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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord. Romans 8:28.

Vietnam Backfire

Pulling out American troops from Vietnam was pretty heady stuff, even on a piecemeal basis.

But if television news reports over the weekend were correct, it's another sorry chapter indeed. The report was that the nearly 70,000 American GI's remaining in Vietnam were service troops, not fighting units, and that, were they encircled could become the Custer's Last Stand portrait of this ill begotten, undeclared war. "Ill begotten" may not be the proper phrase, but ill-managed, ill-planned and ill-about-everything else does.

Great Britain did it for centuries all over the globe, continually fighting skirmishes and police actions. At least, Great Britain knew what she was doing: fighting to protect a continuing policy of colonialism with its overtones of economic aggrandizement. Yet even Britain lost.

The United States mentality is no kin to that of the British of empire days, which stretched from Elizabeth I to Churchill. The American wants no part of holding actions, imaginary demilitarized zones, the 38th parallel. His thinking is that a war worth fighting is worth winning and that the control of real estate is an indication of success or failure.

One of the sorriest of the many sorry incidents in this war was the costly effort the Marines made in capturing a hill held by the enemy. True to Marine tradition, the Marines did the job—only to be told in effect, "Now we've got it, we'll leave it and give it back."

The United States proved, in World War II, it could fight a jungle war and win. The atomic bomb drops materially shortened the war, saving, as President Harry Truman contended and contends, many thousands of lives. Japanese as well as American, all of which means the bleeding heart boys of today makes one just a wee bit sick.

Massive bombing has been resumed. Oh, my! Has the enemy stopped shooting?

Obviously he has not stopped shooting, but he is still able to crank up that old phonograph record: "Please, just stop bombing and we'll talk some more." To paraphrase the famed "Ma" of the Fibber McGee radio team, "Ain't funny McGee!"

There was a time when the Vietnam war could have been won, with GI's running their own show and ignoring a crooked (by US standards) regime.

The trouble is the South Vietnamese live by Oriental standards, among them: stealing ain't crooked.

Mr. Nixon better pull out in toto or Custer's Last Stand of 1876 may become Abrams' Last Stand of 1972.

Defeatists?

When former Governor Terry Sanford first indicated he might join in the fray for the Democratic nomination for president, there was a large negative Tar Heel reaction, largely phrased, "He hasn't got a chance," or "He's kidding."

The ex-Governor, it turned out, wasn't kidding, which took care of one piece of negativism. He has won over some of the not-a-chance crowd. Some are unwinable: 1) hard-nosed Wallace-ites and 2) most Republicans who are talking up Wallace BIG. Happily, in North Carolina, talk is all the Republicans can do, for North Carolina does not permit that sneaky cross-party voting in primaries, a la Wisconsin.

The fact is, with a crowded field and no clear-cut leader, and convention politics being convention politics the Duke University president can go to the Miami convention with as good a chance as any in the field.

New Light On Bligh

Several generations of Americans, thanks to the novel based on the saga of Captain William Bligh, skipper of the HMS Bounty, know the captain as tyrannical master who flogged and keel-hauled his men for minor infractions and who drove them to mutiny.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer twice furthered the story of this evil, yet dogged man, who, in fact, holds the world's distance record for traversing the oceans in a longboat. In the first version, the late Charles Laughton portrayed Captain Bligh in highest style. In the second, it was Marlon Brando who portrayed the Captain, though in somewhat less high style.

Now comes a great-great-great-great nephew of Captain Bligh to refute some of the more garish contentions of Novelists Nordhoff and Hall and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Items:
 First Mate Fletcher Christian and Captain Bligh were friends, not enemies, and, indeed, the Captain asked that Christian be assigned to Bounty as first mate, which pleased Christian.

Captain Bligh, compared to most British skippers, was tolerant, a captain considerate of his crew. His current day nephew says the ships' logs of the period reveal that floggings aboard his uncle's ships were no more than half the average on other British naval vessels.

Bounty's crew was not oppressed. All its members were volunteers.

The report of his nephew was made recently in a most interesting feature in the Christian Science Monitor, following a research trip by the nephew to Tahiti, where Christian and the mutineers sailed Bounty into the channel and sank her.

The Monitor feature does not detail the "why" of the mutiny, but perhaps the nephew, fascinated by the islands, gives a hint in the fact he wants to return to Polynesia on a more or less permanent basis.

Were and are those Polynesian girls as beautiful and alluring as those who cavorted with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's Bountymen-of-silver-screen?

Second Thoughts?

A Republican friend remarked this week he had meant to switch his registration before the books closed but had forgot before it was too late.

He wanted, he said, to vote for George Wallace.

He later volunteered that, should the prospect arise that Governor Wallace might become President Wallace he would have "second thoughts".

"Nuff said?"

Congratulations to Mrs. W. T. Weir, newly-elected regent of Colonel Frederick Hambricht Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution; to Sid Moss, newly-appointed perimeter member of the city zoning board; and to Miss Barbara Logan, named to "Who's Who in America" among Junior College Students.

The Neisco, Inc., creditors' hearing, convened in a New York federal bankruptcy court Tuesday, was still underway Wednesday, Jim Dickey, Kings Mountain Neisco manager reported. Purpose of the meeting was to consider an offer by the Central States Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Fund, subsidiaries of the Teamsters union, of \$50,000, for the assets of the firm. Neisco operated in voluntary bankruptcy for 30 months before being adjudged an involuntary bankrupt. The Teamsters pension fund arm says it has invested more than two million dollars in Neisco and is the major Neisco creditor. Mr. Dickey notes that a new \$100,000 boiler has been installed at the Margrace plant and "is paid for". He adds that new shearing equipment on order is scheduled to be shipped soon. He anticipates that definitive information about future prospects for Neisco will be available next week.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By MARTIN HARMON

Postage due . . .

m-m

The Herald is among the Kings Mountain postoffice's better "postage due" customers. At least 99.9 percent of this class mail derives from out-of-town subscribers who have failed to address and who have changed to supply us with the new address. The postoffice does not forward second class mail (newspapers, magazines, etc.) nor does it return it unless the notation is inscribed "return postage guaranteed". However, the postoffice department does forward postage due labels of undeliverable second class mail and forwarding addresses (ten cents, please). This, of course, is a service appreciated and for which periodical circulation managers are glad to doff a thin dime.

m-m

Occasionally, some postage due mail transcends the circulation department, providing relief from the usual "ho-hum", and sometimes with some real entertainment.

m-m

In the current political season, postage due items have been received (one each) from Skipper Bowles, Democratic candidate for governor, and from Allen Barbee, Democratic candidate for lieutenant-governor. These tickled us but would be considered helms from the standpoint of the vote-seekers.

m-m

Last year, when the Herald was conducting its census-guessing contest, one family's guesses arrived postage due, the first-class stamp then costing six cents. I made a mental note that if either of these three guesses proved the winner of the \$25 prize, I would retrieve the six cents from my friend Gene Goforth.

m-m

The star of the postage due brigade made appearance last month, with my wife the addressee. Howard Dixon is a piano patron and among the promptest payers, but the Dixon check for the February account arrived less quickly and was among a large raft of postage due mail claimed on the particular day—the postage due bill was three cents. The envelope was postmarked March 8, and was labeled received by the Kings Mountain postoffice — from whence it was dispatched on March 8 — ten days later on March 18.

m-m

Mr. Dixon had used an air mail envelope, had blacked out "Via Air Mail" with heavy hand, and had then appended an eight-cent stamp.

m-m

Apparently, this little envelope had a ten-day joy ride aloft before finding its way back to destination. It's too bad the envelope, like dogs, can't talk, for it would be interesting to know the ports of call. This little six-and-three-quarter envelope made on its round trip from Kings Mountain to Kings Mountain.

m-m

I was thanking Mrs. O. O. Walker for finding a button off a sweater-vest in one of the pockets. She told of an incident a few weeks ago when, checking pockets for contents before clearing, she found in a sport coat \$75. When the man came to claim his coat, he asked, "Could I write you a check?" Mrs. Walker replied, "I don't think you're going to need to write a check." The man remonstrated, "But I may not have enough cash to get it." Then Mrs. Walker handed the man the \$75. Quite flabbergasted, the customer said he hadn't worn the coat for several months, had no idea it contained cash. He then sought to give Mrs. Walker ten dollars for her good service. "No," Mrs. Walker rejoined, "I can't charge anything for being honest." Would there were more!

m-m

I didn't hurry particularly to Royal Villa Motor Inn Saturday afternoon, where Jesse Helms, the Raleigh television newsmen and Republican Senate candidate, was to hold court at 1:30. After all, I'd cooled my heels for an hour awaiting Nick Galifianakis, who wants the Senate nomination on the Democratic side. Withal, I arrived at 1:40. Alas, Mr. Helms had landed and left—a too-tight schedule forcing his early departure. He had inquired of me and Ed Smith told him, "He's probably on the way here right now." I had met Jess a few years ago. His wife, the former Doris Coble, was a three-time conferee in school at Chapel Hill, classmate, journalism major, and co-worker on the school newspaper.

m-m

Next time, I'll be on time.

Viewpoints of Other Editors

THE GREAT TAX CRISIS

Now that the presidential primaries are demonstrating the continuing popular appeal of "tax reform," both Democrats and Republicans are vowing, once again, to do something about it. Nothing is likely to happen this year, but a strong push seems sure in 1973, whatever the results of November's election.

Until lately the Nixon administration had talked little of reform, and it still hasn't spelled out specific proposals. The Democrats picked up the issue earlier, though, and in a statement the other day Senator Edward Kennedy told just what he and his colleagues ave in mind.

Many of his remarks make a great deal of sense. For instance, nearly everybody will agree that the tax code is a mess. Over the years Congress has complicated the code with so many special provisions that even millions of moderate-income taxpayers now decide that they must hire professional help to prepare their returns.

Everyone will agree, too, that today, the burden is immense, and taxpayers across the country are raising their voices in loud opposition to the rising taxes they have to pay. The opposition may be especially loud in these days just before April 15, but it's heard throughout the year.

One fact that Senator Kennedy doesn't mention, though, is that most of those complex special provisions in the tax law were put there to achieve some Congress' sense of equity. Many of them do indeed aid chiefly higher-income taxpayers but some, such as the special exemptions for the blind and the elderly, distribute their benefits far more evenly.

The basic problem faced by tax reformers is that one man's "loophole" is always another man's concept of tax justice. The reformers struggle and strain to reach an objective equity that is never entirely attainable.

That's not to say that Congress should stop trying, and some of Senator Kennedy's proposals merit thorough consideration. Replacing the personal exemption with a tax credit, to be applied directly against the tax, would be more useful to lower-income taxpayers and may be desirable. Maybe deduction of state gasoline taxes should be eliminated; the taxes, as the Senator says, are in effect "user" charges, the price paid for use of the highways the levies finance.

Other suggestions, however, point up just how hard it is to attain equity. The Senator would eliminate the provision that allows the taxpayer to exclude \$100 in dividends from income.

The idea of this provision was to lessen slightly the double taxation of corporate earnings; the company is taxed in full on its income and its stockholders are taxed on the part of the remainder that's passed along to them. The exclusion is a significant benefit chiefly to modest-income stockholders, not to the wealthy. Would "equity" really gain from its elimination?

Senator Kennedy also would tax capital gains at a stockholder's death, whether the stock was sold or not. What this would do is to accomplish in fact liquidation of an estate, to pay the taxes, at a time when it might not be at all wise to sell. Would the stockholder's heirs thus be treated equitably?

Others of the Senator's proposals raise serious economic questions. For instance, would it actually be sensible to tighten depreciation rules at a time when American business has been losing ground, technologically, in competition with other industrial nations?

Perhaps without intending to, Senator Kennedy puts his finger on the key problem: "In other days," he said, "when to role of government and public spending for social programs was much more modest than it is today, the weight of our unfair tax structure may not have been as onerous."

It certainly wasn't. Yet Senator Kennedy isn't even thinking of any moderation of the total burden. Tax reform, in his view, is mainly a way to raise more money. "We are talking," he says, "about billions of dollars in urgently needed new funds—dollars that can be used in a variety of ways to help meet all the great challenges we face at home and overseas."

One of those great challenges is, or at least ought to be, to devise a tax system that is as fair as possible to Americans, at all income levels, and yet bears lightly enough on the economy that it doesn't keep it from running. If the economy is to keep going, and generating tax revenues, it needs to incentive of reasonable income for risk-takers, those who gamble on starting new businesses or expanding old ones, on finding the new products and processes that progress demands.

The present tax code can and should be improved, and that's a task that will demand the best efforts of both Democrats and Republicans. The great tax crisis, though, stems less from the in-

equities of taxes than from their excessive complexity and their overpowering size.—Wall Street Journal.

ETHICS CODE APPROACH HELPS HONST OFFICIALS

My own experience as head of a major department and as a legislator has shown me that nearly all of our state employees and public officials are dedicated to good government and to doing the best possible job for that government. —Har Grove (Skipper) Bowles, April 10.

We couldn't agree more with Mr. Bowles, who made the statement in the context of his being a candidate for the Democratic nomination as governor. But he also made the statement in the context of calling for an ethics code for state officials. And we couldn't agree more with Mr. Bowles about the need for such a device.

Perhaps it seem paradoxical to agree that most state officials are honest and worthy of their jobs and salaries and, in the same breath, to call for an ethics code. But we do not agree that the circumstance is paradoxical. Indeed, it is our belief that one follows the other, just as surely as dawn follows darkness.

Mr. Bowles has not been the first major speaker to call for an ethics code, but he has been at the forefront of trying to provide such a device. An ethics bill he introduced in the last General Assembly by the very men that the ethics bill is designed to protect.

Yes, we said protect, for we do believe that the vast majority of legislators, other elected and all appointed officials are honest. It is our belief that an ethics code, such as that proposed by Mr. Bowles, would serve to protect innocent from suspicion, even while its machinery would allow for prosecution and indictment of the guilty. There would, at least, be a channel for suspicion that could, relatively quickly, prove or disprove a charge.

Mr. Bowles proposed to use a politics-protected commission in concert with the courts to ferret out misdeeds, but the fact that misdeeds are uncovered is some balm those who feel all politicians and most government officials are suspicious by association with politics and government. This is one approach, and it is, to our knowledge, the most complete one thus far advanced.

But no matter what the machinery, so long as it cannot be motivated politically and cannot be hung up in bureaucratic wrangling, an ethics code and machinery to enforce it is a need for North Carolina politics today. There have been entirely too many suspicious incidents not to cast aspersions on the honest politicians and officials. We believe they deserve protection from the bad apples in the barrel, and an ethics code is a good star.

THE PROBLEM OF BEATEN CHILDREN

Every month the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services investigates 10 to 15 cases of child abuse—that is, children who are beaten by their parents.

Sociologists say that nationally many more children are abused than the statistics indicate. They also say the danger in ignoring this social ill—aside from the permanent physical and psychological damage to the child—is that beaten children grow up to be child beaters themselves.

Fortunately for Carolinians, there is a good, tough law which protects those who try to help the battered child. The reporting person is immune from civil or criminal action taken by parents unless it can be proved that he acted with malice or bad purpose. It would seem that a sincere neighbor who made careful notes about the kinds and frequency of a child's injuries could hardly be proved malicious.

In addition, an examining physician has the right to order a child held temporarily while an investigation is made, if he is willing to certify in writing that he suspects the parents are abusing the child he has examined.

Questioning a child about his home life will provide no clues to possible abuse. He knows no other way of life and often assumes that he is bad and deserves his punishments.

Most children who are extremely active regularly sustain cuts and bruises. But a perceptive adult can tell whether a bruised little boy is the kind who is so busy running that trees just seem to jump out at him or whether he is a battered child.

To deal with this problem, we need more concerned parents—and more concerned neighbors and friends.—Charlotte Observer.

Occupational training in the home is restoring hope to hundreds of veterans who were seriously disabled during military service, VA revealed recently.

Apparently, when a revived interest in his works made the Academy folks reflect, they decided to give him a special award for being a film pioneer and for his contribution to the art—which include a comic spoof on Hitler, as well the direction of his greatest film, "Limelight."

But the Academy did not do as well in selecting the Oscar winners. Those who should know—the nation's film critics—had predicted that the two best films of 1972 wouldn't win, and they didn't.

"The Last Picture Show," a story of a dying Texas town and the people who lived in it—with only the sight of locked stores and the dust swirling about them—lost. That may be because it was in black-and-white, and everybody from Rex Reed to the man on the street knows that the Academy just doesn't give awards to black-and-white films any more no matter how deserving. "Clockwork Orange," the other masterpiece of the year, lost out too. The two masterpieces missed because of a Republicans. The great tax crisis, though, stems less from the in-

about a tough New York detective who tried to crack a heroin ring.
 We cannot help but wonder if its heart instead of its art—knows its art when it sees it? —The Charlotte Observer.

JUST FOUND: 319 SACKS OF MAIL

The Post Office says a Penn Central boxcar containing 319 sacks of mail and parcels left Philadelphia Feb. 4, 1970, and got lost somewhere between there and Washington. It took postal inspectors two years of searching, car-by-car, to find the missing mail—sitting on a seldom used siding in Perryville, Md.

The Post Office says crisply that Penn Central will be fined a substantial sum, but Penn Central denies receiving any information on a missing boxcar.

But what about the poor addresses? (We didn't know what was in the mail, but we can imagine.

"Dearest Sarah . . . If I don't hear from you in the next two weeks, you can consider our engagement broken . . ."

"Dear Son . . . Enclosed are some chocolatechip cookies that I spent the holidays making for you. If you love your dear mother you will surely write . . ."

All this mail was bound for Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. Maybe there is a ready-made issue here for George Wallace. He could stand in the boxcar door and proclaim: "These bearded federal bureaucrats are still lookin' down their noses at the good people of Alabama, who are just as cultured as people anywhere, but I tell you when I get to Washington . . ."—Charlotte Observer.

KINGS MOUNTAIN Hospital Log
 VISITING HOURS
 Daily 10:30 to 11:30 A.M.
 3 to 4 P.M. and 7 to 8 P.M.

- Mrs. Clark C. Boone
- Charlie Allen Duncan
- Mrs. Ira J. Falls
- Margaret M. Gray
- Mrs. Bryan L. Harris
- Mrs. Vernon Ledford
- Ronald C. Mackey
- Walter M. Moorhead
- Waldo K. McGill
- Arthur H. McGinnis
- Mrs. Otto Payseur
- Erin Mae Paterson
- Irah L. Camp
- Howard J. Champion
- Sandra Kay Clark
- Mrs. Howard Mitchell
- Lella M. Robinson
- Bertie B. Thompson
- Eva Ormand
- Rutus C. Gantt
- Mrs. Wade Grant
- Thomas L. Landers
- Paul R. Sanders
- Olga J. Tomes
- Virginia Mae Williams
- Mrs. Lewis Henderson

ADMITTED THURSDAY

- Lucille S. Blanton, 403 Walnut St., City
- Bobby Frank Maner, P.O. Box 507, City
- Kenneth L. Phillips, 602 E. Louisiana Ave., Bessemer City

ADMITTED FRIDAY

- Mrs. C. B. Bostic, 2136 W. 5th St., Gastonia
- Mrs. Paul L. England, Rt. 2, City
- Edward O. Gore, Rt. 1, City
- Virginia C. Jackson, Rt. 4, York, S. C.
- Blandina Lovelace, 106 W. Maine Ave., Bessemer City
- Elzie Lee Putnam, Route 1, City
- Mrs. Homer Wylie, 107 Elm St., Gastonia

ADMITTED SATURDAY

- Lonnie Brown, Jr., 603 Princeton Dr., City
- Oscar R. Gladden, 501 N. Railroad Ave., City
- Mrs. Paul L. Holland, Rt. 1, Box 238, Bessemer City
- Sallie M. Hord, 309 Walker St., City
- Shirley Lunsford, Rt. 2, Bessemer City
- Katherine B. McGinnis, 1350 Midpines, City
- Lawson Mitchem, 103 Davidson St., City
- Gilbert D. Patterson, Rt. 1, City

ADMITTED SUNDAY

- Mrs. J. I. Cable, 23 Bennett Drive, City
- Daniel E. Freeman, 1329 Shelby Road, City
- Earl David Hicks, Box 422, Bessemer City
- Mrs. John H. Ward, 314 S. Myrtle School Road, Gastonia
- Karen Lynn Wiggins, 1701 Maxton Ave., Gastonia
- Mrs. Joe R. Webb, 411 N. Scruggs St., Gastonia
- James D. Shaw, Box 331, Grover
- Leonard Addison Smith, Jr., 99 Myers St., City

ADMITTED MONDAY

- Wallace William Avery, 509 Wilson St., City
- Mrs. Horace C. Allman, 907 N. Piedmont Ave.
- Mrs. Beauford G. Bell, Rt. 1, Box 208, Bessemer City
- Mrs. Lemuel M. Camp, Rt. 3
- Mrs. Robert E. Clark, 610 Sipes St.
- Bertha Stroupe Ellison, 206 Dilling St.
- Burley Austin Grien, Second St. Ext.
- Mrs. James M. Ivey, 700 Sterling Drive
- Mrs. Floyd R. Latham, Box 302, Shelby
- Lucky James McKinney, Rt. 2, Box 33, City
- Clarence Warren, Rt. 1, Box 374, City
- Jack Marshall Wood, 414 E. Virginia Ave., Bessemer City
- Mrs. Richard L. Caldwell, 1611 1/2 E. Perry St., Gastonia

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