

It's a Cinch !

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### Suggested Props & Illustration:

- † Saddled Horse and rider.
- † Various Cinches displayed in various conditions.
- † OR Improvise in classroom setting:
  - Display saddle in a fashion that you may point out and demonstrate the cinch position on the horse, etc.
  - Cinches or Pictures of Cinches



### Introduction:

A message to the born-again believer using an allegory of a rider saddled up ready to ride. The message was originally presented in church arena by Ms. Annie Penrice, an experienced horse trainer and a youth leader. The Singleterrys have co-authored and edited the message as presented here.

### **Saddled up [ I know what I am doing!]**

**Read:** *Colossians 1:10 (KJV) That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God...*

My horse Mollie and I [Ms. Annie] ride all the time. Because I am a horse trainer and this is my horse, I know what I am doing. So since I am in a hurry I am just going to get on her and ride. [Ms. Annie climbs on Mollie & takes off. Mollie is not happy and begins to track all over the arena; not following the commands. The saddle slips; she almost falls to the ground. Ms. Annie has to get off of Mollie to see what the problem is.]

Because Mollie and I ride all the time, sometimes I am complacent so I do not bother to check her cinch. So I need to check it. [Pulls up cinch]. Look at that. Her cinch was not tight. I should have checked that beforehand. Let's see if she does better now. [Rides around]. Well, look at that. A much better ride is the result. I tightened the cinch, rode properly, and Mollie was much happier.

If my cinch is loose, I can get hurt.

Sometimes in our Christian walk, we too become complacent. Colossians says we should walk worthy in Christ. Too often we look at the short term consequences [ like a quick ride] of our actions and not the long term results [ like getting hurt because the saddle is slipping or worse.]

Additionally, we have to remember that God sees what we do even when no one else is watching. Like the example of our behavior of drinking out of the milk jug when no one is looking but out of a glass when others are watching, so all of our behavior needs to be like someone else is watching---because He is.

*Proverbs 15:3(KJV) The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*

Don't become complacent but rather continuously check your cinch to see if it is safe.

## **Uniqueness [ different cinches/different jobs]**

*Ephesians 4:11-13 (KJV) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

On display here are four different cinches. Each one is unique or different. The same is true of our gifts and jobs that God gives us to do.

The great thing is each born-again person has gifts and jobs to do. The Bible, God's Word, says Believers are unique individuals, but a part of the body of Christ. Each person is also at different levels or stages in their Christian growth, which looks VERY different from our stages of physical growth.

Like these cinches which are used for different situations or jobs; so is the job that God has given you. Your job is unique.

These cinches range in condition from excellent and ready for service like the first three to this one on the end which is frayed and torn.

## **Broken Cinches Need Mending**

*1 John 1:9 (KJV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

When reading the Bible, you must understand the "context" a passage is written in so you can understand the Word and not misunderstand its meaning. The Book of First John was written to people that were born-again Christians as John makes clear in his message.

John is saying that when as a Christian we sin, we can know that if we confess our wrong, Jesus forgives that sin.

*Psalms 51:2 (KJV) Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin*

Keep checking your cinch! When it frays or tears, mend it.

## **Summation:**

Boys and girls, the teaching today was to born-again/saved people. As born-again Christians we find sometimes that our cinch needs to be pulled up; that is, we need to consider if our walk with God is on target. The blessing is that we can CINCH UP and have a better ride.

If you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior, you have not even gotten in the saddle yet.

You may find yourself able to live a better life or even a moral life for a time. You might even do more good things than bad in your lifetime. You might do wonderful works/deeds and say you are a Christian. Even though you live "good" or "nice" or "morally upright" you lack the MOST important element of all.

The Bible, God's Word, is clear. [ Here we present the plan of salvation].