and will be emceed by Wesley Pritchard, *Gaither Homecoming* artist and *The Powell Family's* producer. Adding even more excitement to the occasion will be the release of their all new recording project, entitled As for Me and My House. For more information about *The Powell Family*, their new project, or their anniversary celebration, please visit *www.powellfamilymusic.com*.





What is your reaction when someone says, "I love you"? Many times we feel all warm inside. We have many different emotions, but love is probably the most diverse. We love in so many different ways, and true love can bring the most intense joy, but it also brings pain.

I was thinking about the different people in my life and how much and how differently I love them. When my husband and I talk with our children and grandchildren, there is a deep love for them. Even though they don't always know the intense meaning of love, we get all gooey inside when the little ones say, "I wuz you." As they get older and understand the meaning of love, the words have a

deeper meaning. Our life experiences contribute to our ability to love. When our adult children say, "I love you," they have the capability of loving more deeply. They understand that love is an action word, and it is a summary of all of life's good times and struggles. Our youngest grandchildren and our oldest children may love us with all of their hearts, but they each have a different capacity to love.

When I say, "Ilove you," to my parents, a flood of memories accompany that love. I don't remember when they changed my diapers, but I am sure it was motivated by love. The long sleepless nights were torture, and I am not talking about just when I was a baby. As a parent, I know there are

more difficulties when they become teenagers than when they are babies. My parents have always been there for me no matter what. I know many people cannot say that, but I am fortunate. The word love has always been an action word in my family. Now, we said it many times, but actions spoke louder than words. No matter how old I was, I never doubted their love for me. As I get older and have more life experiences, I believe my love and appreciation for them grows. As they get older, it is my turn to show how much I love them.

Of course I love my students and their families. I could not do what I do if I did not love them. They are special to me, and I take my responsibility to

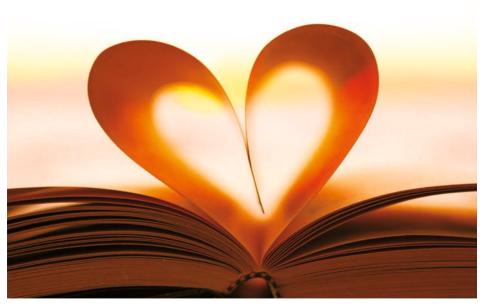
them very seriously. There have been some sleepless nights due to concern for them, too.

I have a great love for my other family members and friends. There is not time to tell them all, but my deepest love on this earth is for my precious husband.

He has proven over all of these years his deep and sincere love for me. He cares about my days and my nights. He listens intently as I talk of the concerns I have for the many facets of my life. Protective! Oh my! My sweetheart loves me with all his heart, and it is an action word for him. I have never known him to put his needs or feelings above mine. I am very careful what I say I want, because he will try to get it for me. Our love has grown over the years for each other, and I am sure it will continue to grow. I sometimes wonder if that is possible, but it always happens. A marriage takes work, and I am thankful we have worked on ours all of these years. It has become a heaven on earth.

I would not trade anything for any of these relationships in my life. Love is the thread that holds them together, but they also have brought much pain. The pain of life as well as the pain of death has entered many times. I lost my brother when he was 33, and I have lost many other family members over the years. Love also hurts when someone you love is hurting. When your child is rebellious, it hurts. The deeper we love someone, the more they have the capability to hurt us. Careless words or actions drive a wound deep into our hearts.

Even with all of the joy and pain love brings our way, we must remember that our Heavenly Father's love



is the most important. He loves us unconditionally and more than anyone else. He has loved us from the foundation of the world, and He loves us now. His greatest desire is for us to ask Jesus into our lives and allow Him to be our Savior. He wants us to be in His family, not Satan's.

All of heaven rejoices when we become a member of God's family. Once we accept Christ as our Saviour, it is Satan's goal to hurt God through us. The devil has already lost our soul, but he wants to hurt in whatever way he can. As a parent, one of the easiest ways to hurt me has been to hurt my children. God is no different. Can you imagine the times His heart has been broken because of our actions? It must be hard to be God. I know how much the people I love can hurt me, and I do not love them perfectly. God loves all people, and He loves them perfectly.

When someone dies and goes to hell, He hurts. When I sin, He is saddened. When I rebel against him, He grieves. When I doubt Him, He is disappointed. Multiply those hurts by all of the people in the world over all of the ages.

We have an awesome responsibility. We must treasure the love of the people in our lives, but most of all, we must treasure the love of God. We must seek to love Him with all of our hearts. If we love Him completely, we will trust and obey Him. Our lives will be complete. May the love of God fill your hearts today.

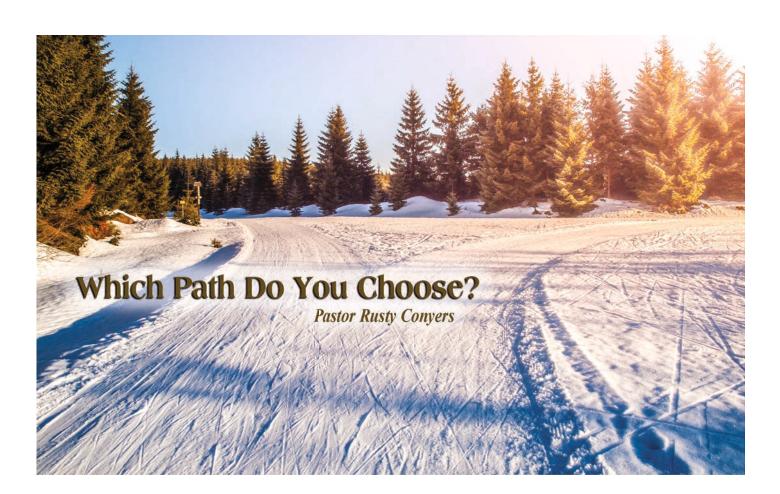
And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Mark 12:30.



Mrs. Worthington has five children and eleven grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.





What a great scene we find in **John 12:1-11**. We see that Jesus was a social person. He was always with the people, and He was often invited to the homes of others. In **John 12**, He was at the home of Simon, the leper, in the town of Bethany. That's all we really know about this man. I think it's safe to assume Jesus had healed this man at some point, and now Simon is a friend and disciple of the Lord.

Many guests were present. One special family was there; Mary, Martha, and Lazarus – whom Jesus had just raised from the dead! The twelve disciples were present. Some of the Jewish religious leaders and other curiosity seekers had also stopped by. Many people came just hoping to get a glimpse of the resurrected Lazarus.

This story shows just how different people can be. Although cultures have changed, human nature really has not changed much through the centuries. Birds of a feather really do flock together and migrate towards one another. Yet, in this story, we see the different paths and attitudes that people can choose towards God and His work. Let me point out a few from this passage of Scripture.

Lazarus Chose Friendship.

In John 12:2b we read, "...but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him." Jesus were very good friends. You know, a terminal diagnosis usually makes people appreciate their family and friends better. Well, imagine Lazarus, after having spent four days in the grave! Here he is making the most of a social occasion. Often times we will tell a person that it's good to see them, and then they might reply, "It's good to be seen." I almost wonder if Lazarus was the one who coined that phrase. Life is just too short for us to hold grudges and not be forgiving to those in our life. No, not everyone is a people person, but I'm sure we can all learn to appreciate people more. I'm not sure what Lazarus was like before he died, but it appears he was enjoying his new chance at life. As someone once said, "We ought to hold on to our friends, whether we like them or not."

Martha Chose to Serve.

We also see in verse two, "There they made him a supper; and Martha served:..." It seems that is always the case with Martha in the Bible. She was

known for being busy, serving and helping others — and it is a trait for which she should be commended. May we also choose to serve and help others. It is a very Christ-like attitude for us to develop. In fact, if it does not come natural to us, then we can ask God to help us learn how to care more for those He has put in our path. Plus, we can get involved in the ministries of our local church where there are always plenty of opportunities to do something for the Lord and others.

Mary Chose Devoted Worship.

In the third verse of John 12 we read, "Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment." I'm sure she was so pleased with all that the Lord had recently done for her and her family she could not hold back from praising the Lord and thanking Him for being so good to them. It is clear she was not ashamed to worship God in a public setting. She even got her hair dirty by wiping up the excess oil with it. Most women would not want to be seen in public that way, but Mary was only focused on Jesus and not at all on herself. I hope we all can become so bold in our worship and our witness! Plus, Jesus said she did it with the cross in mind. The truth is, there is no real worship apart from the cross of Christ. Once we get saved we ought to serve Him like Martha and worship Him like Mary.

Judas Chose to be a Critic.

Notice verse five where Judas criticized Mary's action when he said, "Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?" He was being the classic hypocrite, pretending to care for the poor, but John said he really wanted to sell that expensive perfume and put the money in his own pocket. We better take notice when we find ourselves criticizing others who are worshipping Jesus, because it means our heart and life is not what it ought to be with God. I think we all know how things turned out for Judas, the one who eventually betrayed Jesus.

Religious Leaders Chose to be Antagonistic.

Notice verse ten. "But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death." What



a terrible attitude they chose. They were jealous of Jesus and the fact He did such a great miracle with Lazarus. Unfortunately, this is the crowd that wants to be religious but without Christ. They want to invent their own way to Heaven or think they can get to Heaven by their own good works. This is the same crowd that likes to believe everything the Bible says about Heaven, and then ignore what the same Bible says about Hell. It just doesn't work that way.

Some Chose to Become a Christian.

Verse eleven tells us, "Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus." Good for them! Of course, if there were some who believed - that means there were also some who chose not to believe.

Yes, there are many different paths we can choose, but when you get right down to it, those are the only two groups in the world. Those are the only two groups that will stand before God on Judgment Day, believers and non-believers. That's the picture we see at the cross. The two thieves represent these final two groups divided between those who receive or reject Jesus Christ.

So, in conclusion, which path do you choose? Because what we decide about Jesus is all that really matters in eternity. Recall how Jesus said it in John 3:36, "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."



Pastor Rusty Conyers has been in full-time ministry since 1998 and Pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Snow Hill, NC, since 2010. More information is available at www. libertybaptistsnowhill.com.



And Finally...



Making A Difference...

Last week at a gas station something beautiful happened to me. I desperately needed to put a little bit of gas in my tank as I was riding on empty. It seems all the money I had on me at the time was about \$4.00. When I went inside the gas station to prepay the cashier for the little bit of gas I was going to purchase, she asked me to wait for just a second. I waited, not asking why. She then looked at me and said, "There's an extra \$10.00 on there for you." I was shocked, humbled, and grateful. She said the person in front of me had paid the \$10.00 for the next person in line. I made a promise to myself to pay it forward and share the kindness as soon as I can. **F. D.**

I was recently the recipient of an act of kindness. There was a knock at the door one night at our home. It was a young boy that lives right down the road from us. Although he is a little bit older than my sons, they attend the same school. "Would you like these?" he said as he handed me an old school bag filled with very nice and barely worn school clothes for my boys. I was so excited over this small gesture! It was such a thoughtful gift, and one that will save me and my family a lot of money. How blessed we are when kindness boomerangs back to us!

B. G.

My son and I went to a basketball game the day after Christmas. Just before the game started, we went to the snack counter to buy a snack. We placed our order, and a gentleman that was in front of us paid for our snack. It was a total surprise for us, and it took me a minute to understand what was happening. He was also at the game with his son, and he told us that his dentist had given them the free tickets to the game. He said his dentist was kind to him, and now he wanted to be kind to someone else in return. He also said he wanted to show his son how easy it was to do good deeds for other people. It was a fantastic moment, and I have decided to do the same for someone else as he did for us when we go to our next game.

L.B.

"Tell A Joke"

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of "And Finally..."

April is National Humor Month! Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us a funny joke you know. The deadline for submission is

February 28th, 2019.

You can send an email to: Attn: PathPointe wago@gomixradio.org

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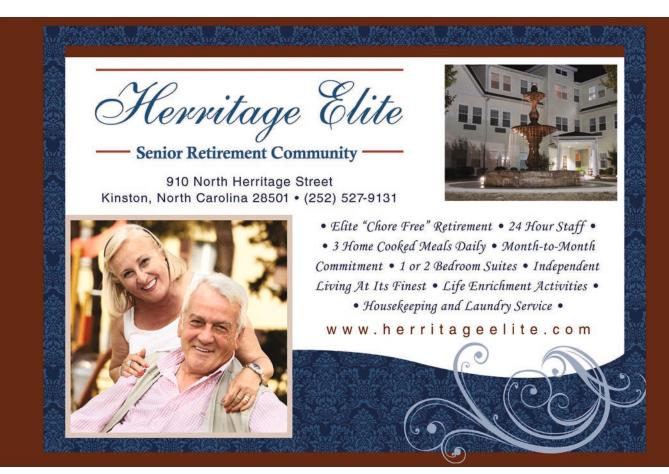
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