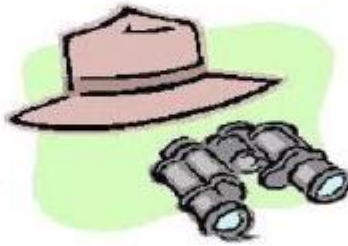


# This And That From Under The Hat

by Robert Waters



La 3:40 - Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.

Ec 1:13 - And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith. Ec 7:25 - I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness:

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[This is a new and light hearted publication designed primarily to stimulate thinking among disciples of Christ and to encourage change when truth demands it. Nevertheless, the content (as the name suggests) will consist of a variety of materials: selected articles from the past, devotionals, subject studies, sermons, poems, short debates, guest editorials, general observations, funny stories etc. We shall endeavor to have something in each issue that will brighten your day and/or that will teach and/or admonish.]

## **Not Just His Blood...**

by David F. Sims

There was once a little boy who had a sister who needed a blood transfusion. The doctor explained that she had the same disease her brother had recovered from two years earlier. Her only chance for recovery was a transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the disease.

Since the two children shared the same rare blood type, the boy was the ideal donor. "Would you give your blood to Mary?" the doctor asked. Johnny hesitated. His lower lip started to tremble. Then he smiled and said, "Sure, for my sister."

Soon the two children were wheeled into the hospital room--Mary, pale and thin; Johnny, robust and healthy. Neither spoke, but when their eyes met, Johnny grinned. As the nurse inserted the needle into his arm, Johnny's smile faded. He watched the blood flow through the tube. With the ordeal almost over, his voice, slightly shaky, broke the silence. "Doctor, when do I die?"

Only then did the doctor realize why Johnny hesitated, why his lip had trembled when he'd agreed to donate his blood. He'd thought giving his blood to his sister mean giving up his life. In that brief moment, he'd made the great decision.

Johnny, fortunately, didn't have to die to save his sister. Each of us, however, has a condition more serious than Mary's, and it required Jesus to give not just His blood, but his life.

**"For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf." (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)**

## WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE?

If I am wrong, I want to be right. If I am right, and the other fellow is wrong, I want him to get right, and that will make us both right. If I am wrong, another person is right, possible, and I want him to show me that I am wrong, and then help me to get right. And if some other sincere person is wrong and I am right, I feel it is the proper thing to tell him of his error, and see if I cannot help him to correct himself. That is the proper way to improve the world.

If I am in error, I want the other fellow to tell me so, but I would appreciate it if he tells me in the proper spirit, and in kindness. If I find that my friend is wrong, because I am his friend, and sincerely tell him so. If he is of the proper sort, honest and earnest, and willing to do the right, he appreciates my doing all I can for his welfare.

If he is not of the proper metal, he will probably tell me to attend to my own business, and I am narrow, (or perhaps a legalist nib) biased, and prejudiced, he will surely think it very vigorously.

If you are on the wrong road, though you think that you are not, would you appreciate someone gently, kindly, meekly and sincerely, showing you that you are, and then helping you to get right? "Am I become your enemy by telling you the truth?" (Gal. 4:16)

Author unknown

# FUNNY!

Funny how a \$100 dollar bill looks so large when you take it to church but so small when you take it shopping.

Funny how long it takes to serve God for an hour but how quickly a team plays 60 minutes of basketball.

Funny how long a couple of hours spent at church are but how short they are when watching a movie.

Funny how we can't think of anything to say when we pray but don't have difficulty thinking of things to talk about with a friend.

Funny how we get thrilled when a baseball game goes into extra innings but complain when a sermon is longer than usual.

Funny how hard it is to read a chapter in the Bible but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a best selling novel.

Funny how people scramble to get a front seat at a concert or a game but also scramble to get a back seat in church.

Funny how we need two or three weeks advance notice to fit a church event into our schedule but can adjust our schedule for other events at the last moment.

Funny how hard it is to learn a simple Bible verse well enough to tell others but how simple it is for the same people to understand and repeat gossip.

Funny how we believe what the newspapers say but question what the Bible says.

Funny how everyone wants to go to heaven provided they do not have to believe, or think, or say, or do anything.

Funny how you can send a thousand jokes through e-mail and they spread like wildfire but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing.

FUNNY, ISN'T IT? Are you laughing? Are you thinking?

Funny isn't it, when you go to forward a message such as this, how many on your list are not receiving it because they don't believe in anything?

FUNNY?.....NO! SAD!

# WHAT IF ?

By L. B. Strawn

What if--someone has taught me falsely of God? Pt. 2:2; I Jn. 4:1

What if--my footsteps in error have trod? Jd. 11; Mt. 15:13-14

What if--no one cared enough to tell

The truth, which could save my soul from hell? Eze. 3:18-21; 18:4, 20

What if--my mind was closed to the truth

Or grew angry, believing them to be uncouth? Acts 7:51-60

Can all the religious teachings be right, Jn. 8:12; Jn. 1:1-14

With all their contradictions of God's light? Gal. 1:8-9

What if--I opened my heart and my eyes, Acts 2:36-41

Discarding my own selfish disguise,

And started to search for the 'narrow way' Mat. 7:13-14

That would lead me to an unending day?

What if--I'd try every 'so called' preacher, I Jn. 4:1

As well as every bible class teacher, I Pt. 4:11

By comparing each teaching that I heard

To what God has said in His holy word? Acts 17:11

What if--I wouldn't let them change it, Gal. 1:8-9; Rev. 22:18-19

And, to mean what they say, re-arrange it? Mat. 4:6-7

When it says to repent and to be baptized, Acts 2:38

Could I accept that as truth, realized? Acts 2:41

Or, would I, a falsehood, still believe

And, the doctrine "faith, only" gladly receive? James 2:14-26

When Jesus and Peter teach otherwise, Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38

Could I go on, blindly, accepting their lies?

When Matthew and Paul teach it, as well, Mat. 28:19-20; Rms. 6:3-5

Could I let their lies destroy me in hell? Gal. 3:27

What if--I doubted a "man given" name,

Would someone say, "they're all the same"? Mat. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23

What if--Christian were the only name I wore,

Not Baptist, Methodist, Catholic or others galore? Acts. 26:28

When the scriptures say, "there is no other name", Acts. 4:10-11

Are preachers playing the Devil's game?

What if--someone taught me the Rosary, Mt. 6:6-8

Would that teaching, from the gospel, be? I Cor. 14:15

If mem'ry, not heart, uttered that word,

Would my prayer, by God, ever be heard? James 4:1-4

What if--I sang, as Paul has instructed me, Eph. 5:19; Col 3:16; Acts 16:25

Not adding music instrumentally, I Cor. 14:15; James 5:13; Mk 14:26

But teaching and admonishing with my voice-- Mt. 26:30; Rms 15:9-12;

Can someone tell me that I have a choice? Heb. 2:12; Amos 6:1-6

"Once saved, always saved", could that my soul enthrall?

Or, is it answered in HIS word, by the apostle Paul?

Written to Christians who had heard God's call,

"Let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall". I Cor. 10:12

Paul said of his own body, "I must keep it under control,

Lest after preaching to others, I should lose my soul". I Cor. 9:27

He said it as being a cast-a-way, which means he would be but trash.

God doesn't throw away the good, if I may speak so brash.

Peter spoke of some having escaped the pollutions of sin---  
If they should return once more and be entangled again---  
It would have been better had they not known the way of the Lord  
Than to turn from the commandments of His holy word. II Pt. 2:20-22; II  
Pt.3:17

A dog returning to its vomit, a sow to wallowing in the mire---  
"Doesn't that mean falling from grace?", my soul would enquire. Gal. 5:4  
He'd just been warning the saved about many false prophets (or teachers)  
Being covetous and liars, they were nothing better than lechers.

What if--the bible were the only book I used, Mat 15:3-9; Jn 15:1-14  
Not "doctrines of men", which make me confused? Heb 1:1-2; I Jn 5:1-3;  
Would my mind be open so I could understand Gal 1:8-9; II Jn 9-11  
How to walk on the path to the heavenly land?