

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST -

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S. Sick: Gary Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, Js Swim, Tricia Deen Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis Military: Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

DATES TO REMEMBER – Besides our upcoming meeting (see above), we look forward to Singing (Apr 22-24), VBS (Jul 24-28), & Lectures (Aug 5-6).

SENTENCE SERMON – If serving is beneath you, then leadership is beyond you.



PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST ROGERS, ARKANSAS

March 20, 2022

Poor Kindling

James wrote, "See how great a forest a little fire kindles" (3:5). We see the truth of that statement born out in the numerous forest fires started out west because someone tossed a cigarette out the window or carelessly flicked a match. Without even trying, an entire forest turns to ash.

So why is it that it takes a whole box of matches to start a campfire? We carefully gather the wood and the kindling, but the fire just refuses to ignite (which is why true outdoorsmen carry a lighter – and a jug of diesel). Of course, the context of James' remarks is the tongue. One careless word can cause all kinds of trouble – like an out-of-control forest fire.

Solomon wrote, "Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; where there is no talebearer, strife ceases" (Pr 26:20). The reason some campers can't start a fire with a box full of matches is because of poor kindling. The reason some rumors gain no traction is because wise brethren ignore them. May God bless this church with an abundance of poor kindling. - WKing

ATTRIBUTES OF A CHRISTIAN WOMAN -

In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control. -1 Ti 2:9-15

This text contains four attributes of a Christian woman: 1) Her greatest beauty is to be found in modesty (vss 9-10). Modesty is not a sign of ugliness – just the opposite. A woman who possesses the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit radiates a beauty far above that of jewels and clothes. Her attractiveness is 'inside out'.

2) Her greatest eloquence is to be found in quietness (vss 11-12). Quietness is not a sign of ignorance – just the opposite. Holding her tongue and being sure of what she speaks, where she speaks, when she speaks, and how she speaks is the greatest demonstration of wisdom.

3) Her greatest power is to be found in submission (vss 13-14). Submission is not a sign of weakness – just the opposite. It was by submission to the will of God that Jesus was highly exalted (Ph 2:5-11). He did not bear the cross out of fear and duty, but because He chose to. The greatest power is found in conquering one's own ego by submission.

4) Her greatest glory is to be found in motherhood (vs 15). Motherhood is not a sign of inability – just the opposite. It is the highest position of honor and the most noble calling of service. Far above the titles of 'Queen,' 'Princess,' 'Your Honor,' 'Madam President,' and 'Doctor' is the voice of a child saying "Mommy."

Some in our contemporary culture see such attributes as demeaning to women, but God gave these to His finest and final creation. To change from such an ideal is degradation. Why would a butterfly ever want to be a caterpillar?

- Samuel Matthews (edited for space)

Another Perspective

Why Were the Disciples So Sure?

One of the most significant proofs of Jesus' resurrection is the early disciples' sincere belief that He had risen. Note 1 John 1:1-2 – John probably wrote these words to contradict the Gnostic claim that Jesus did **not** come in the flesh, but they serve just as well as a defense of His resurrection. The disciples didn't glimpse the risen Jesus at a distance or see Him early in the morning when they were fuzzily waking up. Instead, they heard Him, saw Him, studied Him intently, and touched Him with their hands. Their testimony was based on the firm experience of their senses.

A study of John's gospel reveals some of these experiences. John watched as a Roman soldier plunged His spear into Jesus' side, and the corpse didn't even twitch. He looked in the tomb where Jesus had been laid and saw discarded grave wrappings but no body. He heard Mary Magdalene relate that she had laid hold of the feet of the risen Jesus as she worshiped Him. He was in the locked upper room when Jesus appeared in the midst of the disciples and displayed the wounds in His hands and side for their inspection. He ate breakfast with Jesus as the sun rose over the Sea of Galilee. John had all the evidence he needed to be 100 percent convinced that Jesus was a real human being who really died and really was restored to life by God. So did the others. They knew this had happened.

In an earthly sense, their experience did them no favors. It set them against the rulers of their world. Without the resurrection, they could have lived ordinary, peaceful lives. Because of it, they were hounded to the end of their days. However, it also gave them a most precious hope. If Jesus was raised to life, they could trust that they also would be raised to life through Him. Because of their steadfastness in testifying to their experiences, we can trust it too. And next to this, nothing else matters. *– Steve Wolfgang (edited for space)*