

BITS & PIECES

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

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A PICTURE OF GRACE

Mr. LaGuardia was one of the most famous mayors of New York City. Before he became mayor, he was a judge at a police court. It was in the days of the Great Depression. One day they brought a trembling old man to appear before him, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. The old man said he had to do it for his family was starving. "Well. I have to punish you," said Mr. LaGuardia. "The law makes no exception and there is nothing I can do but sentence you to a fine of ten dollars." Then, he reached into his pocket and said, "Here's the ten dollars to pay your fine." My friend, never forget it, you and I go free from the penalty of our sins because Jesus paid the full price! **"For He hath made Him to be sin for us..."** ~II Corinthians 5:21.

FIRST GAVE THEMSELVES

The Macedonian Christians, **"...first gave their own selves to the Lord."** ~II Corinthians 8:5. It says these people were poor but they gave liberally of what they had. Someone has observed that the Bible refers to giving about 1520 times! In the New Testament almost one verse in six relates to giving. I don't understand Christians who find it hard to give to God and His work. The secret is, "they first gave their own selves!" If you ever really get to Romans 12:1,2 (or I should say if it ever gets to you), giving will not be a problem. **"I beseech you, therefore, brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God..."** Think about this – **"God loveth a cheerful giver."**

HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH

Every once in a while someone says, "I don't go to church because there are hypocrites in the church." Well, that's true, sometimes even in good Gospel preaching churches you will find a hypocrite, maybe more than just one. But that doesn't discount the truth! Not to come for that reason is like throwing the baby out with the bath water. Many years ago, I heard a preacher say when someone comes up with that excuse, "Come on in, there's room for one more!" A man must be a fool to go to hell over a hypocrite.

THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

Spurgeon said: "There will be no climbing the hill of the Lord without effort; no going to glory without the violence of faith. I believe that the ascent to Heaven is still as Bunyan described it – a staircase, every step of which will have to be fought for." We are reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul: **"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge will give me at that day: and not to me only but to all them also that love His appearing."** ~II Timothy 4:7,8.

THAT BLESSED HOPE

"Looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." ~Titus 2:13,14. What a blessed hope! Christian: Are you looking? Are you being purified, separated unto God? Are you zealous of good works? Remember, when He comes, you will have to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ!