

For Whom the Bell Tolls
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
August 18, 2007

Two friends from my past died this week. Each, in his own way, meant a lot to my life. One – during my EDS career; the other during my days with CGI.

John Donne lived in England from 1573-1631

- abandoned the Catholic faith in favor of the Church of England
- chaplain to King James I
- dean of Saint Paul's Cathedral after 1621 until his death in 1631 at 58

In 1624, at age 51, confined to his bed with a series of illnesses, he hears the bells of the church adjoining, and is thereby reminded of death and the transiency of life. See if you can picture the situation at that time.

- There were no glass windows.
- Windows were open gaps in the walls.
- John Donne lies on his bed.
- An open window is above and to the side.
- He can't see out.
- Dim overcast light comes in during the day.
- His mind wanders – thinking about his life and the lives of his family and friends.
- On occasion of a death, he hears the bell from the tower of a nearby church.
- He wonders who died
 - Was it a family member?
 - Was it a friend?

He then wrote Devotions upon Emergent Occasions - divided into "meditations"

From "Meditation 17" comes an excerpt used by Ernest Hemingway to title a book which was made into a movie in the late '50s or early '60s

**NO MAN IS AN ISLAND, ENTIRE OF ITSELF;
EVERY MAN IS A PIECE OF THE CONTINENT, A PART OF THE MAIN;
IF A CLOUD BE WASHED AWAY BY THE SEA, EUROPE IS THE LESS,
AS WELL AS IF A PROMONTORY WERE,
AS WELL AS IF A MANOR OF THY FRIENDS OR OF THINE OWN WERE;
ANY MAN'S DEATH DIMINISHES ME, BECAUSE I AM INVOLVED IN
MANKIND;
AND THEREFORE NEVER SEND TO KNOW FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS;
IT TOLLS FOR THEE.**

Let's look at Biblical verses to relate to this poem.

**NO MAN IS AN ISLAND, ENTIRE OF ITSELF;
EVERY MAN IS A PIECE OF THE CONTINENT, A PART OF THE MAIN;**

For Whom the Bell Tolls
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
August 18, 2007

1 Corinthians 12:

We studied last week.

- 12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.
- 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.
- 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.
- 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?
- 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?
- 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?
- 18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.
- 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?
- 20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.
- 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."
- 22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
- 23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty,
- 24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,
- 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.
- 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.
- 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

How are we to relate to one another?

We are to watch out for one another!!

Ezekiel 3.

- 17 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me:

For Whom the Bell Tolls
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
August 18, 2007

- 18 "When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.
- 19 "Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.
- 20 "Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand.
- 21 "Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul."

DON'T FORGET THE BLIND MEN AND THE ELEPHANT;

WE ARE TOLD TO PROVE ALL THINGS; HOLD FAST WHAT IS TRUE

1 Thessalonians 5:

- 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

**IF A CLOUD BE WASHED AWAY BY THE SEA, EUROPE IS THE LESS,
AS WELL AS IF A PROMONTORY WERE,
AS WELL AS IF A MANOR OF THY FRIENDS OR OF THINE OWN WERE;**

ENIAC STORY = BUTTERFLY IN BRAZIL - T'STORM IN NY

Luke 15.

- 1 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him.
- 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."
- 3 So He spoke this parable to them, saying:
- 4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?"
- 5 "And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.
- 6 "And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'
- 7 "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

For Whom the Bell Tolls
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
August 18, 2007

Luke 15.

- 8 "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?"
- 9 "And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!'"
- 10 "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15.

- 11 Then He said: "A certain man had two sons.
- 12 "And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood.
- 13 "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.
- 14 "But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.
- 15 "Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.
- 16 "And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.
- 17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!
- 18 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,
- 19 "and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'"
- 20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.
- 21 "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
- 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.
- 23 'And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;
- 24 'for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.
- 25 "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.
- 26 "So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.
- 27 "And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'

For Whom the Bell Tolls
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
August 18, 2007

- 28 "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him.
- 29 "So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.
- 30 'But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'
- 31 "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.
- 32 'It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

James 5.

- 19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,
- 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

James 5.

- 13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.
- 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.
- 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
- 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
- 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

Ephesians 4.

- 25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.
- 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,
- 27 nor give place to the devil.
- 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.
- 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.
- 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

For Whom the Bell Tolls
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
August 18, 2007

- 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.
- 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 5.

- 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,
- 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
- 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Acts 5.

- 33 When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them.
- 34 Then one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, and commanded them to put the apostles outside for a little while.
- 35 And he said to them: "Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men.
- 36 "For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing.
- 37 "After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed.
- 38 "And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing;
- 39 "but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it--lest you even be found to fight against God."

ANY MAN'S DEATH DIMINISHES ME, BECAUSE I AM INVOLVED IN MANKIND;

Galatians 6.

- 1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
- 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
- 3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
- 4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.
- 5 For each one shall bear his own load.

**For Whom the Bell Tolls
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
August 18, 2007**

We will continue next week.