

Seeing “The Edge” with New Eyes

This new January has brought North Dakota many good things: so far less snow to shovel, fewer blizzards, and a proud national championship for the Bison. We can also feel blessed, in that the scary stuff has all gone south.

Fishermen are happy; the ice is nearly thick enough to support the new fish mansions now in vogue. For me, in my old age, the good news is the return of Lindner’s “The Angling Edge.” Shopping, the morning of Jan 5th it dawned on me that it was past 10:30 and that I could still make it home in time to catch the first installment of my favorite fishing show.

Sure enough, there was Al Lindner, capping off the show with his usual short talk about how Jesus has changed his life. Truly, his message was a huge revelation for anyone with “ears to hear.”

Essentially it came down to this: Al had just suffered the passing of his faithful wife, she who had led him to Jesus years ago, from a life fanatically dedicated to professional angling. Al had also lost his brother Ron two years earlier, and these two dark events led Al to make his first show of 2025 a testimony about how Christ, through them, had completely changed his life.

First, Al pointed out that it was the change in both his wife and his brother Ron, that had led Al to give his life to Christ. He saw the calmness, consideration and gentleness that had come into them both. And now with those two pillars gone, Al has never felt closer to the Holy Spirit, and His continued assurance that both Ron and Al’s wife are joyously happy in Heaven.

That has allowed Al to move from “mourning into morning,” instead of suffering through what could have been years spent in sadness.

David wisely says, “weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” Psl 30:5. And elsewhere we read that the best remedy for overmuch sorrow is “to put on the garment of praise, for (to combat), the spirit of heaviness.”

Many continue mourning far too long over losses they suffered long ago. And that “spirit of heaviness” can be an evil force, out to steal the very joy that would restore quickly, most who have lost loved ones.

One is no longer inconsolable once one realizes “that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord,” assuming their loved one was “born again” or saved.

That explains the urgency I sensed in Al Linder’s testimony. He, like many of us, seeing the horrendous troubles world wide, feel it is time to stop soft peddling our faith and realize how urgent it is to get our unsaved loved ones safely into the arc.

Many believe that being a nice person and helping others is enough to qualify one for Heaven. But the essential qualifier is belief: “whosoever believes in Him, (Jesus), shall not perish, but have ever-lasting life.” John 3:16.

If you have any uncertainty that you are saved, say this little prayer: Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus. The Bible says, ‘if you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord” and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved.’ Romans 10:9. I declare ‘Jesus is my

Lord and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead. Therefore I am saved. Fill me with your Holy Spirit. Amen.

That little prayer should open the door to a new, exciting life, full of peace and joy in the presence of the Lord, in whom all things are possible.

Gene Pinkney, for the Daily News 25-01-08-