

A full-page background image featuring a person standing on the edge of a dark, craggy rock formation on the left. The person is silhouetted against a bright sunset sky. The landscape below is a vast, green valley with rolling hills and a small body of water in the distance. The sun is low on the horizon to the right, creating a warm glow and lens flare. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds.

ISSUE 1 2025

INSIGHTS

FROM THE BIBLE-TEACHING MINISTRY OF PASTOR CHARLES R. SWINDOLL

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INSIGHTS

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AN EASTER REFLECTION FROM PASTOR CHUCK

Dear Friend,

My phone rang late one evening back in the early 1970s. I was happy to hear the voice of my long-time friend, Don Wyrzten. Don was sitting at his piano, having just finished his work on a beautiful piece of music, which he wanted me to hear. The lyrics were taken directly from Revelation 5:12. As Don played and sang his musical piece, I closed my eyes and imagined the millions of angels singing this in an antiphonal chorus of worship before the Lamb of God in heaven.

*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive:
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
Honor and glory and blessing!
Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb,
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.
Worthy is the Lamb!*

Without another word, Don hung up... and I was, in the words of Charles Wesley, "Lost in wonder, love, and praise." As I sat and pondered both the angelic scene and their words, I decided that going forward, I would adopt "Worthy is the Lamb" as the theme of my life and ministry. I made the commitment that day to give the Lamb of God all the glory... in every situation... throughout my ministry.

As we embrace this Easter season, I encourage you to reflect on what it means to walk daily in the knowledge that Jesus, the worthy Lamb, gave His life so that we might have eternal life. As we continue in our joy, let's celebrate His priceless gift by sharing that good news with so many who desperately need to hear it.

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Standing with you in His magnificent grace,



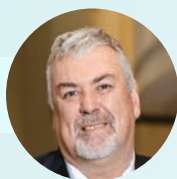
Chuck Swindoll

Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

IS EASTER PAGAN?

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

BY NATHAN POTTS



The following question was asked recently by one of our Insight for Living listeners. *Should we celebrate Easter, isn't this holiday purely a pagan and secular holiday?*

It is true that the current practice of the western world is secular. We have replaced the tomb and resurrection with chocolate and the Easter Bunny. Our schools, our media and local councils constantly proclaim Easter as a holiday for giving of chocolate, there is no spiritual significance attached to this holiday at all.

Our children and grandchildren are devoid of the historical account of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ

So, as believers, should we celebrate Easter? The history of this celebration goes back to one of the oldest days of remembrance in the Christian calendar, because it was so easily traced and aligned to the Jewish Passover feast. The church has always celebrated God's act of atonement and redemption through Jesus His Son. The instruction given by Jesus at the Passover was to remember His death, burial, resurrection and the salvation that is possible because of His sacrificial act of grace and mercy. Often our remembrance is signified by celebrating communion and by simply taking bread and wine. This act of communion in essence is the tradition behind our Easter celebration.

However, what should we do with designated "Easter" holiday. Even though the world refuses to acknowledge the significance of Easter, we as the evangelical church can use this holiday to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. We should invite the conversation about the significance of Easter and tell others the importance of God acting

in this world to deal with the issue of a sinful and lost humanity.

We are instructed to proclaim the good news of salvation in season and out of season – always being ready to give an answer for the hope that is within us. (1 Peter 3:15)

As in any age, this is an act of faith and obedience to Christ. He grants us the grace to be his mouthpiece, and we should use this secular holiday to proclaim the truth of God.

ABOUT PASTOR NATHAN POTTS

Nathan serves as Pastor and Chairman of the Board for Insight for Living Australia. He is also Senior Pastor of Pakenham Baptist Church in Victoria. He is passionate about using the *Searching the Scriptures* curriculum to better equip believers in studying the Bible and living out the truth of the gospel in Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific.



WALKING IN UNITY

BY NATHAN POTTS



Like a doorway from the classroom of knowledge to the workshop of experience, most of Paul's letters contain a "hinge" – a point where a shift from principle to practice, from doctrine to responsibility is made.

Ephesians 4:1 represents a literary hinge. The profound doctrinal principles developed in Ephesians, outline the wonderful theology of the Christian faith. We are chosen, redeemed and sealed by the Triune God. We have been reconciled by the blood of Christ due to the richness and mercy of God's gracious gift. Those who are far off have been brought near and Christ's peace has removed the hostility and created in himself one new person. We have been transformed from Sinners to Saints from Hostility to Harmony and Christ is building His church.

Paul now turns to the practical. He exhorts the Ephesians to walk in a manner worthy of their calling. Five stepping stones lead the believer to "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Each step entails the following:

1. To walk humbly
2. Displaying gentleness
3. Patience
4. Forbearance or tolerance
5. Unity equals love – a love that expects nothing in return, looking out for the interests of others.

All these stepping stones together lead to a life of unity. The practical is always underpinned by doctrine, by who and what God has done. God has unified the church into one body and empowers the believer through one Spirit.

There is only one hope, one Lord, one faith by which we are saved, and one baptism. There is only one God and father of us all who is overall and through all in all. The unity displayed within this text, (4:4-6) shows us that our Triune God is the foundation for unity. We can walk in a manner worthy of our calling only because God models and provides for us His Spirit.



MINISTRY OUTLOOK

THIS YEAR WE ARE EXCITED TO
SHARE ONGOING INITIATIVES TO
INSPIRE AND ENGAGE YOU

- Innovative ministry resources to deepen your walk with Christ.
- The release of *Paws and Tales* episodes on our mobile app in 2025 and beyond.
- Upcoming *Searching the Scriptures* training. Stay tuned for further details.
- Increased social media engagement so that you can connect with us more easily.
- Financial Year End receipts directly sent to your email.



REFLECTIONS ON ATTITUDE

BY CHARISSA SWINDOLL GAITHER



As Chuck embraces this new chapter of semi-retirement, having stepped back from his role at Stonebriar Community Church, but still contributing at Insight for Living, I've noticed a shift in his emotional well-being.

His sense of humour and joyful outlook remain intact, yet I sometimes picture him as a solitary figure in a canoe, quietly drifting on a serene lake. The water is perfectly still, and the only sounds come from his own thoughts. The vibrant hustle and bustle of his earlier years feel like a distant memory compared to the peaceful stillness he experiences now.

I'VE ADMIRIED CHUCK'S

UNWAVERING SPIRIT...

**HIS DEEP LOVE FOR THE LORD
SHINES BRIGHTLY.**

– CHARISSA SWINDOLL GAITHER

While this stillness envelops him, at home Chuck is deeply committed to caring for his beloved wife, Cynthia, with whom he has shared nearly 70 beautiful years. It's a bitter-sweet journey as he witnesses her gradual fading, each day marked by the Lord's decision to take away her memories.

This is often a lonely path for Chuck, as he grapples with the evolving nature of their relationship.

Although Cynthia may not always recognize their home or even him at times, Chuck continues to shower her with love and care. Despite facing the challenging progression toward blindness – his description of vision resembling looking through a coffee straw – he navigates his responsibilities with incredible grace.

It's hard to fathom why Chuck has faced such struggles, especially losing his sight, considering his passion for reading and writing and the joy they have always brought him. With Cynthia now falling asleep in the late afternoons, he often finds himself alone, surrounded only by his thoughts and prayers as evening draws near.

Through it all, I've admired Chuck's unwavering spirit amid the sorrowful moments. His deep love for the Lord shines brightly, illuminating his determination to embrace life's challenges with resilience and a heart full of gratitude, refusing to let negativity dampen his spirit. What a magnificent testimony to love and faith that is!

Do you ever wonder what your children and friends would say about the lasting impact your attitude has on them?

ABOUT CHARISSA SWINDOLL GAITHER

Charissa serves as President for Insight for Living in the USA and also sits on the Board of Directors for Insight for Living Australia. She truly loves connecting personally with people and is a gifted speaker and motivational leader.



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ONE-STRING SYMPHONY

HOW ATTITUDE
ORCHESTRATES LIFE

BY PASTOR CHARLES R. SWINDOLL



The colourful, nineteenth-century showman and gifted violinist Nicolo Paganini was celebrated for his extraordinary command of the instrument. One legend has him standing before a packed house, playing through a difficult piece of music. A full orchestra surrounded him with magnificent support. Suddenly one string on his violin snapped and hung gloriously down from his instrument. Beads of perspiration popped out on his forehead. He frowned but continued to play, improvising beautifully.

To the conductor's surprise, a second string broke. And shortly thereafter, a third. Now there were three limp strings dangling from Paganini's violin as the master performer completed the difficult composition on the one remaining string. The audience jumped to its feet and filled the hall with shouts and screams, "Bravo! Bravo!" As the applause died down, the violinist asked the people to sit back down.

Even though they knew there was no way they could expect an encore, they quietly sank back into their seats.

He held the violin high for everyone to see. He nodded at the conductor to begin the encore and then he turned back to the crowd, and with a twinkle in his eye, he smiled and shouted, "Paganini... and one string!" After that he placed the single-stringed Stradivarius beneath his chin and played the final piece on one string as the audience (and the conductor) shook their heads in silent amazement. "Paganini... and one string!" And, I might add, an attitude of fortitude.

ATTITUDES TO THINK ABOUT

Unselfish Humility

Positive Encouragement

Genuine Joy

ATTITUDES TO FORGET ABOUT

Blame

Self-Pity

Bitterness

This may shock you, but I believe the single most significant decision I can make on a day-to-day basis is my choice of attitude. It is more important than my past, my education, my bankroll, my successes or failures, fame or pain, what other people think of me or say about me, my circumstances, or my position. Attitude is that “single string” that keeps me going or cripples my progress. It alone fuels my fire or assaults my hope.

When my attitudes are right, there’s no barrier too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme, no challenge too great for me. Words can never adequately convey the incredible impact of our attitude toward life. The longer I live the more convinced I become that life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how we respond to it.

Paul had much to say about our mind-set in his letter to the Philippians. In chapter two, he wrote:

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. (Philippians 2:1–2 NASB)

What does all this mean? Well, let’s go back and take a look. There is encouragement in the person of Christ. There is love. There is also plenty of “fellowship of the Spirit” for the Christian to enjoy. Likewise, affection and compassion. Heaven is full and running over with these things even though earth is pretty barren at times. So Paul pleads for us to tap into that positive, encouraging storehouse.

Because our choice of attitude is so important, our minds need fuel to feed

on. He gave us a good place to start in Philippians 4:8:

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is **true**, whatever is **honourable**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **commendable**, if there is any **excellence** and if anything worthy of **praise**, think about these things. (NASB, emphasis added)*

Good advice. “Think about these things.” Fix your attention on these specifics in life and you won’t regret it.

**WORDS CAN NEVER ADEQUATELY
CONVEY THE INCREDIBLE IMPACT
OF OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD LIFE.
THE LONGER I LIVE THE MORE
CONVINCED I BECOME THAT LIFE
IS 10 PERCENT WHAT HAPPENS
TO YOU AND 90 PERCENT HOW
WE RESPOND TO IT**

Strings on your instrument may snap and hang loosely – no longer available or useful – but no person and no situation can force you to have one attitude or another, to walk off the stage or to keep playing with verve. That choice is strictly up to you.

Adapted by Insight for Living staff from
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