

For Our Information

Theresa and 2nd John LeValla are still in Mississippi.

The Simpson family is out of town again this weekend.

Keep Ricky and Theresa Ragsdale, and their family in your prayers as Ricky's health difficulties continue to be an issue for them.

Several members have ongoing health issues and we should help in whatever way we can.

Remember one another as we pray to the Father each day

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

(Brother Dickerson spent several years supporting his family as a law enforcement officer while peaching the Gospel. I have confidence that he speaks from experience. He is one of many young men who are stepping up to preach God's Word.

Our world is in grave need of men and women who are willing to seek harmony through the Word of God. We are surrounded by those who seek to destroy others so that they may rise above. No one will rise by tearing down others. Humility is a trait sorely needed today, and commanded by God. Seek to serve at building others up rather than tearing them down.

I included this article because of the relationship between it's topic and the sermon for this morning. If you are reading this from our website, I suggest listening to the sermon on forgiveness that was presented this day. DLH)

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

Church of Christ
1512 Tanner Street
Malvern, AR 72104
(501) 332-8806

preacher@tannerst.com

Find us online

tannerst.com
FB @TannerStCoC

Seeking His Righteousness

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Ashes Is The Result

DJ Dickerson

Having worked in the public arena for many years, especially in dealing with conflicts that I was called to handle whether externally in the community (i.e. disturbances) or in a supervisory role internally with my own subordinates, I have found one thing in common. The people involved in the conflict were doing as well-known columnist Abigail Van Buren stated, "fighting fire with fire". Ms. Buren also stated that those people who were found fighting fire with fire, "usually end up with ashes".

By the time I arrived on scene to deal with the situation, the two were



So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Romans
14:19



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

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burning to the ground, tempers ablaze! They had also spent time prior to this incident calling around sparking interest of others through gossip and rumors. It was like both sides had flamethrowers blasting each other with offensive words and insulting gestures. You know what I found is the result of such? Just as Ms. Buren observed, “ashes”!

Jesus has given us the instructions on how to deal with such offensive issues, however man in his pride decides that they have been hurt and will not rest until vengeance belongs to them. I have seen and still see, even in the church, people acting from the flames of hurt, than the refreshing water of kindness, love, mercy, and forgiveness that flows from the humble heart.

I have met with many and although they sit in the same room stating that they want the same result, harmony, peace, love... the body language told me something completely different. The fruit or lack thereof, was from a tree that had been scorched day after day by the heat of sin of bitterness and grudges and would soon be good for nothing... only to be cast into the fire, and ashes would be the result. (cf. **Matthew 7:18-20**).

I have also found in my experience that the spark that started the flame was many times something that was blown way out of proportion and instead of amends being made quickly between the two, the fire had spread as mentioned earlier and catastrophic damage was done, not only to themselves, but to others and more importantly the Lord Himself and His cause.

Store In My Heart

Ephesians 5:21

Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

If you take the time to read the context of this verse, you will see that it is part of the explanation of how we are to walk "as wise."

Much of what God requires of us has to do with our relationship with others. As Paul continues this idea of walking wise, he gives regulations regarding our family life and our work life. In the verses just preceding this one he give instruction for our responsibility toward brethren.

It all points to the need for an attitude of humility. We are but servants of God and must be willing to serve others just as Christ served the Father, and us in His death, burial and resurrection.

It is no wonder that Jesus invited the little children to Him saying “*for such is the kingdom of heaven.*” (**Matthew 18:1-4; 19:14**). Jesus emphasized the child-like attitude, the humility, & the innocence.

Yet, time after time in dealing with situations, I have seen the offended wanting the offender to humble themselves, however I have yet to see the offended showing such humility and love that is being demanded from the offender. It is rather obvious through words & conduct that the “I’m right, you’re wrong”, hateful, spiteful attitude has yet to solve anything. It just continues to burn until all that remains, is ashes.

So, let’s be reminded to guard our hearts (**Proverbs 4:23-24; Matthew 12:33-37**), watch our mouths (**Proverbs 6:12-19; 15:1; 16:28; 1Timothy 5:13**), watch our feet (**Proverbs 4:25-27; 1John 1:7**). If our heart is right, then our words, our feet will be moving in the right direction... away from the sparks of hatred, flames of anger to the replenishing water of love, compassion, & humility. (**1Peter 4:8-9**). Paul reminds us in **Romans 12** how we should behave. A great reminder in **vs 18**: “*if it is possible, as much as depends on YOU, live peaceably with ALL men.*”

“Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another, love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.” - 1Peter 3:8-9

Something to think about.