

Taboo #2 - Cont'd from page 8

when he saw it but said nothing.

After the service as he shook hands at the entrance, person after person remarked on the brevity of the sermon (often with pleasure). However, on the next several occasions that he borrowed my watch he always asked for a time check from a member of the congregation.

I am still of the opinion that 'brevity is the soul of wit' and if the Gettysburg address could be written in less than one page then long dissertations are little remembered.

"Anything else peculiar to being a ministers kid?" I hear you ask. Well I can think of at least 4. The first is that I went to Church much more often than most of my friends. Also the atmosphere in our home was much more religious. I remember a plaque that hung over our dinning table that said "Christ is the head of this home, the unseen guest at every meal, the silent listener to every conversation". This gave me the feeling that God was watching every thing I said and did. Couple this with the "fact" I was taught that when you die and go to the gates of heaven, the "Lambs Book Of Life" is consulted to see how many sins you had committed. On this basis and the fact that everything that gave pleasure seemed to be a sin, I felt that my sins would be so great that I would never get to heaven, I ceased believing and being worried.

Oh, the most painful part of being a preacher's kid was that anything I did that did not please someone was reported immediately to my parents so I think I got many more spankings that normal. Perhaps, in hindsight, not undeserved.

What do you think - did I manage to do Taboo Number 2 without breaking my 'rule'?. Look forward to hearing from you.

- John A Jackson

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