Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Fireworks or Eternal Fames?"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry L. Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

There's something magical about those brilliant colors exploding against the dark sky. But there's a problem with fireworks. They don't last. They go up, burst brightly, make some noise and disappear even as the "oohs and ahs" fade away. The same is true of many of the "fireworks" experiences in our lives. We fight and struggle for things that seem beautiful and alluring, but after we get them, their appeal disappears, just like fireworks. Maybe it's a shiny new car or speedboat. Maybe it's a big, impressive house. It might even be a promotion at work or a prestigious career.

So many of the things of this world are like fireworks. They promise happiness and fulfillment but can't deliver. TV commercials play on our emotions, making us believe that if we drive a certain kind of SUV or clean our floors with their super-efficient mop, we'll be happy at last. More often than not, all we feel is disillusioned.

If you've had enough of these "fireworks" experiences and the letdowns that follow, I challenge you to pursue the only thing in life that doesn't disappoint: a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The astounding thing about loving God is that it actually gets better every day. Once you give your heart to Jesus, you'll have joy and contentment that lasts into eternity, and you'll never want to go back to "fireworks" experiences again. Pursue being an "eternal flame" Christian.

It was a torridly hot afternoon on July 3, 1938, when former Union and Confederate soldiers met to dedicate the "Peace Eternal in a Nation United" memorial on the Gettysburg, PA battlefield during the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the battle. President Franklin D. Roosevelt lit the eternal flame.

Probably the most well-known in the U.S., the eternal flame to commemorate President Kennedy in the United States lighted in 1963, was the first time in the world that an individual person was given such an honor.

So, the question is raised: Are you a "fireworks" Christian, burning brightly, quickly, when emotions are high, but fizzling out as quickly when trials and temptations come? Or are you an "eternal flame" Christian that walks faithfully with God every day, all the days of your life as an authentic "light of the world?" (Matthew 5: 14) "…the Father … does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created." (James 1: 17, 18)

Let Freedom Ring

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With God in our future, the God on whom our country was founded, our future is bright. We must incorporate Him into our lives and the lives of our children. Begin with weekly family worship and then make Him part of each day and each decision. Keep His words in your heart, where they are safe from harm.

When you hear the church bells ring this week on God's day… remember that they are bells of freedom. Let them forever ring in our great nation…the United States of America!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Joshua 23.1-16	2 Samuel 7.1-17	2 Samuel 7.18-29	Psalm 89.1-37	Genesis 13.1-18	Genesis 18.16-33	Genesis 22.1-19

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society

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STOP THE CYCLE

STOP

Did you know Kansas ranks higher than the national average for underage drinking in surveys of 8th, 10th and 12th graders?

Youth under the age of 21 account for 25% of all admissions for alcohol abuse. It is estimated underage drinking cost Kansas citizens $727 million in 2007. In FY09 treatment of alcohol abuse for underage persons cost Kansas over $1.4 million. 29.2% of 10th graders and 42.4% of 12th graders report alcohol is easy to get.

We need to stop the cycle.

This isn't about money, it is about the lives of our youth and the next generation.

Report persons who are providing or allowing access to alcohol for underage persons. KSA 41-3610 makes it unlawful to host or allow minors access to alcohol with punishment of up to $2,500 in fines and 1 year in jail. The social hosting law also makes you liable for minors accessing alcohol at your residence even without you being present.

Get control. Be the adult. Just say NO.

See www.kansasfamily.com/getinvolved-ksleadership.cfm for more information

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