

The Annoying Little Things

As you might know, the head of a major company survived the tragedy of September 11 in New York because his son started kindergarten. Another fellow was alive because it was his turn to bring donuts. One woman was late because her alarm clock didn't go off in time. One was late because of being stuck on the NJ Turnpike because of an auto accident. One of them missed his bus. One spilled food on her clothes and had to take time to change. One's car wouldn't start. One went to answer the telephone. One had a child that dawdled and didn't get ready as soon as he should have. One couldn't get a taxi. The one that struck me was the man who put on a new pair of shoes that morning, took the various means to get to work but before he got there, he developed a blister on his foot. He stopped at a drugstore to buy a bandage. That is why he is alive today

Now when I am stuck in traffic, miss an elevator, turn back to answer a ringing telephone, all the little things that annoy me, I think to myself this is exactly where God wants me to be at this very moment. The next time your morning seems to be going wrong, the children are slow getting dressed, you can't seem to find the car keys, you hit every traffic lite, don't get mad or frustrated; God is always watching over you. May God continue to bless you with all those annoying little things—and may you remember and appreciate their possible purpose.

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St. Cyprian of Carthage

Only One Church

The church is one but has fruitfully spread out far and wide. In the same way, there are many rays of the sun but one strength from its root. And many streams flow through one spring. So, although multiplicity seems diffused by its abundance, unity is preserved in the source. You may try to separate a ray of the sun from its body of light, but its unity doesn't allow a division of light. Break a branch from a tree and, when broken, it won't be able to bud. Cut off a stream from its source, and its separated portion dries up. So also, the church,

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shining with the light of the Lord, sheds her rays over the whole world. Yet it is one light that is scattered everywhere. The unity of the body isn't separated. Her fruitful abundance spreads her branches over the whole world. She flows liberally, broadly expanding her rivers. Yet her head is one, her source one. She is one mother that produces much fruit. From her womb we are born, by her milk we are nourished, and by her spirit we are given life.



Contemplation Verse

I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

--1 Timothy 3:15

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Book Review

The Lord of the Rings

J.R.R. Tolkien

ISBN: 0618260250

This fictional novel was written by John Ronald Reuel Tolkien in 1955. It is set in middle earth and follows the intertwined adventures of a fellowship of heroes. The adventure starts shortly after the discovery of an ring of power. This prompts Frodo, and the other protagonists, to embark on a long and adventurous journey to destroy the ring and thus abolish the dark lord Sauron.

This tale is imaginative and well written with extreme attention to detail. Though it is a lengthy read, you will quickly become engrossed in the adventure. Tolkien creates a whole new world with unforgettable characters and unique ideas. He describes scenery in such detail that one's imagination constructs every aspect of his picturesque landscape with such ease. All too frequently, you truly feel that you are a participant in these adventures.

Aside from being a great fictional novel, this narrative incorporates many Christian undertones such as redemption, sacrifice, and the reality of evil. It is the combination of adventure and virtue that makes this novel a must read.

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