

Volume 45 | Issue 2 Article 3

2002

CPI-E On Every Desktop!

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Recommended Citation

Kind, Jule (2002) "CPI-E On Every Desktop!," The Christian Librarian: Vol. 45: Iss. 2, Article 3. DOI: https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.1821

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CPI-E JULE KIND, CHRISTIAN PERIODICAL INDEX-ELECTRONIC TEAM COORDINATOR

CPI-E ON EVERY DESKTOP!

hristian Periodical Index-Electronic is now beginning its third year of production. Initial subscriptions to the index were made following conference in 1999 after the official ribbon cutting at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee. Since that time we have seen many libraries subscribe. The electronic version is available in both cd-rom format and via the Internet. Libraries have successfully setup access both by ip recognition and by password for patrons accessing the library's databases remotely. This year the CPI

Team decided to make a more conscious effort to market the product with several initiatives underway. These include direct mailings with a newly designed brochure, vendor booths at some strategic conferences in addition to our own ACL conference and a regular column in *The Christian Librarian*. This is our inaugural article for the column.

Let me begin by giving some general information about the index in any format. Sometimes I hear the question: Why should our library subscribe to CPI when we already have a religion index from another vendor? What is unique about CPI? Let me share with you part of our scope statement for CPI:

Its purpose is to provide access to English language articles and reviews written from an evangelical Christian perspective or of interest to the evangelical community. ...selected publications from the broad spectrum of knowledge including science, literature, medicine, music, philosophy, history, sociology, nursing and education. Coverage is representative of the major

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same way, observing the Sabbath represents a symbolic act whereby we state that we can do the work that God gives us in six days. If we believe we cannot get our work done in six days, then it is probably not God for whom we are working.

Demonstrate our thankfulness for, and contentment with, God's gifts. If we believe that God has not given us enough money, we are tempted to withhold our gift back to Him. If we believe that we cannot get our work done in six days, we keep the seventh day for ourselves. Tithing and Sabbath observance demonstrate our contentment with God.

Are applied in the church as principles of proper devotion to God—not as laws to be obeyed, or else. One-tenth of our income is a guideline for our giving, not a hard and fast rule for the amount we must give. One-seventh of our time is a gift that we accept from God and use appropriately. In both cases, the condition of the heart is more important than the conditions placed on the observance.

Since most Christians accept the

principle of giving (if not tithing) as a valid part of Christian living for today, I believe the parallels described above justify practicing Sabbath observance as a valuable and valid concept similar to that of giving money. Thus, apart from the physical and emotional rest that we all need, I believe that there is spiritual significance to ceasing from our work on Sunday.

At this point it is necessary, I believe, to deal with some objections to Sabbath observance today. The most common charge against Sabbath observance is that it leads into legalism. This is not an unwarranted fear. As human beings, we like to earn the acceptance of God (which is why salvation by grace can be a difficult message to communicate). This tendency may lead us in the direction of trying to use the Sabbath as a means of earning favor with God. As explained above, the New Testament teaches that redemption does not depend upon what we do, or don't do, on Sunday (or any other day). Keeping the Sabbath, whatever that may mean to each of us, is clearly not a means of attaining eternal life according to biblical teaching. Rather, the Sabbath is a gift from God to us; resting on the Sabbath is primarily not something we do for God, but something we do for ourselves as a response of faith to God's provision of the time we enjoy.

Another danger is that the symbolic observance of the Sabbath may become just a meaningless ritual. This is a danger, I agree, but it is one that plagues all religions; Christianity—because of human nature—is not an exception. We do not discard the symbolism of baptism because some (many?) fail to live the resurrected life in subsequent years. We do not jettison giving because some tithe only out of the sense of duty. It is true that the only actions that God sees as "good" are those that reflect truth and proper motives, but we cannot force motives as easily as actions; even God does not do that. Sabbaths may be ignored; they may be misused. Such potential misuse is, however, not a sufficient argument, in my opinion, against observing the Sabbath.

(To be continued in the next issue.) *

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doctrinal positions within evangelical Christianity.

The CPI editorial team has purposed to provide indexing to the evangelical literature that would be appropriate and helpful for the research needs of undergraduate students. Although there is overlap with some of the other religion databases available on the market. CPI has tried to include some of the journals that are considered primary to other disciplines besides religion but written from a Christian perspective. For example, it includes several science, psychology, sociology, medical and family living titles. This allows the student to obtain research information on topics from a Christian perspective. The student may find information they need in Expanded Academic from Gale Group on abortion for a speech on that topic. However, to balance the information, including a Christian perspective, the student can also search CPI and find a wealth of information.

Electronic indexing for CPI began

in 1982. It took until 1999 to finally provide an electronic access to the indexing. Through the years titles have been added to the index to make it a fuller and richer research source. The policy has been to start the indexing for any new title in the current year of its approval. However, many of these titles had previous volume years that are not included in the index. For several years we have had a Retrospective Editor. His responsibility is to attempt to maintain a list of titles that are incomplete in their indexing, e.g. perhaps a year was missed with no indexing or one issue was not indexed and additionally to take titles back farther than when we originally started their indexing. In 2000 we began indexing Modern Reformation. The initial indexing began with 2000, however, already the title has been indexed back to volume one of this title. However, because those years have already been printed in the paper format, the retrospective indexing will only be available in the electronic versions. Another area

where the electronic product will be a richer one than its predecessor in paper is that another focus of our retrospective indexing is to convert those volume years that were never done in an electronic format to electronic data and include them in the electronic product. The first of these, 1979-1981, volume 6, will be added to the electronic index in early 2002. Our intent is to include all volumes of the paper index.

So, as you renew your subscription to CPI-E or perhaps subscribe for the first time, you can be assured that new titles are added each year and that retrospective indexing is also added to make the index a richer, fuller index. If you are interested in subscription information and coverage included in the index, please go to the ACL website at: http://www.acl.org/cpi.htm.*

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