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# contents

PathPointe Magazine

Volume 25, Issue 9

September 2024

- Page 2                    **Bored To Life**  
*Dr. T. D. Worthington*
- Page 6                    **Radio Bits**  
*Your Christian Superstations!*
- Page 8                    **The Icing On The Cake**  
*Mrs. Sherry Worthington*
- Page 12                   **AfterGlow**  
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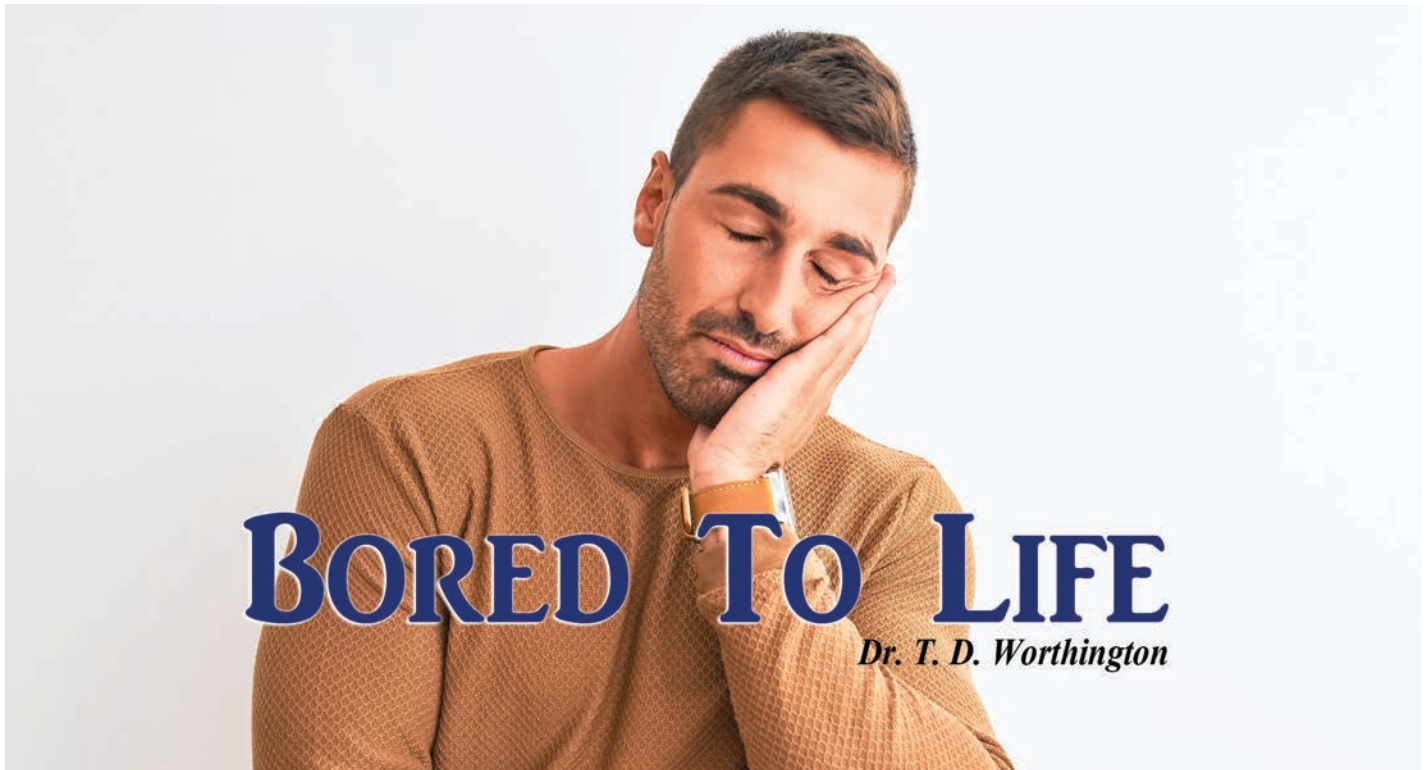
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# BORED TO LIFE

Dr. T. D. Worthington

Quite often I have spoken about retreating from a life of triviality and escaping this modern desire to be entertained. I sat in a waiting room the other day and watched the people come and go. Over the course of about 45 minutes at least a dozen different people came and went. Do you know what they all did? Within 60 seconds of sitting down, without exception, they all pulled out their smart phones. I guess they were bored.

Perhaps they were reading articles that they used to find in the crumpled-up pages of waiting room magazines, but in most cases, I think not. I would like to think they found an electronic way to redeem the time, maybe it was a Bible app, but I think they were just bored. What is boredom, and why did God create the world with boredom as a main feature of daily life; at least in this age? I'm not talking about clinical depression, but the general boredom in this life, common to most all of us.

When we are busy with work, family, and hobbies, we may not feel it. But it's always there. A moment of downtime and boredom finds us again. Such boredom in this world seems to lead to all sorts of behaviors that Christians deem sinful: Overindulging in smart phones, social media, entertainment, and gaming, having illicit relationships and affairs, and participating in gossip and idle conversation. It has always puzzled me that God, at least in terms of His sovereignty over fallen man's daily experience, has us experience a seemingly constant desire to be entertained or to otherwise "escape" from reality. We prefer not to think. Thus, the constant desire for amusement, that is "not-thinking." At the root, what is boredom? What causes it? What does it signify? And do you think God has a purpose in it for his children?

Until recently, I had never considered how the concept of boredom is handled in the Bible. Of course, the word's not actually in the

Bible. It is interesting to me that the Bible doesn't have the word boring anywhere in it. Well, perhaps some versions might. Even though the word boredom is not found in the Bible, there is a whole book devoted to boredom. It's called Ecclesiastes. Listen to this:

*"Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun? One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever. The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose. The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again. All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not*

*satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.”*

**Ecclesiastes 1:2–8**

Now, that’s probably the closest thing you’ll get to the word boredom. A broad statement that all of life is just emptiness. *“I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.”*

**Ecclesiastes 1:14**

That’s a very powerful description of a life that has sought non-boredom and didn’t find it anywhere under the sun — that is, without God.

Ecclesiastes is a book of what life is like if God is not in it. If God is not the focal point of our lives, we are not going to find true meaning in life. The experience of boredom is universal, not that everybody experiences it all the time, but everybody has tasted it. And nobody likes it. Boredom by its very nature is unsatisfying. If you’re satisfied, you’re not bored.

Now, since nobody likes being bored, we all take steps, according to our various personalities, budgets, circumstances, and beliefs, to get rid of it. If we’re super energetic, we might work ourselves out of boredom or play ourselves out of boredom. And if we’re more lethargic, then we may just sit on the couch, grab our phones or turn the TV on, and try to get rid of our boredom electronically.

But, does boredom have a purpose? Yes, I think it does. Boredom is the relentless experience of not finding satisfaction in this world. Something starts out being exciting and satisfying, but soon we weary of it and we need something else. You can only stand in awe of Niagara

Falls for a few hours. After that, you are ready to get back to reality and watch television or check your social media. You need something else to give you the excitement that Niagara Falls no longer supplies. Even great things can become boring for the carnal human heart.

So, what did God have in mind when He ordained the universal experience of boredom in a world of sin and rebellion against God? What’s his purpose for it? May I share three thoughts?

#### *We Were Made for God*

**Ecclesiastes 3:11** says, *“He hath made everything beautiful in his time: also, he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.”*

Now, I don’t know all that this verse means, but the least that it means, is that God plans for human beings to be frustrated with their experience in this world until they realize that they were made to have intimate fellowship with God. He has all the answers we want. Answers we long

for because He put the longing there in the first place.

#### *We Were Also Made for Another World*

Here’s the way C.S. Lewis says it: *“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.”* Or to say it another way, if we find that nothing in this world is a long-term solution to the problem of boredom, we were probably made for another world. Boredom points to God. That’s God’s purpose for boredom in this fallen world: to point us to another world.

#### *We Were Made To Be Restless*

Most everything that we find interesting will fade in its glory. Our interest will wane. Whether it is a new house, new car, or a new marriage, if we are not careful the excitement will fade over time. I think that is God’s design in this universal experience of boredom: Soon we will exhaust our amazement with everything, but we will never exhaust our amazement





with God. Boredom points us to the origin of everything interesting, and to the world where no one will ever be bored again; God's presence through Jesus Christ.

Now, if you happen to find yourself in a place where your faith doesn't have the same fire and excitement that it used to have, let me give you a couple of things to check:

**Check your Expectations.** If you're the type to sit on a stump and wait for God to work everything out, then you have likely entered the dangerous state of entitlement. We often make our relationship with God all about us and what we get from it. Of course, this doesn't bode well in any relationship.

**Check your Investments.** What are you putting into the relationship? Although you can never earn or

merit favor from God, what we get out of any relationship is often linked to whatever we put into it.

**Check your Influences.** I heard it once said, *"Show me your friends and I'll show you your future."* It makes a difference who you spend your time with. **Proverbs 27:17** tells us that *"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."*

So, the question is, who is sharpening you? Do you seek counsel from the wise and prudent? Do you have someone that you are accountable to? Is there anyone in your circle that you report to regularly to sharpen and help you to keep the spirit alive? If not, then you are no longer being *affected* and you're likely being *infected*. There is no neutral in the spirit realm. It's either Heavenly, or it's demonic.

**Check your Itinerary.** The number one, excuse for not spending time with God is busyness. We are prone to believe the enemy's lies that we don't have time to be with God. Yet, we all do.

Boredom is rampant because there is not much in this world that will not eventually bore you. However, God is so infinite, so amazing, so unsearchable that you will never be bored with Him. Perhaps that explains why we are often bored in the first place. Rather than being bored to death; God desires us to be bored to life!



*Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry for over forty-five years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.*

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*let us down. Every few years, we've been able to increase our giving little by little. Now, we're at least a Two Star General (if that's even a thing). Thank you for the work you all do and for giving us the opportunity to be a part of this ministry. We've been able to grow right along with you over the years and we're excited to see where the next 20 years will take us together!"*

These are the kind of testimonies we hear so often during our Share-A-Thons. Our *Faith Partners, Business Underwriters, Programmers*, and listeners in general are such an encouragement to us! You remind us that we're not alone and that, sometimes little by little, we are making a difference in the lives of others and for the Kingdom of God.

We will begin our **Fall Share-A-Thon** on **Monday, September 30th** with a goal of **\$275,000**. If you have a testimony to share, please let us know. It really makes our day! If you can help during our **Pre-Share-A-Thon Drive**, feel free to use the form on the back of this magazine or give us a call at **1-877-747-8887** to make your donation. We're looking forward to hearing from you and we sincerely thank you for everything you do!



*For Additional Information:*

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## Investing in the Eternal

There's an old saying that no matter what we humans have accomplished on this earth, there are only 5 accomplishments that are eternal. What are they? The 5 wounds of Christ. All the Saviour's love for you and for me is revealed in those wounds consisting of His pierced hands, His pierced feet, and the gash in His side made by the Roman soldier's spear.

These wounds that we made with our sins are in heaven today. Perhaps the only thing in heaven made by man are the wounds of Christ. The angels and the saints are gazing upon them now as Christ sits with His Father in glory on the throne. Of all the wonders of this world, Christ chose His wounds to take back home with Him. They are precious beyond price, and we should treasure them for what they are.

However, there is something else we can do that is eternal. We can invest in the souls of men. All men

will exist forever, but where will they exist? The Bible teaches us that the soul is precious and has a destination beyond this world. Jesus said in **Mark 8:36**, *"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"*

That is the reason for **GoMix Christian Radio**. That is also the reason for our **Fall Share-A-Thon**. It is the means to help us reach the souls of men with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you help us? This year, we are hoping to begin with at least **\$40,000** in the **"Chest of Joash"**. This will give us a great head start in reaching our goal.

As our Lord may lead, please help us invest in eternity by allowing us to continue sharing the message of hope from the One who loves us most.





# *The Icing On The Cake*

*Mrs. Sherry Worthington*

Isn't it wonderful to sit down to your favorite dessert and enjoy each bite? This beautiful lady at our church makes a delicious coconut cake. The cake is super moist and the icing is superb. I have to be careful because I could eat the whole thing right by myself. Self-control with my eating habits has been a lifelong battle as in other areas of my life. Thankfully, I have grown, but there is still a long way to go. I keep thinking that I will arrive one day, and God won't have to work so hard to keep me straight. I am thankful He doesn't give up. He is the perfect Father. I am blessed beyond measure to have my perfect Father in Heaven from whom I have learned so much.

As a mother, those lessons were put to the test. I made so many mistakes. With the addition of each child, a new challenge was born. Unfortunately, when you raise one, the next child is completely different. Experience helps in many ways, but there are many more challenges to face.

I wouldn't trade being a wife and mother for anything in the world. It has been such a wonderful adventure. The joys and difficulties of each stage were a period of growth. The children are all married and I have twelve grandchildren and one great-grandchild. My children have raised their own children without our assistance. I have so

many things to share, but I must be careful not to butt in, unless they ask. It is so hard to be quiet, so I try to only butt in when I feel it is very important. They are not going to raise their children the same way that we did, nor do I expect them to. I just don't want them to make the same mistakes I did.

When our first grandchild came into our lives, **Proverbs 17:6** came alive to me. *"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."*

Her smile melted our hearts, and we loved her so much. When you don't think you can love anymore, your



heart just gets bigger. It is amazing how that works. Being a grandma was so much fun. Victoria loved to come to Grandma and Granddad's house. We had her every Tuesday for dinner and playtime. As she got a little older, she spent the night. She was our only grandchild for several years. When she turned 10, our next grandchild was born, then 3 months later the next.

From that point, we had a steady trickle. I do think we are finished with grandchildren unless God brings a surprise because our youngest grandchild just turned seven. Our oldest granddaughter recently had our first great-grandchild. We are so blessed.

It saddens me that we are not able to spend the time with each of them that we spent with our first. We don't have the time to have a special night each week with them. A couple of things contribute to this factor, we have thirteen of them and there are not thirteen days in a week. We even have trouble finding one day a year which is sad. We have gotten so busy that our responsibilities consume us.

We take the opportunities as we are able. We have a week with them at the beach each year. The grandkids so enjoy that week. All of us are together in the same house. It can get rather noisy at times. We have other times that we enjoy getting together as a family as well.

We also have the privilege of being at school with them every day. I teach some of them and others are in different classrooms. I am not sure if they like their grandmother being their teacher or not. As long



as things are going smoothly, all is well. But if someone gets in trouble, it is not fun for them or me. In fact, it hurts. However, at least I know that the person disciplining them loves them.

My grandchildren don't know how much they keep me going sometimes. When I get tired and feel like I can't go on, knowing that my grandchildren need me to keep going is the incentive I need. Knowing that my grandchildren have a safe place to go to school and that they need me gives me an extra boost when my body becomes weary.

Another special privilege we have is going to church together. Their granddad is their pastor. What better combination is that? Sometimes they choose to sit with me at church. I also teach Sunday School for three of them. Can you ever have too much of a good thing?

As parents and grandparents, it is so important to be a good example, steady and not wavering (**James 1:6**). Our children and grandchildren need

to see our faith lived out in our lives. We need to share our faith, but we also need to live out our faith. If we raise our children in the admonition of the Lord, we will know that we did all we could to help them on the right path. If we have regrets, it is never too late to change. If we haven't always been the best example, now is the time to start. In our present world, our children and grandchildren need us to be a steady example more than ever.

Our prayer is that we will always be the example our grandchildren need. They are the icing on the cake. They are such a pleasure to have in our lives. The only problem is we don't get to enjoy the icing as much as we would like, but I am so glad it is there. What is a cake without the icing?



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





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# Spiritual Changes

Have you ever wondered how your life would be different now without Christ? What fleshly tendencies would have led you into more sin? Would you be more selfish, more unlovable, more fearful, or angrier than you are today? What sins would control your thoughts and actions? Without the Holy Spirit to guide you and teach you the right way, would you unknowingly and easily fall into Satan's traps? Would you still be walking aimlessly with the world? How would you have handled your most difficult life experiences without Christ in your life?

**Ephesians 2:1-3** recounts our condition before we had Christ in our lives. We followed the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling selfish desires.

Thankfully, the passage does not leave us there! **Verse 4** begins, **"But God,..."** What a wonderful contrast! Because of His rich mercy and His great love, He changed us and gave us life. From His eternal perspective, we are already seated with Him in heaven (**2:4-6**). As we walk our earthly journey on our way to that reality, He walks with us, changing us into His image so that His grace and kindness might be known (**2:7**).

Do we recognize the changes that Christ has made in our lives? The Holy Spirit can show us how we have changed if we ask Him. As others observe us, do they see changes? Do they see that we are less selfish and more sacrificial, less fearful and more trusting and courageous, less angry and more peaceful? Do they see the person of Christ in our lives?

Do you see changes that Christ has made in others? Have you ever told them? Sometimes it is hard to recognize the changes in our own lives, but hearing from another observer that the change is evident brings encouragement to our hearts. Don't be afraid to share that you have noticed positive changes in others.

What a difference Christ makes! It is good to look back over our personal past experiences and give thanks to Christ for His influence, guidance, and intervention in our lives. Take time to praise Him for His eternal presence in your life as He conforms you to His image. Ponder that!



*Mrs. Connie Peters has two children and resides in Princeton, NC. She serves as an instructor at Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.*



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REALTORS





# Will You Support Our Fall Share-A-Thon?

**We're Hoping To Fill The Chest of Joash.**

In order to maintain the temple Joash placed a large chest by the door. Anyone wishing to contribute was encouraged to do so. Soon, the chest was filled and it was announced that no additional funds were needed. That's our goal! Your Pre-Share-A-Thon Contributions will be set aside and added on the first day of our fund drive. We are praying for at least \$40,000.00 which will help shorten the amount of time we have to interrupt regular programming.

Please call today 1-877-747-8887

## Your Fall Share-A-Thon Begins On September 30, 2024

YES! I want to help extend and maintain Christian Radio. I would like to help fill the "Chest of Joash" by contributing a special one-time gift to help GoMix in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am currently a GoMix monthly *Faith Partner*, or I wish to *sign up or renew* my monthly partnership as follows:

\$100 General's Club.  \$75 Colonel's Club  \$50 Major's Club  \$25 Captain's Club  \$15 Sergeant's Club  \_\_\_\_\_  
If your one-time or monthly gift totals \$900.00 or more, would you like this to be used in our "matching gift" program?  YES  NO

Check Enclosed  Will Pay Later

Your Partner Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (If You Wish) \_\_\_\_\_



May We Share Your Name On The Air?  
 YES  NO

*You may give on-line at [www.givegomix.org](http://www.givegomix.org)! All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. Please make checks payable to Pathway Ministries*