

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, August 24, 2014

Volume 19, Number 34

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

THE LORD OF COMPASSION

by Bob Pulliam

When we consider the character of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, many distinguishing traits may come to mind. Perhaps the first would be love. Another, yet subtle, word used many times of Jesus is *compassion*. It's first use is in Matthew 9:36, “But when He saw the multitudes, He was

moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” Of great comfort is the compassion we see in Jesus as He walked this earth. If this compassion could not be expected of Him during His sojourn here, then how could we expect it of Him as He reigns in heaven on high?

(Compassion, *continued on pg 2...*)

FRUIT

by Bob Pulliam



When is it more difficult to eat your fruit than your veggies? I must confess that I don't get enough of either, even though I do like fruit far better than vegetables. But I'm not talking about lunch. And the answer to the question above is, “When it is the fruit of the Spirit.”

Through the years I've found these important elements of our character missing in the lives of many disciples (and far too often, myself). I'm afraid we've misunderstood the nature of getting the divinely recommended allowance of these characteristics. Because they are the “fruit of the Spirit”, some people seem to think that we are talking about what the Spirit gives us, as if by an IV, or injection. Surely we know that these are not supernaturally given to us by the Spirit! Surely we know

(Fruit, *continued on pg 2...*)

Gospel Meeting

September 7 - 10

- Sunday:** 9:30 AM - The New Man
10:30 AM - The Birth of 3,000 Babies
6:00 PM - The Conversion of David
- Monday:** 7:30 pm - The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am - The Conversion of Jonah
7:30 pm - The Conversion of Cornelius
- Wednesday:** 7:30 pm - Forgive Each Other

Our speaker will be Joseph Casimier

Church of Christ • 2510 Fry Road • Houston, Texas 77084 - 5817

PHONE (281) 578-1897 • FAX (281) 578-2478 • E-MAIL: church@fryroad.org

WEB SITE: www.fryroad.org

(Compassion, *continued from pg 1...*)

And His compassion *is* important in His present position. “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb 4:15f) If we cannot trust Him to sympathize with us, and show compassion, then we will not come “boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” In the next chapter of Hebrews we find that He can “have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray”. (Heb 5:2)

The compassion of our Lord spanned many situations in this

life. From the multitudes who were weary and scattered like sheep (noted above), to the blind (Mt 20:34). He healed a leper out of compassion in Mark 1:41. He used this word to describe the reaction of the Samaritan in the *Parable of the Good Samaritan* (Lk 10:33).

Perhaps the place where Jesus’ compassion tugs most at our heart strings is in Luke 7:13. Here a woman has lost her only son. She has no husband, no son, and will be reduced to a life of begging for her food. She did not run to Jesus for aid. It is doubtful that she knew he was in the vicinity. Jesus saw the procession coming forth from the small city of Nain. This weeping widow, who had now lost her son, touched the heart of our Savior. He already knew her plight, without her rehearsing any of it before Him. He knew better than she what her life would now become. Our Lord, with *compassion*, very simply told her not to weep, and raised her son from the dead. This same Savior is the compassion interces-

sor between ourselves and God. It is He who gives us the confidence that we need to enter the presence of God. It is He who gives us the hope of everlasting life. It is He with whom we will live throughout all eternity!

We can take great comfort in our Lord’s compassion. But doesn’t His compassion create an obligation on our part. After all, we are followers of Christ. The apostle Peter, who followed Jesus as He walked this earth, wrote, “Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;” (I Pt 3:8). The Lord draws us unto himself with compassion, but we must learn to reflect that same compassion. No greater way is this done than by our concern for the souls of others. Compassion will draw us to their need, and create a willingness to meet that need with the word of God. And when all is said and done, won’t we find that having compassion is truly a part of letting our lights shine? (Mt 5:14-16)

PP

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

ROMANS 1 - 5

August 24 - 26

OLD TESTAMENT READING

JUDGES 1 - 5

August 27 - 30

I TIMOTHY 4:13

(Fruit, *continued from pg 1...*)

that we must *partake of these* rather than wait for them to be injected into us! These are “of the Spirit” because they are cultivated by a proper application of them from the word revealed by the Spirit.

May I make a challenge? Over the next few months, take one item from Paul’s list, and spend a week cultivating that one item. Don’t take a shortcut and

put two or three into a week. And don’t leave any out. Take them in the order given by Paul, and work on each characteristic thoroughly. If you have trouble with one, take two weeks for it. But use no less than one week for each (nine weeks in all). And when you’ve finished, make sure you haven’t let any of them slip out of your life. Then cherish their sweet flavor and results in your life.

PP

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22f)

FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

*News and Notes of Interest
to Fry Road Members*

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Annual Singing
September 6, 2014

Gospel Meeting (Joseph Casimier)
September 7 - 10, 2014

Sick and Shut-Ins

An Important Note

A cable blocking the Fry Road entrance will be installed in the near future in order to control traffic flowing through the parking lot by those not attending services. An exact installation date will be announced. This action is being taken because of near accidents involving two children.

Ladies' Class

A special Ladies' Class will meet this afternoon before Sunday evening services (5:00 - 5:45 PM). The study will be on Two Remarkable Women of God (Rahab and Esther).

Address...

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

Sermons:

Next Sunday:

Great Bible Preachers
(Part Two)

Tonight:

How Quickly We Forget
(Judges)

"...I was sick, and you visited me..."
Matthew 25:36

Directory Info

Grief Stricken

FOR THE RECORD

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed
to preserve members' privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

ELDERS:

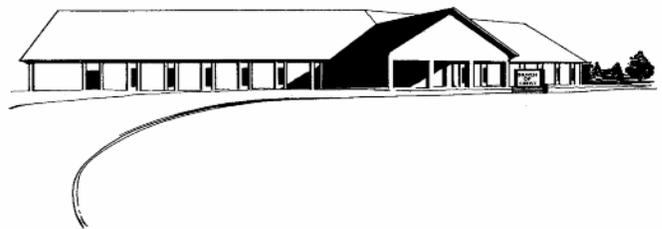
Ruben Amador
Matthew Heaton
Donnie Mangrum
Steve Voss

DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Steven Martin	Mike McMurray
Jason Mock	David Stevenson
Glenn Tomblin	

EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

Bob Pulliam bob@fryroad.org



TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM