



America's Heartland

Roger Alford
RogerAlford1@GMail.Com

We can learn a lot about hospitality from cows, horses

ment, we reach wrong conclusions about people. Sometimes, we might feel like all the character traits the Bible holds dear seem to be in short supply nowadays.

I'm glad we still have lots of people who shine the light of Christ through their behavior. The Bible tells us in Titus 1:7 that one of the key characteristics of good men is that they're given to hospitality.

Most of us learned hospitality by watching the previous generation of people who absolutely loved to see company coming, whether it was a neighbor up the road or a relative from another state. The first thing our parents and grandparents did when company dropped in was to make sure they were well fed. The first question always involved food. Depending on the time of day, they'd ask if their visitor had had breakfast, dinner or supper. If there was even a hint of hesitancy, they'd be treated to a feast.

I love hospitable people. If you read your Bible very much, you'll find that many of the men and women were wholly given to hospitality. Abraham would pitch his tent in such a way that he could see any travelers coming. He'd sit out in the evening and watch for them. If they showed up, he'd direct his servants to butcher and prepare an entire beef to feed

them. Strangely, what got me thinking about hospitality was a herd of cattle that grazes in a pasture along one of my favorite jogging routes. I've never seen such a friendly bunch. They come just as quickly as they can to the fence to offer their bovine greetings when I pass by. I can't help but moo back from time to time. Then, there's the horse that almost never fails to lift his head and offer a greeting. That horse loves seeing company coming.

I was thinking how wonderful the world would be if people were to live up to the biblical call on their lives and be even half as friendly as those cows and that horse.

I know that most people in our part of the country are hospitable. But, I'm also sadly aware that there are those who would be more prone to swat us with their umbrellas or canes than to flash a friendly smile or offer a warm word of welcome.

If those sorts would take a jog with me, I could show them some happy cows and a big lug of a horse that could show them what hospitality means.

Roger Alford is pastor of South Fork Baptist Church. Reach him at 502-514-6857 or by writing to him at P.O. Box 673, Owenton, Ky. 40359.

My coon hunting buddy Barry Bishop passed along a story the other day about a long line of people who had gathered early one morning outside a grocery store waiting for it open.

A young man came rushing from the parking lot and tried to cut to the front of the line, but an old lady tore into him with her umbrella, chasing him back to his car.

Not to be deterred, the young man tried again, but an old geyser bashed him over the head with his cane.

As he approached the third time, he said, "If you don't let me unlock the door, you'll never get in there."

Barry comes up with some good ones, and, while he gave us a good laugh with that old joke, he also provided us a good lesson. Sometimes, in our rush to judg-

What if John 3:16 was 'Not True'?

Sunday, May 30th, 2020 Morning Message
Bro. Warren Rogers, Ivory Hill Baptist Church

"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ²The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. ³Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

-- John 3:1-7

Here we find that Nicodemus, who was a Pharisee, realized that he was searching for something. He was well educated, he gave alms to the poor; he knew scriptures forward and backward, he avoided evil activities and evil people. He came to Jesus by night so the other Pharisees would not find out. Jesus told him the same thing he tells us, "Ye must be born again."

Let me ask you a question. What if John 3:16 was 'not true?' I will make four points as we go along.

#1 What if God had not loved the world? Without God's love there would be no hope in this world. There would be nothing to live for, no purpose for existence, a world where prayers were but useless cries to the sky; every death would be the end of personal hope, every grave a place of sorrow. The truth is that those who don't know Christ as savior have no hope.

Think for a moment, 'What if God had not loved the world and sent a loving savior?' Think -- a whole world hopeless -- no hope beyond this life. Every sunrise, every blade of grass, every birth, the face of every child -- all speak of God's love.

#2 What if God had not given His Son? His only begotten Son, but instead gave us what we deserve. And instead of sending His Son to die for us, giving us a life worth living on earth and eternal life forever, He just sent us to hell. If God had loved the world but had not given His Son, we would never be able to know and experience that love.

Real love demands giving: A man marries and gives himself for his wife and children. Why does he go to work and provide for his family -- real love demands giving. A woman marries and gives of herself for the family -- washed load after load of clothes, picks up same dirty socks and underwear, makes same beds every day. Because beating in her heart is a love for her husband and family that causes her to show that love through sacrifice and giving. Love always involves giving. **Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."**

#3 What if God's offer of salvation were not for the whosoever? John 3:16 says, "whosoever." What if God had only offered salvation to the rich, the healthy, the educated; to only good and righteous people -- then very few of us would have hope in seeing Jesus because the Bible says . . . "there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

Who can be saved? WHO SO EVER, you might say, but you don't know my sin -- God does, but you are one of the whosoever.

#4 What if God's offer were not based on faith alone? John 3:16 says that who-so-ever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Some people are trying to get there by good works, some are trying to earn salvation by obeying God's laws - 10 commandments and they can find them in the Bible. Some are trusting certain church religious rites and beliefs. All it takes is faith. Luke 23:42-43

If you are reading this and feel the burden of sin, read John 3:16. It is true that God loved us that much. Are you loaded down with cares and problems from the mess you have made of your life - John 3:16. He loves you.

Aren't you glad that John 3:16 is true! God loved the world, that means you. God did send His Son to die for your sins. God's salvation is for who so ever.

If you need to talk to me about your salvation, please call 606-481-0444

Until next week, remember God loves you,
Bro. Warren.



Just Hunting

by Steve Brewer

For many years I have set at this desktop computer and rolled out hunting stories, one after the other, and have and still do enjoy this piece of quiet time, with just you, the great outdoors, our hunting friends, and me. Almost twenty five years ago, I was asked to write about my hunting adventures by a couple of my friends, and it has never stopped. I would like to hear from you, if you have some memories to share. Here is one of mine.

As a kid growing up in southeast Kentucky, in a little union coal camp called McRoberts, I had a wonderful childhood. The miners were all United Mine Workers, the company Beth-Elkhorn, and we had unlimited land to hunt. I know many kids now sleep until well afternoon these days. We were up, and ready to get into the woods, before daylight.

During this mulberry season we are in right now, we used old single-shot 22's with short shot. Mr. Henry Sword, a neighbor, and friend of my family, would take every squirrel we never wanted. Mr. Sword was one of the best men I ever knew. He would try and help us build wagons, hoe in the garden with us, just an all around good man.

One morning as Mr. Sword was leaving for work, I was probably 12 years old, he stopped his pickup truck and said, "Stevie, the squirrels are in the black gums in front of my house, it will save you from needing to climb the hill." I sat down in a grove of black gum and beechnut trees. Soon around daylight, I started seeing squirrels, just like Mr. Sword had said. Before I had drawn down on the first squirrel, I knew I was in a nesting area; these were mother squirrels with their babies. I also knew if I took one baby squirrel home, I was in trouble with not only my whole family but Mr. Sword also. These were the seed, and you never killed them.

I walked the half mile or so back home; everything was already in full swing at my house, clothes hanging on the line, hogs squealing every breath, chickens going on, cow mooing, and my grandmother shouting at Uncle Lo for either doing something he should not have done, or not doing something he should have done.

I put up my rifle, went in, and really felt good about doing the right thing and not killing those mother and baby squirrels. That evening I heard a horn blowing; I walked around the house, it was Mr. Sword. "You get those squirrels I told you about, Stevie," he asked. I told him, "no, they were mothers with their babies." A big smile came across Mr. Sword's face, I knew that he said, "I wanted to test you, to see if you would do the right thing. I would have killed them myself, if I hadn't known. Good job, Stevie, for doing the right thing, and letting them grow." I am now 75, and I still think it is better to do the right thing. Lesson learned. Some people my age still have not learned that doing the right thing is the best.

You can email Steve Brewer at <News@EstillTribune.com> and we will forward message.

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Angst	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
AMELIAS	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Guard	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
BORRED	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Gift	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
WODEN	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Gourd	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
TUGMEN	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



"Honest, honey, I don't know what I said to make your mother angry — but I'll try to

TODAY'S WORD

Jimmie L. Johnson, DMD, PSC
Family Dentistry
 87 Wildwood Place (off Court St.)
Irvine, Kentucky
(606) 723-3213