

No Time Like the Present

What are you doing with the present? Are you making the most of this day and doing your best to serve the Lord in this moment of time? Live in the moment. The Bible says, *"Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord"* (Colossians 3:23a). And, *"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might"* (Ecclesiastes 9:10). And a poet wrote . . .

Today is mine to do with what I will
Today is mine my own special cup to fill
To die a little that I might learn to live
To take from life that I might learn to
give
Today is mine

Like most men I cursed the present to
avoid the peace of mind
And raise my thoughts beyond tomorrow
and vision there more peace of mind
But as I view this day around me I can see
the fool I've been
For today's the only garden we can tend
Today is mine
--selected from article by Steve Klein


"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:13-14).

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attitude (I Peter 3:3-6), of a genuine respect for others and unpretended love of the brethren, of a holy and harmless life of doing justly, loving mercy, and being ready unto every good work, of a heart in which is no guile! How beautiful is the simplicity of worship: hearts that are attuned to the will of God, voices blending together in songs of praise, heartfelt prayers of supplication and thanksgiving, the solemn yet joyful fellowship of the Lord's Supper, the earnest exhortation and edification of the church through teaching, and the sacrifice of our financial resources to the Lord's work! Let the words of "A Beautiful Life" ring in our hearts as each of us gives himself diligently to the task of being *"a worker who does not need to be ashamed"* (II Timothy 2:15). Surely the "beautiful people" are the godly people who shine as lights in a dark world of sin and degradation!

--Gilbert Alexander

ELDERS: Doug Driver
Johnny Felker
DEACONS: Ralph Brown
Mark Claypool



Service Times

SUNDAY
Bible Study—9:00 am
Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 pm

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

Perry Heights church of Christ
423 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
(615) 883-3118

"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"
Heb. 10:24

May 10, 2009

A Beautiful Life

The finest adorning in life is not an outward adorning of the body, but rather dressing oneself in the beauty of holiness and righteousness. While the outward adorning of the body is pleasing to the eye and physically appealing, the inward adorning of a meek and quiet spirit appeals to the heart and soul and makes one's life rich indeed.

David speaks of *"the beauties of holiness"* (Psalm 110:3); and Paul, quoting from Isaiah 52:7, says, *"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"* Again, the Psalmist says, *"For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation."* Isaiah says, *"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels"* (Isaiah 61:10). How shallow and hollow indeed is a beautiful countenance behind which is a corrupt and immoral life. We often sing, "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me," but we know that the prophet has said of the Christ, *"He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him"* (Isaiah 53:2).

The beauty of selfless sacrifice is seen in its finest hour in the suffering and death of Christ. *"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends"* (John 15:13). Of the life of Jesus, Peter stated it simply, *"...who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him"* (Acts 10:38). The people of God can do little to improve their physical appearance, but each one can adorn his life with meekness and holiness, doing good and sharing, *"for with such sacrifices God is well pleased"* (Hebrews 13:16).

The beauty of the Lord's church is in its purity as a cleansed body, and the continued purity of the church depends upon the purity of the lives of all the saints. *"A little leaven leavens the whole lump;"* therefore, we must *"purge out the old leaven"* so that we may be a new, unleavened lump (I Corinthians 5:6, 7). How beautiful is a life of "golden deeds", of kind and compassionate words and works, of pure and wholesome speech, of a meek and submissive

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The Fruit of Self-Control



in your faith supply ... self-control; (2 Pet. 1:5-6).

Self-control is especially needed...

In the expression of our emotions, especially _____.

Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no _____ over his spirit. (Prov. 25:28)

In controlling our _____.

If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not _____ his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless. (Jas. 1:26)

In our _____ desires.

And as he was discussing righteousness, _____ and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened ... (Ac. 24:25)

In our pursuit of _____ and _____.

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful _____ which plunge men into ruin and destruction. (1 Tim. 6:9)

How can we have more self-control?

Recognize that God expects us to master our thoughts and begin with the _____.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but _____ they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. (Mt. 23:25)

We may need to change our _____ to avoid temptation.

And if your right eye makes you stumble, ___ it out, and throw it from you; (Mt. 5:29)

Refrain from the use of _____.

And do not get drunk with _____, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the _____, (Eph. 5:18)

Concentrate on the ultimate goal of _____.

And everyone who competes in the games exercises _____ in all things. (1 Cor. 9:25)

Self-control is possible and necessary if we want to live fruitful lives for the Lord!

Remember in Prayer:

The Sick:

Dennis Blanton is in St. Thomas Hospital after having a stroke last week. He is improving and hopes to begin rehabilitation soon.

Xenna Gooch is still having some problems with the regulation of medications being used to treat her arterial blockages and those being used to treat her blood pressure.

Burton Brown, Bettye's brother, is having difficulty with side effects of radiation treatment for cancer that has metastasized to his brain.

Lucy Karnes, Martha Felker's sister, has a perforated colon and is currently at home from the hospital.

Louis Mullen has been transferred to Mayfield Rehabilitation Center, 200 Mayfield Dr., Smyrna, TN 37167.

Roland Miller, Larry's father, was diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer. He is still being evaluated, but currently there are no plans for chemotherapy or radiation.

Johnnie Adams, Anita Carman's uncle, is experiencing weakness due to chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Cards can be sent to: Johnnie Adams, Room 4032, CTCA @ South Regional Medical Center, 10109 79th St., Tulsa, OK 74133.

Lauren Mack, granddaughter of Betty Travis and niece of Pam Travis, continues to have problems with pre-term labor and has been hospitalized again.

Continue to remember those recovering from sickness, surgery and those dealing with cancer or chronic illness: **Brownie Spicer, Karen Shelton, Carolyn Lowder and Neal Smith.**

News & Notes:

--**Group 3** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.



--You're invited to a **baby shower** for Teresa Graves next Saturday afternoon, May 16, 2:00 - 4:00pm, at Linda Driver's home.