

News You Can Use!

Welcome to March! Slowly, but surely, spring is moving toward us. In another week we will change our clocks again, Spring Break is quickly approaching for some, and Palm Sunday and Easter are not far behind, either. We have much to prepare for these next several weeks, so let's get excited as we anticipate everything that is to come. Of immediate concern is this Sunday. Remember that we are singing "Honored, Glorified, Exalted" this weekend. It's a great song, but for it to be as effective as we want it demands that we all do our part by being present and available to sing. We will sing in both services, so if at all possible please make plans to join us both times. We'll meet in the choir loft prior to the 9:00 service to warm up, so try to arrive a little early!

Here's our weekly devotional, written this week by Charles Swindoll. Enjoy!

How About 99.9%?

Romans 4:4-5; Psalm 103

When the Ritz-Carlton Hotels won the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the owner of that outstanding organization, Mr. William Johnson, stated that now they would need to work even harder to earn the respect that came with the award. "Quality," he said, "is a race with no finish line."

He is correct. Competitive excellence requires 100% all of the time. Ever tracked the consequences of "almost but not quite"? According to some fine research by Natalie Gabal, if 99.9% were considered good enough, then this year alone . . . 2,000,000 documents would be lost by the IRS; 12 babies would be given to the wrong parents each day; 291 pacemaker operations would be performed incorrectly; 20,000 incorrect drug prescriptions would be written (to cite just a few examples).

Instead of applying this negatively to the practical side of life, I'd much rather compare it positively to the theological. Remember that forgotten word "justification"? Justification is the sovereign act of God whereby He declares righteous the believing sinner while that person is still

in a sinning state. He doesn't suddenly make us righteous (we still sin). He *declares* us righteous. How righteous does God declare us? One hundred percent righteous. Stop and think: Upon believing in Jesus Christ's substitutionary death and bodily resurrection, the once-lost sinner is instantly, unconditionally, and permanently "declared 100% righteous." Anything less and we are not righteous... we're *almost* righteous.

If we were declared 99.9% righteous, some verses would have to be rewritten. Like Isaiah 1:18, which might then read: "'Come now, and let us reason together,' says the LORD, 'though your sins are as scarlet, they will be light pink.'"

Nonsense! The promise of sins forgiven is all or nothing. Unlike the earthly race for excellence, the race against sin had a finish line. Otherwise, when Jesus breathed His last breath, He would've said, "It is *almost* finished." And we would have to keep working at it, adding to something Christ didn't finish at the cross.

Let's never, ever forget that God is into "white as snow," not light pink.

*If Christ had paid 99.9% of the debt of sin,
not one of us would have a chance at
heaven.*

For Your Funny Bone. . .

A wife was sitting on the living-room couch watching her favorite show on the Food Network when her husband walked in.

"Why do you watch those food shows?" he asked. "You don't even cook."

Glaring back at him, she asked, "Then why do you watch football?"

I was driving my father and grandfather down a rough country road. My inexperience in handling Grandpa's four-wheel-drive vehicle made for a particularly bouncy ride. Embarrassed, I offered a lame excuse, "The sun shadows through the trees make it hard for me to see all the potholes."

"Don't worry," Grandpa said. "You're gettin' most of 'em."

***Announcements and News for You:***

- 🎵 Here is the order of worship for our Sunday morning services this weekend:
Call to Worship "*Praise Awaits You*" (PT)
Prayer Time
Congregational Songs
 "*Hallelujah (Your Love Is Amazing)*"
Music Preview Video:
 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWT3Hd6WqE0>
 "*He Keeps Me Singing*"
Welcome
Congregational Songs
 "*O Worship the King*"
 "*My Jesus, I Love Thee*"
Testimony in Song "*Honored, Glorified, Exalted*" (Choir)

- 🎵 I've recently had several people ask me about singing solos and I am in the process of getting them scheduled. As we near the completion of our Truth Project study, there will be even more opportunities to sing when we resume our regular Sunday night worship services. So, let me know if you have a song ready to sing (or you're ready to begin working on one!) so we can fill up the calendar!

- 🎵 We are hopefully on our way back to normal with the media computer in the balcony. Thanks to Kenny Kendrick for his work in "making all things new", and to the guys who run the projection system each week for their faithfulness and servant hearts!

Prayer Requests:

Don Jackson (back)
Daina Kringlen (Praise)
Randy Price (knee surgery)
Donna Klick (MRI)
Austin McDonald
Student at Jones Elem.
James Terry (heart)
Colin Turn (Praise)
Bruce Peterson
Merl Colby (emphysema)
Malik – salvation
Jenny Davidson (possible surgery)
Relief from cold & sinus illnesses

Dates to Remember:

March 28—Palm Sunday
April 4—Easter
April 11-14—Spring Revival