

June 2001

The Meyer Minute for June 1, 2001

Keyword: Graduation

Several years ago my wife and I stood and watched our daughter, recently graduated from law school, drive off to live the life God entrusted to her. Parents do that. We stand and watch the kids leave, whether they're on their way to kindergarten, high school, college, or career. It leaves you with a bit of a hollow feeling, wondering, "What more can we do?"

The answer? Wave good-bye, go back into the house and pray. "We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3).

As our children graduate and move on, O Lord, let us never graduate from praying for them. Let them be productive and persevere through the faith, hope and love that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Thanks for reading! Tell a graduate your prayers go with them.

The Meyer Minute for June 4, 2001

Keyword: Good News

Jesus was so right, "in this world you have trouble" (John 16:33). So when life knocks the wind out of you, pulling a late-nighter might be the answer.

"The festival of Shavu'ot arrived, and the believers all gathered together in one place" (Acts 2:1). Those were Jewish Christians who came together to pray, perhaps after a night of reading the Old Testament, one of the practices of Shavu'ot. "Suddenly there came a sound like the roar of a violent wind... They were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh, the Holy Spirit." That filled their sails! They went out and "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6).

So when life knocks the wind out of you, stay up a little later...or get up earlier...and prayerfully read God's living and active word. "My words are Spirit and life" (John 6:63).

Spirit of God, lift my life, fill my soul with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thanks for joining me. Let this minute make a difference today!

The Meyer Minute for June 6, 2001

Keyword: Politics

“All them in Washington are a bunch of crooks,” declared my neighbor. When I protested that I know congressmen and senators who are fine and upright, my words went in one ear and out the other. There’s something between his ears but he chose not to use it. Invincible ignorance.

How about your gray matter? So politically alert that you pray? “I encourage you to make petitions, prayers, intercessions, and prayers of thanks for all people, for rulers, and for everyone who has authority over us. Pray for these people so that we can have a quiet and peaceful life always lived in a godly and reverent way” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

After Senator Jefford’s defection, everyone is talking bipartisanship. As my neighbor jabbars, much of it truly is baloney. That proves the point: “All them in Washington” need your prayers!

Lord of the nations, guide our leaders and inspire me to be an informed citizen. Amen.

Thanks for listening. A minute here, a minute there; it might help change the country!

The Meyer Minute for June 8, 2001

Keyword: Naive

What are you learning from Timothy McVeigh?

Is it the conventional piffle that no one has the right to impose their values on another? Nonsense. McVeigh shows that society eventually must impose what is right.

Is it that criminals are victims of an unjust environment? Nonsense. Life isn’t fair but this scapegoating makes everyone guilty...and when everyone is guilty no one is guilty.

Is it that God hates sin but loves the sinner? Perhaps, but sooner or later God and society punish sin by punishing the sinner.

So what are you learning from Timothy McVeigh? For me the big truth is that there are evil people in our world. Jesus said, “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. So be cunning as snakes but as innocent as doves. Watch out for people” (Matthew 10:16-17).

“Let those who love the Lord hate evil”(Psalm 97:10).

Jesus, let my love for others not be naïve. Amen.

The Meyer Minute for June 11, 2001

Keyword:

“Thou shalt not kill” (Exodus 20:13). So does the Bible forbid capital punishment?

The “Union of American Hebrew Congregations” produced a commentary in 1981. It says, “the claims of pacifists, who would see this command as a prohibition of all killing including that legitimized by the state during warfare, cannot be sustained. The same is true for the abolition of capital punishment. Laudable as these objectives are, they find no warranty in the text itself.”

The Bible is filled with stories and statements which, to say the very least, suggest that the death penalty is permissible. I’m not aware that is commanded to us. So the contemporary debate is good.

The Jewish commentary reminds us to check what people say about the Bible. That’s what the Bereans did in the New Testament, in Acts 17. They checked it out.

Spirit of God, keep us always learning what the Bible says and doesn’t say. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Meyer Minute for June 13, 2001

Keyword: The Door

“Drop ins” always cause me inner turmoil. You know, the person who interrupts when you’re busy? God love ‘em, these “drop ins” get me riled up. Not now, I’m so busy!

Former President Carter passes this along from Rev. Eloy Cruz. “You only have to have two loves in your life – for God, and for the person in front of you at any particular time.”

And what does Jesus say? “Behold, I stand at the door and knock” (Revelation 3:20).

“O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter’s power. God, make the door of this house the gateway to Your eternal kingdom.” Amen. (“Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers”)

The Meyer Minute for June 15, 2001

Keyword: Dad Makes a Difference

With Father's Day almost here, listen to this. "From US families in which both father and mother attend church, 60% of the children will attend church when they reach adulthood. From families in which the father is the only parent to attend church, 45% of the children will attend church when they grow up. From families in which the mother is the only parent to attend church, 15% of the children will attend as adults. From families where neither parent attends church, only 5% of the children will attend church as adults. Is a father's spiritual leadership important or not?" (from "Christian History Institute," www://gospelcom.net/chi)

People assume that mom is the main spiritual presence in the family but the Bible says dad should be, and these statistics bear that out.

Heavenly Father, thank you for every good and dutiful husband and father. Help more people know that spiritually, dad makes a difference. Amen.

The Meyer Minute for June 18, 2001

Keyword: Certainty

Is this confusing or what? On one hand, newspapers reported this weekend that a Presbyterian convention gave preliminary approval to the ordination of gays and lesbians. On the other hand, weekend articles reported that U.S. Catholic bishops will require professors at Catholic schools to teach according to Catholic doctrine. One church loosening up; another tightening up. What's going on? This: Some people no longer believe that there are absolute truths that have been communicated to us and should be followed; others still do.

That fundamental difference affects you. If you're not sure that God has revealed how He wants you to believe and live, you're introducing confusion into your life. Certainty is yours when you believe God has shown you how to believe and live. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

Spirit, lead all churches to a clear and true proclamation of Your word. Amen.

The Meyer Minute for June 20, 2001

Keyword: Tears

The ancient rabbis said that God felt so sorry for Adam and Eve when they trudged out of paradise that He gave them help to cope in their new, now sinful world. He gave them the gift of tears.

Times of tears call for the sweetest religion. So much religious talk focuses upon what God's people should be doing. Fine, the Bible is filled with many commands and exhortations. Tears, however, remind us that this world is still broken, despite our Christian good works.

"Put my tears into Your bottle" (Psalm 56:8). God has, always will. "Come unto Me," invites His Son, offering unconditional forgiveness and hope, love and encouragement. Fill your soul with those graces during the good times and then, when tears come, as they must, they'll glisten with the comfort God alone can give.

Jesus, be my comfort and refuge until the day God wipes every tear from our eyes (Revelation 7:17). Amen.

The Meyer Minute for June 27, 2001

Keyword: Repentance

He called his wife "dingbat," his son-in-law "meathead" and griped about blacks, Jews, Hispanics and others. Carroll O'Connor, who died last week, once analyzed his most famous character. "Archie's dilemma is coping with a world that is changing in front of him. But he won't get to the root of the problem because the root of the problem is himself, and he doesn't know that."

We've all met Christians who are prejudiced and angry, people quick to criticize and blame others, people whose conduct doesn't match their claim to be Christian. "These people honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from Me" (Isaiah 29:13). The root of their problem? Lack of personal repentance. And if you and I don't own up to our sins and welcome the forgiveness and change that Jesus Christ brings, you and I also will be "Archie Bunker Christians."

Spirit of Jesus, help me repent...sincerely and every day. Amen.

The Meyer Minute for June 29, 2001

Keyword: Insulation

A "Minute" reader asks why the Bible doesn't oppose slavery?

"God did not intend for people to be in bondage to others; rather humankind, created in God's image, is created to "have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). As children of promise, freedom in Christ "has set us free" (Galatians 5:1). Slavery is part of the pollution of sin; and to protect the disenfranchised, God created Jubilee" (every 50th year when slaves were to be freed, see Leviticus 25:40). ("The African-American Jubilee Edition" of the Bible from the American Bible Society; p. 154)

“Insulation,” that’s what a psych prof of mine called it. You know a truth but don’t apply it to your life. Practitioners of slavery insulated themselves from the Gospel truth.

Bringing it home, are we insulating some of our behaviors from the corrections of the Bible?

Spirit of God, help me always search my behavior in the light of Your truth. Amen.