

Putting Christianity to Work

Gary C. Hampton

Brotherly love is proof of one's discipleship (Romans 12:10; Ephesians 4:32; Hebrews 13:1; John 13:35). Christians should be examples to one another in the area of showing respect and honor. A Christian should not long for personal honor, but should give honor to his brethren.

Christians should not be lazy, but give their best by serving the Lord in all they do (Colossians 3:22-24, 17). The hope of heaven, enhanced by constant prayer, should give joy even in hard times (1 Peter 1:8; Philippians 4:4). Every Christian should use his blessings to help brethren and others in need (Matthew 25:41, 45; Galatians 6:10; James 1:27). Each should be ready to take in strangers, providing for their needs (Romans 12:11-13; Matthew 25:40; Hebrews 13:2).

Christ's followers will suffer persecution, yet they must return good for evil (2 Timothy 3:12; Matthew 5:44-45; Luke 23:34). Shepherd says, "It is the duty of the Christians so to teach and so to live as to commend himself to every man's conscience in the sight of God (II Corinthians 4:2), and thus compel the inward respect of even the wicked for his sincerity and consistency." Members of the body should rejoice in one another's triumphs and suffer in one another's pain, achieved by being of one mind. Believers should not be carried away with seeking high social position, but they should associate with the humble, not being proud of their own wisdom (Romans 12:14-16; Matthew 8:20).

Disciples of Jesus should not allow evil actions of others to drive them to evil works. God's children will seek opportunities to do good, giving God the glory (Matthew 5:16). They should work to avoid conflict, especially in the church, quietly enduring suffering and leaving vengeance to God (1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Deuteronomy 32:35). Each believer should provide for the needs of his enemy, making him ashamed of his bad attitude. He should overcome evil with good rather than being overcome by evil (Romans 12:17-21).

Praise God for the family of God comprised of people putting their Christianity to work and encouraging their brothers to do the same!

- Gospel Gazette online -

Don't Let Sin In

Don't get used to sin. Just because we are bombarded with worldliness and sin day and night does not give us the excuse to become apathetic toward such things. God still expects His children to talk, dress, act and think differently than the world. Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

- Bulletin Digest

Work for the Lord. The retirement plan is out of this world.

News Notes

BAPTISMS: Johnathan Akers and Hunter Thompson.

TO HAVE SURGERY: Paula Clutter is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery tomorrow at Weirton Medical Center.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Each Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Open to everyone.

HOLIDAY GATHERING: Next Friday, Dec. 13th, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Building. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Bring a side dish or a dessert. Sign-up sheet in the foyer. Plan to attend for food, fun and fellowship.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Dec. 14th, 8:30 a.m. at Columbian Church of Christ.

PANTRY: Canned chicken.

SICK & SHUT-IN: WPMC, Pittsburgh: John Sprout. At Home: Margie Martin, Twila Adamson, Randy Beagle, Sue Haught, Bob McMahan, Scharlotte Jones, Becky McKitrick, Dean Spencer, Harry Huff, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Gary & Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker. Fox-Chester: Janice Hutchins, Mary Johnson. Elsewhere: Carolyn Carbone, 103 Orange Blossom Lane, Ranson, WV 25438. Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432.

The Blessings of Friends and Family

It is truly a blessing to be part of a loving family. In like fashion, it is a great blessing to have dear friends. Sadly, not everyone knows what it feels like to be part of such things. All too often we take our family and friends for granted.

If you are so blessed as to have good friends, thank your heavenly Father.

If you are so blessed to have a loving earthly family, thank your heavenly Father.

If you are so blessed as to have a loving spiritual family (meaning you are a member of the body for which Jesus died—the Church), thank your heavenly Father.

In fact, the sacrifice that brought about the New Testament Church is one of the ways by which we know we are deeply loved by God (Acts 20:20).

In the church, God has provided everything a family needs: Leadership (1 Peter 5:1-4); Companionship and Strength (Gal. 6:2; 1 Thess. 4:18; Heb. 10:24); Love (1 John 3:1, 11). Don't you want to be part of this? Don't you want all that are dear to you to be part of this?

Bart Warren, South Green St. Church of Christ, Glasgow, KY

