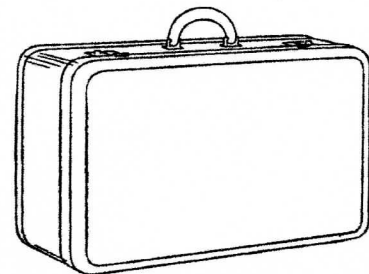


## ALTAPASS ALLEGORIES

by

A Church Member



Well now! Summer is almost over, school is starting back, and it may be too late for a much deserved summer vacation. I've been told that a break from the daily routine is good for everyone, be it a day or a weekend or whatever time we can squeeze in for ourselves. However, there may be a slight hitch in the get-along. That would be the process of packing. As for myself, I hate packing. I ask myself over and over if I have packed too much or not enough. The way we pack could just possibly tell us something about our daily walk with Jesus. The amount of baggage we allow Satan to put on us reveals how close we are to the Lord.

First, are we always worrying about one thing or another? It's a known fact that we cannot worry and worship at the same time. Worry is baggage the devil packs on us to carry so that we cannot worship.

The second set of baggage is unforgiveness. As long as we carry hatred or malice against someone, it's hurting us a lot more than it hurts the other person. Let's say you're right and the other person is wrong. You are hurt deeply. Forgiveness is not saying that what they did was right. It's a choice to let go of the hurt and anger. Once we make that choice we realize that person has no more control over us. We can rediscover the joy of living.

Another piece of worthless baggage is fear. What is it we fear most: bad health, financial ruin, loss of a job, fear of being alone? Fear and joy cannot share the same space. Fear can take the joy of life away from us. To rid myself of fear I must trust and believe that God loves me so much that He is willing and able to take care of the future for me. A great man once said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." So fear is another piece of baggage to lay aside.

Does Satan ever try to make us carry guilt we have already been forgiven for? If God has forgiven us, what sin is Satan talking about? The imps of hell will try to point a finger and tell me I'm not worthy to be a part of God's family. That much is true. I'm not worthy but Jesus made me worthy through His finished work on Calvary. How dare we carry baggage around that Jesus doesn't remember! In Luke 9:32 Jesus tells us not to look back.

I believe we're to look forward to each new day with hope and joy and trust. That is the only way we can live a victorious Christian life. To be happy in Jesus we must lay all our baggage at the feet of Jesus and leave it there instead of carrying it around. Let's take inventory and make sure we are not carrying useless baggage.