

# GOOD NEWS

*From Getwell*

Published by  
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**THE SPIRITUAL SWORD**

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Home of  
*The Spiritual Sword Lectureship*

Radio Program

***The Truth in Love***

WHBQ-AM 560 / FM 87.7

Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

The Getwell congregation sends monthly support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN  
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN  
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY  
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

#### SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

##### SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.

Worship.....10:20 a.m.

Worship.....5:00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

**Volume LX**

**August 4, 2019**

**Number 26**

## ON THE HOME FRONT

Getwell has always had a superb education department taught by competent, faithful teachers. Presently we have three ongoing adult classes. The current classes are the auditorium adult class taught by Bradley Smith, he is using *The Spiritual Sword*, volume 50, no. 3, April 2019. The theme of that issue is "How Can We Grow?" The library adult class is taught by Dewey Murray and Pat Phillips. They are also studying *The Spiritual Sword*, volume 50, no. 4, July 2019. The theme of this issue is "A Handy Guide To New Testament Churches." We also have a new converts' class taught by Ransom Reeves, assisted by Carl Allen.

If you are outside of Getwell and reading this article, let me encourage you to consider using *The Spiritual Sword* as a bible class textbook. I would especially recommend the two issues I have alluded to in this article. The July issue "A Handy Guide To A New Testament Churches." This issue gives you an insight into various churches mentioned in the New Testament. With this insight produces a better understanding of the first century and the preaching of the gospel.

The other issue is the April 2019 issue, "How Can We Grow?" This issue is a very timely issue for congregations throughout the brotherhood. Recently I was able to sit in on the adult class and brother Smith covered Steve Higginbotham's article "Gospel Meetings, Lectureships, and Special Series." Steve used the Apple company as an example of how every year the company rolls out new products to maintain their edge in the electronic market. The point Steve is driving home is; how many congregations meet every year and plan the work for the next year. If the Lord tarries, the next year will be "2020." Do we have a plan or vision for "2020?" That is the challenge before us.

Ron Wallace

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## “...But the Name of the Wicked Shall Rot.”

Bradley Smith

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Last week, we began a study of Proverbs 10:7, which states, “The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.” We examined some men and women of the Bible who are still remembered fondly today. We discussed some reasons why that was so. Names like Noah, James, and Elijah are still on the list of “Top Ten Baby Names” of 2019 (Good Housekeeping). Parents want their children to be associated with these great heroes of the faith. However, the verse also speaks about those whose names shall rot.

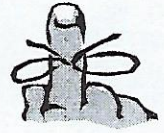
When was the last time that two new, loving parents named their daughter Jezebel? Or named a son Cain? Or twins named Ananias and Sapphira? It very rarely, if ever, happens. Why is this the case? It must be because names like this are associated with unrighteousness, wickedness, and immorality. Who would want that legacy for his child? It is not only the case Biblically. Sometimes we here a name and it immediately triggers bad memories for us. This should motivate us to always be aware of our surroundings and the impressions that we are giving to others.

The name Balaam is eternally associated with forsaking the right way (2 Pet. 2:15). Jude 11 reminds us of three men who transgressed the commands of God: Cain, Balaam, and Korah. We are familiar with others in the Bible who disobeyed God. Haman, Judas, and Herod are just a few examples that could be used.

How do we prevent our names from rotting (Pro. 10:7)? Here are a few helpful hints from Scripture. Never fail to be the light of the world (Mat. 5:14). Seek first the kingdom of God (Mat. 6:33). Help those in need (Mat. 25:34-40). Be not conformed to the world (Rom. 12:2). Do good to all (Gal. 6:10). Esteem others better than yourself (Phi. 2:3). This is not an exhaustive list, but these will help in that effort.

When we examine our two options, we all want our names to be remembered fondly, and especially to be found in the Lamb’s book of life (Rev. 21:27). We must give “all diligence” (2 Pet. 1:5-8) to be the best examples we can be to those around us. Remember, “The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.”

# RON'S REMINDERS



## What Is Love? Finally Brethren

As soon as I saw her, I fell head over heels in love with her." "I love my mother." "I love my brothers and sisters in Christ." "I love my wife." "I love my enemies." "I love Baskin-Robbins' praline-pecan ice cream." *Love* plainly means different things in each of these contexts. The Greek language uses four different words to convey four meanings of the one English term. Identifying these distinctions is helpful.

*Eros*, 'Hollywood love.' This is the word from which English words like *erotic* and *erotica* are formed. It starts with physical attraction. When we see the one we *eros*, our hearts do flip-flops.

Though *eros* is the most frequently used word for *love* in the literature of the times, it is never used in the New Testament. When you see the word *love* in the New Testament, it is not sensual love.

Interestingly, however, sexual love, *eros*, is a God-approved expression of marital love. First Corinthians 7:2-4 says:

But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. (ESV)

Marriage is honorable, and the marriage bed is not to be defiled (Hebrews 13:4).

*Agape*, "divine love." This is the love word used most frequently in the New Testament. It expresses God's love for us, a sacrificial (John 3:16), deliberately willed (Matthew 22:36-39) love, requiring nothing loveable in the person loved (Romans 5:6-9). It is the love defined in 1 Corinthians 13.

We are to *agape* God, our brothers and sisters, our neighbors, our enemies, and our wives, "loving as Christ loved us."

*Phile*, 'golf buddy love.' This is friendship, affectionate love. It is a feeling produced by mutual commitments, mutual interests, mutual talents. It expresses itself in warmth and joy. "Love one another with brotherly affection" (Romans 12:10). *Phile* (love) and *adelphos* (brother) are joined to make one word in Greek, translated "brotherly love." It is also the name of a Pennsylvania city.

Someone has said, "Doctrine divides; love unites. Let's forget doctrine and just love one another." However, it is our common faith (doctrine, teaching) that produces the love that binds us. Our "sincere brotherly love" is based on our "obedience to the truth" (1 Peter 1:22).

*Storge*, "Aunt Minnie love." This is family love, used twice in Scripture, both times with a negative modifier, *astorge*, as one of the descriptors of depraved societies: "without natural affection" (KJV), "heartless" (ESV). It is unnatural for a mother not to love her children, unnatural to kill her baby in her womb. It is unnatural and heartless for parents to abuse their children, for children to abuse or steal from their aged parents or grandparents. Yet we read or hear of it often.

Let us love (*storge*) our family members, helping them as they have need and as we have opportunity. Let us have brotherly affection (*phile*) toward our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us will and do what is best (*agape*) for our neighbors in need and even our enemies. We must confine our sensual love (*eros*) to our wives or husbands. GA

Cecil May, Jr.  
Gospel Advocate July 2019