

Good News

From Getwell

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The Spiritual Sword Lectureship

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The Truth in Love

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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.

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ON THE HOME FRONT

Many exciting things are happening here at the Getwell church of Christ. The Spiritual Sword is in its 51st year of publication and is doing quite well. The October issue entitled, "Can You Find Your Church In The Bible?" is doing exceptionally well. We have had to order a second reprint on this issue. Karen Wallace and Anita Shephard do a great job ensuring that this great publication can reach as many people as possible. Sometimes it is easy for things to wear out over time, but the Spiritual Sword is still as great today as it was 51 years ago. Many lost souls have been reached and many Christians have been strengthened by this great, sound, Biblical material.

I recently attended a lunch with many area preachers at which we discussed some of our plans for 2020. Many of these events sounded very encouraging. I cannot remember each of them, but all of these sounded great. From time to time we will receive flyers for events at other area congregations. I would encourage everyone to go and support these great events.

We are looking for someone who would be interested in changing our sign. Involved in this would be changing the short saying that is displayed on the sign every two weeks or so. It is not difficult, only a little time consuming. If you are interested, please see me and I would be happy to tell you more about it.

We are quickly approaching 2020. One cannot help but think about having 20/20 vision. What is our vision or our aspirations for 2020? We should all have in mind that we want to work to broaden the borders of the kingdom and edify one another in our Christian walk.

Bradley Smith

What Is in Your Teeth?

Bradley Smith

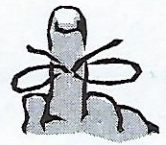
This article will not be dealing with any issues pertaining to personal hygiene, but rather a question to consider. In Matthew 27:44, we read this, "The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth." We may observe that the thieves were saying things about Jesus. Although they were saying things mockingly, they were still making claims about Jesus. This led me to think, what would "be in my teeth," or in other words, "What do people say about me?" This would be a good question for everyone to ask.

When a person looks at me, do they see a light of the world (Mat. 5:14-16), or a flame that has gone out long ago? When a person looks at me, do they see someone steadfast, unmovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58), or do they see someone who never takes a stand for truth? There is no getting around the fact that our words and actions influence people. Do not misunderstand me, I am not saying that we should live as Christians to receive the praise of men (Mat. 6:1-8), I am simply saying that others do observe our actions, we need to make sure that they are seeing a godly example, not a worldly one.

If we are living as Christians ought, we will have a good amount of ridicule in our teeth. The world does not understand why we are the way that we are. Please allow me to share a story with you: A preacher was traveling and stopped at a gas station. He asked the attendant where the nearest congregation of the church of Christ met. The attendant mockingly replied, "Oh, you mean those people who think they are the only ones going to Heaven." We will face persecution and ridicule in this life (Mat. 5:11, 2 Tim. 3:12, 1 Pet. 4:4). It is much better to have ridicule in our teeth during this life than to have "Depart" in our teeth on that last day (Mat. 7:23).

As we go through this life, we will have many things "in our teeth." Let us strive to always have attitudes and actions that will lead to those around us being better off for having known us. Let us live in a way so that we may hear those words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Mat. 25:23).

RON'S REMINDERS



Esau was the older son of Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 25:25). As such, he was the rightful recipient of his family's birthright. Although we associate the birthright with physical inheritance (cf Deuteronomy 21:15-17), it involved more. The firstborn son became the leader of the family after his father's death. In Esau's case, the birthright placed him in position to become the next leader of a family in a special relationship with God. Such an honor should have been treasured. Instead, "Esau despised his birthright" (Genesis 25:34 NKJV) and sold it to his brother Jacob.

On the day he sold his birthright, Esau was consumed by momentary desire. Returning from the field feeling weary (Genesis 25:29), he asked Jacob for some red stew (verse 30) Rather than granting Esau's request, Jacob countered, "Sell me your birthright as of this day" (verse 31) In response, Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?" (verse 32) Esau, therefore, relinquished the opportunity to lead Abraham's family for a bowl of stew. Regarding his behavior, William L. Lane observed, "Esau thus typifies the godless person who relinquishes the rights conferred upon him by the covenant for the sake of momentary relief Esau chose a meager meal rather than the inheritance rights conferred upon him as the older of two sons."

After Isaac's death, Scripture focuses its attention on Jacob and his family rather than on Esau. Nevertheless, the New Testament cites the example of Esau as a warning to Christians. In a context exhorting believers to live holy lives, the author of Hebrews wrote, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without

which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright" (Hebrews 12:14-16).

At first glance, one may wonder about the connection between fornication and Esau's willingness to give up his birthright. Upon further reflection, however, the point is clear. When an individual commits fornication, he or she relinquishes a precious gift that should be treasured, whether sexual purity or fidelity; and exchanges it for a moment of gratification. This occurs when a young man or woman loses his or her virginity outside marriage; it also occurs when a husband or wife breaks his or her wedding vows and commits adultery.

The passage makes it clear consequences follow profane behavior. In Esau's case, "he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears" (Hebrews 12:17). In other words, Esau could not regain his birthright once it was given away. The same is true of those who give up their virginity or violate their marriage covenant. An individual can be forgiven of sin (cf 1 John 1:9), and a relationship can be repaired, but certain actions cannot be undone. When tempted to yield to momentary pleasure, we would do well to learn from the example of Esau.

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Note

1. William L. Lane, *Hebrews 9-13*, Word Biblical Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991), 455.

Chad
Ramsey