



Let's Get Better! Let's Do Better! Let's Be Better!
Helping Developing Christians Grow!
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David's Devotional *A Beautiful Life*

We have one life to live on this planet. Don't we want to make it a beautiful life?

William M. Golden wrote the song "A Beautiful Life" in 1918. He reminded us of this fact:
"Life's evening sun is sinking low, a few more days and I must go to meet the deeds that I have done where there will be no setting sun."

He did a great job outlining principles to live by that will define our lives as "Beautiful" when our life on earth is over. Here are those principles:

"Each day I'll do a golden deed by helping those who are in need; My life on earth is but a span, and so I'll do the best I can."

"To be a child of God each day, my light must shine along the way; I'll sing His praise while ages roll and strive to help some troubled soul."

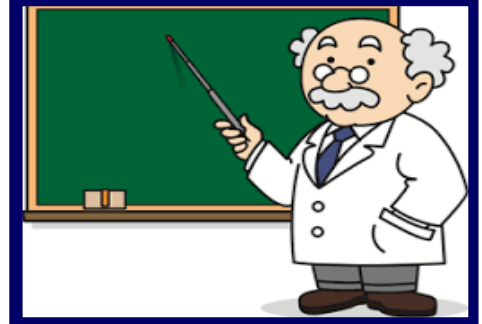
"The only life that will endure, is one that's kind and good and pure; And so for God I'll take my stand, each day I'll lend a helping hand."

"I'll help someone in time of need, and journey on with rapid speed; I'll help the sick and poor and weak, and words of kindness to them speak."

"While going down life's weary road, I'll try to lift some traveler's load; I'll try to turn the night to day, make flowers bloom along the way."

Do we notice a consistent theme in this song? A life of SERVICE is beautiful! Jesus is our example of such "A Beautiful Life"!

Matthew 20:28 *"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."* David Conley



An Interesting Quote:

"It is well to remember that the entire universe, with one trifling exception, is composed of others."

John Holmes

"For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself."
Galatians 6:3 (KJV)

I have noticed something; wherever I go, there I am!

No wonder many think the universe revolves around them! The fact is, we are only a small "trifle" and will pop out of existence as quickly as we popped into it!

When we think about what God did for us, who are but dust and a vapor, when He sent His only begotten Son to die for us, it moves us to our very core!

Do not deceive ourselves into thinking we are something! Instead realize the truth; God is everything! David Conley

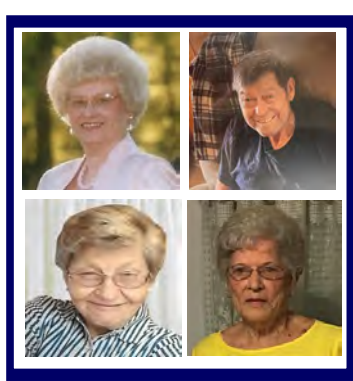
Did You Know? Canis Majoris

Canis Majoris is a star in the universe God created.

Our Sun is also a star. It is huge! If Earth was a golf ball, our Sun would be a school bus. You could put over 1 million earths into it!

You can put 9.3 BILLION of our Suns into Canis Majoris! If the earth was a golf ball, Canis Majoris would be Mount Everest!

We are a speck, on a speck, in a speck! Yet God loves us! Amazing!



What Happened? Four Funerals

We attended several funerals in January. We participated in four of them. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families of these fine folks and we truly appreciate them allowing us to help with their loved ones' service.

Allene McWilliams, Larry George, Minnie Fleming, & Betty McCreary (It is a sad way to begin 2023!)



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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



Uncle J.D.

Daddy's mother, Mama Conley, had ten children. Joyner Delano Conley was next to the youngest.

He was in his thirties when I was a kid. True to his Indian heritage, he had a very dark complexion, jet black hair, and dark brown eyes. He was very thin. He wore black slip on shoes, white socks, dark pants, button up long sleeve shirts, and a hat like all the men wore in the old movies. They called him "retarded". Today he would be called "mentally handicapped", "challenged" or a "special needs" person. We called him Uncle J. D.!

Everyone in the community around Blake Apartments in Sheffield knew and loved Uncle J. D. He would make daily rounds visiting them all. If he wanted to check you out, he would place the back of his dark hand to his equally dark cheek with his knuckles just below his eye. Then, as if he were looking down the barrel of a rifle, he would extend his long brown finger toward you and give you "the eye". He gave us "the eye" if we got too close to his "Johnny West" collection (complete with horses) that he kept displayed on a table top in the living room.

Mama Conley gave him a watch, not that he could tell the time, perhaps it was just what he wanted for his birthday. One day he came home from his community walk without the watch. Mama Conley asked him where it was. He smiled and said, "I sold it". Then he pulled a crumpled up dollar bill from his pocket. Uncle J. D. did not know the value of a dollar nor the value of the watch, but I am sure whoever "bought" it from him did! I was upset! I wondered if anyone would ever know who took his watch. Later I was assured that there was someone who would - **Psalms 103:6** "The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed."

David Conley

Happiness In Service



V.P. Black shared this in a sermon he gave in **1974!**

"One finds happiness in service. The happiest people living in the church today are the people who spend their lives actively engaged in the work of the Lord. When you talk to people who are not faithful, they will tell you that they have lost interest. Naturally the unfaithful lose interest, and they lose the joy, the peace, and the happiness that we are talking about. They lose this happiness because they stop doing things for other people. The happiest people in the world are the people who are working fervently in the kingdom of God, putting the kingdom of God first, not letting the things of this world drive Christ out of their lives. Real happiness consists in activity. Such is the constitution of our nature; it is a running stream, not a stagnant pool. If I were to suggest a general rule for happiness, I would say work a little harder; work a little longer; work! In the close of my lesson I want to give twelve rules for happiness:

1. **Live a simple life.** Avoid selfseeking and selfishness.
2. **Spend less than you earn.** Keep out of debt.
3. **Think constructively.** Store your mind with useful thoughts.
4. **Cultivate a yielding disposition.** Try to see the other person's point of view.
5. **Be grateful.** Be glad for the privilege of life and work.
6. **Rule your moods.** Cultivate a mental attitude of peace.
7. **Give generously.** There is no greater joy in life than to render happiness to others
8. **Work with right motives.** Grow in spiritual grace.
9. **Be interested in others.** Divert from self-centeredness.
10. **Live in the daylight compartment.** Make the most of today for it is all you have.
11. **Have a Hobby.** Cultivate an avocation; to which you can turn for diversion.
12. **Keep close to God.** It is your privilege to share His thoughts."

A Funny Thing Happened ...



The preacher asked a young man if he was dating anyone. The boy said he had dated several girls but when he brought them home to meet his parents his mother didn't like them. The young fellow went on to tell the preacher he thought he solved the problem when he found a girl that looked like his mother, talked like his mother, and even had his mother's personality! However, when he brought her home, his father didn't like her!

The preacher remembered **I Corinthians 7:27** "... Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife."