

One-Liners.....That Changed My Life!

2 “*Who will take the pledge?*”

From age 7 to 12 (1932-1937) we lived on a little farm near Wichita. I attended a small two room (actually one room with a metal gate that was lowered into place except for special occasions) country school. One room was for grades 1-4, and the other for grades 5-8.

National Prohibition against alcohol had just been repealed. The Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was active. One day two ladies appeared in our school-room and talked about the evils of intoxicating liquor. It was dramatic! I remember, (at least I think I do) watching a worm dropped into a jar of alcohol where it shriveled and quickly died. When they asked, “*Who will take the pledge?*” never to drink intoxicants, I readily signed!

Later, I forgot the incident and drank socially, until my faith deepened, and I discovered Ecclesiastes 5:5 telling us it is better not to vow a vow than to vow a vow and break it. So I stopped alcohol.

Then I thought about all my vows: Boy Scout oath. Oath to join the military. Marriage vows. Church vows. Oath to practice law. The government even sought compliance for testimony and taxes under threat of perjury. It seemed everywhere I turned we were binding each other not based on our actions, but upon our oaths.

I decided it is better when I follow God voluntarily because I love Him and want to do His will—not because of oaths and vows.

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2016 Marvin J. Martin