

THE NEWSLETTER

A Ministry of Cornerstone Fellowship of Coatesville Pennsylvania

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VOLUME 34, Number 5

MAY 2015

FRIENDS OF GOD

Does it take you by surprise to be called friends of God? Perhaps it seems presumptuous to identify you that way. But not really. The last night that our Lord was with his disciples, he addressed them in just those terms, "You are my friends if you do what I command you." And again, "I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."

It is not just the Quakers who can claim the title of Society of Friends. That is an appropriate designation for the church itself. All our places of worship might also be known as meeting houses of the society of friends.

Friendship in this sense is not something which happens spontaneously. Neither is it the result of our saying "I want Jesus for my friend." Instead, we hear Jesus make the astounding statement, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you." Out of earth's billions Jesus chooses me as friend. This is the recurring wonder of God's amazing grace; he chooses us. Discipleship was not something which Jesus' followers chose. Discipleship chose them and they had no choice but to surrender and submit to the Lordship of Christ. Our friendship with Jesus is not based on our personal affection for him, but on his love for us. "As my father has loved me, so have I loved you."

The story is told of a four-year-old girl who invented a game using two large sheets of colored paper and myriad bits of white paper. When the game was done, she wanted to hide it for the future and also to keep her older brother from finding it. She and her grandfather hid it with appropriate ceremony and agreed to keep the hiding place secret. When her brother noticed their excitement, he wanted to know what was going on. The grandfather replied quite confidentially, "It's a secret." The boy was offended. "Have I ever kept a secret from you and Rebecca?" he asked in hurt tones. He sensed instinctively that among friends there is openness, sharing and trust.

That's what Jesus was getting at when he said, "I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you." The Father and Jesus were one in heart and mind and will. Nothing blocked their communion. Friends share themselves, their purposes, their hopes and fears. A secretive Savior who hoarded his holy thoughts would have been no Savior at all.

Friendship is always a gift. It is free, but it carries its own unique responsibilities. Jesus says to his friends, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

That is the calling of his friends.

Somehow we don't want to hear the words love and commandment used in the same breath. The two do not seem to go together. One speaks law, the other gospel. It is striking that the gospel accounts of Jesus' ministry never report him as giving a specific "commandment" of any kind until that last night with his friends. He was not a commandment-issuing friend. Therefore the "new commandment" stands out even more strikingly when we hear it. Jesus surely knew that you cannot command love. Thus in the strongest possible way he underscored the distinguishing mark of his friends by commanding that we love one another.

Jesus knew our human proclivity for division, dissension and vindictiveness. For infighting and trouble-making. Even among his friends. Beyond that Jesus sensed the tension, anxiety and uncertainty that the disciples would feel in the long interlude between the resurrection and the coming of the Spirit. His urgent word was, "Love one another as I have loved you." That would keep his friends in unity and community.

The Lord goes on, "Greater love has no one than this, that a person lay down his life for his friends." Jesus-love is more than passing out warm fuzzies and getting tingly in the tummy. His love has a Cross-mark. In the most literal sense he laid down his life for his friends. And for his enemies.

All love worthy of the name involves self-giving, repeated laying down of one's life for the loved one. To love is to give one's self. And to go on giving and giving and giving. There is no me-first-ism in love.

Medardo Gomez was bishop of the tiny Lutheran Church in El Salvador. He was imprisoned and tortured because of his church's ministry to persons displaced by war in that tragic country. The modest building that housed his congregation was burglarized and bombed. Members of his congregation were imprisoned, tortured and killed. A pastoral associate was assassinated and brutally mutilated. And Gomez received repeated death threats because of his ministry. When asked "How do you keep going under those circumstances?" He replied very simply, "Our Lord has asked us to care for the least of these. That is enough."

Few of us are called on so literally to lay down our lives in the service of the Kingdom, but our calling is always to love one another "as I have loved you."

Even with the cross standing starkly on the horizon, Jesus spoke

to his friends of joy: "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." I doubt that Jesus was happy that Maundy Thursday night or during the cruel events which brought him to the cross, but I believe that he experienced joy throughout the whole painful process until he could say at last, "It is finished." Happiness frequently depends on outward circumstances, but joy comes inwardly from the set of the soul. Joy is a sense of confidence, tranquility and exhilaration that comes from being a friend of God through Jesus Christ.

Early Christians were sometimes referred to as "the children of joy," and the Holy Spirit was referred to as "The Happy Spirit." In the power of the Happy Spirit we celebrate with joy being friends of God

READ YOUR BIBLE

Continuing to provide suggested passages to help you toward achieving the discipline of studying God's Word, please use the following as your guide for the month of May. We will never understand how to walk the Jesus way unless we immerse ourselves in the guidebook He has provided -- the Bible.

May

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Isaiah 30:15-26 | 16. Acts 2:29-42 |
| 2. Habakkuk 3:16-19 | 17. Galatians 5:16-26 |
| 3. Matthew 6:24-34 | 18. Isaiah 49:5-13 |
| 4. 2 Samuel 9:1-13 | 19. Acts 10:30-48 |
| 5. Luke 10:25-37 | 20. Acts 14:21-27 |
| 6. John 13:1-17 | 21. Acts 16:6-15 |
| 7. Romans 12:9-21 | 22. Acts 16:16-34 |
| 8. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 | 23. Romans 10:1-13 |
| 9. Galatians 6:1-10 | 24. Ephesians 3:1-13 |
| 10. 1 John 3:13-24 | 25. Genesis 32:22-32 |
| 11. Joel 2:21-32 | 26. Jeremiah 18:1-12 |
| 12. John 14:15-31 | 27. Jeremiah 31:27-34 |
| 13. John 15:26-16:15 | 28. John 1:29-42 |
| 14. Acts 1:1-14 | 29. John 3:1-21 |
| 15. Acts 2:1-12 | 30. Acts 9:1-25 |
| | 31. 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6 |

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16).

IN HONOR OF MOTHERS

Somebody said you can't love the fifth child as much as you love the first:

...somebody doesn't have five children.

Somebody said a mother can find all the answers to her child-rearing questions in the books;

...somebody never had a child stuff beans up his nose.

Somebody said a mother can stop worrying after her child gets married;

...somebody doesn't know that marriage adds a new son or daughter to a mother's heartstrings.

Somebody said that a mother's job is done when her last child leaves home;

...somebody never had grandchildren.

Somebody said your mother knows you love her, so you don't need to tell her;

...somebody isn't a mother.

Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers!

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10th!

Don't forget to wish your Mom a happy day!

A TOUCHING STORY TO CONSIDER

(Every year about this time I like to print this remarkable story for you to consider)

The Gift

A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted.

As Graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of his graduation his father called him into his private study. His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box.

Curious, but somewhat disappointed the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible. Angrily, he raised his voice at his father and said, "With all your money, you give me a Bible?" and stormed out of the house, leaving the holy book. Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family, but realized his father was very old, and thought perhaps he should go to him.

He had not seen him since that graduation day. Before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away, and willed all of his possessions to his son. He needed to come home immediately and take care of things.

When he arrived at his father's house, sudden sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search his father's important papers and saw the still new Bible, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible, and began to turn the pages.

As he read those words, a car key dropped from an envelope taped behind the Bible. It had a tag with the dealers' name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words... PAID IN FULL.

How many times do we miss God's blessings because they are not packaged as we expected?

(Humbling thoughts!!)

THE RISEN LIFE

CHRIST IS RISEN! This is the glad message of the glorious Easter celebration we just celebrated in April. It is a glad message because we have risen with him. The Christian is a participant in the drama of Easter morning. He has been raised from the death of the old life of sin unto the new life in Christ.

There is a close relationship between the resurrection of Christ and the Sermon on the Mount. The kind of life described in the sermon is possible only because Christ lives. Only the power of the resurrection life which is ours, as the living Christ lives within us, makes it possible for us to live the life described in Christ's great sermon.

The risen life is a life of heavenly affection. "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth," the Apostle Paul urged the Colossians (3:2).

He who has the risen life seeks the things which are above. These are the spiritual as distinguished from the material things. The "earthly" is all that exists for life on earth and will perish when this life ends. The "things above" are all the things which

are eternal and are suited to the life in heaven. This is where Christ now is (Colossians 3:1). The risen life is a participation in his heavenly life as it now is. A life of heavenly affection does not mean that the earthly is to be despised. That was made by God for a purpose and has its value too. But it is not to be overvalued. It is to be kept in its place and is not to usurp the affections which control one's way of life. The life of heavenly affection seeks the things which Christ seeks. Those things may be discovered by a study of his life and teachings. He did not seek wealth, comfort, popularity, or worldly pleasure. He sought, instead, to do the will of his heavenly Father. He sought communion with God in prayer. He sought to do good to his fellow men, to bring sinners to salvation, and to use his life in service.

The risen life is a life hidden with Christ (Colossians 3:3). Christian people may seem in no visible way to be different than others. They are beset with many of the same limitations and face the same needs. Nevertheless there is even now a profound difference between the lives of Christians and others. It goes much deeper than mere appearance and may therefore be invisible to the eyes of the world. The new life has transformed the hidden wellsprings of the human heart from which flow the affections, the attitudes, and the sense of values.

The risen life is a life which has come out of a resurrection. But a resurrection is possible only when there has been a death. In this case it is the death of the old sinful nature. It is dead in principle from the moment of regeneration. From then on it must be put to death in fact, the principle being worked out in the life. Ideally, the Christian is a new person; he or she must become in actual fact what he or she is ideally. Therefore the new life is a life of mortification, a putting to death of the old sinful nature. We are to put to death all that belongs to the earthly nature (Colossians 3:5).

Paul mentions some of the vices which are to be put to death in the risen life. It is these which have brought down the condemnation of God (Colossians 3:6). We are delivered from that condemnation not only because our sins have been forgiven, but also in anticipation of the actual destruction of sin in us. The old vices were the fruits of the old nature (Colossians 3:7); when we put away the old nature we put away its fruits also (Colossians 3:9). This is no mere reformation, but the transformation of the basic nature. The new nature is in the image of its Creator, that is, of the risen Christ. The risen life is therefore a life like his. Everything in us that is unlike him must be destroyed.

The life of mortification has been practiced in various ways by different people. Some have endeavored to bring it about by renunciation of comforts, by fasting, by the suppression of the normal appetites, and even by flagellation, or self-torture. Some have hidden themselves away from society with the thought of avoiding all temptation. This is too negative an approach. The old nature cannot be put to death by sheer will power. The best way to bring about the life of mortification is to displace the vices with the Christian virtues. Put evil to death by smothering it with good. Cultivate the virtues and the vices will die of malnutrition. Make use of what Thomas Chalmers called "the expulsive power of a new affection." "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience... And above all these put on love" (Colossians 3:12,14). The exercise of the godly life will slay all ungodliness.

The risen life is characterized more than anything else by love (Colossians 3:14). Love issues in all the other virtues. It finds

expression in kindness (Colossians 3:12). Where love is the attitude, kindness is the conduct; there is thoughtfulness toward others, gentleness in one's treatment of others, and helpfulness toward those in need.

Love issues in forgiveness (Colossians 3:13). Christ forgave those who injured him, during his ministry, while he was dying, and after his resurrection. He arose with power and could have vindicated his claims by a crusade of vengeance. Instead, he forgave. The risen life of his followers is to be like his. They are to forgive also. The vengeful life cannot be a life hidden in Christ, for it is too unlike him.

Harmony is another product of the life of love (Colossians 3:14). Love unites, hatred divides. They who enjoy the risen life are to be a united people, for they are one with Christ and therefore one with each other. The risen Christ is the head, the risen followers are the body and together they constitute the church. Where this love is worthy of the risen life, the harmony will be a perfect harmony. Love refuses to cherish the things which breed misunderstanding and dissension.

Love in the risen life issues in peace (Colossians 3:15). Love involves trust, and when we trust Christ we bring all our troubles to him, leaving them at his feet. It is anxiety which disrupts peace, and anxiety decreases in proportion to the growth of our trust. This peace "rules the heart." It is not an itinerant guest to be invited in or put out on the whim of the host. It is not at the mercy of the changeable emotions, but is controlled and brought forth by the love of Christ.

To sum up: the resurrection of Christ means a new life for every believer. The affections of the new life are chiefly heavenward. The new life is developed in part as the vices of the old nature are all put to death by the new power of the risen life. The risen life may be summarized in the one virtue, **LOVE**.

THINK ABOUT IT

You will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again.....

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved a new one arose. Her mother took her to the kitchen... She filled three pots with water.

In the first, she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs and in the last she placed ground coffee beans.

She let them sit and boil without saying a word. In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She scooped the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me, what do you see?"

"Carrots, eggs and coffee," she replied.

She brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. She then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, she asked her to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled, as she tasted its rich aroma.

The daughter then asked, "What's the point, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity - boiling water - but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I?

Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity, do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength? Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Do I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, an illness, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and a hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you.

When the hours are the darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate to another level?

How do you handle adversity?

Are you a CARROT, an EGG, or a COFFEE BEAN?

Today, may there be peace within you. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

FAITHFULNESS IN THE BEAN FIELD

Sometimes God asks us to be obedient and persevere in difficult circumstances even when victory seems very far away. It's called faithfulness.

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." Those, of course, are Paul's words to the churches of Galatia.

Let us make those words our motto. We have much work to do for the Lord. Even as many church leaders encourage us to abandon our heritage and scriptural wisdom, let us continue to stand for Truth, to do what we can to turn the tide of sin engulfing our society.

The Scripture tells us about some of the men who stood with David when the enemies of God's people pressed in all around them. These men are called David's "mighty men."

We are told very little about them, but what we are told should greatly encourage us.

The first man mentioned in 2 Samuel 23:8-12 is Josheb-Basshebeth, who fought against Israel's enemy and killed 800 at one time. Josheb was faithful even though the odds appeared stacked against him.

The second of the "mighty men" was Eleazar. He stood with David in defiance of the Philistines, even when it says "the men of Israel had withdrawn." Eleazar was faithful even though he stood nearly alone against those who would enslave the people of God.

In battle, the Bible tells us that this man of God "arose and struck the Philistines until his hand was weary and clung to the sword." Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever been so spiritually weary and worn that it would have felt so good just to drop that sword for awhile, or that plow, or that pulpit, or that marriage or those kids?

Eleazar remained faithful in the midst of that kind of weariness. And yet the Bible tells us that, because he did not quit, "the Lord brought about a great victory."

Finally, there was Shammah, who also found himself abandoned by the other warriors of Israel as the Philistines approached to do battle. Now Shammah found himself in "a plot of ground full of lentils." Literally, this man was standing in a bean field. We are not told that it held any strategic significance or military value.

But that bean field is where Shammah found himself, staring across at the Philistines. That was where the fight was, and that was where the mighty man of God stood fast. Shammah "took his stand in the midst of the lot, defended it and struck the Philistines; and the Lord brought about a great victory."

Sometimes God places us in a situation in which we ask, "Why should I fight this fight? It's just not worth it!" But God knows the value of the bean field, even if we don't. He calls us to stand fast anyway.

Let us keep on keeping on. It is not always within our ability to be successful. But it is always within our ability to be faithful.

Let us be so!

THE BIBLE PROMISE BOOK

Whatever the need of the moment, the answer is to be found in Scripture, if we take the time to search for it. Whatever we're feeling, whatever we're suffering, whatever we're hoping – the BIBLE has something to say to us. This month, what does the Bible say about **GOD'S FAITHFULNESS!** Take your Bible and look up each passage. As we work on our faith-walk, the Bible will give us **help** and **hope**.

Deuteronomy 7:9	2 Peter 3:9	1 Samuel 15:29
Deuteronomy 4:31	1 Kings 8:56	2 Corinthians 1:20
Psalms 105:8	Isaiah 25:1	Psalms 89:34
Numbers 23:19	Psalms 9:10	Isaiah 54:10
Hebrews 10:23	Psalms 119:160	Isaiah 46:11
2 Timothy 2:13	Psalms 119:89-90	

Obviously these are only a few of the passages that speak about GOD'S FAITHFULNESS. For more, check your Bible's concordance.

FEAR AND GREAT JOY

Mary and the women who went with her to visit Jesus' burial site were not expecting the reception they got at the tomb. They had come at dawn to put spices on their Friend's body – not knowing how they would get into the tomb. But as they came near the grave, they were startled to see that the huge stone had been rolled away from the opening. Even more incredibly, they saw an angel sitting on it.

It's no wonder that they felt a sense of awe and fear. But they also felt great joy after the angel invited them to look inside the empty tomb, and then he told them to go and tell the other disciples that Jesus had risen.

2,000 years after that initial proclamation, we who are Jesus' disciples/followers also have mixed emotions about sharing such good news. We feel great joy that Jesus is alive, but we also feel uneasy telling other people about Him. The women felt a sense of awe from seeing and hearing an angel by an open grave, but our fear is different. We fear what people might think of us when we tell them that Christ is risen. But like Mary and the other women, we have a responsibility to tell others the good news. God's Spirit will give us courage to overcome our fear and share our great joy.

*Oh, what joy – the Lord is risen!
Death is conquered by God's Son;
Grant us courage, Lord, to tell it;
Lead us to some seeking one.*

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Get your tickets now for this special event.

The DATE is Monday, May 18th

The TIME is 6pm

The COST is \$7.00 per person for those 12 and above;
\$3.00 per person for those 4-11 years of age; with those under 4 FREE

This year's theme is *The Colors of Faith*

Come by yourself, or invite someone to come with you.

Every woman is invited to participate in this exciting event.

We'll have a GREAT TIME!

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 7th is National Day of Prayer. Please pray for our Nation, that God will raise up an army of faithful Christians who seek to serve Him.

YOUTH NEWS

DON'T FORGET!!

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (grades 6-12) - WEDNESDAYS, 7-8:30 pm weekly (following the Mid-Week Worship Celebration)! Come and experience it! Bring your friends!!

YOUTH SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP - THURSDAYS at 7pm (EVERY YOUTH is invited!)

YOUTH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP - for Jr & Sr High - 9:30 am Sunday mornings

Worship Celebrations - Sundays at 8:15 and 10:45 am and Wednesdays at 6:30pm

PLEASE HELP US OUT!

EMPTY INKJET PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Please donate your empty inkjet printer cartridges to the youth group to be recycled. A container is placed in the **coat room** to receive your donations. **KEEP THOSE CARTRIDGES COMING!** We appreciate every bit of help we receive.

EVENTS:

Friday-Saturday, June 12-13 – **NO-FOOD LOCK-IN** to benefit World Vision.

Saturday, June 20 - **MOVIE NIGHT** - *SOUL SURFER* Come to the church to view this film about a remarkable young woman. The movie is FREE. Refreshments benefit youth projects

Friday, July 10 - **ATKINSON SHELTER**

Saturday-Sunday, August 1-2 - **BEACH TRIP and OUTDOOR CONCERT**

CHILDREN'S NEWS

COOL KIDS - Children, 4 years old up through grade 3 are invited to participate in COOL Kids on Sunday mornings at both the 8:15 and 10:45 celebration services. Following the praise time and the reading of scripture in the Worship Center, kids are dismissed to ROOM 108. COOL Kids (Children Of Our Lord Kids) helps kids learn to celebrate Christ in a way they enjoy and become excited about.

Vacation Bible School - VBS will happen at Cornerstone from Sunday - Thursday, June 28 to July 2. Children up through 5th grade are invited to come to **COSMIC CITY**.

The Children's Team is looking for folks who will help this year. If you can help with teaching, assisting, registration, refreshments, crafts, security, etc., please contact Melissa Alton or Dr. Jensen as soon as possible. VBS in the evening allows folks who work during the day the opportunity to participate. Please DON'T WAIT to be ASKED! Please volunteer NOW!

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 3-5 pm

Kindred Cross will be performing at the Strawberry Festival, held on the grounds of the Brandywine Hospital. Mark your calendars and come to the hospital grounds to hear Steve and *Kindred Cross*. You will be blessed!

PENTECOST IS SUNDAY, MAY 24th !

GET YOUR RED READY!

The term **Pentecost** comes from the Latin word for fifty. That is because the Church celebrates Pentecost on the Sunday closest to the fiftieth day after Easter Sunday. This day celebrates what some call the birthday of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit to fill the disciples with power as promised by Jesus (See Acts 1:8). The story of Pentecost is found in Acts 2:1-12. If you are not familiar with this event, read this passage of Scripture. Some scholars claim that, next to Easter, Pentecost is the most important day in the life of the Church.

The liturgical color for Pentecost Sunday is **red**. The liturgical symbol for Pentecost is the **dove** (symbolizing the Holy Spirit) rising out of a flame. This year, on May 24th, Pentecost Sunday 2015, we will celebrate this important event at Cornerstone. The ancient words will be read, the ancient symbols revived, and we will give thanks to God for the power to be the Church. **TO HELP CELEBRATE THIS SPECIAL DAY, WE ARE ASKING EVERYONE IN THE CONGREGATION TO WEAR RED ON MAY 24th**. On May 24th, let's all turn out in our finest reds to thank God for his bride, the Church, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

CAN WE HAVE THE MINDSET OF CHRIST?

Who is the most Jesus-like person you have ever heard about – outside of people in the Bible? Is there anyone you've read about or been told about who mirrors Jesus enough that someone might say, "That person has the same attitude as Jesus Christ?" Or perhaps someone you know personally?

Thinking about this might lead some to wonder: What does it mean when Paul says our mindset should be the same as that of Jesus Christ? To help focus in on this, think in these terms: What was important to our Savior as He went about His earthly ministry? What was His attitude...

Toward sin? He cried about it. Toward sinners? He hung out with them and love them despite what others said about His doing so. Toward religious people? He hated their hypocrisy and the ignorance they showed toward Scripture. Toward women? He showed an anti-cultural respect for them and a willingness to forgive the fallen. And think of how, while suffering on the cruel cross, He thought of His mother. Toward children? He had time for them and showed gentle love to them. Toward the broken? He healed them and spent time with them. Toward Scripture? He honored it, quoted it, and authenticated it.

What do we see in action in Jesus' life? We see compassion, selflessness, love, respect, authenticity, and honor. And what kind of attitude leads to those kinds of actions? It all begins with humility.

A nineteenth century poet named Amiel clarified how this works: "There is no respect for others without humility in one's self." The key to our Savior's interaction with others after He began His public ministry is preaching and healing and caring for the troubled was His humility.

Clearly, we are not living in the age of humility. Everywhere we look we see pride and arrogance. We see power grabs and putdowns. We see strutting and upstaging as people battle for the spotlight. Imagine the contrast we can bring to our world if we have Jess' attitude. Think of how humbling ourselves to help others will attract people to our message. Consider how putting others before ourselves will win respect and gain a hearing as we try to tell them about our Jesus.

Just as Paul desired that the people of Philippi would capture the spirit of Jesus' humility in their assembly of believers, so we too should seek that same attitude in our lives – both inside and outside of the church.
 –Dave Branon – *Daily Bread Ministries*

SAVE THE DATE!!
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
SOULED OUT 2015

(Remember, SOULED OUT is a festival of song and spoken word in praise of our Creator - God Almighty. Start inviting your friends NOW! Block out this date so you won't miss this wonderful day. Line up of musical groups will be announced at a later date but your favorite groups will be back. We will have praise and worship all afternoon and evening, special prayer events and activities for children and DINNER on the grounds.) Watch for posters & flyers to use. And please sign up to provide food

SEARCH PUZZLE

The following is provided as a Bible search puzzle. Find the words printed in **bold type** in the following. When a phrase is **bold and underlined**, those words will be found together in the puzzle grid. The translation used is King James Version.

A VIRTUOUS WOMAN - Ruth 3:9-11

And he said, **Who art thou?** And she answered, I am **Ruth** thine **handmaid**: spread therefore thy **skirt** over thine handmaid; for thou art a **near kinsman**. And he said, **Blessed** be thou of the **LORD**, my **daughter**: for thou hast shewed more **kindness** in the **latter** end than at the beginning **inasmuch** as thou **followedst** not young men, whether **poor** or **rich**. And now, my daughter, **fear not**; I will do to thee all that thou **requirest**: for all the **city** of my **people** doth know that thou art a **virtuous woman**.

W	S	W	I	N	A	P	N	E	K	M	S	N	I	K
H	K	W	H	K	O	R	U	I	Q	E	R	H	I	V
O	I	R	U	O	K	I	N	S	M	A	C	N	E	I
S	K	I	R	T	A	S	S	K	I	I	S	P	L	R
R	L	A	T	T	M	R	L	O	R	D	I	O	P	T
R	E	T	T	A	L	Q	T	F	E	A	R	N	O	T
B	L	O	N	K	I	K	D	T	T	C	I	R	E	S
L	H	F	N	Y	T	I	C	K	H	T	U	R	P	D
E	C	O	E	R	A	N	H	I	G	O	T	I	C	E
S	U	L	A	M	C	D	A	N	U	R	U	H	P	W
S	M	L	D	I	P	N	N	S	A	O	P	A	E	O
E	S	N	T	K	O	E	D	M	D	R	I	N	O	L
D	A	R	I	C	T	S	E	R	I	U	Q	E	R	L
H	N	E	A	L	Q	S	C	I	R	A	E	N	L	O
V	I	R	T	U	O	U	S	W	O	M	A	N	E	F

VULNERABLE AUTHORITY

On the evening of the first day of the week, the day he rose from the dead, Jesus kept a most important promise to the disciples, says John. He met with them, breathed on them, and said, *Receive the Holy Spirit.*

No matter which story becomes the matrix of the Pentecost celebration, the hands Jesus raises in blessing and peace over those who are sent out with the gift of the Spirit are wounded hands, vulnerable hands. The disciples recognize Jesus because his hands still carry the marks of the nails; they know the risen Lord by his wounds. The wounded Lord, risen in power over death, offers them peace and power as he sends his followers forth.

He sends us forth in peace and power today as well! Jesus began his blessing with the words, *Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.* ASK GOD to fill you with peace and power today!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!