

# Great Bids

Churchill Downs and the city of Louisville claim that THE GREATEST TWO MINUTES IN SPORTS has to be the Kentucky Derby. It takes those superpowered race horses a ballpark 2 minutes to get around the track. What makes this race any different, or more important than any of the 10 races on the card the day before or the week before? The answer is Tradition. Tradition has built the Kentucky Derby into a world famous spectacle. The owners of the winning horse earn a lot of prize money, and can earn even more by what they charge to other racehorse owners in fees to breed their mares to a "Kentucky Derby winner"!

Even though it only takes 2 minutes in the evening of Saturday May 2, it is a long term event. Any old horse cannot compete in the Derby. They have to run other races and win Derby points, and of course have owners that can pay the fees to enter the Derby.

In and around Louisville, the Derby has become a year round event and not just two minutes. Women are expected to have the latest fashion hat, the bigger the better and with lots of color. This year, Derby rings in gold with diamonds have become the latest hot selling item, if you have the money. Instead of diamonds in the ring, a man can get rubies in the shape of the famous Rose horseshoe. The rings start at \$1000.

The media have begun an official countdown of "Days to the Derby". From March 5 to May 2, 60 days to go! Horses, jockeys, trainers, and high profile owners get intensive coverage. Celebrity Derby parties give famous, and infamous, politicians, actors, and the Super rich, free publicity and exposure

Did you know that they now have classes to teach people how to bet on the

horses? It includes such subjects as what do "odds" mean and "trifecta", and "place" and "show"? Churchill Downs will teach you all about it for free.

The horse racing gambling industry has come in second place. And that is a problem. Derby day was once the biggest gambling day in America. No more, The Super Bowl has passed it by, and the horse people will not be satisfied to "place". They want to "win".

On the actual race day of May 2, will it be worth your time to watch the greatest 2 minutes in sports? It doesn't work that way plan on spending at least 4 hours or more on that Saturday afternoon. The show starts early, at least three hours before the race. All 152 years of tradition will be there, especially like the horse Secretariat. Then the horses will parade, trumpets will sound. One horse will always be difficult to get into the starting gate. Suspense will build and suddenly they're off! Don't blink and don't go into the kitchen for another coke or you will miss it! No you won't. They will do replays with expert analysis for the next two hours and the next two days.

Now for the truth. Do I play the ponies and bet on a horse in the Kentucky Derby? Yes I do. I have a friend. We each pick a horse. If his horse wins, he gets my dollar

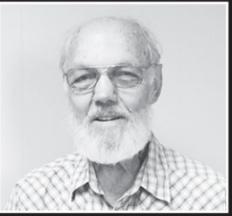
If my horse wins, I get his dollar. If we both lose, then those big bucks go back in our cookie jars until next year. We are great bets!

## Kindling

BY

**Jim Woodring**

Sun-Courier  
COLUMNIST



# Certainty

By:



**Gary Miller**

I've noticed lately how the fishermen are getting amped up for the spring tournaments. A recent trip to my local bait shop confirmed my suspicions. There were brochures everywhere promoting those upcoming events. But another thing I've noticed is how bad the weather has been lately. I guess it's normal for this time of year, but there are usually some good weekends when the fishermen can get on the lake, find where the fish are, and experiment with what they might be hitting. If everything stays the way it is now there will be no early preparation. It will be practice as you go. There are, however, a few things that most anglers already have in their bag of tricks; namely that they have done this before. They will begin their pursuit at the places that have produced in times past. That doesn't mean that success will be certain, only that they will be able to begin with a certain amount of confidence, which is crucial. In fact, one of phrases I've heard all my life when it comes to fishing, is "Fish with what you're confident in." That is, if you are casting some bait without the expectation of a fish biting it, you need to switch; no matter what someone else might tell you. Confidence is undoubtedly important because it affects so many other things. It affects the speed to which you fish, your concentration, and your overall attention you must have to set the hook. Really you can't say too much about confidence. On the other

hand, while confidence might win the moment, it might just lose the day and the tournament. If one has to choose between confidence and certainty, he better choose the latter and adjust his confidence. And this especially goes for things that hold more weight than a fishing tournament.

It amazes me sometimes how individuals can be so set in their ways without any real confirmation that what they are settled on is valid. Many times their confidence comes from another individual who also has no foundation for his or her beliefs. They simply believe something because so and so said so - be it a friend or family member. Or this unwarranted confidence has come from a moment of success. For a fisherman it means that just because you had a good day with that bait before, it doesn't mean it will work every time. Again, it is better to be certain than have confidence. Now, what about things of eternal consequence? If you have confidence and cannot adequately defend why you have such confidence, then you may be fooling yourself. Certainty will always come from a statement of fact based upon testable evidence. If this is not true in fishing, you may be casting in a bathtub. If this is not true in matters of your faith, you may wake up one day to find that what you put confidence in, left you holding an empty bag at God's weigh-in.

# The Pastor's Pen

We all have reasons behind everything that we do. We have the why factor for each one. We have a reason for the good and the bad. These reasons do not have to mean much to others but it is what motivates us or, in some cases, drags us into others.

What is your "why" for going to work? What is your "why" for attending church? What is your "why" for going to the gym? What is your "why" that keeps you going when others would not? The "why" we have must be stronger than whatever it is that will stop us from doing these things.

This can embody the good things in our lives such as working through problems to keep our relationships that we are in. It can also include the "why" we have certain addictions. We have to have a reason to continue in the things we do or we will easily give up and quit. The foundation of your "why" will determine the strength you have when encountering forces to prevent you or hinder you from your objective. Have you thought about what your "why" really is?

We can come up with answers to many things for the reason we engage in them. We can determine quickly our "why" when things are super important to us such as working to give our family a better life. However, we struggle when finding the answer to those things we do that are not seen as beneficial like drug addiction. Sometimes we do not know the "why", "when", "where", or "how" things even got to the stage they are at this moment. I want to encourage you today to seek for the "why's" in your own life.

Jesus had called out the disciples to follow Him, to leave everything behind,

and follow Him. These disciples walked away from everything in their lives to follow after Jesus. There came a time when one of these disciples, Peter, wanted to find his "why" in doing so. He wanted to know if following Jesus through all of the turmoil and attacks would be beneficial. He needed something to hold on to that would be his "why" to carry him through.

In Matthew 19, Peter asks Jesus what the disciples will receive for leaving everything to follow him after seeing the rich young ruler decide not to follow this path with Jesus. Jesus responds that they will sit upon the twelve thrones and shall inherit eternal life. In this moment, Peter, and all the other disciples, found their reason "why".

The disciples would face many hard things in the remaining days of their lives, including facing death for their faith. The only way they could contend with such hurt, pain, and harm was to know that their "why" was stronger than their reason to stop. The "why" outweighed the fear, the isolation, the attacks, the setbacks, the mockery, and the beatings that they would endure.

Today, you may have a relationship with Jesus but is the "why" going to make you hold on when the world is trying to pull you away? Is your "why" solid enough to stand in the face of the attack of the enemy? If you were to lose everything in your life, all of a sudden, as Job did, would your "why" be strong enough to push you through it all? I urge you all to make sure that your faith in Christ is a great enough "why" to overcome whatever comes your way.



**Give Me A**

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## Magic City Memories

Rennebaum Motors in Middlesboro. Photo Courtesy of Marvin Meyers Facebook.

# PINEVILLE CUMBERLAND Sun-Courier

USPS 433-560  
PUBLISHED EACH WEDNESDAY

GLENN GRAY - REGIONAL MANAGER  
LIN HOBBS - GENERAL MANAGER  
LISA PETERS - EDITOR

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