



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## Daily Blessings

I hope we haven't gotten lazy with our thankfulness for our daily blessings. I can understand why it might happen. Countless farmers have patiently waited for the time of harvest which is all around us this time of year. They have waited for the early and latter rains hoping to be blessed with a fruitful crop. (James 5:7) Me? I just take my take my paycheck to the grocery store to shop the countless isles of stocked shelves of food, but Jesus has taught us to pray "Give us this day our daily bread".

Daily food is such a blessing in the United States of America. I saw a statistic that says 1.3 billion tons of food is wasted each year around the world, which is nearly a third of the world's food. Is it any wonder that parents use to encourage their children to eat all of the food on their plate so as to not waste any food? An abundance of food and the ease of obtaining it does not excuse one from being thankful to God for their daily blessing of nourishment.

If I understand just how blessed I am to live in a country that has an abundance of farmland and food I will be thankful for the daily blessings God has showered me with. It takes rain and the rich nutrients of snow and hail (Job 38:22) to replenish the ground. Elements we often grumble and complain about, "I wish it would stop raining" or "I hate snow". These are the very blessings that God provides for the earth to yield its fruit and for us to sit back at the table and proclaim, "Wow that was so good" or "I am so full".

The Israelites received this admonition, *"For the land which you go to possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden; but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year. And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled."* Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them,

Deuteronomy 11:11-16

I may not worship and serve a wooden image, but idolatry comes in other forms such as a desire for material things. (Colossians 3:5) I may be so wrapped up in my house, car, boat and hobbies that I never or rarely say "thank you" to God for my daily blessing of bread. Has my heart been deceived?

A Christian knows their "heavenly Father knows that you need" food and clothing each and every day. (Matthew 6:32) And because of His daily care, I need to be thankful each and every day for my "daily blessings".

With the harvest coming to an end as fall gives way to winter God does not leave us without witness of His goodness to unto all of mankind "...He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." Acts 14:17

Let us fill our hearts with gladness for the food that we have received today.

STACY

# What is Tolerated Today Becomes Accepted Tomorrow

- by Dick Millwee

Many years ago I read a quote that I found it to be true. This was the quote: "What is tolerated today becomes accepted tomorrow." Whoever said that said a mouthful and hit the nail on the head. Let me give a couple of examples.

In 1939 a movie was made that had one curse word in it. History tells all that moral leaders and church pulpits all over our country raised a sustained cry against it being released for public showing and almost succeeded in their efforts. However, Hollywood turned a deaf ear to the protests and patiently waited until the hubbub died down. After the protest became old news, Hollywood released the picture, *Gone With The Wind*. Forty years later, in 1979, Hollywood produced and released a movie that had only one curse word in it (the same word used in *Gone With The Wind*) and parents all over the land breathed a sigh of relief and said, "Finally a movie that we can let our children go see." It was *Star Wars*. This gradual "toleration creep" has led to most of the movies released today being filled with vile, filthy language that would have made drunken sailor blush in 1939!

In 1953, a new magazine was about to be released for publication and a volcanic protest by churches and various organizations erupted. The publisher and court officials turned a deaf ear to the protests and, hence, "Play Boy" magazine became an American institution. This led to publications of similar magazines. This, in turn, motivated Hollywood to begin releasing movies of a vivid sexual nature which led to the necessitation of a rating system. Over time there has been "rating creep" so that what used to be X rated is now R rated, R rated is now PG 13 rated and PG13 is now rated G. The slow graduation of "Toleration Creep" has desensitized us to the point we are now accepting as O.K. that was tolerated with anxious misgivings a few years ago.

Sadly, many Christians have become so desensitized to this media filth that they, with their money and attendance, have succumbed to this "wile" of the devil. God tells us through the apostle Paul "*...do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but, instead, expose them*" (Ephesians 5:11).

It is sad to see many Christians (even though it bothers them) allowing their children to watch TV programs and movies that promote this moral filth. The danger for their children, for the most part, is that they will feel it is acceptable for Christians to do this because their parents did not speak out against it or restrict them from involving themselves with this moral tragedy when they were in their formative years. Sadly, in some cases, the children learn by example when they see their parents rent or buy these movies and play them on their DVD sets at home.

"*Be not deceived, for whatsoever we sow that is what we shall reap*" (Galatians 6:7,8). Brethren, young and old, let us take the high road of God and take a stand against these things. Let's not succumb to this Moral Creep. Beware, it is a device of the Devil to ensnare our souls.

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