

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

“Introduction”

Minister, Larry Lyles, Norton Christian Church

Let me take a moment to introduce myself to the Telegram readers. My name is Larry Lyles, and I moved to Norton to serve at the Norton Christian Church at the end of last year. I have served only 3 other churches in my 30 years of ministry. I was born in Louisiana, educated at Ozark Christian College in Joplin, MO and also majored in business at LSU. My first 25 years in ministry were all in the state of Louisiana, so I still have a little southern twang. Thanks for allowing me to share my first devotional thought with you.

There is a Louisiana expression that may be foreign to Kansans, but certainly you will understand it. Someone will say, “I’m up to my elbows in alligators.” It really has nothing to do with your geographical location, but there will be times you are “up the creek without a paddle” or “you have painted yourself into a corner,” or “you are at the end of your rope.” What do we do when everything seems to be going wrong? In the back of the New Testament a fellow named

James said it another way, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking

anything.” (James 1:2-4) What James is saying is all of us will face trials. Whether you have thought about it or not, you too may wake up one day and be up to your elbows in alligators. Here is just a little personal advice I would like to share with you. James says “consider it

joy.” In the middle of the problems, never forget the joy that we know in loving and serving Jesus our Lord. He blesses us and takes care of us in so many ways every single day. And though you take away from me things, or stuff, or whatever may come, I still have the joy caused by Jesus. And when the tough times come, I usually remember Him. C. S. Lewis is credited with the words, “God whispers to us in our pleasures...but shouts in our pains: It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” Many have honestly found the real joy of Jesus in their pain. Some other words James says are “let perseverance finish its work in you.” Perseverance means that we have weathered the storm. Perseverance means that you have learned to stand firm. One of the things about being up to your elbows in alligators is that through it all you have learned to lean even more and stand even firmer in your faith. Life will send many things to nip at your heels, but in those troubles never forget the real joy you have in Jesus.

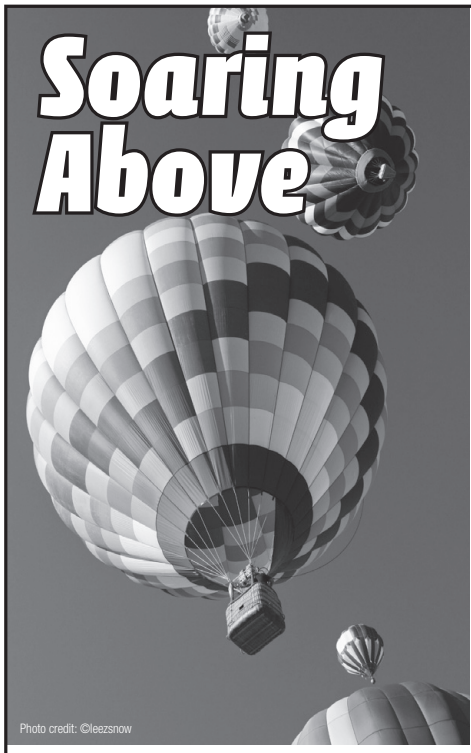


Photo credit: Olecznow

The colorful balloons appear to magically drift across the sky, but they will quickly collapse without a whoosh of hot air. Our spirits can deflate without the warmth of God’s love to fill our souls. Let your Heavenly Father

give you the power you need to soar above the stresses of everyday life. *Worship in God’s House this week and get the lift you need.*

Weekly Scripture Reading					
Leviticus	Numbers	Joshua	Joshua	Joshua	Judges
16.1-34	14.1-25	1.1-18	2.1-24	3.1-17	6.1-27

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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Wild Bill Hickok Rodeo
August 3-6, Abilene
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Dodge City Roundup Rodeo
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Curt Archibald, Adjutant

Eagles Lodge FOE 3288
Second and Fourth Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Larry Hawks, President
Secretary, Ron Miller

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Reg. 7:00 p.m.
First Mon. of each Month
Curt Archibald, Commander
Joe Ballinger, Quartermaster

I.O.O.F. No. 157
Meet at Eagles Club
First and Third Thursday
Each Month at 7:30 p.m.
Geneva Tier, Noble Grand
Randy Knoll, Secretary

The American Legion Riders Post 63
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website: www.alr63.org



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