

Balance is the Key

by Cleveland Reddinger

My cousin, Sonny, owns and operates a campground near Cooks Forest in Pennsylvania. I used to go there for a few days each year in college before the Fall Semester began for a mini-vacation. In his wife Darla's kitchen is a plaque which reads: "My house is clean enough to be healthy, but dirty enough to be happy!" I have always loved the sentiment of that plaque. It speaks to the need for balance and self-control in our lives.

Paul, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, wrote, "*And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things*" (1 Corinthians 9:25). There is no man's life that is all one thing! All lives are a mosaic of areas, each calling for our attention. The fool will devote all of his attention to one or two areas and leave the other areas untouched. The result is an entirely **unbalanced life**. Have you ever tried to carry a five gallon bucket full of water in one hand? You can do so for a short while but it is clumsy and if you persist it will hurt you. It is easier to carry two five gallon buckets full of water, one in each hand to balance each other. You can carry more and go further with **balance**.

The devout Christian's life is not all worship. He must earn his living just like other men and women. He will devote the proper time to each pursuit in his life. His wife and children place demands on his time, and the time he devotes to them in leading them in the Christian life and teaching them the way of the Lord, playing baseball or hunting, all fall under the heading of spiritual duties in the **balanced Christian life**.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Brother Reddinger will be with us Sunday evening, January 15, to speak to us about his work with the church in El Dorado, Kansas. We commend this article and his good work to you.

320101