

TRUTH for Youth

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SASSY'S STORY

By Lee Homoki

There was only one name that would fit her playful personality - "Sassy!" "Sassy" is a three year old "English Setter" pup and she has lived up to her name! She is a full throttle dog - she gives 100 % - all of the time. Her eyes sparkle with eagerness for the adventures of an outdoor romp.



The grass was still damp from the morning's dew and a gentle breeze was desperate for someone to come and walk in the neighborhood grove of trees! An invitation not easy to resist, so, we started out slowly enjoying every step; slowly because "Sassy" has to sniff every bush and explore every possible hiding place for a bird or rabbit. Then, suddenly a deer, awakened by our approach, jumping up, startling both me and "Sassy." The excitement was intense! The deer sprang up before us - and the chase was on - "Sassy" in hot pursuit of the prey - complete with the sound of "Sassy's" excited barking!

The deer, at full speed, was making long strides across the yard, and headed straight for a busy four lane highway! I was caught up with fear for the safety of the deer, but especially for "Sassy."

To my surprise and pleasure the deer made it safely to the shelter of a brush thicket across the road. However, in a flash, you anticipate the predictable - "Sassy" is in mortal danger! At that moment your mind becomes painfully cloudy and your mind and arms are unable to save her from danger! However, my responses were quick - I ran to the road in hopes that she was not killed.

I found her on the side of the road, motionless and bloody - thinking she was dead. I was emotionally crushed! However, at that moment, the man that hit "Sassy" (a medical doctor - dog owner and lover) got out of his car and ran to my side offering us help! As I recall, his car was an expensive, new, blue convertible. I cradled "Sassy" in my arms, unconscious and bleeding; Yes, I prayed for "Sassy" even as this kindly stranger told me he knew of an animal hospital, close by, and invited us to get in the car and promptly drove us there.

The trip was short to the hospital but seemed very far, far away; I was very anxious! Upon arrival at the animal hospital; the compassionate stranger took "Sassy" in his arms, running and carried her into the hospital, past the receptionist and entered directly into the operating room where he carefully laid "Sassy" on the examination table (the kind stranger, come to find out, was a close personal friend and a familiar client of the Veterinarian).

The diagnosis was grave. She was critical! Her lungs were punctured; the Veterinarian said, "She got her "bell rung" and questioned her survival and how it would affect her when she was older." After the surgery and a few days later we gladly received a call saying,



"Sassy is ready to come home!" We rejoiced over her and God's goodness in saving this little dog's life!

Now, it was time to pay the bill! We arrived at the clinic not knowing what to expect; approaching the receptionist we asked, "How much do we owe for the Bill?" Her surprising response was, "Bill! What bill? The (benevolent) doctor had told her to, 'Charge that to my account.' " Needless to say, I was taken back by this unexpected generosity - for which, I expressed my gratitude to the doctor! I was also very thankful to the Lord too - since a large veterinarian debt would have been a real hardship.

As I meditated on this experience - I thought, "I don't want to go through that trauma again! I can truly empathize with others who have dealt with the death or injury of a loved animal! Furthermore, how can I help but recall the Bible story of the "Good Samaritan;" remembering how he told the innkeeper, "Take care of him; and whatsoever you spend more, when I come again, I will repay thee" (Luke 10:35). Or do you recall the time that the Apostle Paul returned the runaway slave Onesimus to the home of Philemon and said, "If he hath wronged you, or owes you more, put that on mine account" (Philemon 1:18).



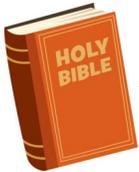
The lesson learned from "Sassy's Story" - I have turned into my own story! My diagnosis is worse than "critical;" I will die and suffer eternal separation from God unless a benevolent substitute is found to pay my debt! As a member of the human race I will eventually "die" since the wages of sin is "death" (Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:22)! The needed substitute is Jesus Christ who "came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15). It is said of Christ that He was made, "to be sin for us, He who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21). In fact, He paid my bill of debt in full and charged it to His account. The poet has rightly said:

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it a white as snow!
Elvina M. Hall



GOD'S WORD SAYS: "For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."
2 Corinthians 5:21

Dear reader, have you read "Sassy's Story?" God made salvation's plan so very simple. Just believe, trust in Christ your substitute! Believe that His death burial and resurrection was for you. Believe that His payment for your sin was complete and in full.



GOD'S WORD SAYS: "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." Acts 16:31



Cowboy Lee with his dogs, Daisy and Sassy.

Some Important Questions

Are you good enough to be saved? (Romans 3:12)

Will you ever do enough to reach the glory of God? (Romans 3:23)

What are the wages of our sin? (Romans 6:23)

What does God offer through Jesus Christ? (Romans 6:23)

What did God do to show His love for us and provide a way for us to have eternal life with Him? (Romans 5:8)

What do we have to believe to be saved? (Romans 10:9)

Have you trusted in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ to save you?