

Insight...

***“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
Matthew 5:10***

- **Two single guys...** were chatting one evening after attending Crossroads Ministry together at Dale and Jerilyn Finger’s home. One said to the other, *“With all of the beautiful ladies who attend Crossroads, how do you deal with sin nature’s propensity towards temptation?”* “Well,” he replied, *“I seek safety in numbers...It helps. How about you?”* “Yes, Numbers may help, but I’ve found greater success in Exodus.”

- **According to Lifeway Research**, what do Christians pray regarding?
 - 51% My sin.
 - 46% My enemies.
 - 44% Victims of natural disasters.
 - 26% Faith for unbelievers.
 - 20% To win the lottery.
 - 14% For God to avenge.
 - 11% My team to win.
 - 9% A good parking spot.
 - 7% Not to get caught speeding.
 - 5% For a relationship to end.

- **Here’s a conversation starter:** *“Men will wrangle for religion; write for it; fight for it; die for it; anything but – live for it.”* Charles Caleb Colton, Lacon, vol.1 (1820), no.25.

- **This week**, a delegation of the Wilberforce Initiative issued a grim report. “A decade ago, Iraq’s Christian population numbered 1.5 million,” said the group’s president, Randel Everett. “Today, roughly 300,000 remain, and most have no jobs, no schools, and no places of worship.” “We don’t have much time left as Christians in this region,” said Bashar Warda, an Archbishop of the ancient Catholic Chaldean Church.

- **The minds of the unchurched...**
 - 49% Unchurched Americans who cannot identify a single way Christianity has positively impacted the United States.
 - 37% Unchurched Americans who cannot identify a single way Christianity has negatively impacted the United States.

- **Do you agree?** “The dominant religion in the country is low-intensity theism. The middle of the theological spectrum is filled by nominal believers and by serious believers without much fervor. This vast middle tends to be suspicious of – somewhat fearful of and hostile to – both the nonbelievers on one end and the intense and outspoken believers on the other. The sharpest religious conflict is between the two ends of the spectrum – between the intensely religious and the intensely secular. When the intensity is reduced on one end of the spectrum, the resulting religious conflict will also be reduced. [From a speech by Douglas Laycock, 10/25/07 from the book Religious Liberty, Eerdman’s Publ. Co., 2010, vol. 1.]

- **Trivia Question:** What is the average profit margin garage sale purchasers make when they resell on ebay?
 - A. 18% B. 129% C. 283% D. 462%

For Prayer...

- ...Isis and other Muslim extremist groups. Their thwarting as they perpetrate evil in the world. Praying for Christians under attack and that through it all the name of the Lord would be lifted up and glorified.
- ...Pat Ruge – recovering from her second rotator cuff surgery in 5 months. It’s been 2 years now since Milt’s death. She misses her church family.
- ...The President and the U.S. government to seek the Lord as they government domestically and influence internationally.
- ...The family of Mike VanSlyke as they mourn his passing. His Funeral was on Friday.
- ...Darla – Please pray for my husband Michael in Uganda until 2/29 – safety and health.
- ...This evening’s (2-22) Quarter Business Meeting.
- ...Space Planning & Church growth...clarity of leading, meeting w/sub-committee canceled, rescheduled on Tuesday pm at 5.
- ...Sale of Homes
- ...Couples who are fighting serious physical illness together.

Jeff & Laurie	Christy (Mike)	Renee (Dick)
Norm & Peg	Cheryl (Deane)	
- ...Our Expectant Mothers

Sarah (Kelly)	Daisy (Aaron)	Christine (Ben)
Sarah (Beaner)	Paige (Matt)	Terra (Ronnie)
Chante (Brent)	Kristin (Shawn)	Diana (Steven)

...before the fall...

“There is one vice of which no man in the world is free,
 which every one in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else . . .
 The vice I am talking of is Pride . . . Pride leads to every other vice:
 it is the complete anti-God state of mind ...”

~

“As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.”

C. S. Lewis

Trivia Answer: D. 462% [www.statisticbrain.com]