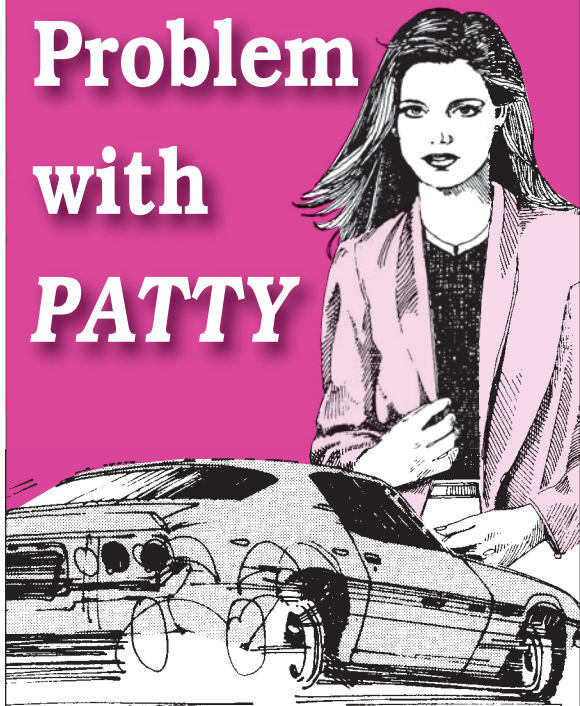


**The
Problem
with
*PATTY***



What a girl! As she entered the room, everyone stopped and paid special attention. How beautiful and charming she was! But Patty was not just another pretty face. She was also intelligent. You know the type – she never took books home from school but still got good grades.

Her personality and charm filled the room. Whether you were rich or poor, popular or unpopular, Patty had a place in her life for you. You knew she would always be there for you. Energy seemed to radiate from her. There seemed to be no end to her liveliness, until one day ...

What happened? Passing through an intersection on her way home, her car was hit broadside. When they pulled her from the wreckage, the once lively and energetic Patty was cold and lifeless – dead on arrival at the local hospital. It seemed so unfair! She was so young and had such a bright future! One moment she had the world in her hands, and the next moment she was gone.

I am sure she never realized when she left home that it would be the last time she would see her parents or friends. When she left

school she had every intention of returning the next day – but she never did.

Life is so precious, and yet we seem to fly through it, never really considering how short it is. We forget that we do not own our next breath. As precious as life is, it can end in an instant, just like Patty's.

What then? The problem with Patty was that *she never made plans for what comes after death*. I don't mean making a will or buying life insurance. I mean making sure where she would spend eternity. She neglected to secure the most important life you can have – eternal life in heaven.

God offers us a gift more valuable than life on earth. This gift is life in heaven with His own Son, Jesus Christ. But Jesus had to die to open the way for us to get to heaven and escape hell. Just as we forget how short life is, we also forget the most wonderful gift of all – new life in Jesus Christ.

You see, everyone who has ever lived has sinned and disobeyed God. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Romans 3:23). Since we have sinned, we cannot enter heaven, because "the wages of sin is

death." But the good news is that "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

What now? How can we not accept this wonderful and priceless, yet completely *FREE* gift? Don't be like Patty – full of life but not concerned about her eternal future. Make plans for eternity right now. You never know when you may enter it!

Remember the greatest gift of all, and be assured of the most wonderful future *that money can't buy*. Give your life to Jesus Christ. Confess your sins to Him. He is the Savior of all who trust Him, and can be yours too!

"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved!**" (Romans 10:9). – C.C.M.

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