

**Chapter 24: The Smorgasbord Chapter**

**Life Application Verses:**

**Proverbs 17: 22.** A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

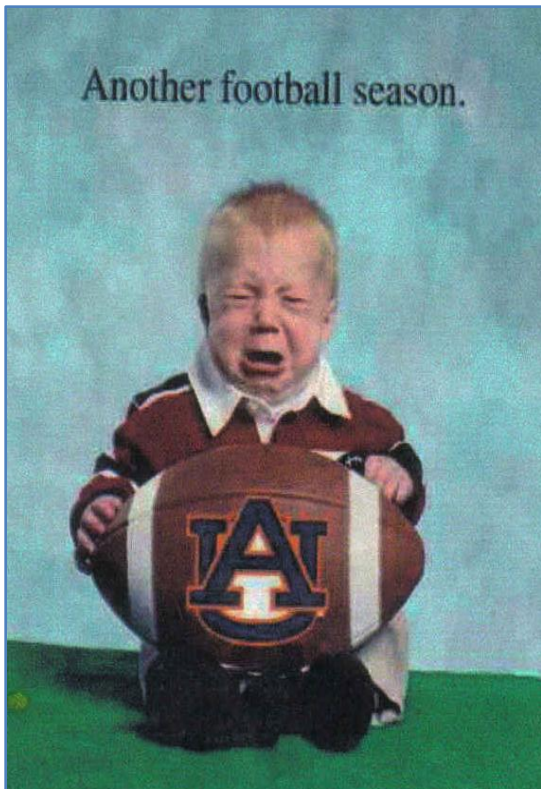
**T**his chapter is about the humorous-side of a thinking existence and learning to have a cheerful heart! Now, some of you may look at this chapter and say that God is not pleased with this sort of thing. Yeah? Did you read Proverbs 17: 22? It speaks to a cheerful heart being good medicine. Christians should be prone to laughter and joy and Praise! No sourpusses allowed! If you have a crushed Spirit, it dries up the bones. There will be times for sorrow and tears, but in between, let's laugh and enjoy the life God gave us as much as is possible within our very Soul and Spirit. Thus, I am going to provide a collection of things I have been given through the past 30+ years from colleagues and students (and a few other items).

**Here are a series of items that students have given to me over the years:**

We're looking for computer engineers who like to solve difficult problems. Call us on this number now: $x=24, y=30$ Phone: $= 0.1(y^2-x).(y^2-10^2)x10$
Time's fun when you're having flies! Kermit the Frog
There are only 10 types of people in the world: those who understand binary and those who don't. Which one are you? (Consult a computer person for help... ☺)



I lost my job today. I came into work on time. I did exactly what the boss told me to do! I followed all the rules, and never once disrespected anybody. Then, the first time I ever had a chance to drive one of them fork lifts, I made one itty bitty mistake, and everyone starts running around in circles screaming and shouting. It's not like I blew the place up or anything. They didn't have to fire me...



## HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR GRAPHIC DESIGN?

(YOU MAY PICK TWO)



These are but a few of the many hundreds I have collected in the 30+ years in the classroom. Please note that the football image is for you to substitute your team in the place of Auburn University – and KNOW that Auburn is my *Alma Mater* and I enjoy their football success – and even when seasons turn out like the image humorously depicts! The next few pages are quotations/stories/deep-thinking items from various sources. These quotes and other are a mixture of great sayings and Scripture! Enjoy!

**And Laugh if you feel like it!**

**Quotable Quotes: Some Humor, Holy Truths, and a Smorgasbord of Others...**

“If the federal government had been around when the Creator was putting His hand to this state, Indiana wouldn't be here. It'd still be waiting for an environmental impact statement.”

“We are never defeated unless we give up on God.”  
~ Ronald Reagan ~

“A keen sense of humor helps us to overlook the unbecoming, understand the unconventional, tolerate the unpleasant, overcome the unexpected, and outlast the unbearable.”

“The only time my prayers are never answered is on the golf course.”  
~ Billy Graham ~

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, “Mama, I don't want to go out there. It's dark.” The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. “You don't have to be afraid of the dark,” she explained. “Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you.” The little boy looked at his mother real hard and asked, “Are you sure he's out there?” “Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him,” she said. The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, “Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?”

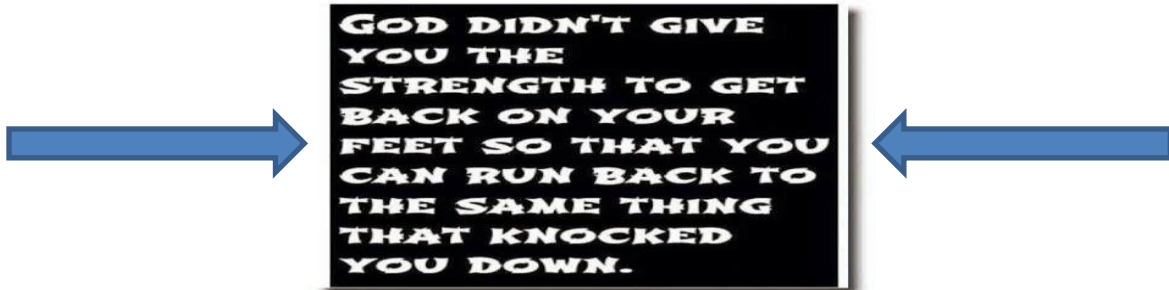
~ Author Unknown ~

There's a little old Christian lady living next door to an atheist. Every morning the lady comes out onto her front porch and shouts, “Praise the Lord!” The atheist yells back, “There is no God.” She does this every morning with the same result. As time goes on, the lady runs into financial difficulties and has trouble buying food. She goes out onto the porch and asks God for help with the groceries, then says, “Praise the Lord!” The next morning, she goes out onto the porch and there's the groceries she's asked for, and of course she shouts, “Praise the Lord!” The atheist jumps out from behind a bush and says, “HA! I bought those groceries – there is no God!” The lady looks at him and smiles as she shouts: “Praise you Lord!—not only did you provide for me Lord, you made Satan pay for the groceries!”

~ Author Unknown ~



# Do This Often



“There are times when solitude is better than society, and silence is wiser than speech. We should be better Christians if we were more alone, waiting upon God, and gathering through meditation on His Word spiritual strength for labour in his service. We ought to muse upon the things of God, because we thus get the real nutriment out of them. . . . Why is it that some Christians, although they hear many sermons, make but slow advances in the divine life? Because they neglect their closets, and do not thoughtfully meditate on God's Word. They love the wheat, but they do not grind it; they would have the corn, but they will not go forth into the fields to gather it; the fruit hangs upon the tree, but they will not pluck it; the water flows at their feet, but they will not stoop to drink it. From such folly deliver us, O Lord. . . .”

~ Charles H. Spurgeon ~

#### **How about some funny Church Bulletin Bloopers & Humorous Lines...**

- "Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community."
- "The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 PM. Please use the backdoor."
- "For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs."
- "The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the sin of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer."
- "House Guarded By Shotgun 3 Days A Week. Guess Which Days."
- "Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car."
- "Thursday night - Potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow."
- "This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends."
- "Next Sunday a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so."
- "Congregational Singing Wednesday Evening July 14, 2004."
- "Help blow up and decorate the church with balloons on Easter morning. Meet at 7:30 am to help. Won't take long!"



### **Sometimes A Good Laugh Can Be The Difference**

Often life has many ups and downs. It is that amazing trust though... to know that God is in control... no matter what comes...that gives us the ability to smile through our tears and carry on.

Like the story, the old China missionary told, when teaching at a missionary training center in Texas. He explained how on one occasion (in the 1940's), their group had been surrounded by enemy forces and it looked like the end. In that darkest moment, he said, "he just had the greatest peace come over him, knowing that God was in control". He put his head back and started to smile and then told everyone there not to worry, that the Lord Would Care For Them... And God Did. Shortly thereafter their pursuers for no apparent reason... pulled back and left.

Years later... When asked by a young missionary trainee in Texas, "what the greatest need was, to be a missionary..." he surprisingly responded... "A Sense of Humor. To be able to laugh when you feel like crying. To be able to trust... even when it seems that all is lost. To be able to trust God and SMILE!"

There are so many instances in our lives when we can find joy in what happens to us, whether you define joy as what lasts-and-lasts or what is simply ad-hoc instances that are so hilarious that we nearly lose our breath from laughing so hard. My mom and dad live out near the demarcation line between civilization and the wilderness. Many years ago, we had a family reunion and out where they live, depending on the time of year, you might have a swarm of mosquitoes at the same time you have a group of hummingbirds flying. It was at this event that we had set up a table in the screened patio area. Even so, a very troublesome fly had managed to work its way into the room. My mom, in exasperation, took a swing at the fly with her bare hand. She was so convinced that the fly had been too quick to let this grandmother catch it. But, when she opened her fist, there in the palm of her hand was this little fly looking nearly as stunned as my mom. They both seemed to jump back simultaneously; the fly flew off and my mom quipped, "I caught that fly! I-CAUGHT-THAT-FLY!!!" She was immediately given a new name: "Granny Hopper." She was named Granny Hopper because if you remember the TV Series, Kung Fu, with David Carradine, you will remember that he had to snatch the rock from his Master Teacher before he was ready to leave the training regimen and go out into the world. Catching that fly was nearly 20 years ago, at this writing, and mom is still Granny Hopper

today! TO the family present, it was a major joyous event at the expense of that troublesome fly, and those of us present on that day, still talk and laugh about that event 20 years later.

I think God intended for us to have many moments of humor in our lives! It never hurt anyone to be goofy from time-to-time, cut up, do silly things, try out new jokes (those that are funny or otherwise that you would expect from a Christian), and just enjoy life! As I have already noted, there will be time enough for sorrow, pain, heartache, loss, times of difficulty, challenges, and so forth, in which humor is the last thing on our minds. When these times are far removed from us, give humor a try! Look for the humor, laugh, be silly, and do all that with your family. Look...you don't need to be a 'class clown' to find and experience humor. God created all things in this world and humor is definitely one of them. The Bible doesn't specifically address this, but I cannot imagine Jesus as never having smiled or laughed!

I have a photo of my office walls where I teach. On those walls (and this is no exaggeration), my walls are covered from floor to ceiling with sayings, photos, funny things, and so forth. When visitors come to the office, they get a glimpse of what I consider to be of value and what is really funny to myself and others. Several times of late, visitors will take their smart phones and take photos of sayings or those items that give rise to humor. If you want a copy of those walls, send me an email and I will gladly send you *The Walls* of which I speak. Laugh, my friends in Christ, while there is time and when you can! Pray to God that He will become the barrier between your sorrow and your laughter and joy! I believe He will make it so!

### **A Question of Curiosity:**

How often have you been given a gift to laugh and you have let it slip away? Think about it... Bring humor to your life, your family, your friends, and to your God. How often have you given Thanks to God for the thing that caused you to laugh, or the joy that you experienced? If not, you should! Laughter is Heavenly Minded, and Earthly Good. And you say...

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**"I have wondered at times what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress." ~ Ronald Reagan ~**

**"We turn to God for help when our foundations are shaking only to learn that it is God shaking them." ~ Charles West ~**

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