

Church

God's people learn how to be a christian when dealing with others

Sunday School Lesson

BEING CHRISTIAN IN RELATIONSHIPS (Colossians 3:5-23)

"If any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. (Col. 3:13)

Colossae was a city located in Asia Minor, a hundred miles inland from the city of Ephesus. Whether Paul ever visited this city prior to writing this letter we do not know for sure, but he did have Christian friends there that he probably had become acquainted with in the church at Ephesus.

One was Philemon, to whom he wrote personally, when he sent his run-a-way slave, Onesimus, back to him. The church located at Colossae was plagued with problems; doctrinal problems. That area of Asia Minor had become a sort of mixing ground for religions, including that worship of various Greek deities, the

mysticisms of the east, and a Judaism, which emphasized sacred seasons, fasts, etc.

The Apostle Paul was a Christian purist. In the face of all of this, he insisted on the simplicity of gospel; a gospel not diluted, nor encumbered with, a mixture of other religions. Further, this melting pot of religions, so to speak, creeping into the church at Colossae, was causing dissension in the fellowship.

Hard feelings between members, and enmity, caused by doctrinal disputes, was taking its toll on the church's main mission of preaching Christ's gospel. Paul's letter is an attempt by the Apostle Paul to straighten out their problems and to get the church back on course. Something should be noted at this point.

Whenever a church congregation becomes embroiled in internal strife,

almost invariably it's primary purpose in the Kingdom's work becomes secondary until the strife is settled. Paul's apostolic power gave him the authority to order the infighting, and immorality, to cease. Yet he chose to instruct, to teach, thus raising their understanding of God's will for them personally and for the church, to higher level of righteousness. This, in effect, was a more permanent solution.

PUT OFF ENMITIES (Colossians 3:5-11)

In these verses Paul is telling those Colossian Christians, that were guilty of immorality to cease these practices. It involved their behavior, attitude, speech and their divisive prejudice of a homogenous society. Space doesn't permit going into each of these "don'ts" spelled out by Paul, however, it is virtually a roll-call of evil and sin, reminiscent of the latter

days of Judah and Israel before God brought judgement upon them.

We should not miss the point that this, too, is happening in our world today, indeed, in our own country. We Christians today view this strong march of our society towards sensual pleasure, immorality, and corruption in high places with sorrow and agony in our hearts. I am sure Paul must have had like feelings. In verse 6, he issued a strong warning, "For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience."

PUT ON LOVE (Colossians 3:12-17)

In the preceding verses Paul spoke of the negatives involved in the church's problems. He now turns to the positive—the solution that will put the people and the church back on track for the Lord. He speaks of the humility that heals; a love that holds

together; a peace that rules; a faith that sings and a commitment that controls. There are so many lessons in today's text that one can barely scratch the surface.

In essence, what Paul said to them is this, "You are a citizen of God's Kingdom, and you are living in Satan's world. You have allowed yourselves to be caught up in the world's priorities and values. Your solution is to re-evaluate where you are and to change. You must take on the values of a Kingdom citizen, and walk righteously before God."

Further, Paul said to the people of Colossae, "Put love into practice, and let it begin in your home, among the family members. (Vs. 18-23) and whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men." (Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons)



Dear friends,

In the U.S., by 1990, the over-65 population will exceed 30 million — an increase of 20% in just 10 years. The 85-years and older age group will increase 40% by 1990. Retired persons are not only living longer, but are outliving their financial resources. This is a strong incentive for prefinancing of funeral arrangements.

Respectfully,

Larry Swindell

Swindell Funeral Home, Inc.

509 Dobbs Street
Hertford, N.C.
426-7311

United Methodist churches in area provide needed relief for farmers

RALEIGH, NC—Since early February, \$19,400 of monies received in a special offering in United Methodist Churches in the North Carolina Conference has been given to farming individuals and families victimized by the farm crisis.

United Methodists have given over \$51,000 during November, December, and January in a special offering to aid individuals and families suffering from the farm crisis.

The special offering was requested by Bishop C.P. Minnick, Jr. Offering funds have been sent to the Conference Treasurer from churches for disbursement under the direction of Conference Task Force on the Farm Crisis.

Bishop Minnick also requested that each United Methodist church in the conference observe a Day of Prayer for farm crisis victims which was held on Sunday, Feb. 8. Another day

may be selected by a local church.

Funds may be requested and recommended by local pastors for any pastors for any farming individual or family victimized by the farm crisis.

There are 844 churches in the North Carolina Conference which encompasses 56 eastern North Carolina counties.

Approximately 370 churches had sent in offering totaling \$51,546 by late January.

Requests from local pastors for assistance to farm families in their areas are processed immediately. Over 30 farm families with critical situations have received assistance. Most of these families have lost their farms, had to declare bankruptcy, and/or had to sell everything.

By early February, almost \$19,500 had been disbursed under the direction of the Task Force. Other re-

quests are being received daily and are being processed to provide relief to farm families.

Requests for assistance should be directed to a local United Methodist pastor. Recipients are not required to be United Methodists and assistance is granted without regard to race or sex.

Donations from outside United Methodist churches are welcome. Individuals and institutions wishing to contribute to the fund should make the check payable to the N.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church and send it to P.O. Box 10955, Raleigh, N.C. A notation should be made on the check that it is for "farm crisis."

The Task Force is recommending and encouraging the establishment of county ecumenical farm crisis task forces.

Bishop Minnick established the Task Force on the Farm Crisis in June at the annual meeting of the conference and appointed its membership, composed of farmers, pastors, agricultural specialists and a representative of the conference.

Serving as chairperson of the Task Force is Dr. J.E. Legates, former dean of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N.C. State University; vice chairperson is the Reverend Hugh Cameron, pastor of Centenary United Methodist Church in Smithfield; and the secretary is Mrs. Margaret R. Saunders of Elizabeth City who is a farmer and conference president of The United Methodist Women.

Other members are the Rev. Charles V. Bryant of the conference office in Raleigh, the Rev. Robert A. Fairley of Maxton, Bruce Flye of

Battleboro, the Rev. David L. Harvin of Cedar Grove, and the Rev. James R. Huskins of Hurdle Mills.

Also, Loring McIntyre of Durham, Dr. Fate Thompson of Cary, the Rev. M. Whit Warren, Jr. of New Bern, Leroy B. Whitfield of Hookerton, Sherrill Williams of Newton Grove, and the Rev. Richard L. Stone of Laurinburg.

Farm save day set

Farmers from all over the United States are invited to attend!!!

Farm Save Day is simply a chance for American farmers and their families to get together to swap ideas, solutions and encouragement.

Any family that would like to attend should contact the nearest Continental-Eastern Airline ticket office. The airline will arrange air fare at an 80 percent discount to Norfolk, Va. From there bus transportation will take them to the Elizabeth City area. Families in the Elizabeth City and surrounding areas will host as many visiting families as possible! Anyone who wishes to be placed with a host family must call the toll free number for arrangements to be

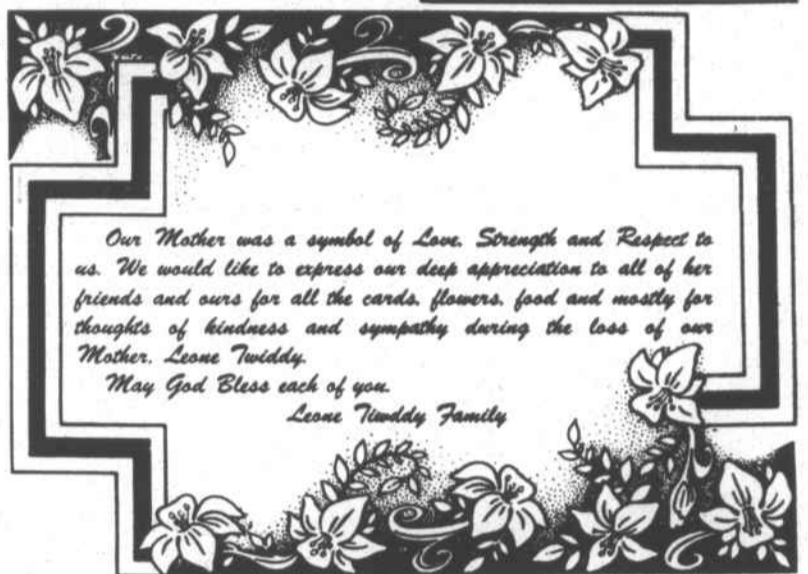
made!!!

All farm families, host families and F.F.A. members will attend an all day Bar-b-que in Elizabeth City on Feb. 14. Any city, county, state or nationally elected officials that are interested in trying to find some solutions to the plight of the American farmer is also invited. Now is the time for all Americans and especially the American farmers, to stand together and present a united response to the world We Are Not Quitters—We Are Fighters!! The place to do it is Elizabeth City, N.C. on Feb 14 on the campus of Elizabeth City State University! Farmers of America, this is for you! Come and be counted! Come and be heard! Come and listen!

Fellowship to meet

The Perquimans County Fellowship Union will be held with the St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church, Hertford, corner of Dobbs St. and Edenton Road St., Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. The Melton Grove Baptist

Church and pastor, Rev. J.W. Law, is in charge of the service. The Rev. Thomas McPherson, is the host pastor and the Rev. J.H. London is president.



Our Mother was a symbol of Love, Strength and Respect to us. We would like to express our deep appreciation to all of her friends and ours for all the cards, flowers, food and mostly for thoughts of kindness and sympathy during the loss of our Mother, Leone Twiddy. May God Bless each of you.
Leone Twiddy Family

Area church news

First Baptist schedule

The First Baptist Church Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. with Superintendent R.B. Gibbs in charge. Morning worship starts at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor London preaching from the subject "Some People Never Learn" Genesis 20:2. The senior

choir will be singing under the direction of Mrs. Barbara J. Shannon, organist.

Prayer and Bible Study will be on Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m.

church news cont'd under fellowship to meet

LET'S NOT FORGET!

By Raymond C. Needham
Hertford Baptist Church
Hertford, N.C.

His prayer went as follows: "Dear Lord, forgive us for being like the hogs which eat the acorns and never look up at the tree from which they came." These are the words of a fellow student with whom I knelt in prayer, for it expressed so vividly a tendency within mankind. We are given to drinking in God's blessings which are bestowed so freely, and then going on our way without thanking Him.

Aware of man's forgetfulness and ingratitude, God warned His people Israel before they entered into the promised land. "And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land . . . when thou shall have eaten and be full; then beware lest thou forget the Lord who brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage" (Deuteronomy 6:10-12). The history of that nation reveals that they did indeed often forget their God, and invariably brought upon themselves trouble and sorrow. They felt that they were self-made and were sufficient within themselves.

The apostle Paul was not speaking idle words when he said to the Athenians, "For in him we live, and move, and have our being. . ." (Acts 17:28). Do you have health? It is God who gives it. Have

you been blessed with a home and family members? It is from God that you received them. Let us be thankful to God for what He has done for us. What do you have that daily adds comfort to your life? What is there that bring you happiness along the way? Don't forget to thank God for such blessings.

Not only are we not to forget God in regard to the temporal gifts we receive from Him, but we must not forget Him regarding the whole of life. How tragic for one to go through his lifetime, having lived only to gratify his own selfish desires and ambitions, and yet to have forgotten God. The next step from this world is into eternity. Now is the time to remember God, to come to know Him, to receive His gift of salvation in Christ Jesus, and to serve Him daily. If we remember Him now in these days and years of opportunity, we may be sure He will not forget us when we have come to the end of the way.

The blessed life is the one that does not forget God. Likewise, the peaceful heart is the one that does not forget God. In Him is strength for our trials, peace for our sorrows, comfort for our distresses, and glorious hope for all eternity. Let's not forget God!

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