



*Chalmette
Church of Christ*

January 03, 2010

“Friends”

It is certainly not by coincidence that I write on this topic. I would be amiss if I didn't express my gratitude for all the friends whose expressions of care and love and prayers were bestowed upon my family and me during my recent hospital stay. Similarly, during a recent gospel meeting, so many friends from here and there came and encouraged the congregation holding the meeting and me personally. I am truly a blessed man to have so many folks around the world that I can call friends. If I could draw on a well known Bible phrase, these friends' "price is far above rubies."

There is a beautiful picture of true friendship given in God's Holy Word. That is of the friendship of David and Jonathan. It is truly heartbreaking that the evil minds of worldly people would attempt to make this beautiful relationship into something perverted, evil, and abominable. 1 Sam 18:1-4 (NKJV) "Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's

house anymore. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt." The expression of friendship here displayed brings to mind words that we often use to describe a good friend. We say, "He would give you the shirt off his back!" Jonathan literally did just that.

You know, as you read about Jonathan, there was absolutely nothing for him to gain by befriending David. Jonathan was Saul's first-born son and therefore heir to the throne of Israel. Many, in his position, would have resented this upstart, peasant, shepherd boy from the hills of Bethlehem. But even after David was selected by God to be the next king, Jonathan remained a valued friend to the one with the godly heart. friend. "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan was slain in your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women. "How the mighty have fallen, And

the weapons of war perished!" (2 Sam 1:25-27 NKJV) Please pardon the personal note as I am reminded of my recent loss of my dearest friend ever, save my bride. The thought again of that loss brings the tears flooding back. I can feel the pain of David as he spoke these words, a pain I endured as I preached the funeral for my dear friend. How truly precious friendship is!

As Solomon wrote, "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." (Pro 18:24 NKJV) I can't help but wonder if he remembered his father talking about that great friend, Jonathan. I cannot know that, but it does add power to his words of wisdom. Truly, Jonathan was a friend who sticks closer than a brother. There is no mention in text relating to David's brothers helping him as he evades Saul's madness. Yet we see Jonathan, repeatedly, foiling the snares of his father who was hoping to destroy David.

As Solomon's words announce, "A man who has friends must himself be friendly ...", there brings to mind another example of friendship worthy of our mention. "And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God." (James 2:23 NKJV). Solomon is always regarded as the wisest man ever, but you must admit that Abraham was pretty wise to have God as his friend. Used here in this passage to prove the action of a living faith, Abraham's friendship with God stands out. Wouldn't you agree that friendship is also action? Wouldn't it be grand to have as your epitaph, "Here lies a friend

of God?" James account of Abraham's friendship with God is given to us so that we can learn what is necessary to be called God's friend, but are we God's friend, that really becomes the question.

There are all kinds of friends. There are friends who take and never give. There are fair weather friends. Some become friends for money or popularity. There is also one friend that I must warn you about. "...Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." (James 4:4 NKJV)

Be a friend! Be a friend to God. Be a friend to Christ. Be a friend to the church. Be a friend to your neighbor. But beware of friendship with the world, it is a taker not a giver.

By: Roger Comstock

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See if you can answer the following questions:

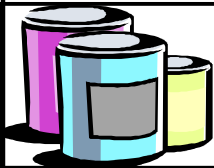
Answers from last week:

1. David 2. Garden of Eden 3. Levites 4. Goat 5. Ten

Old Testament Novice

1. God finished His labor, the creation He had begun; on what day did He rest, after all had been done?
2. David sinned with Bathsheba another man's wife; their immoral conduct cost these two their life!
3. Moses was nursed as a babe in Pharaoh's palace; who was the woman who did so without malice?
4. In the Old Testament times we were called Israelites or Jews; ere known by those names we were the _____.
5. Who bought Joseph as a slave when in Egypt he arrived? With the Ishmaelite traders, the journey he had survived.

Tune in next week to see if you got all the answers correct!



The food pantry at the Church Building is running very low. Please remember to bring non-perishable items if possible!



Cleaning Schedule

Month of January—Melissa and Sherry

Upcoming Events

January 10- Ladies Class

January 17- Singing and Fellowship Meal

January 24- Ladies Class

January Birthdays

6 Melissa Snyder

7 Sonny Adams

8 Laura Adams

12 Mikayla Sextion

13 Cassandra Brady

18 Tyler Gautreaux

28 John Early



Prayer List



**Mary Jo Lance
Malcolm Vasquez
Joe Riley
Alice Riley
Sherry Towle
Betty Grisham
Sheila Matthews
Burnell Rogers
Margo
Claudia Smith
Lisa Lance
Vickie Swanner
Patricia Rodney
William Brossette
Donny Vick
Mary Macalusa
Everett Tittsworth**

**Chalmette Church of Christ
200 De La Ronde
Chalmette, LA 70043
504-279-9438**

**Services of The Church
Sunday**

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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