

## Guests from Texas; Glossary of Spiritual Aristocracy: the Development of Integrity & Probity; the Equation of Honor, 2 Tim 2:20-21

This morning we have a number of special guests from Texas that I would like to introduce to you. First of all, one of the deacons of Berachah Church, Alan Gensemer. Next is the vice-president of R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, Shirley Gensemer. Their daughter, Terri Lubrano who is the head pencil pusher for both ministries. Her husband is with us this year, Frank Lubrano. Terri and Frank's children are here, Lindsey Lubrano and her brother Alex.

Lindsey and Alex are students at St. Thomas Episcopal School in Houston Texas. Lindsey is a junior and Alex is a freshman.

Lindsey competed this summer in the international competition of Highland Dance in Scotland where she and her fellow dancers won over 120 medals. Lindsey placed in every dance she entered and won over 25 medals. The St. Thomas dancers spent the entire month of August in Scotland for the competition and one of her fellow dancers, Carla Gardner placed fourth in the world. Carla is also the US Highland Dance champion.

The St. Thomas Episcopal School Pipe and Drum Band began in the early 1960s when the school's founding Rector, The Reverend T. Robert Ingram, decided he wanted a school band with a distinctive identity. His love of his Scottish heritage led him to the bagpipes and he decided a pipe band was just what the school needed.

Getting a bunch of young Texan boys to learn the bagpipes and drums, and then wear kilts, was not an easy undertaking; but neither was saying no to Mr. Ingram. Mr. Ingram contacted Pipe Major Donald Shaw Ramsey, who was then living in California. He came to the school for a number of years to conduct two-week workshops. The church organist, John Moseley, began to learn the pipes so he could teach the students in Ramsey's absence, and the school's Headmaster, Henry L. Walters, Jr., began teaching the drums.

From these humble origins, the St. Thomas' Episcopal School Pipe Band has grown to become one of the world's most respected pipe bands, winning Juvenile Pipe Band World championships in 1985, 1995, 1998, and 2004.

Alex also participated in the pipe and drum competition in Scotland and the St. Thomas Pipe and Drum Corps won the World Juvenile Pipe Band World Championship for the fifth time.

Alex participated in the pipe and drum competition at yesterday's Annual Scottish Games and Cultural Festival held at Forest Park where he won the bronze medal in the Piobaireachd [Pe'-brick] competition which is composed in three modes—salute, gatherings, and lament. It consists of a basic theme or ground which is played at the beginning and then is repeated with increasingly complex variations that require extreme finger dexterity, and at the end returns again to the simple ground.

The early forms were not written down but simply passed from one generation to the next by the Canntaireachd [Can'-trick] system. This is transmission of music by words and is unique to Highland Bagpipe music. To the uninitiated it is an unintelligible jargon of syllables, but pipers trained their student without any scales or notations, using the system to chant the tune to them.

Possible evidence of bagpipes are found in the Old Testament's book of Daniel in the listing of the instruments in the Babylonian Symphony Orchestra: סִמְפוֹנְיָה *sumphonyah* (Daniel 3:5).

At yesterday's competition Alex played "Stag's Horns Forever" or as they say in Galic "*Cabar Feidh Gu Brath*": "Ka-bur Fade Goo-bra.

Both Lindsey and Alex will perform prior to today's second session.

8. **Integrity:** Unimpaired moral state; freedom from moral corruption; innocence, sinlessness. Soundness of moral principle; the character of uncorrupted virtue, especially in relation to truth and fair dealing [OED]. The entire, unimpaired state of anything, particularly of the mind; moral soundness and purity; incorruptness. Integrity comprehends the whole moral character, but it has special reference to uprightness in mutual dealings for others [AD/EL].
9. **Probity:** [Latin: *probus*: good, honest.] Tried virtue or integrity. [WNCD-2]. Proven integrity [AHD/EL]. Moral excellence, integrity, uprightness, honesty [OED]. Primarily, tried virtue or integrity; but in general, strict honesty; veracity; strict conformity of actions to the laws of justice. *Probity* of mind is best evinced by *probity* of conduct in social dealings, particularly in adhering to strict integrity in the observance and performance of rights called *imperfect*, which public laws do not reach and cannot enforce. [AD/EL].
10. **Honor:** Esteem, respect, reverence. Reputation; good name. Nobility of mind. Personal integrity maintained without legal or other obligation. **Synonyms:** The feeling or expression of admiration, respect, or esteem: *Honor*, the most general term, is applicable both to the feeling and to the expression. *Homage* is an expression of high regard. *Reverence* is a feeling of deep respect and devotion. *Veneration* is both the feeling and worshipful expression of respect, love, awe, especially for one whose wisdom, dignity, sacredness, rank, or age merits such attention. *Deference* is respect or courteous regard for one who takes the form of yielding to his judgment or wishes [AHD/EL]. In *principle*, an upright disposition; moral rectitude of heart; a disposition to conform to justice and correct moral principles. Actual conformity to justice and moral rectitude [AD/EL].

NOTE: The last three words unite to form a principle that we have noted in the past but which give us some new vocabulary words by which to define it:

$$D \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{matrix} \text{Pr} \\ \text{IS} \end{matrix} \quad + \quad P \Rightarrow D \quad = \quad H$$

*Doctrine (D)* resident in the stream of consciousness produces ( $\Rightarrow$ ) *Integrity of Soul (IS)*. When *Integrity of Soul (IS)* is placed *under Pressure (Pr)* and the believer expresses *Probity toward Doctrine (P $\Rightarrow$ D)* then he is a person of *Honor (H)* which is how *Integrity of Soul (IS)* is manifest to the world.

Honor is that which rightfully attracts esteem, such as dignity and courage. Especially excellence of character. It is a keen sense of ethical conduct; a sense of what is right, just, and true. A fastidious allegiance to the standards of one's profession, calling, or position. Personal integrity maintained without legal or other obligation.

The Greek word for honor is **τιμή, timē** and means "value, reverence, respect, high esteem." The presence of those who are both honorable and dishonorable in a local church is Paul's subject in:

**2 Timothy 2:20 -** In a large house [ **local church compared to a private residence** ] there are not only gold and silver vessels [ **believers who are advancing** ], but also those of wood and clay [ **believers who are carnal & reversionistic** ]. In fact, there are some who are honorable [ **positive to doctrine** ] and some who are dishonorable [ **negative to doctrine** ].

v. 21 - Therefore, if one has cleansed himself [**rebound from his carnal status**], maybe he will; maybe he won't, but if he does, he shall be a vessel of honor [**through spiritual advance to the sophisticated spiritual life**], because he has been sanctified [**set apart as separate through experiential sanctification**] and is useful to the Master [**the Owner of the vessel**] having become prepared for the purpose of every good work [**production of divine good**].