

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*

**Hebrews 13:2**

## Store In My Heart

Jude 20-21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

If you follow this column you probably thought I would choose verse 3 for this epistle. While that certainly would be appropriate, I feel that this verse actually gets more to the point of what Jude is teaching us. This letter warns of those who would turn us from the faith by sneaking in among us and trying to destroy our faith in Jesus.

If we follow the instruction in the above verses we will be able to recognize such agents of Satan and keep our self focused on God. Build up your faith by staying in the Word and prayer. In doing so we will remain in God's love and His mercy will bring us to salvation.

# A Richly Blessed Family

**Bill Hall**

"Pity the Smith family. Poor things, they have to keep the preacher every time the church plans a gospel meeting. And Christians are always stopping in at their place. And they are about the only people in the church that ever invite people in after services. I just wouldn't put up with it myself..."

Spare your pity! The Smiths are a richly blessed family. Oh, occasionally they entertain some ungrateful scoundrel, but the blessings of hospitality far outweigh the problems.

The Bible speaks of some wonderfully blessed people along these lines. For instance, we do not pity Mary and Martha for "having" to have Jesus in their home; we pity those who, not wanting Jesus, were deprived of this blessing. We do not pity Mary the mother of John Mark, in whose home "*many were gathered together praying*", we pity those where Christians never assemble for Bible study and prayer. We do not pity Philemon who was to prepare Paul a lodging; we would love to have Paul as a guest in our home. Christians need to learn the joy and blessings which come to those who are hospitable.

"We are hospitable," someone says, "we often have friends from church in our home for get-togethers and parties." That's fine! We encourage this! But Bible hospitality goes beyond having friends in for an evening which is at least partially for our own selfish enjoyment, "*I was a stranger*



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

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## For Our Information

Ruben Keisler was informed after one of his tests last week that he has a flutter in his heart that needs consideration.

Brenda Keisler had shots in her hip that should help her pain. Betty Ragsdale had a procedure on her neck that should help her pain also.

Gloria Hurst is doing well in her recovery.

Tonight we start in 2Samuel 23.

Wednesday we are in 1Thessalonians 2.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

and you took Me in," Jesus will say in the judgment (**Matthew 25:35**). Gaius was commended for helping "brethren" and "strangers" who were traveling for the Lord's name sake, and was told by John, *"If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well"* (**3John 5-7**). Further, the Bible teaches that we become partakers in evil deeds of false teachers when we receive them into our houses (**2John 9-11**). But does this not imply that we become partakers in the good deeds of faithful teachers when we show them hospitality?

A Christian will want to make friends with other Christians, and consequently will plan enjoyable evenings with close friends in his home. But the hospitable Christian will also use his home for conducting Bible classes, entertaining visiting preachers and other workers for the Lord, getting acquainted with newcomers in the church, comforting the bereaved and troubled, and for every good work.

Our homes are blessings from the Lord. We must not use them selfishly, but rather to His glory. The result will be an occasional scratch on a chair, or a stain on the carpet, or a chipped glass--really a small price to pay, though, for the warmth that comes to the home from new friends, good influences, rich Bible discussions, participation in the Lord's work, and the satisfaction of knowing that one is pleasing God and preparing himself for eternity. No, it is not the Smiths whom we pity; it's those who do not know the joy of hospitality.

(Maybe it is caused somewhat by a change in our society, but it seems that hospitality of the sort described above is not as prevalent as it once was. We don't have many folks passing through town who need a place to spend the night. Mostly in our own travels we seek a hotel rather than "put someone out" by staying in the home of brethren or friends.

That does not mean that we cannot be hospitable. As the article mentions, Bible classes, getting to know brethren, neighbors and strangers are opportunities to show hospitality. They are also opportunities to encourage one another and help one another better understand and apply God's Word. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!