



Let's Get Better! Let's Do Better! Let's Be Better!

**Helping Developing Christians Grow!**

<https://www.helpingdevelopingchristiansgrow.com/>

## David's Devotional Save or Destroy?

Robert and Edwin were standing in the crowd watching the train approach. It was a routine day, until something happened that neither expected.

Someone came behind Robert and pushed him. The impact forced him into the path of the oncoming train! Edwin was quick to react. He instantly jumped onto the tracks, seized Robert's dazed body, and pulled him to safety, just as the train rumbled by!

Edwin Booth had SAVED Robert Lincoln's life!

Robert Lincoln is the son of Abraham Lincoln.  
 Edwin Booth is the brother of John Wilkes Booth.

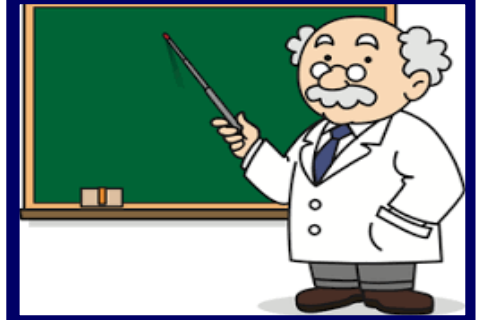
Not long after, John Wilkes Booth mercilessly shot Abraham Lincoln in the back of the head!

John Wilkes Booth DESTROYED Abraham Lincoln's Life!

We are all connected by humanity and blood. We all were created by the same God. The question is: *"Do we SAVE others by our words and actions or do we DESTROY others?"*

Let's be like Jesus; *"For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. ..."* Luke 9:56

David Conley



## An Interesting Quote:

*"Public prayer will never make up for closet communion."*

George Muller

*"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."* Matthew 6:6

We ask for prayers when we are in trouble, we tell people we will pray for them when we want to encourage them, we even send the "praying hands" emoji icon in our texts and posts. So, are we actually praying?

Let's be more intentional with prayer!

David Conley

## Did You Know?

New Year's Day is the oldest Holiday

New Year's day, regardless of what day it was determined by the particular culture, has been celebrated since 4000 B.C.

Times Square in New York City has been celebrating New Year's Day since 1904.

Think about that. The city that some say is the greatest city in the world has been celebrating the New Year for 120 years while the world has been doing it for over 6,000 years!

America is really just a "baby". Sometimes we act like a spoiled one! Let's grow up!

## What Happened? Christmas 2023

As we watch our grandchildren grow up, we still think of our children as "Young"!

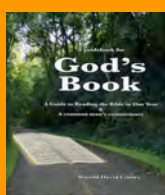
Do they see us as "Old"?

I wonder, "Are we old?"

Whether old or young, we still find joy being with our family!



**Merry Christmas from the Conley (and Lewis) family!**



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## Once Upon A Time ...

*"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven"*  
**Ecclesiastes 3:1**



### The Dairy King

Aunt Hilda, Daddy's sister, worked at the Dairy King in the Valdosta community in Tuscumbia, AL.

Aunt Hilda and her daughter, Becky, ran the old Ice Cream & Sandwich Drive-Inn place. The name sounded very much like that other Ice Cream place!

Once in a while, after closing up, they would bring us the foot-long wieners that were left over. We usually didn't get a bun. I figured they didn't make buns that long! Sometimes they would bring a gallon container of Ice Cream! It was usually melted and was more like a milk shake, but – hey- it was Ice Cream!!

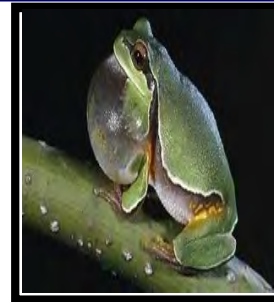
Mama always put plenty on the table to feed us all. Beans and cornbread were usually featured. If we had brown beans on Monday and white beans on Tuesday, you can be sure there would be MIXED beans on Wednesday (if any beans were left over from Monday & Tuesday). We ate vegetables year round, either directly from the current garden or from the freezer and jars from last year's garden. Wieners and Ice Cream didn't grow in the garden, so they were a rare treat!

The government requires the food industry to put a lot of information on their product labels so consumers can make better decisions. I am all for information. In those days, however, we didn't know how many calories were in that Ice Cream or how much fat was in those wieners. We didn't care! We wanted to eat them, so we did! I think the best approach is *"all things in moderation"*. Be reasonable! Maybe that should be on all the labels.

Sodom didn't live by this rule and we see where it got them! *"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy."* **Ezekiel 16:49**

As we come to the end of 2023, we can make informed decisions about 2024. How? Read God's Bible! He has told us the best way to live in this life and how to prepare for the life to come. Be reasonable!  
David Conley

## How Big Are We?



A little frog came bouncing through the brush with a fearful look in his eye. *"Everybody, everybody"* said the little frog, *"I have seen a terrible monster!"*

*"It was as big as a mountain, with horns on its head, and a long tail, and large hoofs!"*

*"Just be quiet"* answered one of the frogs, *"that was just the farmer's old cow! It isn't as big as you describe! I can easily make myself just as big as he! Watch and see!"*

So the frog blew himself out, and blew himself out, and blew himself out. *"Was he as big as this?"* he asked. *"Oh, much bigger than that,"* said the young frog.

Again he blew himself out, and asked the young frog if the cow was as big as that. *"Surely he was bigger!"* was the reply.

So the frog took a deep breath, and blew and blew and blew, and swelled and swelled and swelled ... until ... he burst!

An old wise frog, who had been watching, explained to the young frog, *"Self conceit may lead to self-destruction"*!

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Adam and Eve learned this lesson the hard way! *"You will be as wise as God"* was Satan's promise. When they ate the fruit, they found that they were very UNWISE instead! When we try to be or do something that we are not designed for, we often hurt ourselves! Let's be aware of how big (*or should I say how SMALL*) we are and trust God to handle the rest!

David Conley

## A Funny Thing Happened ...



It was in the day when Doctors made house calls. The preacher was visiting a very sick man in his home. The family had gathered in his bedroom where he lay. The Doctor came in and asked everyone to exit the room.

After a few minutes he opened the door and ask for a screw driver. He was given the tool and disappeared behind the door. Moments later he came out with a distressed look and asked for a pair of pliers. With growing concern, the family gave him the pliers. When he emerged requesting a hammer, the family bellowed out, *"What is wrong with him?"* The Doctor replied, *"I don't know, I can't get my bag open!"*

The preacher thought of **I Corinthians 8:2** *"And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."*