**Progress**

**And we know that all things work together for good**

**to them that love God.**

***(Romans 8:28)***

**Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them,**

**so that all may see your progress.**

***(1 Timothy 4:15)***

**There is this to be said: The fundamental principle of true living is eternal progression. There is no final attainment in progressive achieving. *(Nona L. Brooks, in Mysteries, p. 147)***

**When the U.S., invaded Afghanistan in 2001, fewer than 1 million Afghan children were enrolled in elementary schools, and just 5,000 of them were girls. Today, more than 8 million Afghan kids go to an elementary school, including more than 3 million girls. *(CommentaryMagazine.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 1, 2014)***

**The art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order. *(Alfred North Whitehead, English philosopher and mathematician)***

**When my job took me overseas for a six-month stint, I insisted that my 14-year-old daughter write to me frequently, and include a full report of her progress at school. In her first letter, she enthusiastically reported, “In math class, four boys like me. Three like me in history, three in English, two in geography and one each in typing and shorthand. Total: 14 – up three from last semester.” *(Joseph L. Jones, in Reader’s Digest)***

**We should so live and labor in our time that what came to us as seed may go to the next generation as blossom, and that what came to us as blossom may go to them as fruit. This is what we mean by progress. *(Henry Ward Beecher)***

**We have a friend who, when you ask him how things are going, always answers “Better”. His philosophy is to try to make each day at least a little better than the previous one. Even a little progress, he figures, is better than none. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**It’s a common perception that our species is today “more brutal and more blood-thirsty than at any other point in history,” said Leon Neyfakh in The Boston Globe. But what if the opposite were true? In his superbly argued new book, Harvard psychology professor Steven Pinker lays out the counterintuitive claim that we humans are actually less likely to kill one another than we’ve ever been. Combing through 5,000 years of evidence, from archaeologists’ studies of ancient grave sites to contemporary law-enforcement statistics, Pinker charts a slow but sure decline in violence going back to Neolithic times. In the early stages of the 21st century, he concludes, our “better angels” are actually besting our inner demons. Pinker’s theory seems to hit a snag when his chronology reaches the 20th century, said James Q. Wilson in The Wall Street Journal. After all, the two world wars and other mass killings took 130 million lives. But to Pinker, what matters is the number killed relative to the era’s total population. The Mongol conquests of the 1300s killed some 40 million – a number that is equivalent to 278 million today. As for why we might have become less violence-prone, Pinker cites a long “civilizing process” dating from when people began living in large groups. As communities grew, people came to accept codes governing everything from table manners to moral conduct, then sanctioned states to enforce the most significant rules. As these systems became more refined, so did we. Central to our kinder, gentler natures is our capacity to reason, said Peter Singer in The New York Times. Pinker strongly credits the Enlightenment with shaping the principles that have brought us to our long peace. “Reason does, Pinker holds, point to a particular kind of morality,” one rooted in the understanding that “we live in a world in which others can make a difference to whether we live well or die miserably”: We want others to treat us well, and we agree that in exchange we will not treat them badly. Though an optimist, Pinker isn’t so naïve as to declare our capacity for cruelty defeated. Still, this is a “supremely important book,” one that at its best can help shape policy, or at the very least, may help us appreciate that we’re perhaps not as bad as we think we are. *(The Week magazine, October 21, 2011)***

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**The U.S. budget deficit shrank to its lowest level since 2007 in the past fiscal year, as falling unemployment and faster economic growth boosted revenue. The U.S. Treasury posted a shortfall of $483 billion in the year ending Sept. 30, compared with a deficit of $680 billion a year earlier. *(Bloomberg.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 23, 2015)***

**For the first time in five years, the U.S. annual budget deficit was below $1 trillion in 2013, coming in at $680 billion. The deficit dropped 37 percent from the previous year – the fastest rate of decline since the end of World War II. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 15, 2013)***

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**All progress is based upon a universal, innate desire on the part of every organism to live beyond its income. *(Samuel Butler, novelist)***

**When Pablo Casals reached 95, a young reporter threw him a question: “Mr. Casals, you are 95 and the greatest cellist that ever lived. Why do you still practice six hours a day?” And Mr. Casals answered, “Because I think I’m making progress.” Your goal is to make progress every day of your life. *(Dr.Maxwell Maltz)***

**All progress is the result of change, but all change is not necessarily progress. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**I wish parents would understand that if their child drops eight fly balls one day, then only drops six the next, that’s a reason to go to Dairy Queen. The principal thing is competing against yourself. It’s about self-improvement, about being better than you were the day before. *(Steve Young)***

**The number of children aged 5 to 17 who were engaged in child labor globally fell by nearly 78 million – to 168 million – between 2000 and 2012, according to a study by the International Labor Organization. The number of those doing hazardous work, including tasks involving toxic substances or dangerous machinery, fell by about half over the same period. The trend reflects improving living standards in most developing countries. *(Slate.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 4, 2013)***

**Progress is man’s ability to complicate simplicity. *(Thor Heyerdahl, adventurer)***

**Human progress in large measure consists in the acquisition of mastery. *(The Old Farmer’s Almanac, 1912)***

**Place before your mind a great and definite purpose, a plan or course you wish your life to take. The purpose or ideal is but the heart’s desire of the sleeping prince or princess that lies within you, waiting for its dream to become a reality so it can begin to awaken. You do not need new circumstances or enhanced powers. These will come when your heart’s desire becomes the most important thing in your life. Nothing can bring so much pleasure and peace as the daily progress that occurs when the sleeping giant within begins to awaken. *(Jack Bolen, in Commitment to a Higher Self)***

**It is the darling delusion of mankind that the world is progressive in religion, toleration, freedom, as it is progressive in machinery. *(Moncure D. Conway, American clergyman and author)***

**I’ve never been satisfied with anything we’ve ever built. I’ve felt that dissatisfaction is the basis of progress. When we become satisfied in business we become obsolete. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**Failure is success in progress. *(Albert Einstein)***

**Technological progress is like an ax in the hands of a pathological criminal. *(Albert Einstein)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The annual federal deficit has fallen faster in the past three years than during any comparable period since the 1960s. From fiscal 2009 to fiscal 2012, the budget deficit decreased from 10.1 percent of GDP to 7 percent. *(Investor’s Business Daily, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 30, 2012)***

**World food prices fell in January for the first time in three months, thanks largely to lower prices for grains, sugar and meat. But dairy products are getting more expensive; the United Nations registered a 1.3 percent increase in dairy prices, due to large demand in China, North Africa, the Middle East, and the Russian Federation. *(WSJ.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 21, 2014)***

**My golf instructor says I’m doing “just fine.” He says I’m missing the ball much closer than I used to. *(Harvey Holman)***

**The number of far-right "hate" groups -- including neo-Nazi groups, racist skinheads, and chapters of the Ku Klux Klan -- declined slightly last year, from an all-time high of 1,007 in 2012 to 939 in 2013, according to a study by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Some white supremacists "were demoralized by President Obama's re-election, the study said. *(CNN.com. as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 14, 2014)***

**Hispanics have a higher high school dropout rate than any other demographic in the country, but the numbers are falling fast. The share of Hispanics without a high school diploma nearly halved from 2000 to 2012, from 32 percent to just 14 percent. The dropout rate for all races fell from 12 percent to 7 percent over the same period. *(FiveThirtyEight.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 31, 2014)***

**Homelessness has fallen 4 percent nationwide over the past year, but it has risen by 13 percent in New York City. New York and Los Angeles alone account for one fifth of homelessness in the U.S. *(TheAtlantic.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 27, 2013)***

**We trained hard -- but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form into teams, we would be reorganized, I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing. And what a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralization. *(Gaius Petronius Arbiter, first century)***

**We're all in favor of progress, providing we can have it without changing. (Morrie Brinkman, King Features)**

**Progress: 200 years as an independent nation, and we're back on tea. *(Bill Vaughan, NANA)***

**A certain social commentator observes that progress isn't always for the best. "For example," he explains, "smoke signals never got an Indian out of bed at 3 a.m. to answer a wrong number." (Mack McGinnis, in Reader's Digest)**

**Another banner month for job creation: America's jobs streak continues, said Ben Casselman in FiveThirtyEight.com. The U.S. economy added 252,000 jobs last month, bringing 2014's grand total to nearly 3 million new jobs -- the best year for hiring since 1999. The unemployment rate fell to 5.6 percent, its lowest point since June 2008. But job growth still "isn't translating into wage gains for most workers." Average hourly pay actually fell in December. Wages increased only 1.7 percent over the past year, barely ahead of the 1.3 percent inflation rate. (The Week magazine, January 23, 2015)**

**Believing in progress does not mean believing that any progress has yet been made. (Frank Kafka)**

**Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. (John F. Kennedy)**

**Henry Kissinger once twitted Le Duc Tho, chief North Vietnamese negotiator at the peace negotiations in Paris: "I admire your ability to change impossible demands to merely intolerable demands and call it progress." (Hugh Sidey, in Life)**

**My Favorite Saying: “Live your life to improve yourself, not to prove yourself.” *(Ann Hyatt, in Reminisce magazine)***

**Beavers build houses; but they build them in no wise differently or better now than they did five thousand years ago. Ants and honeybees provide food for winter; but just in the same way they did when Solomon referred to them as patterns and prudence. Man is not the only animal who labors; but he is the only one who improves his workmanship. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

**Progress is a line through a list. *(L. D. McClanahan, in Reader's Digest)***

**No matter how little progress we sometimes seem to make, we’re all steadily advancing towards the future. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Progress isn’t made by early risers. It’s made by lazy men trying to find easier ways to do something. *(Robert Heinlein, author)***

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**If you want to make progress, the first step is to get out of your own way. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**No man is able to make progress when he is wavering between opposite things. *(Epictetus)***

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**Marriage counselor to secretary: "I'm making progress with the Lockhorns. They're both leaving in the same taxi." *(Hoest, King Features)***

**I've never been satisfied with anything we've ever built. I've felt that dissatisfaction is the basis of progress. When we become satisfied in business we become obsolete. *(J. Willard Marriott, Sr.)***

**What with camping trips, hand-cranked ice cream, river trips by canoe, home-canned preserves, backpacking, and back-yard vegetable gardens, it seems that progress is becoming a means of creating more free time to enjoy doing things the old-fashioned hard way. *(Stan Wolfe, in Reader's Digest)***

**Progress means noise. Indeed, we could pinpoint the date when modern civilization was born if we could discover when man first said, "Turn that thing down!" *(Bill Vaughan, in Kansas City Star)***

**Great medical progress has been made in the past generation. For instance, what used to be merely an itch is now an allergy. *(Herm Albright, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Only one American soldier was classified as missing in action during the 13-year Afghanistan War: Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was released by the Taliban last week. That compares with 73,547 U.S. troops who are still unaccounted for from World War II, 7,883 from the Korean War, and 1,642 from the Vietnam War. *(Time.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 13, 2014)***

**Progress is not created by contented people. (*Frank Tyger, cartoonist)***

**What we call progress is the exchange of one nuisance for another nuisance. *(Havelock Ellis, psychologist)***

**The U.S. may overtake Russia as the world’s largest producer of oil and gas this year. U.S.’s monthly production rate of the two fuels has soared to the equivalent of 22 million barrels a day, while Moscow’s is estimated to be 21.8 million barrels. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 18, 2013)***

**The U.S. reduced its crude oil imports last year by 10 percent, or a million barrels a day. *(Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 23, 2012)***

**An amateur pilot wannabe, I knew I’d finally made progress with my flight training the day my instructor turned to me and said, “You know, you’re not as much fun since you stopped screaming. “*(Barbara MacLean, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Never discourage anyone who continually makes progress, no matter how slow. (Plato)**

**After accounting for government aid such as food stamps, researchers from Columbia University have found that the share of poor people in the U.S. has dropped from 26 percent in 1967 to just 16 percent in 2012. *(NewYorker.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 20, 2013)***

**We shall not fear the process, when we understand that it is all progress. (Nona L. Brooks)**

**During a 1970 campaign swing, a reporter called out to New York's Governor Nelson Rockefeller as he boarded his plane, "Hey, governor, there's more than your image showing." Indeed, the seat of his trousers had split. "Get me the sewing kit," was Rocky's rejoinder. Sitting in his shorts, he nonchalantly sewed up the seam while reporters and staff first gaped, and then cheered as he completed the rescue. He looked up with the smile of one who knows that he has pleasantly startled. "See," he said, "I went to a progressive school." (Joseph E. Persico, in The Imperial Rockefeller)**

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**The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man. *(George Bernard Shaw)***

**Progress is impossible without change; and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything. *(George Bernard Shaw)***

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**In all honesty, I don't feel like a legend; I feel like a work in progress. *(Barbra Streisand)***

**Technology keeps making things and people harder to lose and easier to find – is this really progress? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot Shots)***

**Progress Report: The other day, our old toaster finally gave up. I remember when we bought it, we had to pay extra because it had a wonderful feature – when the toast was done at just the right degree, it popped up! So we went shopping and purchased a new toaster. Again we had to pay extra because the new model also has a wonderful feature. It’s called a “Hold Warm Control.” When the toast is done to the right degree, it doesn’t pop up! *(Frank W. Schrader in a letter to Sarasota, Florida, Herald-Tribune)***

**According to new data from Pew Research, the wage gap for American women under 32 has shrunk to 7 percent. But among all ages, women make 16 percent less than men, and Millennial-age women are just "as pessimistic as their mothers and grandmothers regarding gender equality." *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 20, 2013)***

**Eighty-two percent of U.S. employers say they expect to raise wages between zero and 3 percent over the next three years, according to a new poll by the National Association for Business Economics. Only 11 percent of bosses said they anticipated faster wage growth. Since 1986, average hourly wages have increased by just 1 percent overall. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 2, 2014)***

**By the late 1960s, almost no one was viewing nature as the servant of man, a resource to be done with as he wishes. When we recognized that it was within our power to eliminate any ecosystem that stood in the way of “progress,” we altered our old definition of progress. When we recognized our capacity to exterminate the large predators our ancestors once feared, we decided to protect, by force of law, at least a few of the animals and their habitats. *(Dallas Murphy, in To Follow the Water, p. 212)***

**Progress would be wonderful -- if only it would stop. *(Robert Musil, writer)***

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**Wife: “Guess what I found. Your New Year's resolutions from last year. Interesting reading. Number one, I will be more helpful around the house.” Husband: “I wasn't, was I?” Wife: “Two, I will bring home flowers for no special reason.” Husband: “I guess I didn't do that either.” Wife: “Three, I will lose ten pounds.” Husband: “Gained five.” Wife: “Four, I will spend more time talking to my wife and less time watching TV.” Husband: “Forgot about that one.” Wife: “I've got an idea. Why don't we just advance the date one year and try this all over again?” Husband: “Oh well. I'm a work in progress.” Wife: “Without the progress.” *(J. P. Toomey, in Sherman's Lagoon comic strip)***

**Human beings are works in progress that mistakenly think they're finished. *(Daniel Gilbert, psychologist)***

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**The worst of progress is not that it is an illusion. It is that it is endless. (John Gray, philosopher)**

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