

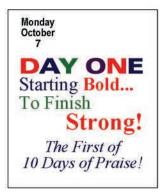


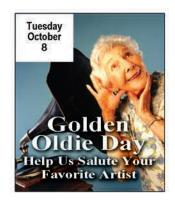
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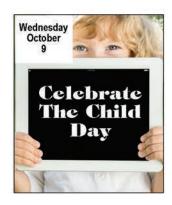


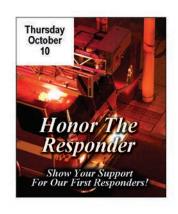
# 10DAYS

#### Our Fall Share-A-Thon Will Be "10 Days Of Praise"

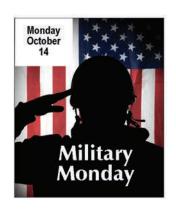




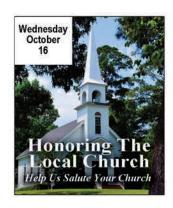
























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The concept of heaven is far above our finite minds, but even as a Bible-Believing Christian, some things are hard to understand. As we try to imagine a perfect place of joy and contentment, it is only natural to start with the things that make us happy on earth.

I remember hearing an old preacher that led a man to the Lord. Well, the man loved his chewing tobacco, so he asked the preacher if he thought the Lord might allow him to chew his tobacco in heaven since he loved it so much. The preacher thought for a moment and said: "Well if you love it that much the Lord may allow you to chew tobacco in heaven, but He might require you to go to hell to spit."

Indeed, we enjoy a lot of things on earth. Trouble is, I am not sure a lot of those things are going to be in heaven. For example: I Love Cold Rainy Days. I'll take a cold day over a hot day anytime. For the sake of the grandchildren, I alter my feelings when they are with us. But when Sherry and I go to the beach, I'll take a cold rainy day in February over a sunny day in July anytime. Trouble is, I don't think there are going to be any cold rainy days in heaven. I read about the robes of white, but there is nothing about overcoats and gloves.

I Enjoy Admiring The Works of Man. Great works of architecture, a well-made sports car, a fine tuned machine, a classic piece of furniture, a beautiful work of art; I find admiration for the man (or woman) who made it. Although we might give honor to great saints for their faith, it is hard for me to picture going by your mansion and saying, "I really like what you've done to the place. It was a real dump before you moved in." Now, this is just conjecture—I may be wrong, but

I don't think we will be admiring the ingenuity of the guy like Harley Earl for his great car designs.

#### I Enjoy the Aroma of the Earth.

The aroma of burning leaves in the fall always takes me back home as does the smell of bacon cooking on a winter's morn and freshly mowed grass in the spring. Will we cut grass in heaven? Probably not! Bacon? Not likely either. Will I miss these things?

#### I Enjoy Marriage and Being Close.

Being close to someone you love may be the most pleasurable activity on earth. Will we always be in a crowd in heaven? Crowds have their place, but sometimes I like being alone, and other times I like just being with Sherry. Can the spirit world really compare with the joy God gives us here on earth when we are intimate or close with someone we love?

#### **PathPointe**

2



#### Some People Really Like Sports.

Although I am not a big sports fan, many people are. As a matter of fact, most people today spend a lot of their time being entertained by others. It might be sports, movies, video games, or reading a good book. But will this be available in heaven? And if so, who is going to be creating it? Remember, watching a movie or a football game may be entertainment for the spectators, but its hard work for the participants.

Furthermore, although all heavenly movies may be "G" rated, many sporting events have an element of violence in them. Will you be able to crush your opponent in a manly game of football, or will you just be turning the other cheek once in heaven? Are all you sports fans going to be reduced to playing ping pong, shuffleboard, and maybe a hearty game of bingo? And even then, someone will have to face the disappointment of losing. Is that possible is heaven? Will you even wish for your opponent to lose?

#### Some People Really Love Their Pets.

We know there are horses in heaven, but are there dogs, cats, and pythons? Can you take your doggie for a walk along the street of gold? Are there fire hydrants on every corner? The Scriptures seem to indicate that animals don't have an eternal spirit and they don't have the capacity to accept Jesus as their Saviour. They may not be tainted with original sin like man, but they are under the curse. Sorry, there will probably be no pets to cuddle. By the way, sorry guys but it is unlikely there will be duck hunting, deer hunting, or fishing either. Jeepers!

So, with all the normal stuff that we enjoy in life not available in heaven,

what is left that you would want to do? Talking to your ancient relatives might be fun for a while, but we are talking about eternity. That's E-Ter-Ni-Ty! I am glad Uncle LeRoy was saved, but spending forever with him?

Now, the Bible doesn't go into many specifics about heaven. Why? Because "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (I Corinthians 2:9). Our minds simply cannot comprehend the glory that awaits us.

Imagine for a minute that all you have ever had to eat is crackers and water. In your world that is all you know, so everything is judged by that standard. You know crackers and water is better than dirt and pond scum, but you know of nothing better. Then, one day someone gives you a cookie and milk. Wow, this is heaven. No, it's not, but it is the closest thing to it that you can imagine. Now, although you know of something better than crackers and water, still (and this is my point) you don't know

that Krispy Kreme doughnuts exists somewhere in the universe. Heaven is that way. There is something out there that will make you wonder why you ever thought that dirt and pond scum, crackers and water, and even milk and cookies, were the best the universe had to offer.

Now, while it's true we don't know the details about heaven, the Bible does give us a general idea. What we discover is absolutely mind-blowing! When we enter heaven we will be changed physically and spiritually. John tells us we will be like Jesus. What will that be like? Here are a few things the Bible tells us:

#### WE WILL NO LONGER SIN: In

heaven Jesus will remove our sinful nature and conform us entirely into His image. For computer lovers, this old body is like Windows 1.0 (released in 1985), as I mature I may even get to Windows 2.0, or even Windows 95. But in heaven God is going to load me with Windows 10. Not a perfect comparison, since no computer operating system is perfect, but perhaps it gives us an interesting









comparison. Not many people would want to go back to the old computer systems or black and white television today.

### WE WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME LAWS OF PHYSICS:

In **John 20:19, 26** we find Jesus walking through walls and locked doors to reach the disciples. Elsewhere in the Bible we read about angels that appear and disappear. We will be able to travel anywhere instantly.

#### WE WILL STILL EAT AND

**TOUCH:** Jesus ate in His resurrected body. In heaven eating might be done for pleasure and fellowship and not for necessity. **Revelation 22:2** tells us that in heaven there will be a tree of life that bears twelve different kinds of fruit each month. Some think that there may be a feast each month when this tree blooms and a time of great fellowship as we gather around to share a meal together.

#### WE WILL NEVER BE SICK

**AGAIN:** We currently live in a fallen, imperfect world. People get sick, suffer and die. In heaven that won't be true. God tells us in heaven there will be "no more curse" (Revelation 22:3). There will be no more death or pain, for the old things has passed away. Heaven will be a world where, "the eyes of the

blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap as a hart (deer) and the tongue of the dumb sing." (Isaiah 35:5-6) There will be no more suffering in heaven.

WE WILL RECOGNIZE ONE ANOTHER: Moses and Elijah appear and talk with Jesus. Peter recognizes both of them even though they both lived many years before him. In heaven, we will know not only our loved ones but everyone else that is there!

WE WILL HAVE DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS: There will be no marriage in heaven. The reason is that relationships will be much deeper than anything on earth. Remember that we'll be free from sin. Relationships will be pure and free of doubt, jealousy, and gossip.

#### WE WILL BE WITH CHRIST:

More important than anything else is the fact that we will be with our Lord forever. From His throne flows the River of Life. It will be perfect, clear as crystal. And we will see Him face to face. We shall worship Him and be His people and He will be our God.

The presence of Christ will dominate heaven the same way the sun

dominates the hot summer sky. We will be able to talk to Him, ask Him questions, and listen to Him speak. Imagine hearing His voice. The Bible says it will be "as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder:" (Revelation 14:2) Imagine the stories He'll tell, the lessons He'll teach, and the love He'll share. And... "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun. We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun."

#### **HOW TO GET TO HEAVEN:**

Heaven is God's home. God is perfect and so heaven is perfect. Nothing imperfect can ever enter heaven (Revelation 22:14-15).

Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."
But God has provided a way to bridge the gap between us and Him. John 3:16 tells us this, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begonnen Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Jesus died on the cross for your sins and mine. He took your punishment for sinning. He died for your sins so you wouldn't have to. Now He offers forgiveness to you. All you have to do is acknowledge you are a sinner, and that Jesus, the Son of God, died in your place, rose for your justification, and accept Him as your Saviour. You can accept Jesus as Saviour today.



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

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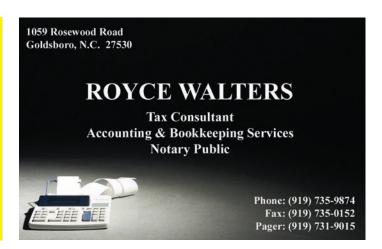




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#### Work Out What God Works In

God has given man a free will and never forces anyone to choose Him. God created plants and animals without freedom of choice. And so, even though they have obeyed God's laws for thousands of years, they cannot be either holy or sinful, nor can they become a part of God's family. But when God created man, He gave him both a free will (soul) and a conscience (spirit). Therefore, man can be either holy or sinful and can choose to become a child of God, that is, a member of God's family.

If God were to take away our conscience, we would become like the animals - incapable of moral choice and therefore incapable of



being holy or sinful. If God were to take away our free will, we would become like robots and again we would be incapable of being holy or sinful. So, God never takes away our free will even after we become believers - so all men are therefore either sinful or holy.

The Bible says that "...God loveth a cheerful giver." (II Corinthians 9:7) Actually, God desires cheerful obedience in all matters. He does not desire us to give by force, nor does He desire us to obey by force. That is why He never takes away our freedom of choice. We can choose to obey Christ one day, and choose not to obey Christ the next day. Sure, there may be chastisement and/or consequences, but it is still our choice.

Philippians 2:12-13 commands us: "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Here we see it is God who first works in us by giving us the desire and the ability to do His will. That is one part of the truth. But then we have to work out that opportunity if we are to experience it. That is the other half of the truth. To have the whole truth, we need to accept the whole truth.

So, here is the challenge: Let us cooperate with God in all things. We must be obedient by working out what God has already worked in. As we celebrate our **Fall Share-A-Thon**, it is our prayer that we all may cheerfully exercise our free will in doing as our Lord would have us to

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Our Lord informed His followers they were to be the "light of the world." This mission still rings true today. Jesus has transformed us so we can help transform others. Our lives, reflecting the marvelous light of Christ, helps to bring God's glory to a world in darkness. As much as we may personally enjoy basking in the light for ourselves, we must also be willing to share the light with those in need. It would be wrong to walk through the dark

forest at night and only shine the light for our own pathway while our neighbor was forced to stumble in darkness. The light is designed to be placed on a lamp stand where all can see. Jesus shines in us, so He can shine through us.

In these modern times, we are blessed to be able to fill a room with light with the flip of a switch. Likewise, sharing the light of God's Word is easier today than it has ever been. Our Lord has given us tools, like radio, to make the job easier. As we begin our **Fall Share-A-Thon** on **October 7th**, please prayerfully consider supporting *GoMix Christian Radio* with your best financial gift. In a world filled with darkness, together we are communicating the wonderful truth of God's grace by sending forth the message of light.









I have been under conviction lately and I find myself in a place where a choice must be made. In the last six months, I have been confronted with two classmates from High School who have surrendered to the mission field. One is currently in China, and the other is preparing for India. Both are wives and mothers. They are surrendering all they have and all they hold dear to forsake all and follow Christ. They have faced opposition from friends, family, and even other Christians, making it all the more difficult. They know they are leaving all that is familiar to them and exposing their children to the unknown. They will not be back home for several years, and perhaps even at all. Yet to follow their Lord and to lead others to Him is their love and passion. Are their children important to them? Of course they are. It is with many tears that they have surrendered to the call of their Lord. They are supporting their husbands and together sharing in the pursuit of fulfilling God's Will for their lives.

Why is it I am hanging on to such earthly things as my time, my home, my children, my money, and my plans? As I was convicted over my lack of surrender to my Lord, my holding back from obeying Him with complete abandon, I began to realize it was time to let go or just plain clench my fists. But at least openly admit it and call it for what it was. As I began to ponder these things more and more, I composed two letters:

#### Letter #1

Dear God:

I enjoy serving You, but there are some things I am not willing to do or give or say or be. I like having You in my life, but I really just want to feel good about what I am doing for You. I have come to realize I do not actually want to give my whole self, my home, my money, my children, my marriage, my work, my free time, my...well, life, to You. I have deceived myself and even others for a long time, but now I just want to put all the cards out in the open.

And since I am being so honest, I need to go ahead and acknowledge the cost of my decision. I realize that the present and the future are going to pay for my selfishness. There are many counting on me, but I am unwilling. I am sorry they will suffer, but I just don't want to pay the cost. My children may go to Hell because of my lack of devotion to You, but well, I think they will choose You and Heaven even though I am not fighting for it. I know You have a plan for me, but I am not interested in fulfilling it entirely. I think I can keep serving You the way I have been. I am not interested in really dying to self and finding true life in You. I realize if I were to be willing to give up more of what You have given me, souls could be saved from Hell, but well, I don't want to think about that right now. I am tired of always having to give up what I want for the good of others.

In conclusion, thank You for all You have done for me. I do appreciate it; I just do not want to give You what I owe You in all good honesty. I like saying I love You, it makes me feel good. But now I realize I love myself more. I am not very happy with that admission, but I really don't want to sacrifice what it would take to love You with all of my heart, my soul, my mind, and my strength.

I hereby give in my resignation as a sold-out, cross-bearing follower of Christ. I do want to keep serving You, just not with utter surrender. I will eternally be indebted to You for saving my soul from Hell and adopting me as Your child. Furthering Your Kingdom is something I would like to have a part in, but only if I don't have to give up too much. Does this mean I am not saved?

Sincerely,

Ме

#### Letter #2

Heavenly Father,

It's me. I know I have been holding back from You. I had

not realized until now that I was doing so. I have been serving You partially, though I thought I was giving so much. You have been showing me for awhile now, and very clearly recently, that more is needed from me.

I have wanted to serve You with a portion of our income, not surrendering it all as Yours. Here I have felt good about the percentage we give, and yet You want us to be willing to give it all if You ask (and to do with it as You lead). It is all Yours; I am a steward and have been too attached to these things as my own. I give our money and home to You.

Lord, I give myself to You. I give my husband to You and all You have called him to be. I give our children to You, though it is hard to realize they are not ours. but Yours. These are my two highest treasures in the world, and You tell me where my treasure is my heart will follow.

I give my time. I am so tired at night, yet that seems to be the time You are needing from me in addition to when I already serve You. I give You my energy and my efforts. I will do my best for You. Lord, You are

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if I do not. This will mean whole-hearted surrender of my body, mind, emotions, and will, not to mention earthly possessions. If I do not, the present and the future suffer. The kingdom of darkness will prevail, souls will never hear about You who could have, and the world will be a darker place because my light will not be shining. I cannot let that happen. You have told me You will never leave me nor forsake me and that I can do all things through You.

calling me to rise up. There are many who will suffer

Lord, You are my everything. Thank You for saving me and making me Your child. Thank You for being my Friend. I hope one day You can call me friend. Please mold me into Your image and make me more like You.I hereby surrender all that I am and all that I have to You. I accept the responsibility that comes with the position of being Your child. Thank You...for so many things.

I love you, Lord.

Me

It is now abundantly clear to me what choice must be made. Which letter is your choice?

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

**Luke 9:23** 

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his time of year can be so beautiful. When I look around and see the beautiful colors, I smile on the inside. The air is getting cooler, and the breeze is blowing. What makes the beautiful colors? The leaves are dying. They are going to fall off the trees and become a blanket of color on the ground. Have you ever noticed that some leaves are prettier than others? Some leaves just turn an ugly brown before they fall off the trees. Why is that?

In my reading I found that the colors are in the leaves, we just can't see them. The deep green color of chlorophyll hides any other colors present in the leaves. The leaves are getting the sunlight and water that they need in the long days of summer. When the days get shorter and the nights get colder, the leaves start to change colors. In the reading, it explains why some leaves turn brown, some have beautiful oranges and yellows, and others skip the orange and yellow

and go straight to red. Our Lord designed it all to be based on the weather and the length of the days.

I found that intriguing. People are that way, too. The weather of their lives tends to dictate who they are. We are a roller coaster of our emotions allowing the twists and turns of life to control us. If we are Christians, we know the One who controls the weather. Nothing that comes our way is too big for us to handle. We often forget that so many times. Yes, I am guilty, too.

In our day to day life, there is no reason we can't be beautiful. Now I know some of us need more help than others if we are talking about the outer shell, but I am referring to the heart. What makes the leaves turn brown? When we have a cold snap, the leaves quickly turn brown and die. When we become cold and calloused, our hearts die on the inside. How do we keep that from happening?

My husband has often said that you will be the same type of old person as you are as a young person, times ten. So that means if you are a grump now, you will be ten times as grumpy when you get old. I would fix that if I were you. No one wants to be around a young grump much less an old one. Shouldn't we allow God to fix this and the other sins in our lives before we add any more years to our lives?

Take a look in the mirror. I don't want us to look to see if every hair is in place, but take a look in God's mirror. We always know what others need to fix, but we seldom work on ourselves. As we look in His mirror, take notes on the things we need to fix. What is blocking the Son-light and turning our hearts brown?

If we let it, our world can make us cynical. Everywhere we look we see evil and depravity. We are fearful for our children and their futures. We are fearful for our country because we



see it going down the tubes. We are fearful for our churches because we see them becoming more and more like the world. We are fearful for so many reasons. Fear is blocking out the Son-light.

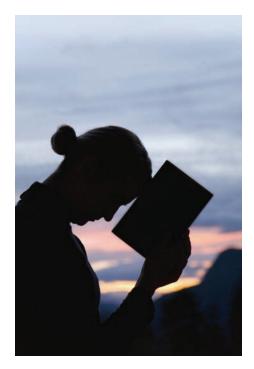
We tend to forget that nothing catches our Lord by surprise. He is ready for anything that comes our way. Our Heavenly Father expects us to stand for Him. He expects us to make a difference. When evil legislation comes our way, He wants us to fight it. Our Lord expects us to conquer our fear and let Him lead us into battle. That does not mean we won't be afraid, but fear will not control us. He will.

In the meantime, we must love others more than ourselves. I don't know about you, but when I look around I don't see much love. Now, don't get me wrong, I see love among family members and love for friends. But do you see much unconditional love? Do you see a concern for souls? Do you see love that is totally unselfish? "Selfish love" blocks out the Son-light.

We might say, "I love my children." But do you? Do you put their needs, not wants, above yours at all times? It is easy to say we love our children more than ourselves but that is not always true. We may love them at certain times more than ourselves, but when it is truly inconvenient do we really? Our children need parents who put God first in their lives. They need friends to cry and laugh with; parents to discipline, encourage, and teach; and providers to take care of their needs. Please don't buy them things all of the time. They need someone to tell them "no", and to do it with love. Every time our Heavenly Father tells us "no" it is out of a deep love for us.

When He disciplines and when He gives gifts, He shows love.

Do we truly love our spouses? Do we encourage them and build them up? Do we put their needs above our own? I do not see this very often. People talk about children being spoiled, but most people are truly spoiled. We see what is wrong with our spouses, but we truly have trouble looking into God's mirror. How dare you correct me or question my decisions? Don't you dare ask me what I was doing?



God's intention for marriage is that two people are working on the same team to make things work as He intended. Unfortunately, many marriages seem as if they are on opposite teams with the only thing they have in common being their children. Married couples need to be on the same team working towards a common goal, marriages that honor God.

When we look into the mirror of our hearts, we need to decide to look for the good in not only our spouses and our children but every area of life. I don't mean we should be blind to the world around us, but we need to look for life in the trenches. If we look at the glass half-empty, we will constantly be depressed. When you start thinking critically of someone or something, think of the good things first. Some things may need to be addressed, but do it in a positive way. When something is bothering me, I ask myself, "Is this really important. Is this worth discussing?" Many times I will decide it is no big deal. I use this with my family, friends, and co-workers. If it is important, I try to pray over it and give it the attention it deserves. I know I fail in this area sometimes as well, but looking for life is the only way I can continue doing what I am doing. I have to look for the good in people. When we constantly have a critical spirit and look for death, we are blocking the Son-light from our hearts.

From the beginning of time, God looked down and saw good. When He created man, the Bible says that He saw that it was good. When man sinned, God felt man was worth saving. His great love paid the price for the wickedness of our hearts. He wanted us to be able to have His Son live in our hearts and become the light of our lives. Don't we need to look around us and spread the Sonlight? Our Father gave everything for us, it is the least we can do for Him!



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



## And Finally...



#### World Missions...

I have been on four mission trips in my lifetime, but my favorite by far was a trip I took with my youth group to Belize. We were told we would be doing "light construction" and we aided in building Sunday School rooms for a local church. Hauling sand, rocks, and bricks all day in the hot sun was definitely hard work. The food we received at the end of the day was delicious and well worth the hard work! On every mission trip that I go on, it's always the local kids that pull on my heart strings. Their sweet smiles will forever be embedded in my mind. I am so thankful for these opportunities the Lord has given me to share His Word to others in need. **M. M.** 

My husband and I traveled to Papua New Guinea eleven years ago when we were first married. It was definitely an experience of a lifetime and something I will never regret doing. I spent a lot of time with the village women and children. I couldn't understand a lot of what they said, but they tried to teach me, and laughed at my mistakes. Even with people from a completely different culture, different race, different language, and different life, my God was just as much a part of their lives as He was a part of mine. Now, whenever I hear stories or prayer requests from missionaries, I feel like I can really see it in my mind and understand where they are coming from. I feel like I know better how to pray for them and what some of their needs might be. I am so glad we took the time and spent the money to go on this trip. It was well worth it as God opened our eyes to the lives of missionaries and exposed us to a third world country. I would recommend a short term missions trip to any Christian.

L.D.

12 PathPointe

I was blessed to attend a mission trip to the Republic of Nicaragua. For one week, my group built a house, built a building for a missionary complex, and provided aid for the people in Granada, Masaya, and Managua. We left to give them help and aid but in reality, they were the ones who gave us so much more. Since the moment I began my mission work that week, I have not stopped thinking about the experience. In a third world country where I was surrounded by poverty, I was at peace. Nicaragua was a place filled with beauty and wonderful people. I encourage you to give people and places a chance because you never know where the Lord could lead you.

J. M.

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