

What Is A Good Time Worth?

by Gene Taylor

They were just out for a good time. Cruising around, as teenagers have done since the invention of the car, with "no particular place to go." Two boys and a girl with only fun on their minds.

One of them got the idea that it would be fun to take down a stop sign. Stop signs, along with rural mailboxes, seem to be a popular means of entertainment for a few young people. Some shoot holes in them, some bend them over, others turn them around to face the other direction. These three decided to remove them completely.

It worked! They were enjoying themselves immensely. As a matter of fact, they derived so much pleasure from it that they removed 18 more that night. What fun! A good time was had by all!

All did not have a good time. You see, later that night three more teenagers, three boys who had gone bowling, came to one of the intersections where the stop sign had been removed. Seeing no reason to stop, the young driver proceeded across the crossroad. Their car was broadsided by a large truck. The three boys were killed instantly. A good time, a lark, a silly prank had cost three innocent lives.

What is a "good time" worth? Is it worth three lives? But the story is not over.

The three teens who removed those signs were arrested, tried and convicted on manslaughter charges. The judge determined there was no intent on their parts to kill anyone so he was lenient on them. They each were sentenced to 15 years in prison. In Florida, a convicted felon has to serve at least 85% of his sentence. In the case of these young people that amounts to 13 years. What is a "good time" worth? Well, in this instance the cost is now up to three lives and at least 39 years in prison.

We haven't even mentioned the parents. In essence, six sets of parents have lost children -- three to prison and three to death. The tearful remorse of the three guilty teens was little comfort to them. "I'm sorry" and "I didn't mean any harm" is little solace when such harmful consequences are the harsh reality of thoughtless actions. All for a "good time?" What is a "good time" worth?

Young people, youth is a time to be enjoyed. But please think before you act. Realize the tragic consequences that can follow thoughtless and, pardon the plainness of speech, stupid actions.

Before you do anything, even if it is for a "good time," think of what it might cost you and others.

The God of heaven also realizes that youth is to be enjoyed. As a matter of fact, He encourages you to enjoy it. In **Ecclesiastes 11:9** He says, "Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth."

Yes, youth is to be a happy, carefree time that you can enjoy before the difficulties, problems and obligations of adult life begin to mount up. But there is a difference between "carefree" and "careless." Youth is not a time for foolish and reckless behavior.

God continues in Ecclesiastes 11 by saying to the young, "Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment" (**Ecc. 11:9**). Please understand, that a "good time" that causes you to do things contrary to the will of God can cost you your eternal soul.

Young people, all people, ask yourself before you thoughtlessly do something just for a "good time," "What will this cost me?" "What will it cost others?" "Will it make me live the rest of my life with regret and shame?" "Could it cost me my soul?" What is a "good time" worth? Please think about it.

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

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Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship:

Will Vann, Preacher

9:30 am Bible Study

863-899-0987

10:20 am Worship

Email: wvann@yahoo.com

12:30 pm Afternoon

www.evantchurchofchrist.org

Wednesday Night

7:pm

The Problem Of Self

by Gene Taylor

Those who comprise our society seem to be consumed with self. The "me" generation we heard so much of has aged to become the most influential segment of society. So many of the products and services which are popular today are those which are aimed at improving the individual. The "self-help" books and seminars intended to improve self-image have been embraced by nearly everyone. "Infomercials" abound on television for all sorts of fitness gadgets so individuals can not only stay healthy but also develop that physique which allows one to be proud of self and the way he/she looks. A majority of the adult population in this country is on some sort of diet all the time in order to meet the ideal, not of the American Medical Association, but the fashion world or their peers. While many of these things are, in reality, harmless enough in and of themselves, there is a darker side to emphasis on self.

Many of the ills which plague our society are rooted in self. You name it -- theft, murder, immorality, etc. -- while often blamed on a "poor self image" are really rooted in self.

As a nation we have become obsessed with "rights" with little or no regard as to their effects upon others. Consider the "pro-choice" advocates--they demand their individual rights "to do with their bodies what they choose," while at the same time showing no regard for the child. This fact is illustrated by an excerpt from an article which appeared in the *Tallahassee Democrat* on April 5, 1994. In commenting on the child she had aborted, a woman said, "It wasn't a fetus. It was like a cancer. It was, 'OK, get this out of me and let's get on with my life.'" Self was the only one for whom she had any consideration.

The problem of self is neither new nor peculiar to our time. From Eden to eternity the chief cause of sin has been self and selfishness. It is at the root of all sin. "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death." (**Jas. 1:13-15**).

When it comes to sin, who is our biggest enemy? We might be quick to say that it is Satan. He is described in **1 Peter 5:8** as a "roaring lion" who walks about seeing whom he may devour. Actually, though, he can only overcome those who through self-will give themselves over to him. Someone has said, "To conquer self is to conquer all." We are prone to blame Satan and others but we must look to self.

The proper attitude toward self is a sign of maturity. We can somewhat condone selfishness in a child because he does not know better but immaturity and ignorance are never excuses for an adult, especially one who claims to be a Christian, to be selfish in his attitudes and actions (**Acts 17:30**).

I hope you will thoughtfully consider this article -- for to be a successful Christian, one must heed the command of Jesus in **Matthew 16:24**, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

Those to Serve

(B) Mike Mallett (FV) Calvin BURks
(O) Doug Pruettt (A) Kyle Stifflemire
1st prayer Vernon Houts
2nd prayer Jeffrey Burks
Announcements: Jack Wall
Singing: Judd Wall

Prayer List:

Naomi Wall
Leta Sheldon
Mildred Lovell
Janese Lancaster
Ruby Jones
Lloyd Crownover
Pray for our Nation
Our Troops
Law Enforcement

Dates to Remember

December 21st
First Day of Winter
December 25th
Christmas Day
January 1st
Mission Fund

Happy Birthday

To

Lynette Vann December 14th
Virginia Lovell December 19th
Leta Sheldon December 25th
Will Vann December 26th

We would like to thank Ruby Jones for opening up her home for the Christmas Party & Fellowship get together.

Psalm 100 (KJV)

- ¹Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
- ²Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
- ³Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- ⁴Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
- ⁵For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.