



Church of Christ at Beech Grove

meeting at Beechgrove, TN since 1875

❖ Visitors Always Welcome ❖

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<http://kennethlorin.com/BeechGroveChurch.html> <http://kennethlorin.com/WeeklyBulletin.html>

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The following article was written about nineteen years ago, but its message of optimism still rings true.

The Message of Spring

by Ken Thomas

The last snowfall of winter on Monday reminded me of how fragile the blossoms on trees and flowering plants are. Truly the world of nature "takes a chance on life" when it blossoms. Last year my fruit trees were in full bloom when the hard freeze hit. Despite efforts to protect the trees, our total crop was 7 plums and zero peaches, nectarines, apples, pears. Despite almost total failure last year, my trees "are trying again." They may get frozen again but I suspect that as long as they live, they will continue trying to reproduce themselves by blooming and bearing fruit.

Sometimes as Christians we get discouraged when our efforts for the Lord seem to fail. When we try to bring someone to Christ and we get our "blooms frozen off," we may

hesitate to try again. When we think we have made a convert to Christ, sometimes a blight of sin or a spiritual "worm" causes the "fruit" to drop early. We need to remember that we cannot bear fruit of ourselves, only when abiding in Christ (John 15:4-6).

The example of the fruit tree also reminds us that when we fail in our "reason for being," when we mess up in life through our own weakness or outside influences beyond our control, we should not give up. "The trying of your faith worketh patience...Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." James 1:3,12.

March 25, 1990

archived at

<http://www.mtjuliet.org/sermons/archives2/002863.html>

Sunday Schedule

Bible Classes	10 AM
Worship	11 AM
Worship	6 PM
Wednesday: Bible Classes	7 PM

Mission Works and Evangelism:

House to House/ Heart to Heart
 Restoration Radio
 Jim Waldron
 Manuelito Children's Home



Bible Search

by Kenneth L. Thomas

Questions for week of May 10

1. What was the situation of those who complained that they had to BUY water and wood?
2. What kind of person stirs up strife? (There are at least three words used to describe this person.)
3. The Bible speaks of both dead faith and dead works. Find at least one reference to both.
4. If Christians are diligent to grow spiritually, what will be made sure?
5. What was "Ephphatha" used for?
6. What man asked who was talking to him, and was told that it was a secret?
7. Who was awakened with orders to pray, the purpose being to save his life and the life of others?

Answers for week of May 3

1. Where are we warned of the danger risked by a wood-cutter?

Best answer: **(Ecc 10:9-10) Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby.** 10 If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.

His work also may be a danger to others who are nearby, and unless he fled to a city of refuge, such a person in Old Testament days could be punished by death from an avenging relative of the slain.

Deuteronomy 19:5: As when a man goeth into the wood with his neighbour to hew wood, and his hand fetcheth a stroke with the axe to cut down the tree, and the head slippeth from the helve, and lighteth upon his neighbour, that he die; he shall flee unto one of those cities, and live:

2. Who was high priest when John the Baptist began preaching in the wilderness?

Answer: Annas and Caiaphas, but there are problems with this.

Luke 3:1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, 2 Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

The following passages mention Annas and Caiaphas together. The problem with any study like this is the fact that sometimes the same name is used for different people who lived at different times, as well as the fact that we are not as well versed in history as we might like to be. However, it seems that though Jewish law only allowed one high priest at a time, there seems to have been some manipulation and rotation of the office at the time.

From what I can learn, Annas had been unjustly deposed as high priest by Roman officials, but still served on the Sanhedrin. His son-in-law was actually serving in the office, but probably Annas was still considered the rightful high priest by the Jews. Luke simply reports what the situation was, not necessarily what "should be."

(John 18:13) And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year. (John 18:24) Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest.

(Acts 4:6) And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

Adam Clarke's commentary notes that Annas had served for 11 years, carried the title the rest of his life, and had five sons to serve at one time or another.

3. What royal official, before he had a man of God put in a dangerous environment, expressed his own confidence that the man would be able to survive due to the intervention of God?

Answer: Darius the Mede. Daniel 6:16-17

Dan. 6: 1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom...9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree...16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. 17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

4. Some of us are slow at some things, and fast in other areas. Several passages indicate that God is not fast in one important area. What is God slow in doing?

Answer: God is slow to anger. (Aren't we glad??) In some versions the word "longsuffering" is used.

Nehemiah 9:17 And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great

kindness, and forsookest them not.

Joel 2:13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Jonah 4:2 And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

Nahum 1:3 The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

Ps:103:8: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

Psa 145:8 The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

*Exodus 34:6 (NIV) And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

God also commends this slowness in man. We should also be slow to anger. James 1:19, Proverbs 14:29, 15:18, 16:32.

5. What mountain is described as having hated the people of Israel, and was to be filled with blood of the slain?

Answer: Mount Seir (home of the Edomites)

Gen 36:8-9 - Thus dwelt Esau in mount Seir: Esau is Edom. 9 And these are the generations of Esau the father of the Edomites in mount Seir:

Ezek 35:1-6 - Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, set thy face against mount Seir, and prophesy against it, 3 And say unto it, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O mount Seir, I am against thee, and I will stretch out mine hand against thee, and I will make thee most desolate. 4 I will lay thy cities waste, and thou shalt be desolate, and thou shalt know that I am the LORD. 5 Because thou hast had a perpetual hatred, and hast shed the blood of the children of Israel by the force of the sword in the time of their calamity, in the time that their iniquity had an end: 6 Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will prepare thee unto blood, and blood shall pursue thee: sith thou hast not hated blood, even blood shall pursue thee. 7 Thus will I make mount Seir most desolate, and cut off from it him that passeth out and him that returneth. 8 And I will fill his mountains with his slain men: in thy hills, and in thy valleys, and in all thy rivers, shall they fall that are slain with the sword."

6. Ezekiel 18 asserts that the son shall NOT bear the iniquity of the father, nor shall the father bear the iniquity of the son. But in another passage, those who were

suffering claimed that they were suffering for their fathers' sins. Where is the passage?

Answer: Lam 5:7- Our fathers have sinned, and are not; and we have borne their iniquities.

Daniel also expressed his view of the sins of the fathers.

Daniel 9:16 O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.

Related passages:

2 Kings 22:13 - Go ye, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.

2 Chron 34:21 - Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book.

7. Hand clapping is not always applause or expression of appreciation. What city was insulted by those who clapped their hands?

Answer: Jerusalem

Lam 2:15 All that pass by clap [their] hands at thee; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, [saying, Is] this the city that [men] call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?

Also Nineveh (Nah. 3:7-19)

Nahum 3:19 - There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?

Here is a passage that speaks about the contemptuous clapping of the Ammonites (and their chief city Rabbah) against Israel.

Ezekiel 25:5 - And I will make Rabbah a stable for camels, and the Ammonites a couchingplace for flocks: and ye shall know that I am the LORD. 6 For thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast clapped thine hands, and stamped with the feet, and rejoiced in heart with all thy despite against the land of Israel; 7 Behold, therefore I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and will deliver thee for a spoil to the heathen; and I will cut thee off from the people, and I will cause thee to perish out of the countries: I will destroy thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.

Beech Grove News, Prayer Requests

Melissa Dickerson is making progress with her wound healing, but has been sick this week. Anna Curl is at Stallworth for her respiratory difficulties, and the doctors say her lungs are in bad shape, but they are clearing and the pneumonia seems to be better. She hopes to go home Monday, but will still need to have someone care for her at home. Kristen Toops was back with us Wednesday. Kim Conner had to go to Baptist Hospital Sunday. An ulcer had made a hole in her stomach. The stomach has been repaired, the tube has been removed from her nose and the inflammation is receding, so hopefully she will be out of the hospital soon (Baptist, Room 8332). Junior Conner had his BP medicine changed and feels better. Ann and Junior will be visiting at Unity (Warren County) Sunday morning. Sister Jessie Pearl has been at Brenda's but is back with Joan now. Lee Rose is having a bout with the shingles

Military connections: Andy Miller family in Japan; Drew and Adam Thomas.

Shut ins: Laura Singleton at home, and William Miller at NHC in Murfreesboro.

Welcome, visitors

Let us know how we may serve you. We are glad that we are frequently blessed with visitors. If you have any questions why we do as we do, feel free to ask.

Food Pantry - Please continue a sustained effort to bring items. If you know of a pressing need for food please let it be known.

Missionary Visits Scheduled



Next Sunday, May 17, we will have Ben Renegar and a native Indian preacher to report on their work and to preach for us. We have supported Ben on trips to India in the past, and the work there is fruitful. We look forward to Ben's return.

On May 31 we have scheduled to have Randal Matheny with us. Randal has served the Lord in Brazil for about 20 years, and is a prolific writer as well. Several articles by him and the staff of "Forthright" (an online collection of religious articles) have appeared in this bulletin. Randal's son Joel is marrying a young lady from Mt. Juliet, and the wedding will be the night before Randal's visit here.



Attendance and Contribution for the Week

Mo	Wk	BS	MW	EW	Wed	Cont
May	3	23	31	15	11	\$463
Apr	26	23	33	11*	20	\$609
Apr	19	17	24	12	15	\$684
Apr	12	14	35	14	15	\$712

Assignments	May 10	May 17
Song leader (SS)	Tim Waldron	Wayne Gannon
Announcements	Joe Green	Junior Conner
Songleader-Worship	Wayne Gannon	Tim Waldron
Scripture reading	Daniel Green	T J Waldron
Opening prayer	Lee Rose	Wayne Gannon
Table service (center)	Tim Waldron	Joe Green
(center)	Steve Miller	Steve Miller
(outside)	T J Waldron	Junior Conner
(outside)	Daniel Green	Daniel Green
Closing Prayer	Junior Conner	Lee Rose