



Cancer

Brad Hurd. Liver cancer & spreading to lungs.

Steven Kelly. Friend of Lovell's. Stage 4.

Ken Moran. Odell's son. Stage 4 cancer.

Joseph Shulam. Father in law to Beth Shulam.

Special Needs

Ryan Kendrick. Special needs.

Jaydan Patrick. Special needs.

Nursing Home

Sibbie Byrd. Health issues.

Sharon Teschendorf. Dementia .

Need for Prayer

Brandi Beavers. Health concerns.

Jack Beavers. Health concerns.

Sammie Beavers. Health concerns.

Simon Beavers. Health issues.

Dixie Clifton. Health concerns.

Drew Clifton. Dixie's grandson.

Jo Anne Hairfield. Health issues.

Norman W. Hill. Health concerns.

Hester Hollandsworth. Health issues.

Matthew Hollandsworth. Health issues.

Anita Hopper. Health concerns.

Rita Lawless. Health issues.

Odell Moran. Health concerns.

Prayers for Caregivers.

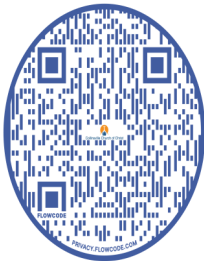
Prayers for our Country, Military.

Prayers for Israel, Palestine, & Ukraine.

To have someone added to the prayer list or to have information updated, please contact Matthew or Jonathan. Names will be removed after four weeks if no updates are received.



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The Collinsville Herald

A Weekly Publication of the Collinsville Church of Christ.



Collinsville Church of Christ

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Times We Meet:

Sunday:

Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Thursday:

Ladies' Class

Coffee & Donuts: 9:30 a.m.
Class: 10:00 a.m.



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No. 15



When Weakness Is Strength

“So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).

In a very real way, we cannot be too weak for God to use, but we may well be too strong (see 1 Corinthians 10:12). Areas of strength in our lives may well also become areas of weakness. Samson's strength, David's heart, and Solomon's wisdom quickly come to mind as good characteristics that were, at some point, emphasized by these men to the neglect and exclusion of God and His will. Notice three truths to remember about our weakness:

1. God's grace always *is* sufficient (12:9).

2. God's power is made complete in *our* weakness (12:9).

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“When Weakness Is Strength” Continued from Front Page

3. When we are aware of our weakness, *then* we can be strong in Christ (12:10).

Not only are there truths to remember in this passage about the necessity of humbly keeping in mind our weakness and realizing our real source of strength, there are also a number of lessons regarding the value of “thorns” and difficulties in our lives.

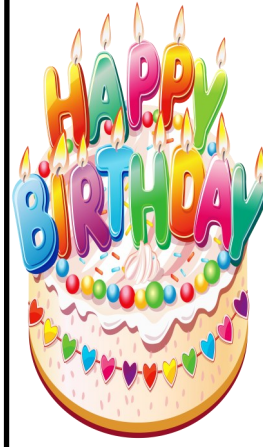
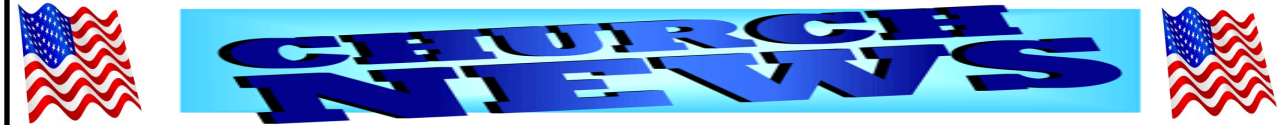
The Danger of Pride. “Thorns” have a way of puncturing pride, don’t they? Note 12:7, “So to keep me from becoming conceited because” and “to keep me from becoming conceited.” The verse begins and ends with “conceited” (Prov. 8:13; 11:2; 16:18; 1 John 2:15-17). If conceit were a possible problem area in Paul’s life, might it also not be in ours as well?

Difficulty Often Lurks in Unusual Places. The passage says, “because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations.” With blessing and privilege often come great responsibility and struggle (Luke 12:48; Phil. 1:29). And times of blessing may well be followed with times of great trial. The baptism of Jesus in Matthew 3 is followed by the temptations in the wilderness in Matthew 4. The “surpassing greatness of the revelations” of Paul in 12:7 is followed by the “thorn.”

Thorns Can Be Really Hard to Live With. Paul “pleaded” with God to remove it on more than one occasion, and Paul was far from a wimp! The NASB says Paul “implored” God to take it away. Scripture is silent regarding the precise nature of Paul’s thorn, and I am glad. We don’t know the identity of Paul’s thorn in order to relate it to our own—whatever our particular “thorn” might be.

There really is a ministry in our thorn: to trust in God and the sufficiency of His grace, and to rely on His strength and not our own.

—Mike Vestal



April Birthdays!

- 4TH JORDYN PATRICK
- 13TH LISA KENDRICK
- 24TH BARBARA OLIVER

May Birthdays!

- 6TH LORI PALMER
- 11TH SIMON BEAVERS
- 22ND ANNIE BEAVERS
- 23RD LIZ THOMPSON
- 23RD JAMES PATRICK



May Anniversary!

- 1ST JAMES & DONNA PATRICK



Thursday Ladies Bible Class!

Coffee & Donuts at 9:30 a.m. and class starts at 10:00 a.m.



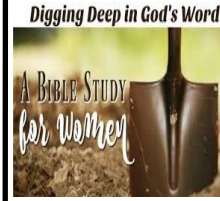
Mid-Week Virtual Bible Study!

Is on a temporary hiatus. We plan to April 18, 2024.



Movie Night!

Our next Monthly Movie Night is on May 4, 2024 & it will be a Pizza & Movie Night! Bring your favorite pizza to share. Pizza Supper @ 5:00 p.m. Movie @ 5:30 p.m.



Digging Deep in God's Word

Digging Deep Bible Study!

Our next Digging deep ladies' class is May 5th from 2-4 pm in our Fellowship Hall.



Blood Drive!

Mark you calendars for our next blood drive with the American Red Cross. Friday, May 31, 2024! Schedule your appointment at:

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“Perfectly Joined Together” Continued from Page 5... while another is declaring that there is no eternal punishment. One is saying that it is vital to remain faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10) while another is preaching that once you are saved you never have to do or be concerned about anything. There are likely few matters raised in scripture that are immune from having people speak different things on.

During our time together I will most certainly speak on baptism as part of the plan of salvation (1 Peter 3:21) while other preachers will at the same time claim that baptism plays no part whatsoever in salvation. For there to be the unity Christ prayed for, and in order for us to speak the same thing as Paul admonished. either I or they need to preach something different. Is there any way to resolve such conflicts? Should I give thought to saying what they say for the sake of unity?

When Jesus prayed for the apostles He laid out the standard “through their word.” Brethren, I, nor any other preacher (and for that matter, any other Christian), has any right to declare anything other than what the Bible says. Once the Bible makes a declaration the matter becomes forever settled. When Apollos learned that he was teaching something that contradicted the teaching of the apostles, he changed his preaching (Acts 18:23-28). He did not attempt to change God’s message. Rather, he allowed God’s message to change him. Unity can only occur when men are willing to accept what the Bible says, laying aside their own preconceptions and sometimes even their own desires.

—Tom Lynch



3 John 1-8



1. To whom is this letter written?
2. “Beloved, I pray that you may _ in all things and be in __, just as your soul prospers.”
3. “I have no greater __ than to hear that my children walk in __.”
4. “Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the __ and for __, who have borne witness of your love before the __.”
5. True or False: Those who aid gospel workers are fellow workers for the truth.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS ON PAGE 7!



Wife Asked Me to Take Another Woman Out

After 21 years of marriage, my wife wanted me to take another woman out to dinner and a movie. She said. I love you, but I know this other woman loves you too, and she would love to spend some time with you.”

The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my mother, who has been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my three children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally. That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie.

“What’s wrong, are you well?” she asked. My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news. “I thought that it would be pleasant to spend some time with you,” I responded. “Just the two of us.” She thought about it for a moment, and then said, “I would like that very much.”

That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up, I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date. She waited in the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary. She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel’s.

“I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed,” she said, as she got into the car. “They can’t wait to hear about our meeting.”

We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cozy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady. After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could only read large print. Halfway through the entries, I lifted my eyes and saw Mom sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips.

Continued on Page 4...

“Wife Asked Me to Take Another Woman Out” Continued from Page 3...

“It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small,” she said. “Then it’s time that you relax and let me return the favor,” I responded.

During the dinner, we had an agreeable conversation. Nothing extraordinary, but catching up on recent events of each other’s life. We talked so much that we missed the movie.

As we arrived at her house later, she said, “I’ll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you.” I agreed.

“How was your dinner date?” asked my wife when I got home. “Very nice. Much more so than I could have imagined,” I answered.

A few days later, my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I didn’t have a chance to do anything for her. Some time later, I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place mother and I had dined. An attached note said: “I paid this bill in advance. I wasn’t sure that I could be there; but nevertheless, I paid for two plates—one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me. I love you, son.”

At that moment I understood the importance of saying, in time, “I love you,” and to give our loved ones the time they deserve. Because nothing is more important in life than family, and they shouldn’t be put off until “some other time.”

—Adapted - via Magnolia Messenger, Writer Unknown

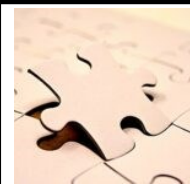
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***Perfectly Joined Together***

Jesus had a vision of unity among believers that the apostles came to share. The Lord prayed for unity; “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me” (John 17:20-21). Notice that Jesus, as He prayed for the apostles, prayed for us as well. “Those who will believe in Me through their word” are us. And that prayer was all about us all being “one.” Yet for sometime now diversity in religion, the exact opposite of the Lord’s prayer, is encouraged and embraced.

A few years after Jesus’ prayer for unity, the apostle Paul came on the scene. Paul was not present to hear that prayer. But he, like us, was included in the number who would come to believe through the word of the other apostles. And he, like they, embraced unity. His first Corinthian letter was to people who were struggling with unity, so he made a strong appeal for them to turn to the Lord’s principle: “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Corinthians 1:10). In this appeal he presented the one idea that can propel believers forward in their pursuit of unity: “that you all speak the same thing.” The “same thing” he referred to was “their word” that Jesus included in His prayer. The only basis that believers can find is God’s word and a willingness to accept it as true.

That there are so many churches, creeds, and doctrines reveals to our shame that we are not speaking the same thing. Very elementary logic forces the conclusion that if we were all speaking the same thing there would only be one. There may well be a multitude of meeting pieces, but the same thing would be taught in all. Yet throughout our city today one is warning about the reality of hell (Matthew 5:29-30)

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