

Thank You, Paul Cantrell!
Our speaker today

Bible Thoughts



“Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous; love does not brag, it is not arrogant. It does not act disgracefully, it does not seek its own benefit; it is not provoked, does not keep an account of a wrong suffered, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; it keeps every confidence, it believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 18 Alexis Brown 31 Bob Pescador

December Anniversaries

12 Ron & Peggy Woodruff 18 Jim & Marie Burruss

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The Fortune of Family

By Edd Sterchi

One of the most valuable things that God has given us is the concept of the family. Think about it – before God brought forth the societal governmental system, He gave the family. Before God established His church on the earth, He consecrated the family.

After creating the heavens and the earth, God placed a family there (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:21-25). After God cleansed the earth through the global flood, He began anew with a family (Genesis 6:17-18.). It is through a family that God gave His promise of a Savior and through whom all families on earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:1-5).

The family as God would have it is the moral structure of any successful society. The family is the golden thread that binds a particular group of people to their past, present, and future. The family is where hurts are best healed, victories are best shared, and forgiveness is easiest displayed. The family is the place where love is most at home. Without a doubt, God knew what He was doing when He created the family.

When Paul through inspiration wanted to show Christ’s love for the church and her relationship to Him, he did in family type language (Ephesians 5:22-33). And after that, Paul naturally transitioned into a discussion of parents and children and their responsibilities to one another as a family (Ephesians 6:1-4).

After looking at all of this Biblical information, we can only come to one conclusion: family is important. Why else would God have

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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connected such vital aspects of His will to the family? Because the family (following the will of God) is the core unit of success and happiness.

Knowing this, it behooves each of us to make our family relationships the best that they can be. We each need to do our part to make our families better and stronger. Only good things will come from this effort.

One last thing – regardless of our earthly family situation, we can be a part of the best family on earth, which is the church. Members of the church are “*members of the household of God*” (Ephesians 2:19), and are a part of “*the whole family in heaven and earth*” (Ephesians 3:14-15). Are you a part of God’s family?

Hats Off to The Rattlesnakes

By Leroy Brownlow

(Shared by Jack Critchfield)

Once upon a time there was a family of wayward members of the church who had lost interest and fallen away. There was a father, and three sons, Jim and John, and Sam. The elders had talked with them about their lost condition. The preacher had done everything within reason that he could think of to lead them to repentance. Many of the brethren had tried to encourage them but nothing seemed to help in the least. One day when the boys were out in the pasture, a large rattlesnake bit John, and he became very ill. The physician was called and after an examination, he pronounced that John was in very critical condition. Said he, “About the only thing left now is prayer. You had better call the elders and your preacher at once.” Acting upon this advice, the old man called the preacher, and in tears told him of John’s condition and urged him to gather the elders and come to John’s bedside as soon as possible. The preacher arrived in due time and was asked to lead the prayer for John’s recovery. This is what he prayed:

“Oh wise and righteous Father, we thank Thee that Thou in Thy wisdom sent this rattlesnake to bite John in order to bring him to

his senses. He has not been inside the church house for years, and it is very doubtful that he has in all this time felt any need of prayer until now. Now we trust that this will lead him to genuine repentance. And now, our Father, wilt Thou send another to bite Sam, and another to bite Jim, and another BIG ONE to bite the old man? We have all been doing everything we knew for years to restore them but to no avail. It seems, therefore, that what all combined efforts would not do, this rattlesnake has done. We thus conclude that the only thing left that will do this family any good is rattlesnakes. So Lord, send us bigger and better rattlesnakes. In the name of Jesus, Amen.”

When Parents Learn

By Ron Thomas

Children will always listen to words of instructions from their parents. This is both a compelling matter and a matter of love. Listen they will, but they learn so much more by the actions of their parents. Sometimes parents, even though they know this, do not allow this understanding to remind them of the importance of living righteously. From their parents, the children learn what is important in their lives. If the Lord is very important, the children learn this by the actions of the parents. On the other hand, if the Lord is not all that important, the children learn this by the actions of the parents as well. At some time in the future, when parents have learned (perhaps relearned) and come to value the Lord’s way differently than they have in previous years, they also learn they are too late to save their children because their earlier actions taught so well! “*Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it*” (Proverbs 22:6, ASV).

The moral and spiritual grounding of each person is the starting place of the moral and spiritual grounding of the family. Without the Lord, the moral grounding drifts on the water like a piece of driftwood. Many people have a moral and spiritual grounding in place but fail to implement it to firmly guide their lives. The byproduct is a family confused about what is important.