

Neighborly News

Brought to you by your friends at the Mt. Hebron Church of Christ.

Letter from an 80-year-old woman

Dear Bertha,

I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting in the yard and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden.

I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time working. Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savor, not to endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them.

I'm not "saving" anything; we use our good China and crystal for every special event such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, or the first Amaryllis blossom. I wear my good blazer to the market. My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out \$28.49 for one small bag of groceries. I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties, but wearing it for clerks in the hardware store and tellers at the bank. "Someday" and "one of these days" are losing their grip on my vocabulary; if it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now.

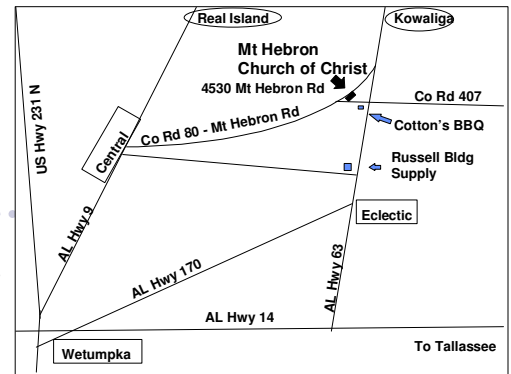


I'm not sure what others would've done had they known they wouldn't be here for the tomorrow that we all take for granted. I think they would have called family members and a few close friends. They might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think they would have gone out for a Chinese dinner or for whatever their favorite food was. I'm guessing; I'll never know.

It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew my hours were limited. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and parents often enough how much I truly love them. I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives.

Every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that it is special. Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift from God. People say true friends must always hold hands, but true friends don't need to hold hands because they know the other hand will always be there.

"making the best use of the time..." -Ephesians 5:16



Mt. Hebron Church of Christ

P.O. Box 240159
4530 Mt. Hebron Rd.
Eclectic, Ala. 36024

Come and visit us

Sunday
Bible Classes 10:00 AM
Worship Services 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Classes 7:00 PM

A little girl went up to her mother one day while holding her stomach saying, "Mommy, my tummy hurts." Her mother replied, "That's because it's empty. You have to put something in it!"

Later that day the preacher and his wife came over for dinner. The preacher began to feel bad.

Holding his head he said, "I have such a terrible headache!" The little girl looked up at him, giving him a sweet smile, and said, "That's because it's empty. You have to put something in it!"

"A joyful heart is good..."
Proverbs 17:22



"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'" Isaiah 52:7

KARTOON KNUGGETS By Troy Knechtel

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"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us," (Ephesians 3:20).

Sincerity and truth

Conductor: "I'm sorry, but you are on the wrong train. You want to go to Memphis, but this train does not go there ... it goes to St Louis." **Passenger:** "What difference does that make? I sincerely thought this train was going to Memphis ... does it really matter?"

Doctor: "Madam, I'm sorry. Your husband took pills containing poison and he'll be in the hospital at least a week." **Woman:** "He can't be sick. He sincerely believed those were sleeping pills."

Surgeon: "Sir, you have a malignancy, which if not removed will cause your death." **Patient:** "Don't be silly, Doc, I feel fine."

Preacher: "You are traveling on the road that leads to destruction. You must

repent or perish." (Matthew 7:13, 14; Luke 13:3) **Sinner:** "Don't be so narrow. My folks travelled this road, and if it was good enough for them, it is good enough for me. What difference does it make as long as one sincerely believes he is right? One way is just as good as another. I feel all right and that's all that matters. I'm satisfied."

"No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

- Christ (Luke 13:3)

Jesus: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven," (Matthew 7:21). "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments," (John 14:15). **What will you say?**

While our Lord was here

Jesus borrowed:
a place for His birth... a house to sleep in... a boat to preach from... an animal to ride on... a room to meet privately with His friends... and a tomb to be buried in.

He who owned it all had nothing for His own! "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become

rich," (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Jesus left:
His purse to Judas... His clothes to the soldiers... His body to Joseph of Arimathea... His mother to John... His peace to the disciples... His supper to His followers... His Gospel to the world... His presence with God's children... His crown for me. "For me the crown of righteousness," (2 Timothy 4:8).

Would you like to wear a crown?

In the ancient athletic games, a fragile, leafy crown was awarded the winner.

This garland – called the victor's crown – was a collection of pine leaves, wild olive leaves, parsley, celery leaves, or ivy. In the Isthmian Games, the prize was a pine wreath. With this crown came instant fame, high acclaim, and the life of a hero. Winners were immortalized, much as they are today. These wreaths were taken home with great pride. But in a few days they would soon wither and discolor.

Making a striking comparison, inspired authors contrasted these earthly crowns with the

imperishable crown of Christ – Heaven's Heisman. What can be said about God's eternal crown?

- >It is called "the unfading crown of glory." 1 Peter 5:4
- >It is called "the crown of righteousness." 2 Timothy 4:8
- >It is called "the crown of life." James 1:12
- >It is called "an imperishable wreath." 1 Corinthians 9:25



When we stand before Christ, each of us will long to

hear Him say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant." The Master's approbation, His approval, is all that will matter. Then Christ will taken an incorruptible crown, shining in all its resilient glory, the emblem of God's approval for a race well run, and place it upon each winner's head.

Of course, to win the crown we have to be in the race! Are you running the Christian race? Do you want to wear a crown?

— adapted from Steven J. Lawson, quoted in KneEmail, Mike Benson, editor

"An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules," (2 Timothy 2:5).

Forget & Remember

Forget each kindness that you do

As soon as you have done it; Forget the praise that falls on you

The moment you have won it; Forget the slander that you hear

Before you can repeat it; Forget each slight, each spite, each sneer

Wherever you may meet it. Remember every kindness done

To you, what'er its measure; Remember praise by others won, And pass it on with pleasure.

Remember every promise made And keep it to the letter;

Remember those who lend you aid, And be a grateful debtor.