

Preacher Update: November 2013

- *Preparing and preaching weekly a.m. and p.m. sermons*
- *Preparing and teaching Wednesday evening class*
- *Monday evenings, myself, Bill and Kena are teaching a conversion class*
- *Tuesday morning Bible study*
- *Tuesday evening Bible study*
- *Thursday morning Bible study*
- *Calls and visits from the brethren over different issues and problems*

Reminder

Continuation of **Special Men's Meeting**: Friday, 6:00 p.m.

December Birthdays

4 Clint Oster	28 Jim Nichols	30 Richard Karns
17 Bill Brown	29 Joshua Morales	30 Jeremiah Morales
27 Sue Tanner		31 Bob Pescador

December Anniversaries

9 Arnold & Maria Morales 18 Jim & Marie Burruss

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Diligence in Study and Prayer...

Our Relationship with God

(from Memory Delight)

In a scene from *Shadowlands*, a film based on the life of C.S. Lewis, Lewis has returned to Oxford from London, where he has just been married to Joy Gresham, an American woman, in a private Episcopal ceremony performed at her hospital bedside. She is **dying from cancer**, and, through the struggle with her illness, she and Lewis have been discovering the depth of their love for each other.

As Lewis arrives at the college where he teaches, he is met by Harry Harrington, an Episcopal priest, who asks what news there is. Lewis hesitates; then, deciding to speak of the marriage and not the cancer, he says, *"Ah, good news, I think, Harry. Yes, good news."*

Harrington, not aware of the marriage and thinking that Lewis is referring to Joy's medical situation, replies, *"I know how hard you've been praying...Now, God is answering your prayer."*

"That's not why I pray, Harry," Lewis responds. *"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God; it changes me."*

Isn't that true? We all desperately need God and we're all helpless without Him. But the problem is, we sometimes act as if our relationship with God is *"optional."* Meaning, **we only pray when we're in trouble**. We only seek His face when we're confused or in pain. We only read our Bible when we need an answer from Him.

If we've been unfair with our relationship with God now is the time to catch up.

The Grass Grows on Your Path

By Ronnie Scherffius

It has been reported that early African converts to Christianity were earnest and regular in private devotions. Each had a separate spot in the thicket where he would meditate upon God's word and pour his out heart to God. Over time the paths to these places became well worn. As a result, if one of these believers began to neglect this time of devotion and prayer it was soon apparent to the others. They would kindly remind the negligent one, "Brother, the grass grows on your path."

How diligent are we in our study of God's word and devotion to prayer? These two areas of our Christian lives are perhaps the most vital, for one is God talking to us and the other is our talking to God. With great love and care, God has revealed His will to us. The Bible, the revealed will of God, is given that we might know how to approach God acceptably and that we might live acceptably in His sight. Exhorting Timothy, Paul wrote, "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

On the other side of the coin is our speaking to God. Consider this for just a moment; we actually have the privilege of petitioning the Almighty God, the Creator of all things, the Judge of all the earth, and knowing that, as His children, He will hear and regard our prayers. These times of private devotion in prayer also provide us with the peace of casting all our care upon our heavenly Father, knowing that He continually cares for and is concerned about us (1 Peter 5:7).

When we neglect these privileged blessings of growing in the grace and knowledge of God through study and the petitioning of our Father in prayer, we often become weak and distant from the strength that God has provided for us. Dear friend, is the grass growing on your path?

"The Lord hath heard my supplication; the Lord will receive my prayer"

Psalm 6:9

Lord, I Thank You...Right Now!

Author Unknown

Dear GOD:

I want to thank You for what You have already done. I am not going to wait until I see results or receive rewards. I am thanking You right now. I am not going to wait until I feel better or things look better. I am thanking You right now. I am not going to wait until people say they are sorry or until they stop talking about me. I am thanking You right now. I am not going to wait until the pain in my body disappears. I am thanking You right now. I am not going to wait until my financial situation improves. I am going to thank You right now. I am not going to wait until the children are asleep and the house is quiet. I am going to thank You right now. I am not going to wait until I get promoted at work or until I get the job. I am going to thank You right now. I am not going to wait until I understand every experience in my life that has caused me pain or grief. I am going to thank You right now. I am not going to wait until the journey gets easier or the challenges are removed. I am going to thank You right now.

I am thanking You because I am alive. I am thanking You because I made it through the day's difficulties. I am thanking You because I have walked around the obstacles. I am thanking You because I have the ability and the opportunity to do more and do better. I'm thanking You because FATHER, YOU haven't given up on me.

Quotations about Prayer

"Satan does not care how many people read about prayer if only he can keep them from praying." - Paul E. Billheimer -

"He who has learned to pray has learned the greatest secret of a holy and happy life." - William Law -