

Rom. 14:19  
So then let  
us follow  
after things  
which make  
for peace,  
and things  
whereby we  
may edify  
one another.



John 8:32  
And ye shall  
know the  
truth and the  
truth shall  
make you  
free.

**November**  
**4**  
**2018**

## “A Cup of Cold Water in His Name Given”

by Jim Stauffer

This phrase is used by the Lord as He teaches the importance of His disciples caring for the needs of those we encounter in life. In **Matthew 10**, He says in **verse 40**, *He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.* In **verse 41**, He then mentions receiving a prophet and receiving a righteous man will result in one receiving an appropriate reward. Then He defines what is involved in receiving; **verse 42**, *“And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”*

We rarely see the results of the children of God actually performing such duties since we are not present at the time. There are those rare times, however, when we are the recipients of the *cup of cold water given.*

Now lest we treat this as a singular effort to achieve salvation, let us recognize what Jesus is teaching here. He is suggesting the person who practices this is the one whose heart has been penetrated by the teaching of the gospel and is therefore committed to practicing its tenets.

We are told to *be imitators of God, as beloved children.* (**Eph. 5:1**). John tells us in **1 John 5:1,2** that believing in Christ is a sign of our new birth. Further he says the one who loves the Father also loves the one who is born of Him, thus the one who believes in Christ. He then caps it off by saying we know we love the brethren when we observe the commandments of God.

Therefore, the conclusion of this is those who love the brethren love the Father and obey His commands. Obeying His commands is loving the brethren, not just in word but also in deed (**1 John 3:18**).

To our brethren at Lenexa, we express our gratitude for your brotherly kindness and love in the deeds you have done on our behalf during the difficult period when Roberta was completely disabled with her broken

shoulder.

The highest praise we can offer is that offered by the Lord Himself. You have loved Him by loving us and have offered this aforementioned *cup of cold water* and He says, not I, but the Lord, you will not lose your reward. Furthermore, you have kept His new commandment, **John 13:34** *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and we know from His word He will bless you.

### The Revealing Power Of GOD’S Word

**Hebrews 4:12** *...the Word of GOD is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

The Word of GOD always exposes the truth of who we really are. When that truth is revealed, we will inevitably respond. We may respond with anger, remorse, indifference, joy, happiness or some other emotion but whatever the situation may be, the power of GOD’S Word is of such a nature that upon hearing, it demands a response. On the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2** those who crucified Jesus responded with remorse. Peter’s preaching of the Word of GOD dug deep into the heart of many of his listeners and revealed the truth of what they had done. **Acts 2:36** *...let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.* The Word of GOD clearly revealed to certain ones in this crowd that they were responsible for crucifying the Messiah. They responded by asking what they must do to right the wrong in their life. **Acts 2:37** *Now when*

*they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. We find in V41 ...they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.* After the healing of a lame man at the temple gate in **Acts 3** an opportunity arose for Peter to proclaim the Word of GOD. In the midst of this sermon Peter once again reveals to his listeners their role in the crucifixion of Christ. **V14** *You denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you 15 and you killed the Author of life, or the prince of life whom God raised from the dead; to this we are witnesses.* The response was quite different this time; Peter and John were arrested. **Acts 4:3** *...they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.* In **V18** they were commanded *to not speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.* While the response to the Word was different, what didn't change was its revelatory power. When we hear the Word of GOD, what does it reveal to us? Remember, its revelation is 100% accurate and we will inevitably respond. May GOD help us to respond each time with an open and honest heart.

**Jay Dixon; University Church of Christ, Richmond, Ky.**

## THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

A local congregation is a group of Christians in a given area that have banded together to accomplish the work God gave the church to do (**Phil. 1: 1**). These Christians act together, collectively in seeking to accomplish the work the Lord gave the church to do. Christians share equally in the responsibility of doing what the Lord said to do. *"From whom all the body fitly framed and knit together through that which every joint supplieth, according to the working in due measure of each several part, maketh the increase of the body unto the building up of itself in love"* (**Eph. 4:16**). This does not mean the church has authority to do everything the individual may do. The word "church" is a collective noun (*cf. herd, flock*). One member is not the body (**1 Cor. 12:12,14**) and one stone is not the entire building (**1 Pet. 2:5**). A distinction exists in the New Testament between individual action and church action (**Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 11:22ff**). This principle is clearly demonstrated from a study of **1 Timothy 5**.

Notice some things the individual can do (must do) that the church cannot. Children or grandchildren must

show piety toward their own family, taking care of them or requiting them (**v.4**). A man must provide for his own household (**v.8**). **Verse 16** says *"If any woman that believeth hath widows, let her relieve them, and let not the church be burdened (KJV charged) that it may relieve them that are widows indeed."* Paul told Timothy not to lay hands hastily on any man and to use a little wine for health reasons (**vv.22-23**). Yet, the church was to discharge its collective duty in taking care of certain widows who met the qualifications given (**vv.9-10**). Younger widows did not fall into this category (**v.11**). The church was to be charged with the care of certain people (**v.16**).

Does the Christian have a responsibility toward those in need? Yes! Any man who needs your help is your neighbor and you have an obligation to help him (**Luke 10:25-37**). The Christian must engage in honest labor that he might provide for his own and then for others as opportunity presents itself (**Eph. 4:28; 1 Jn. 3:17**). The Christian has a duty toward those of his own family (**1 Tim. 5:4,8,16**). If he could not do what these verses teach, how could the church keep from being charged with the care of those people? **James 1:27** says: *"Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."* Do we have authority to build prisons, hospitals, orphans and widows homes in order to discharge the duties of this passage (**cf. Matt. 25:31-46**) or are we simply to help as need be manifesting concern for others? As the Christian has opportunity (**Gal 6:10**), he will help as the needs arise, assisting saint and sinner alike.

As Christians we have many collective and individual responsibilities. May we be faithful to the Lord in every relationship given to us. As individuals we cannot shirk our responsibilities and turn them over to the church. Let the church be the church and do its work; let each of us do our work, all to the glory of God and in respect for His eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus (**Eph. 3:11-12**).

**Randy Harshbarger**

## There's No Place Like Home!

In "The Wizard of Oz" all Dorothy had to do to get home to Kansas was to close her eyes, click her heels together three times and repeat to herself, "There's no place like home." In our case it took a Boeing 737 through a thunderstorm in Logan Airport, Boston which meant a 4 hour delay, missed connections in St. Louis which meant sleeping in the chapel in the airport. (Most airports do have chapels and if you have to spend overnights there they are usually quieter, warmer and more secure than sleeping at the gates.) We spent the



last ten days visiting with our daughter, a travel nurse, in Burlington, Vermont. We saw the leaves change, Mount Washington and the ocean coast of Maine with many of its lighthouses, but we are so glad to be home in El Dorado, Kansas! It was great to go see my daughter and I wouldn't have skipped that for the world, but it truly is great to be back home!

I said all that to say this: That's what it's going to be like when we leave this world for the next, one long-awaited homecoming! When Abraham died we're told, *"Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life; and he was gathered to his people."* (**Genesis 25:8**) When I was growing up home was wherever Mom and Dad were. When Grandpa passed away and they moved out to the farm which had been in the family since colonial days that place became home and the house where I grew up became "Fred's place." He's my brother.

We are going to join our Heavenly Father. Where ever He is will always be the Christian's TRUE HOME.

**Cleveland R. Reddinger Jr.**

**Editor's Note: I have never seen a better description of the age old sermon on faithful attendance than the one that follows.**

## **A Contrast Between Two Men**

### ***Sunday Ayandare I Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria***

The Book of Proverbs presents to us a contrast between two women. On one hand is an immoral, seductress type who *"flatters with her words; ... of a crafty heart," who is loud and rebellious...* (**Proverbs 7:5, 10-11**). On the other hand is the virtuous type whose worth *"is far above rubies"* (**Proverbs 31:10-29**).

Not too long ago, two men in a local congregation presented similar contrast. One brother was absent for the Lord's Day worship and wrote a letter to the elders explaining why he was not present. He was going, according to him, "to sit and mourn along with other family members, the death of a relation who died in the United States of America." And truly, this writer heard over the local radio station under the personal paid announcements (PPA) slot an announcement put up by a family that had lost an illustrious son in the USA in an auto crash. But that was Friday afternoon!

The announcement suggests that the death did not occur on that Friday. Moreover, it was evidently clear that the relationship between the deceased and this young man who claims to be a Christian was nothing more than what we usually describe as a "distant relative." Now, our good brother had that Friday to go and "sit and mourn with the family," but he did not! He had the following day, Saturday, to go and weep with the other relatives. Yet, he did not! The auspicious time as far as he was concerned came on Sunday morning! Not even Sunday afternoon

after the Lord's Day worship was over. No, it just must be Sunday morning and not at any other time!

Would you like to know the reaction of the elders? They decided that the letter be read publicly and not only be publicly rejected, but publicly rebuked! The elders reasoned that the letter was terribly scandalous and put a question mark on the brother's claim to being a faithful Christian. **First Timothy 5:20** says, *"Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."*

In the audience for the Lord's Day worship was another brother whose daughter died just the previous night. Her remains were committed to mother earth just a few hours before that Sunday morning. Precisely, the burial took place at about 10:30 p.m. on that Saturday night. This 25-years-old young lady was already proving to be the brightest star in the horizon of the family. Indeed, she was the only daughter of her father and mother. What a tragedy!

Besides, this brother had the unfortunate lot of watching his only daughter breathing her last breath. Yet, this man was there to worship the Lord of all lords on this particular Lord's Day. What a sharp contrast!

One writer has aptly observed: "Generally, attendance is a faith problem. The weak who looks for an excuse will find one. The strong, who faces the same problems and difficulties as other people, somehow manages always to attend."

There are people who have no faith (**Mark 4:40**). There are those of little faith (**Matthew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31**). And there are those with great faith (**Matthew 8:10**). It is high time we join the apostles in pleading, *"Lord, increase our faith"* (**Luke 17:5**).

**Taken from Meditate on These Things, October**

## **Prayer Of Any Husband**

Lord, may there be no moment of her life, When she regrets that she became my wife.

And keep her dear eyes just a trifle blind, To my defects – and to my failings kind!

Help me do the utmost that I can, To prove myself her measure of a man!

But if I often fail, as mortals may, Grant that she never see my feet of clay!

And let me make allowances - now and then— That we are only grownup boys, we men;

So loving all our children, she will see. Sometimes a remnant of the child in me!

Since years must bring to all their load of care, Let us together every burden bear.

And when death beckons one its path along, May not the two of us be parted long.

**i M. V. Caruthers-- Taken from Lincoln Bible Reader**

**Psa. 1:1** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

## **HOURS OF WORSHIP**

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

**Visitors welcome**

**We conduct in home Bible Studies**

**We offer Correspondence Courses**

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**Deacons: Bill Miller**

**Brandon Jimison**

**Casey Dent**

**Joe Hurd**

### **NEWS AND NOTES:**

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN  
PATRICK, STEPHEN KIMKER,  
STEVE AND SUZANNE WIMP,  
ALMA BAUMGARTNER, AND  
GEORGE ROOT.

### **BIBLE CLASSES**

SUNDAY MORNING - FOLLOWING  
THE MESSIAH - RON PECK -  
TEACHER

WEDNESDAY EVENING  
CHRIST IN YOU

JIM STAUFFER - TEACHER

**SUNDAY SERMON:** HAVE YOU  
WAITED TOO LATE?



## **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10