



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## Silly Putty Christians

by David Weeks

Back in the 1970's there was a popular toy called "Silly Putty." It came in a plastic egg container and smelled oddly of vanilla. It was a rubbery substance that could be easily stretched, molded, and shaped into whatever a child wanted it to be. It had properties of both a liquid and a solid. You could easily push a finger through it and slowly stretch it into a long ribbon, but if you slammed your fist on it, it felt as hard as cement, and if you pulled it suddenly it would snap in half like a solid. When you rolled it into a ball, it would bounce merrily across the room. Wonderful stuff.

One of the other properties that sold kids on the squishy toy was that it could be flattened onto the Sunday morning comics and the cartoon panels would imprint themselves onto the surface of the Silly Putty. Then, once you'd done that, you could wad it all back up, flatten it again, and make another cartoon panel.

Believe it or not, yours truly spent many happy hours playing with this tacky toy.

It occurs to me that there is an analogy to be made to Christians in an egg of silly putty.

**Some Christians are hard and rigid.** Their hearts are as impenetrable by the gospel as are people in the world (Matthew 13:19). When their sin is pointed out to them, they become defiant and haughtily refuse to repent.

**Some Christians are too pliable.** They are easily stretched and shaped by the world around them. Christians are supposed to resist the world's shaping (2 Corinthians 6:14), but many do not. They are always stretching their necks to see "what is on the other side."

**Some Christians bear the image of people around them.** We are supposed to be different, being light and salt to the world (Matthew 5:13-14). Unfortunately, some Christians are Christians in name only. Evidence of their conversion is quite hard to see.

**Some Christians snap too easily.** Yet, the word of God says we are to be temperate in all things, and not given to wrath (Titus 1:7-8). How sad it is when a Christian cannot temper his anger and hold his tongue.

Some Christians smell oddly of vanilla. Okay, there is no problem with this one. But the rest is bad.

## Your Car Warranty Is Expired!

- by Mark White

I am willing to go out on a limb here and guess that everyone reading these words has been robo-called multiple times regarding their car's expired warranty coverage. It's a national phenomenon. They must be selling lots of warranties or else these calls would cease. The solicitations come at all times of the day from unrecognized numbers both near and far. Even car owners who have cars still under factory warranty get these calls. And to top that, people with no car at all get these calls! Every car in America should be fully covered with a bumper-to-bumper warranty by now, if only owners would sign up and pay their premiums. Auto repair shops may fill up with lots of work, so you might need to call ahead

and make an appointment as soon as possible. [Tongue planted firmly in cheek!]

Of course, I am not seriously encouraging everyone to jump on this car repair bandwagon (unless you do indeed need it), but this current phenomenon does make me think. What if Christians were as interested in recommending the gospel as these guys are at pushing car warranties? No, we should not make nuisances of ourselves, but we are a very long way from that happening, to be sure. Yet, shouldn't we promote the salvation of souls with fervor and dedication—at least as much as if we were selling some product we think everyone must buy? The gospel must not be pushed by high-pressure tactics as some salespeople might do with a car warranty, but neither should we leave the impression that an auto repair policy is more essential than a soul's salvation. The Lord's great commission to His apostles sent them "into all the world" preaching the gospel to "all creation" (Mk. 16:15). Paul said in his time the gospel had been proclaimed "in all creation under heaven" (Col. 1:23). That sounds like their goal was to leave no stone unturned in getting the message of God's grace to everyone who needed to hear it. As recipients of God's mercy they felt they were "under obligation both to Greeks and barbarians ... to preach the gospel" (Rom. 1:14-15). Come to think of it, with all those handy car warranties, we might just be able to "go into all the world"! After all, "CarShield® cars go farther."

## HE IS OUR DELIVERER

Vernon Teagarden

Psalm 70 is a prayer Psalm of David's written asking God to deliver him from those who sought his life, or at the very least, do him harm. Three times in the Psalm David asks for God to come quickly to his rescue. (v.1) -"Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O Lord." Again, in (v. 5) -"Make haste to me, O God...O Lord, do not delay."

David, a man after God's own heart, was rescued several times by God. From Saul several times (1 Sam. 18, 19, 23). From a bear and a lion (1 Sam. 17); and from Goliath (1 Sam. 17).

Like David, we too have been "rescued," or delivered by the Lord. Not from a bear or lion, not from a man like Saul or even a Goliath; but from that serpent of old, Satan, who is like a lion walking to and fro seeking whom he may devour," as Peter has said in 1 Pet. 5:8.

Paul said that, "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8) We have been rescued by the "King of Kings" and the "Lord of Lords," having been rescued from this "body of death, as Paul said in Rom. 7:24. Further, we have been freed from the bondage of sin and the fear of death. (Heb. 2:15)

We need to be thankful for God as our deliverer, Who was willing to give His only begotten Son for us (Jn. 3:16), in order that we might be rescued from sin and enjoy a relationship with Him here and home with Him after this life is over. Again, give careful consideration to these things