FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

Published by brethren of the Church of Christ, 4309 Ahtanum, Yakima, WA, 98903
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VOL. 18 NOVEMBER 2004 NO. 6

Judgment Day Is Coming

Lets talk about forgiveness. I am sure that at one time or another in our lives someone has asked for our forgiveness for something that has been done to us, or something said about us.

Ephesians 4:32 "and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Colossians 3:13 "forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, If any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

I know that sometimes it is hard for us to forgive one another, but that is what Christ has done, and He expects the same of us. John 20:23 "Whosesoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosesoever sins ye retain, they are retained."

There is a judgment day coming, and on that last day, we will be judged according to our deeds. No one will escape that day, and I would hate to stand before God and have him ask "why did you not forgive this person when he/she asked for your forgiveness?" What would our answer be? It would be tragic if that one deed, a missed opportunity, would keep us out of heaven.

Matthew 7:1,2 "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Matthew 7:14 "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Our chance for a home in heaven may depend on our ability to forgive one another. "The time is now, the Lord is here. Won't you open your heart while he is near? His will obey, Oh don't delay, for sure the time is now."

In Christian Love,
Don Johnston

Where Did Different Races of Men Come From?

This is a question that comes up occasionally. It may come from skeptics, from bigotry, or from simple curiosity. It may even arise in our own minds as a simple desire to understand the Bible better. But regardless of the motivation of the question, the answer is the same.

The answer from the Bible is very simple. There is no such thing as race in the Bible. We are all people. We are all the same. No one is better than anyone else because of skin color, shape of eyes (or ears or nose), or even health or lack of it.

Every person on the face of the earth is descended from Adam and Eve. Gen. 3:20, "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living." Who does that leave out? No one. In fact, we are all descended from Noah and his sons, Gen. 9:18-19, "And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan. These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread."

Differences of skin color, for example, are based on one chemical in the body. That is such a poor thing to divide us. Skin color is never an issue in the Bible. It is such a sad shame that it has caused so many problems in the world over the years.

What is important to God is whether or not we are obedient to Him. Look to Acts 17:26-27, where Paul speaks of how God made us. "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:" Notice that we are all of one blood. God made all "nations", not "races". These nations were based upon "times before appointed" and the "bounds of their habitation." When we live and where we live in other words. Skin colors, shapes of eyes or ears, etc. are not mentioned at all. They do not matter to God, and

so should not matter to us. What matters is that we "seek the Lord". He is not far away from "every one of us".

Yes, there were times in the Old Testament when God used the Israelites to punish, even destroy, other nations. But this was because of their disobedience, not their race. There were many times when he punished Israel for their disobedience as well. These types of arguments cannot be made to justify racism.

Racism is basically lifting ourselves up and despising others. It springs from pride and respect of persons. It all too often involves hatred and violence. Which of these attitudes or actions is approved by God? None of them. They are all condemned.

Luke 18:9. "And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:"... In the parable he obviously condemns both of these attitudes, concluding with this thought at the end of verse 14. "...for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Lifting ourselves up and despising others is wrong. It is pride, and will not lead to Heaven. I John 2:16-17. "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Speaking of the will of God, respect of persons does not fulfill it. Acts 10:34-35, "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." If God is no respecter of persons, we must not be either. James 2:1. "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons."

Hatred is sin. I John 2:9-11, "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."

We see violence condemned in Titus 3:2, "To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all

men."

There have been in history, people who were religious but racist. They did not get a racist attitude from the Bible. This stresses the need for us to follow the Bible, not just religion.

Let's close with I John 3:14. "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."

In Christian love,
Bro. Terry Warford

BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Hello to everyone!

We have been a long time in writing. There really is no apology for that; time just seems to slip away from us. We have some old news to report & some new. Michayla Ann Harcrow was born to Mike & Melissa Harcrow on March 7th, 2004. She is a real cutie & a true blessing. We are expecting two new babies at church also. Brother Charlie & Sister Julie Fogg are expecting in February & Brother Paul & Sister Crystal Warford are expecting theirs in March. We have had Randy Queen & his daughter Kachton attending the past few weeks. She brought her friend Sarah last Sunday. We are so happy to have them with us! Brother Doug Ferguson's family suffered a sad loss with the death of his brother John (Buddy) Ferguson. He was well loved by many. Sister LaWanda Durham has had some surgeries but seems to be doing better now. Please pray for Brother Edwin Crowell's mother, Estelle, as she is not as young as she used to be and is in frail health. Brother George Phipps mother was in the hospital but seems to be better now. Brother Gerald Buckner from Stilwell is in severe pain with his kidney stones. Well, that's about all of the news from here. Our meeting dates probably won't get to you in time but I will send them anyway. November 12-14 is the annual Fall Folk Festival at Beaver's Bend & our gospel meeting. We will have guest speakers so please make plans to join us if you can. Our camp meeting for next year is July 16-25th, 2005 at Beaver's Bend. We hope to see you there. Every year we learn so much from all of those who attend. You have truly been a blessing

to us.

(In a later E-Mail) Just a little note to let you know that we had a baptism Sunday October 10th. Kachton Queen, the daughter of Randy Queen, and granddaughter of Ray and Rita Queen was joined to the body of Christ. We are so proud of her and are grateful to have her worshiping with us. We pray that we can be the examples she needs to live her Christian life.

In Christian Love,
Costilow St. Church of Christ
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VAN BUREN, ARKANSAS

Greetings,

I am glad to report that all here seem to be enjoying good health, 2nd the blessings of cooler weather. We pray this finds all well in the brotherhood.

Our little congregation here is holding it's own. We have between 15 - 20 for our Lord's Day Services. We have a lot of young who keep us encouraged.

We are glad to report that we have asked and Brother Rex Mickey has agreed to hold us a weekend meeting in October. The meeting will run from the 29th - the 31st. Evening Services will be at 7:00 pm Friday and Saturday, with Sunday services at 10:00 am and a 2:00 pm. We will have a dinner between the 10:00 and 2:00 service. We are excited about seeing and fellowshipping with Brother and Sister Mickey. We invite any and all to come join us for this meeting. We'll open our homes to you.

Anyone wishing to attend the meeting, or just planning a trip through this area. We invite all of you to please stop, worship and fellowship with us. At present we lease a building at 603 Main Street in downtown Van Buren, Arkansas. For more information or directions please contact: Mick Boen 479-471-1403; Keith Boen 479-629-3792 or Rick Walkingstick 918-723-4725

In Christian Love,
Mick Boen

CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

Hello to all, from Cedaredge;

I'm sure that by now someone has informed you of the passing of Brother Chester Craig, but if not, he passed away about 3 weeks ago from a blood clot that reached his lungs. He had been ill for three or four months before his death. He was a good Christian man in my opinion and we ask you to remember his wife, Sister Catherine, in your prayers.

I'm enclosing some help for the bulletin. I have been meaning to get it to you for some time now. I apologize for my tardiness. Please visit with us if you are in the area.

With Christian Love,
George Cowger

FLORA VISTA, NEW MEXICO

Dear Brethren;

Summer is over and we have already had our first frost. However, our hearts are rejoicing, because last Sunday (September 19th) we witnessed the baptism of Miryah McDonald. She is a young mother and it certainly is a great thing to see these young ones becoming Christians.We are also happy to report that on October 10th, Sister Desiree Darrough was baptized.

We have had a good summer here. We had some of our parking area paved, and had the church building re-stuccoed. It was pulling and falling off after 40 years of use.

We are doing pretty well and are thankful that we can gather and worship God in peace and safety. God has surely poured out His grace, mercy and peace upon us all.

May God bless us all,
Rex and Tina Mickey

LORENZO, TEXAS

Greetings from Lorenzo, Texas

The church at Lorenzo is doing fine. We are having fairly

good attendance and except for a few minor ongoing ailments and old age we are enjoying good health.

Just as many other churches, we are losing members for various reasons. One couple is moving because of employment change and some are finding the cares of the world too appealing. The easier life gets for us the more enticing it is to follow Satan. Last week I made a remark about people coming into church late so yesterday more than half the congregation was late. I think too many of us are finding the world more interesting than the Lord.

Some from here, including us, are planning to go to Van Buren for the weekend meeting if all goes well. It is good to support other churches when we can.

We really enjoyed the Burtis' visit here. Just wish they could have stayed longer. We would like to do more visiting but, as Paul said, we are 'always led hitherto'.

Not a lot of news from here but we do enjoy hearing from others through the paper.

With Christian love,
Gene Boling
Lorenzo, TX Church of Christ

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren;

It is with mixed emotions that we report the passing of Sister Eva Roby. She was Veda's younger sister and Sister Jeanie Knobel's older sister. Although we will miss her presence in our lives, she was in such agony at the last that it was the Lord's blessing to take her home. She had been fighting the debilitation of Parkinson's for many years and after she fell and broke her hip, her health rapidly declined. She was buried October 26th. Bill Jr. officiated and several of us from the church here did the singing. Over the past weeks, her daughters, Cheryl Heckart and Robin Parham spent most of their waking hours with her. Veda and Jeanie also spent quite a bit of time with her. As long as she was able to attend church services, she was a bright and pleasant presence in the congregation. She will be greatly missed.

By the time that this is printed and mailed, the meeting in Van

Buren AR will have concluded. I'm sure that Brother Rex Mickey has given them some fine sermons and much good will come from the meeting.

Our sister, Ada Johnston, has sold her home and is now living at the Peach Tree Retirement Center. Her address is: 2800 West Viola, Apt. 61, Yakima WA 98902.

A couple of weeks ago, Ada, Veda and I managed to get a couple of days without too much going on, and drove to Mt. Vernon to visit with our sister Ruth and her husband, Oren Johnston. We had a nice time but were disappointed that there wasn't a whole lot of color in the mountains. I guess it has just been too dry.

We again invite any who might come this way to stop in and visit and/or worship with us.

Yours in Christ,
Bill McCay Sr.

BIRTHS

Michayla Ann, to Mike and Melissa Harcrow. Broken Bow, OK

BAPTISMS

Miryah McDonald	Flora Vista, NM
Desiree Darrough	Flora Vista, NM
Kachton Queen	Broken Bow, OK

DEATHS

John Ferguson	Broken Bow, OK
Chester Craig	Cedaredge, CO
Eva Roby	Yakima, WA

MEETINGS

Nov. 12-14	Beaver's Bend, OK	Guest Speakers
July 16-25, 2005	Beaver's Bend, OK	Camp Meeting