

# THE TRENTON BULLETIN

## Perspective (Wilson Adams)

Some have lost loved ones or can't see them. Perspective. Some have lost jobs or had their income greatly reduced. Perspective. Some are starving, scared, and suffering in ways we don't know. Perspective. Some third-world countries are boiling water over rocks (rock soup) in order to extract minerals to survive. Perspective.

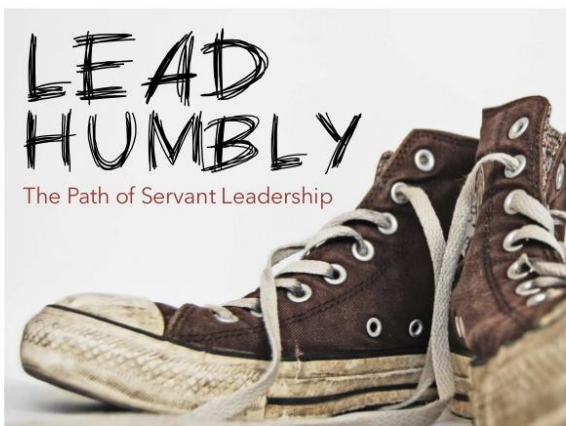
Lives have changed, frustrations mount, and pessimism grows. Mental and emotional struggles surge in ways statistics can't count. Domestic abuse has risen along with drug/alcohol abuse. People look for ways to cope. Any way to cope.

Small businesses are out of business -their debt and despair is unsustainable. While some churches have reopened in unique ways, others remain closed by order.

It's easy to have the answers when your kids aren't starving, or your loved one isn't in assisted living lockdown or in the hospital. Grievances grow, nerves are raw, and faith battles fear.

Dear God, please help those who aren't sleeping, those filled with anxiety, and those who are struggling in ways we cannot imagine. Keep us safe and strong, help our lights shine brighter, and may we learn that it is not within us to direct our paths...

Want proof that we need God? You don't have to look very far.



## Giving God Our Best (Dee Bowman)

"Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first fruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine. My son do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; for whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights." (Proverbs 3:9-12)

True honor is never cheap. If it's a legitimate honor, it's never accorded without a price. "I will not give that which costs me nothing," said David (2 Samuel 24:24). Few things are more precious than true honor. The Lord will not take second place, nor should He. He is God, the Almighty, the Creator, the Sustainer of life, the Giver of all there is.

We should honor Him in the highest way we can – with "the first fruits," not the leftovers. The highest honor we can bestow on Him is to give Him the best of all that we have – our substance, our talent, our time, our energy.

Nor should we be displeased with the Lord's chastisements. To receive them appreciatively and with confident resignation is a sure sign of honor. Did our parents not chasten us, and for our good? Correction is part of love, a vital part. The chastening of the Lord is a sure sign of His interest and concern for us, of His desire to make us into all we have the potential to be. This can't be done without some advice, some instruction, even some rebuke. We honor Him when we accept it willingly.

Let us honor God in our lives today. Let us begin by giving Him first place, and let us not despise His chastening when they come, knowing they are for our good.

- ✓ Neutrality in religion means to surrender to the Devil.
- ✓ Many people have too much to live on and too little to live for.
- ✓ You will never have a friend on earth if you must have one without a fault.
- ✓ Jesus is more easily seen on bended knee.

## Consider The Hammer (Selected)

It keeps its head.  
It does not fly off the handle.  
It keeps pounding away.  
It finds the point and drives it home.  
It looks at the other side and thus  
often clinches the matter.  
It is the only knocker in the world that  
does any good.

THE EMPTIER THE POT, THE QUICKER IT BOILS:  
WATCH YOUR TEMPER.

## A Living Presence (A Parable)

A young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is the way long?" she asked. And the guide answered, "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning."

But the young mother was happy, and she could not believe that anything could be better than these days. So, she played with her children and gathered flowers for them along the way. And the sun shone on them, and life was good. And the young mother cried, "Nothing can be lovelier than this."

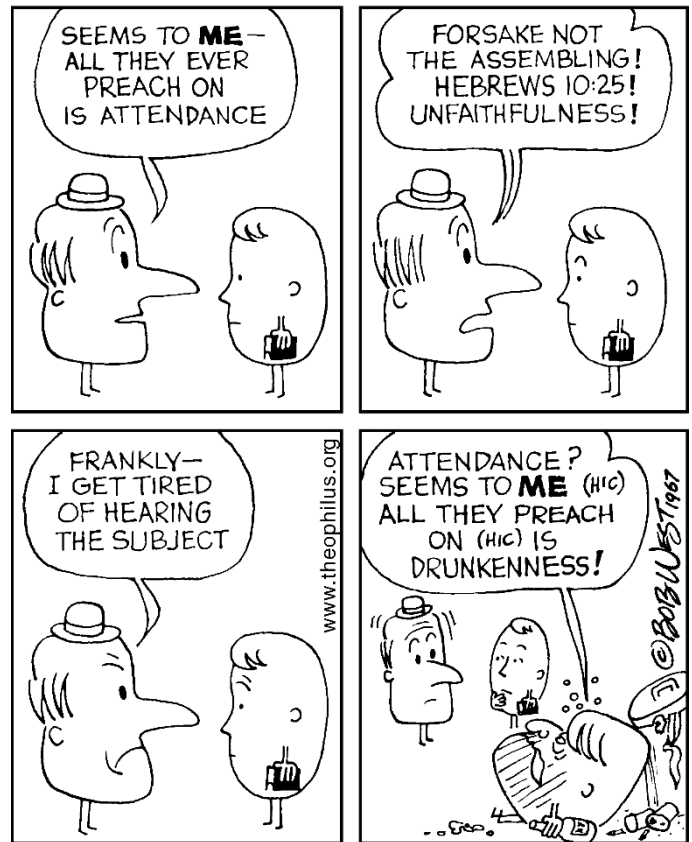
Then came night and storm, and the path was dark, and the children shook with fear and cold. But the mother drew close to them and covered them with her mantle, and the children said, "We are not afraid, mother, for you are near, and no harm can come to us." And the mother said, "This is better than the brightness of day, for I have taught my children courage."

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary. But at last, she said to the children, "A little patience, and we will be there." So the children climbed, and when they reached the top, they said, "We could not have done this without you, Mother."

And that night, the mother looked up at the stars and said, "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardship. Yesterday, I gave them courage; today, I gave them strength."

## THEOPHILUS

*It Seems to Me...*



And the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth - clouds of war and hate and evil, and the children groped and stumbled. The mother said, "Look up: lift your eyes to the light." And the children looked and saw above the clouds the everlasting light, and it guided them and brought them beyond the darkness. And that night, the mother said, "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God."

And the days went on and the weeks and the months and years, and the mother grew aged, and she was little and bent. But the children were tall and strong and walked with courage. And when the way was hard, they lifted her over the rough places. At last, they came to a hill, and beyond the hill, they could see a shining road and the golden gates, and they flung wide.

And the mother said, "I have reached the end of my journey, and now I know the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them." And the children said, "You will always walk with us, mother!" They stood and watched her walk through the golden gate; then the gates closed after her. And they said, "We cannot now see our mother, but she is with us still - she is a living presence."