

New Bethel Christian Life Report – November 2012

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Quo^te of Day

For, behold, he prayeth. Acts 9:11¹

Ship with Richest Freight

Charles H. Spurgeon, #0016, Paul's First Prayer, 3-25-1855, pp227-228, Vol. 1.

Prayer is the ship which brings home the richest freight.... Brother and sister, after you rise in the morning, your business presses. With a hurried word or two, down you go into the world. At night, jaded and tired.... The consequence is this: you have no communion with God, not *with* Him, but only from the dregs of depleted weariness.... Oh my! May God *awaken* us all, and stir us up to pray. For when we pray, we shall be victorious. I would like to take you, this morning—as Sampson did the foxes—and tie the firebrands of prayer to you, and send you in among the shocks of corn till you burn the whole up. I would like to start a conflagration by my words, and to set all the churches on fire till the whole has smoked like a sacrifice to God's throne.... If you *do* pray, then you have a proof that you are a Christian. Prayer is the ship which brings the richest freight from all corners of the world.



WORST Quote of Week, or Worst of the Year!

Michael G. Maness

For NewsBusters, Noel Sheppard reported that on a Soul Train Awards broadcast on BET (Black Entertainment Television), Sunday, November 25, 2012, African-American comedian Jamie Foxx said:

“First of all, give an honor to God and our lord and savior Barack Obama.”²

Dare I say more? If it is partisan politics to oppose this, then what? How do we voice our opposition to blasphemous comments without engaging in partisan politics? I think, regardless of the party to which one is affiliated, we can oppose such trash by saying the actor-comedian Jamie Foxx has lost his mind in such quotes without further ado. Foxx is a nasty fellow anyway, and that comment is more telling of Foxx’s own ethics as any of the other trash he spouts. That is how brazen some of our culture has become, and I do not expect it to get better anytime soon.

Teachers Embroiled In 15-Year-Long Test-Taking Fraud Scandal, Feds Say

By Adrian Sainz, Huffington Post (11/25/12, 10:42 AM ET).³

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — It was a brazen and surprisingly long-lived scheme, authorities said, to help aspiring public school teachers cheat on the tests they must pass to prove they are qualified to lead their classrooms.

For 15 years, teachers in three Southern states paid Clarence Mumford Sr. — himself a longtime educator — to send someone else to take the tests in their place, authorities said. Each time, Mumford received a fee of between \$1,500 and \$3,000 to send one of his test ringers

¹ Michael G. Maness, *Ocean Devotions – From the Hold of Charles H. Spurgeon, Master of Marine Metaphors* (AuthorHouse, 2007), 8.

² Noel Sheppard, “Jamie Foxx: ‘Our Lord and Savior Barack Obama’” *NewBusters* (11-26-12, 01:20): <http://m.newsbusters.org/blogs/noel-sheppard/2012/11/26/jamie-foxx-calls-obama-our-lord-and-savior#ixzz2DKou43ep>.

³ See http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/26/teachers-embroiled-in-15_n_2191466.html?utm_hp_ref=teachers.

with fake identification to the Praxis exam. In return, his customers got a passing grade and began their careers as cheaters, according to federal prosecutors in Memphis....

Film Revives Questions about Lincoln's Faith

By Kimberly Winston, Religion News Service (11-21-2012)⁴

WASHINGTON – There is a moment in Steven Spielberg's new movie Lincoln when the 16th president asks the kind of big question usually tackled by religion: Why are we here?

"Do you think we choose the times into which we are born," Daniel Day-Lewis, as Abraham Lincoln, asks two young workers in the telegraph office. "Or do we fit the times we are born into?"

That's as close as the film comes to probing the faith of Abraham Lincoln. But the nature of Lincoln's faith —or the lack thereof—has remained one of the most fascinating aspects of the man who freed the slaves, preserved the Union and carried the wounded nation through its bloodiest war.

Beginning almost immediately after his assassination 147 years ago, hundreds of books, articles and essays have appeared, many claiming Lincoln was—if not in fact, then in sentiment—a Christian, Catholic, Jew, Mormon, psychic, spiritualist, agnostic and atheist.



Maness — When I saw the movie, I was struck by its realism. How in the world did they get Daniel Day-Lewis to look so much like Washington? After the movie, I could not wait to read more on Lincoln and Representative Thaddeus Stevens, a lead congressman and abolitionist in the House at the time. It is hard for us to conceive the kind of man Lincoln was that so ardently pursued the course he took, uphill a lot of the way, against the grain of most, and all too often alone. In the short space of two and half hours, this movie brought out in a masterful way the tensions, politics, moral struggles, and the near-racehorse-win-by-a-nose tension upon which the 13th Amendment's passage hung by a thread. As well as the wit, humor, uncanny wisdom, and courage of Lincoln. An outstanding movie. I highly recommend it.

Have a Great Day

⁴ As reported in the Baptist Standard, www.BaptistStandard.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14549&Itemid=53.