



## *Chalmette Church of Christ*

*December 28, 2008*

### *“The Fruit of the Spirit (Part 2)”*

**The fruit of the Spirit is peace.** “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble ” (Job 14:1). This being true, man desperately searches for peace of mind. Really, the Bible speaks of two different kinds of peace. There is peace **with** God (Rom. 5:2), and there is the peace **of** God (Phi. 4:7). The latter is under consideration in Galatians 5:22. However, one cannot maintain the peace of God without being at peace with God. This comes about when one obeys the gospel of Christ and his sins are washed away. Baptism into Christ means the forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus, being added to the Lord's church, and peace with God. The abiding peace of God comes with the realization of a clean conscience.

Peter wrote: The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 3:21).

Peace comes to the soul when one realizes he is no longer under condemnation. Sin condemns, not Jesus (John 3:17). In fact, it was Jesus' mission to bring peace to those who were suffering from internal strife. He said, “Peace I leave with you my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27). This world is filled with false advertising and false security. Countless millions search in vain for peace of mind. Thousands seek psychological help and even end their lives prematurely because of their desperate condition. The Lord gives peace, however, not just by taking our sins away but also in providing hope for our future. Paul said, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28). God, being omnipotent and omniscient, can not only see the future but works everything out according to His pleasure, which includes providing for his children's welfare. Surely, the providence of God grants peace to the people of God.

**The fruit of the Spirit is longsuffering.** Someone has stated, “Lord, I need patience... and hurry.” Having preached numerous sermons concerning the fruit of the Spirit, longsuffering or patience is the topic that usually is most requested. Do you have problems with long lines at the grocery store and slow moving traffic? More importantly, do you give up on people easily? Perhaps you are an impatient person. Longsuffering or patience is one of the marvelous attributes of God. He does not easily give up on us. Sometimes the question is asked, “Why does a holy and righteous God continue to allow this increasingly evil and corrupt world to stand?” The answer must be that God is so very patient. In fact, the scriptures tell us so.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet, 3:9).

**The fruit of the Spirit is gentleness.** A gentle person is kind. A gentle person is kind. In his 1993 inaugural address, President George Bush said his vision for the country included a kinder, gentler America. Such a noble goal expressed by the leader of the free world. Our society could use a big dose of kindness. It has been well stated that kindness is love in the little things.

You can never forget those who are always ready to offer a helping hand when in need, a smile when you are weary, a note of encouragement when you are sad. Kindness is demonstrated by common courtesy, which is always to be displayed by a faithful follower of Christ. The Bible student recalls that Barnabas was known as the “son of consolation.” Indeed, he was a man who was genuinely kind. Following the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, many Christians in Jerusalem were fearful when they learned of his desire to associate himself with them. Rightly so! After all Saul had persecuted the church, even putting many of them, including Stephen, to death. However, it was the kind and generous Barnabas who allayed the fears of the Jerusalem church.

But Barnabas took him [Saul], and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus (Acts 9:27).

Where would the church be without kind and gentle Christians? The same apostle who had experienced such kindness wrote, "And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32). What ought to motivate each of us toward kindness is an appreciation for the kindness of God showered upon each of us (Psa. 117:2).

**The fruit of the Spirit is goodness.** To be good is to be God-like in character. A little child sometimes prays, "God is great, God is good." No greater truth has ever been spoken. Everything God does is good. He has demonstrated His goodness to man through His marvelous creation and through the salvation that he provides.

In order to find the epitome of goodness, we turn to the example of Christ. Peter said of Jesus, "[He] went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him" (Acts 10:38). Sometimes we hear the question asked, "What would Jesus do?" Perhaps a more apt question would be, "What did Jesus do?" He went about doing good. Remember these words, again by the apostle Peter:

For even hereunto were ye called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who when he was reviled, reviled not again; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes we are healed (1 Pet. 2:21-24).

How can we be good? First, one must be cleansed in the blood of Christ. Since all have sinned (Rom. 3:23), therefore, none are good (v. 10). Man is justified by the blood of Christ (5:9) and contacts that blood through baptism (6:3-4).

Second, one must become a servant of righteousness. Being then made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh; for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness (vv. 10,19).

As the song suggests, "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me." This can only be done by being good. Those of us who are Christians are the only Bible that some will ever see. Our lives will either affect others positively or negatively, but we will benefit others by living good lives. Does it pay to be good? Absolutely! Not only will we enjoy marvelous blessings in this life but also in the life to come (John 5:29).

**The fruit of the Spirit is faith.** The child of God will desire to produce in his heart the fruit of faithfulness. It is important that we be faithful to our families and friends, in our finances,

in our lives, and above all we should be faithful to God. Our Lord has entrusted much to our care and the only way we can be accepted by Him is to be faithful (1 Cor. 4:2). In fact, faithfulness is the key to gaining entrance into that heavenly home. Jesus said, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

Also, this word carries with it the idea of truthfulness. As a faithful child of God, I do not doubt my heavenly Father. Since each of us will be judged according to a perfect standard (John 12:48), we know that God will save all those who comply with His will. Likewise, we do not let doubt and suspicion dictate our attitude toward others, "[Love] believeth all things" (1 Cor. 13:7). This does not mean that love is gullible or naive, but, rather loves causes us to trust. We should always believe the best about somebody, unless proven otherwise. If we do not, we become guilty of casting judgment upon someone in a most sinful way (Mat. 7:1).

(To be continued next week)

Michael Sexton was added in Christ last Sunday! May God bless him in his Christian walk.

Happy New Year from Mark, Tina, Jessica, Katelyn, and Mary Jo Lane!

### WORKS WE SUPPORT

Gospel Broadcast Network

House to House Heart to Heart

Two students at the Memphis School of Preaching

Curry Montague— Budapest

Morrne Stephanus- In Africa

Roger Scully- Morgan City Church of Christ

# Kid's Korner

**See if you can answer the following questions:**

Answers from last week:

1. Rebelling against the King
2. Eliabshib
3. They held the spears, shields, bows, and body-armor
4. I am doing great work and I cannot come down

## Elisha

1. What was Elisha doing when Elijah threw his mantle over him?
2. What did Elisha do in response to Elijah throwing the mantle on him?
3. At which two towns did the company of prophets tell Elisha that the Lord would take Elijah away from him that day?
4. For which city did Elisha cleanse its waters by throwing a bowl of salt into the spring?

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



## Cleaning Schedule

*Month of December— Looking for volunteers. Please sign up if available.*

## Upcoming Events

**January 18- Singing and Fellowship Meal**

Happy New Year!



# Prayer List

**Mary Jo Lance**  
Malcolm Vasquez  
Muriel Jones  
**Joe Riley**  
**Alice Riley**  
Maggie Fletcher  
Bill Burchett  
Buck Hall  
**Sherry Towle**  
Bob Spurlin  
Catherine Grant  
Kathleen Grant Dunn  
Sonny Adams  
**Betty Grisham**  
Paul Roberts  
Melinda London



\*All of our brethren scattered across the United States

\* Our men and women who are serving in the military:

- Ryan Neal
- Wayne Schulz

**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

**[www.chalmettechurchofchrist.org](http://www.chalmettechurchofchrist.org)**

Chalmette Church of Christ  
Post Office Box 1165  
Chalmette, LA 70044

## Grass Cutting

### Schedule

Wayne Schulz-- Month of December

