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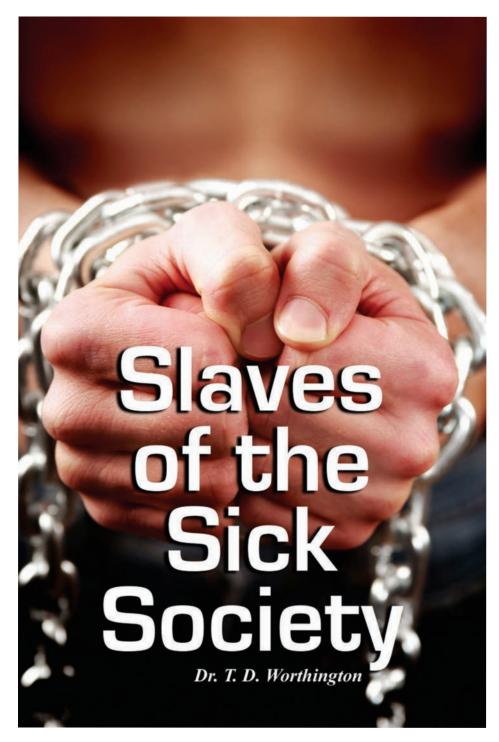
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"They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace, when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore, they shall fall among they that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the Lord." Jeremiah 6:14-15

This is a verse about someone who observed someone else hurting with an infirmity that would likely lead to their death. However, although they had the ability to do so, rather than administer aid which would lead to their full recovery, they only applied a bit of first aid. This saved their life, but it also assured that the victim would never be restored to complete health. It could be likened to a trained

physician who sees a man who has been in an accident and has suffered two broken legs and he is lying face down in a pool of water. Although the physician saves the man's life, he also hesitates to pull him out of the water, so the man suffers severe brain damage. Then, rather than properly setting the man's broken legs he merely splints them back together. He has saved the man's life, but now the man will suffer retardation and will be confined to a wheel chair for the rest of his life. He healed him "slightly"! Furthermore, he does not feel guilty about what he has done. Actually, he comforts himself in the fact that the man would have died without his help. He assures the man saying "peace", implying "I have helped you, and you should be grateful."

Every day, I hear politicians, liberal preachers, educators, and elite professionals speak-out about American society. Yet, I find most often very few are talking about the diseases at the core of our identity, but focus on blaming the symptoms we hide behind: government, corporations, cities, societies, even capitalism. But, we must remember, government is made up of "us", corporations are made up of "us", cities are a dense collection of "us", and society is the expression of the collective "us".

Now, I love my country, yet "us", we the people, who make up America have developed a very sick society, in part because we have taken the mediocre medicine that has been dished out to us. And then because of our laziness, foolishness, and arrogance, we can't even recognize that we're sick. We are thankful to be sitting in a wheelchair after losing 90% of our faculties, because we no longer realize we are here because of incompetence. May

I share some signs indicating that we are a sick society?

The Boosting of the Beggar: A sick society no longer recognizes that there is no such thing as a free ride. Someone somewhere is paying the bill. Beggars are a sign of a sick society. If you visited a town and found 50% of the people on the street begging, wouldn't you think something might be wrong in that city? Yet, how many Americans are waiting for their next government handout?

There was a time when most beggars were men. Some were suffering from a legitimate physical or mental handicap. Others were just going through a short season of hard-times, while others were just plain sorry and lazy. But today it is not just men, but women are beggars. Children line up for their free lunches, so children are taught to be beggars. College students line up for their grants, so they are beggars. Giant corporations are beggars. Even men of great wealth are beggars—and no one is ashamed. When any society has this many beggars, that society is sick. It is not poverty alone that has made our nation a nation of beggars. It sounds like the judgment of God!

When the United States was founded, people had no problem with the concept that you worked to make it through life. That was life. Each person depended on their own strengths and skills to earn their way through life. This is the way it was and the way it should be. But today, it is so different. Many people, from their childhood, have considered themselves too good to actually work. They rely on someone else to support them. Consider this, if you need months of unemployment checks before you can find a job,

isn't that a sick society? Doesn't it indicate something is wrong when an economy like ours cannot provide employment?

The Slandering of the Sacred: A sick society no longer understands anything as sacred. There is nothing considered Holy. It is

held accountable to nothing and to no one because those things that are sacred are segregated to "private" and "personal" areas of life. Morality in public life is self-determined, often by those in power and legitimized by might, not rights. The sacred is usually defamed, ignored, or segregated into an isolated corner of society. An intolerance of the sacred is a sign of a sick society.



A sick society legitimizes the careless and inhumane treatment of others. Abortion is a sign of a sick society. Euthanasia will become more commonplace in the future. Casual sex without love or commitment legitimizes a loveless society. A sick society does not care for neighbors, but objectifies and blames the neighbor for being in need; especially if that neighbor is of another race, religion, social standing, or political party. Such is the norm in a sick society.

The Normalization of the Nasty: A sick society legitimizes and normalizes immoral practices. The homosexual movement is clearly an example. Practices that should cause shame and embarrassment are now considered normal. The lewdness and crudeness of what constitutes as entertainment should shock us, but instead numbs



us to the cruelty and perversity that is real and all around us. We have no concept of modesty and no convictions of decency. Nasty is the new normal in a sick society.

The Lack of Comprehension of the Contemptable: When Hillary Clinton gave a commencement speech at Wellesley College, she declared that President Trump's budget was "an attack of unimaginable cruelty on the most vulnerable among us, the youngest, the oldest, and the poorest." Unimaginable cruelty? No, it is not. Abortion is "unimaginable cruelty". Using nerve gas on helpless women and children is "an attack of unimaginable cruelty." The North Korean's putting a college student into a coma is an "attack of unimaginable cruelty." Beheading Christians just because they are Christians is an act of "unimaginable cruelty". However, reducing the growth of unconstitutional government spending is not. There are so many things our sick society calls right, when it should be obvious it is wrong. A sick society has lost its ability to assess what should really be contemptable, so the person who kills an endangered species can be put in iail, while the man who murders a human child is subsidized. And those who speak out against abortion are committing an act of unimaginable







cruelty. Our moral compass is so skewed, such has become the thinking in our sick society.

The Reaction Becomes the Remedy:

People often react on impulse instead of act on rational thought. The instant response of text messages and voice mail has gotten folks into a lot of trouble. Road rage is a reaction. Some guy going on campus or to his place of work and killing people is a reaction. Violence is a preferred manner of recourse in a sick society. It is the way of solving problems. It objectifies its enemies and wipes out the problem by annihilating its opposition. This is also seen in our willingness to go to war, the incredible amounts of violence in our streets, the violence in video games and on television, and the bullying violence on our playgrounds. Peace is considered naive and unrealistic, so we amp up our violence as a response to violence. It's like thinking we can cure our bacterial infection by fighting it with another infection. What happens? A sick society gets even sicker.

The Flourishing are not Furthered:

A sick society does not understand that it prospers when the entire society prospers. Success in a sick society is based upon everyone just getting by. The rich and successful are seen as enemies of the people. A sick society cannot make the connection that its overall health involves making sure there are enough rich men to start businesses and factories. Their wellbeing depends on the affluent man who is able to build houses and fund the schools and hospitals. It is the affluent man who often lends the money to the poor man to help him better his place in life.

Furthermore, the sick society does not challenge the loser when everyone gets a trophy. We all should be motivated to be winners, but in a sick society it is easier to blame the wealthy and the winners, than to strive to be like them. Freedom is a product of liberty, independence, personal responsibility, and self-reliance. When you exercise these four traits, you are Free. You are free to live your life pretty much as you

see fit. Apart from God, you are not dependent on one entity for anything. There are no promises of wealth beyond what you are willing to do to acquire it yourself. You work hard, putting in long hours to exploit your skills to acquire the necessary wealth to live the life in the manner you wish. There is almost nothing to stop you from doing this... almost nothing. But there is something. It is all the people of the sick society who feed off the social programs that take wealth from you and give it to those who did not earn it. This is how government takes care of the slaves it owns.

My goal is not to make us feel badly, but to get us to reflect on our role in making our society, our communities, and our families well again. It begins by first understanding our sicknesses and then being willing to take our medicine.

We are not the first generation of God's people to live in a sick society. Trouble is, so many Christian's today, by virtue of the liberal churches they attend, do not realize how sick this society is becoming. Their tolerance for watered down Bibles, watered down hymns, and watered down messages have left them with a watered-down faith and a tolerance for the "slight" healing offered by the world.

During this Thanksgiving season as we reflect upon our thankfulness for living in America, we must also accept the fact that sick minds have created a sick society. As Christians we must be careful not to consider ourselves healthy when we begin to share in the mistaken values and understandings of the sick society around us.



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

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Thankful & Blessed

What an honor it is to serve the Lord! We've had such a great time over the past month hearing from our Faith Partners and other friends of GoMix Christian Radio as you have called, written letters, and even visited our studio in support of our recent Share-A-Thon. As usual, our Lord has blessed abundantly, and we have no doubt at all that He'll continue to use people just like you to further the Gospel and work for the Kingdom. Your partnership with our ministry means more than you could ever know. Your calls, letters, and prayers are a wonderful encouragement to us as we do the work He has called us to do.

We ultimately depend on our Lord, but we also know His provisions are often supplied through our **Faith**



Partners. As you are trusting Him to supply for your needs while you invest in this ministry, we are joining hands together with you in prayer that we will all be good stewards of our resources and use them in such a way that gives Him all the Glory.

For our new Faith Partners, we encourage you to check us out online at www.gomixradio.org. While there, you can see a map of our coverage area, meet some of the staff you hear on the air, learn about the founding of the ministry you now support, read about events coming up in your area, see the plan of Salvation, follow links to some of our sister ministries. and even listen to our three online broadcasts: Serene (instrumental music – playing straight Christmas as of November 1st!), GoMix Gold (Southern Gospel classics going all the way back to the 1950's), and of course, our regular GoMix programming you hear on the radio. By the way, each of these can be programmed as a "skill" with your Alexa device if you have one. If you simply want to take GoMix with you

via internet on your smartphone, we are also available on the "TuneIn" and "MyTunerRadio" downloadable apps.

Technology is ever changing. As it does, we are making strides to keep up and keep great Christian programming here on *GoMix Christian Radio* available through as many avenues as we possibly can. Of course, all of this is done because of the prayers and financial support of people just like you. Thank you. Thank you for all that you have already done and what you will continue to do. Although we strive for excellence, we realize we may not be the best at what we do, but we definitely have some of the best listeners and supporters in the world!

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Artist Spotlight - The Jay Stone Singers

When thinking about Southern Gospel Music, one can't help but consider the rich history that surrounds the genre. We still enjoy songs that were sung hundreds of years ago. Songs that were a big hit 50 years ago are still being sung today. Likewise, icons in the industry are still admired.

As a young woman involved in Southern Gospel Music, I am a part of a living legacy. My family has been singing Southern Gospel Music for 43 years. My grandfather, Jay Stone, paved the way for the road that we (my mom, dad, and I) travel as a family. It's a privilege to continue the hard work and dedication that my grandfather poured into the ministry and music. The Jay Stone Singers started as my grandparents, my mom, and my uncle in 1976. Through these many years, our ministry has transitioned time and time again. Now we have reached a new place in our ministry as a trio.

Often times people will say that Gospel Music is dying, or that it's fizzling, but I couldn't disagree more! I see the love for this amazing music from my generation. I can't imagine a day that I won't love this music. Grateful doesn't begin to cover how we

feel to be involved in Southern Gospel Music. For my mother, Sharona Carter, who keeps continuing on after 43 years of ministry, this music has been her life. For my father, Bobby Carter, who has been with *The Jay Stone Singers* since he was 18 years old, this music has been his heart. For myself, at 22 years old, this music will always be my rock. When you think of a legacy, you think of carrying on after someone or something has passed on or ended. Each individual actively engaged in the Southern Gospel Music industry is a living legacy, and we will keep traveling on.

By Emma Carter

More information about The Jay Stone Singers can be found at *www.jaystonesingers.com*.

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 10th - Harvest Fellowship, Shallotte, NC

Nov. 17th - Mt. Olivet U.M.C., Manteo, NC

Nov. 24th - First Baptist Church, Chocowinity, NC

Dec. 1st - Colonial Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC

Dec. 8th - Arms Wide Open, Myrtle Beach, SC

Jan. 5th - Soul Filling Station, Fayetteville, NC







Enough already! Enough! Enough! Enough! Why is it we are always self-focused? It seems no matter where I go, everyone is looking out for themselves. They are number one in their lives and don't you forget it. Do you get that way sometimes? I do. I have to whip myself back into shape. I start thinking about what I have to do, what I don't want to do, and what I want to do. Did you notice how many times the word "I" was used in that sentence?

What is the cure? We know what the answer is, but we seldom do it. We have to get our eyes off of ourselves and put our eyes on the needs of others. I can do one better than that. If we are Christians, we must put our eyes and focus on Jesus. He will set us straight, if we let Him.

As Christians we know the teachings of our Lord and Saviour. He was selfless as He went about doing good. He saw the needs of the people around Him. He touched the blind, healed the sick, and told the lame man to rise up and walk. Jesus was weary and had no place to call home. His desire was for His followers to be servants. He wanted His followers to put others before themselves. Why do we have so much trouble putting Jesus first? Don't we realize if we would put Jesus first, all of the other parts of our lives would fall into place?

We would know where to give our money and our time. We would not worry or fret about everything. We would not complain about our lot in life. Have you ever just stopped and listened to people? It is always too hot or too cold. They are hungry or thirsty, but they probably have never been truly hungry a day in their lives. Many people are either talking about someone or listening to others gossip. They are in pain or don't feel good. Everything must be given to them or done for them, and they want it for free.

There are very few people who really know what it is to work hard. I don't understand. Everywhere I go I see "Help Wanted" signs. Many of these jobs are the type I held as a teenager. Very few teens appear to have jobs these days. What is the problem? Do we feel we are too good to do certain jobs?

It appears many of us need attitude adjustments. We must realize we are

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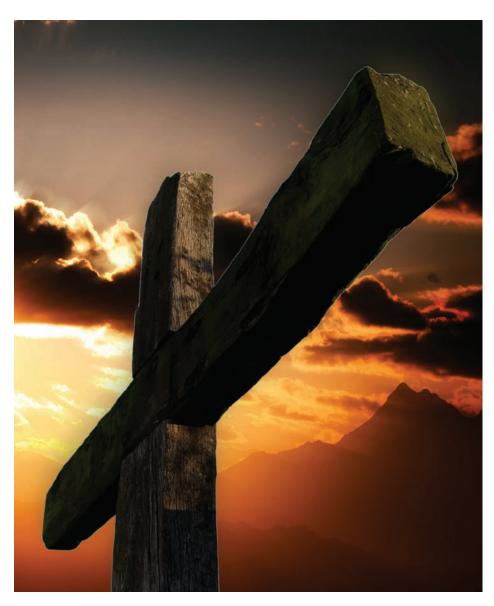
not the center of the universe. We must allow ourselves to look at the plight of those in real need. Take a walk with me at the nursing home. As I walk down the hall, I see people who are lonely and hurting-really hurting. They possibly had a stroke or old age has caught up with them. Their health is failing, and they have been forgotten. Fortunately, I see some who have regular visitors. That always warms my heart. I see others that never have a visitor and long to be touched. The children's ward at the hospital has patient after patient who are in serious condition. My youngest brother was in the hospital when he was a child, and his roommate did not make it. He was eight years old.

So many missionaries are risking it all to serve our Lord. They are living and dying for the faith. Their children are in danger, and we feel ours are going to miss out on something if they go to church. Sometimes I think we treat our children as golden idols instead of gifts that God has given us. They belong to Him, you know.

Why is it so hard to put Jesus first? Is it really that hard? We have become such a selfish society. If we look back in America's history, we would see how many men and women died so we might have the life we have today. Americans weren't always selfish and inconsiderate.

We must die to our own passions and desires. We must tell God whatever He wants is what we want. It is a choice we have to make. You and I must let His Holy Spirit indwell us and live through us. We must die to self. Paul said in I Corinthians 15:31, "...I die daily."

If we let Jesus have all of us, we would know that we are in His will. It doesn't mean we would never be



weary. Jesus was weary. It doesn't mean we would get everything on our list accomplished. It just means we did what we were supposed to do. We would still be tired, and most likely not able to get everything done, but we would be content with what we did accomplish that day.

If we put Jesus first, we will have grateful hearts. We will be grateful we are able to work. We will be grateful that we have so much to do that we cannot get everything on our lists accomplished and that we are tired at the end of the day. We will be grateful for our health. We will be grateful that we live in America and have the opportunity to serve Him without fear

of death. We will be grateful for our Lord's ultimate sacrifice, His own blood.

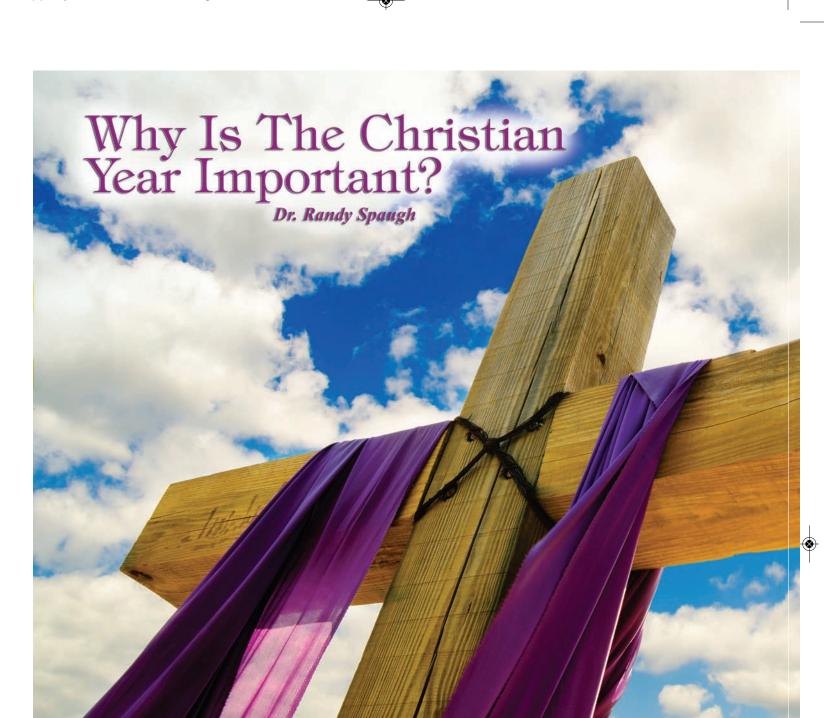
Have you had enough? Let us take the steps to put Jesus first in our lives. Let us get rid of the "me first" mentality and develop servants' hearts. Jesus was the greatest servant of all. Let us follow His example.

Happy Thanksgiving!



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





About this time of the year, we sometimes see the decorative pieces of cloth on the pulpit and communion table (called paraments) change colors. These turn to purple at the beginning of Advent. This year the change happens on December 1. In other churches, we do not see a change at all. I grew up not being exposed to the Christian year. I had no idea what Lent was, except that it might be found under the bed. The term Advent was another word with which I was unfamiliar.

So, what is the Christian year? Beginning four Sundays before Christmas day, we begin to walk

through the life of Jesus. The Sundays before the birth of Jesus are used to note the divine work that had been done in preparation for His life. Among other things, we have a chance to look at the prophecies that foretell the first coming of Jesus. This continues through the crucifixion, resurrection, and ends sometime after Pentecost.

This is done with startling accuracy. The day of Epiphany is on January 6, and represents the arrival of the Magi. This I was not taught as a child. According to **Matthew 2:10** the Magi were not present at the manger but arrived when



Joseph, Mary, and Jesus were living in a house. The Magi arrive sometime after the birth of Jesus, which this feast represents so well.

For us to see why the Christian Year may be important, we need to see why it was important when it was created. The Christian Year (walking through the life of Jesus every year) began about the 6th century. It may have been used prior to this but appeared in approximately the form that it is used today at this time. Why was that important? As you stood behind the pulpit, you could not tell your people to go home and read

their Bible. For the most part, they could not read. If they were among the few that could read, the Bible was not available. This was before the day of printing presses. Bibles were hand copied, few and far between, and if you could find one, it was terribly expensive. Only a few years before this was the invention introduced that would allow you to put all parts of the Bible into one volume.

You had to teach the life of Jesus even if the people could not read. This was not an option. The use of the Christian year became one of the methods to do that. The gospel message itself did not change but the method used to convey it did. Think about how valuable this was since reading was not predominant until the eighteenth or even the nineteenth centuries.

So, do you think it might be useful today? After all, just about everybody can read. The pastor can ask every member to go home and read the Bible. However, do you think a significant number of people in our country know much about the Word of God or even the story of Jesus? I am not even sure that everyone in the church is very well informed.

This is a time we might let the Christian Year do what it was designed to do. We can use it to teach the story of Jesus or even whet the appetite of those who choose not to read their Bible on a regular basis. We cannot write off those who are casually interested. You might want them to read the Bible but I have never figured out how to make anyone do this. We do not need to change the gospel we just have to alter how it is presented. We might just sneak up on someone and give them a story that engenders more study on their part.



Dr. Randy Spaugh is a long-time contributer to PathPointe Magazine and a Retired Pastor residing in Kinston, N.C.



And Finally...



Thankful...

I am thankful that God saved me when I was 11 years old. In my younger years, I didn't always put God first. As I have gotten older, I've tried harder to put Him first in my life. I am thankful that God has allowed me to live to be 90 years old and have a husband that is 95 years old. God has blessed our marriage and recently we celebrated our 72nd Anniversary. I am thankful for 2 sons, two daughter-in-laws, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. I have to believe God has allowed me to continue to be on this earth because He has something else He wants me to do. God is good, and He is very important in my life.

B. M.

I am thankful that I get to wake up each day and make it whatever I want it to be, and I am thankful that every year my list continues to grow. Though my daily struggles may just seem like stressors, they are actually reasons to be grateful. Whether I look at them as lessons or as reasons to appreciate the next day, I am more than grateful to endure. Thanksgiving may be a single day to give thanks and appreciate these many things, but I can only hope to do a better job at appreciating these things every day. Life isn't about the things we receive, but also the things we can give to others.

K.H.

I am thankful for my Saviour. No matter what I've done or how far I stray, He loves me. Grace is an amazing thing, and I am so thankful for His Grace and His sacrifice on the Cross. I live an incredibly blessed life.

M. C.

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I am thankful for my family. At the end of the day, I'm exhausted in every way possible. I often feel like I've failed in some way (usually multiple ways) throughout the day. But the overwhelming feeling I have is of gratitude. I am so thankful for my wonderful husband who makes it possible for me to stay home and raise our girls. I'm thankful for these amazing little girls that I have the privilege of raising. For my parents, who live with us and continually bless us in too many ways to count. I'm thankful for my extended family and the love and friendship we share. I'm also thankful for my grandparents, who have invested in my life in so many ways.

M.M.

"My Spouse"

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

National Spouse Day is in January! Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about your spouse.

The deadline for submission is
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