

THE CRITIC

Jean A. Thorton

A little seed lay in the ground
And soon began to sprout.
“Now which, of all the flowers around,”
It mused, “Shall I come out?”

“Lily’s face is fair and proud,
But just a trifle cold.
The Rose, I think, is rather loud,
And then, it’s fashion’s old.

The Violet’s all very well,
But not a flower I w’d choose.
Nor yet the Canterbury Bell –
I never cared for blues.”

And so it criticized each flower,
This supercilious seed,
Until it woke one summer hour,
And found itself a weed.



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
*1807 South Florida Avenue
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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

A CHILD’S PRAYER

C.M.Callan

Most are familiar with the simple prayer that so many children learned at an early age. “Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I awake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.”

It seems to me that this prayer has a lot to say even in its simplicity.

Without hesitation or modification the words speak to trust in God for His ability to comfort and protect. It also speaks to God’s power and majesty as it asks God for protection by saying He not only can, but will, “keep my soul” while I rest. It is an admittance of our dependency and faith.

The prayer also speaks to the fragility of life and the ever-present reality of death, but not in a fearful way but as something that is inevitable. It is not fearful because God is waiting for us on the other side. The one praying also can see that God has prepared a place for those who are faithful, a place where we should want to be.

One who prays this prayer from the heart is demonstrating a definite mind-set. It depicts a person that has a fixed goal in life, a goal of being in heaven with our Lord when this life is over. The desire to go to heaven has to be the driving force we all need. When we set this as our goal and become determined to stay with it, then our actions on a daily basis will reflect our goal and show our trust in and love for God.

Could it be that part of our problem today is the fact that we have not taught our children this prayer, or any prayer? Would we “adults” do well to incorporate this prayer in our prayer life and mean it?

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.
Worship.....10:30a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

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WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
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The False Doctrine of the Rapture

Ron Boatwright

We see statements on bumper stickers like, “In case of the rapture this car will have no driver.” The word “rapture” is not found in the Bible. It is another false doctrine that man has created. This false premillennial idea of “the rapture” states that there will be a secret catching away of the saved into the air where they will be with Christ for 7 years. During these seven years there is to be a “great tribulation” period here on the earth. Great suffering is to be inflicted on the people. But after 7 years Jesus is to again appear to bring the tribulation period to a close. Talk about a fairy tale! This is some imagination! This is all false. Let’s see what the Bible says will happen when Christ comes back.

We read in 1 Corinthians 15:52 when the Lord comes back it will be *“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye....the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”* And in John 5:28-29 Jesus says, “For the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth, those who have done good to the resurrection of life and those who have done evil to the resurrection of damnation.” There is only going to be one resurrection, not the three that the “rapture” requires.

But when the Lord comes, what is going to happen to this earth? 2 Peter 3:10-12 says, *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up...the heavens will be dissolved being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat.”* The people advocating a “rapture” are not going to be able to come back to the earth for their 1000 year reign, because the earth will be burned up at the Lord’s appearing. There is not going to be a rapture. The rapture is another false doctrine of man.

LET GOD BE THE JUDGE

By Steve Higginbotham

One of the most well known, often quoted, but misunderstood passages in all the Bible is recorded in Matthew 7:1—“*Judge not that you be not judged.*” For some people, this is their only defense for their ungodly, disobedient lifestyle. However, I don’t believe that God intended for this statement to be a defense for the ungodly, and any interpretation that would lead to such a conclusion is surely flawed.

Consider the following argument I recently heard. What would you think if someone said, “We need to accept people regardless of their past. It’s not for us to pass judgment on anyone. God is the judge of that person. Let’s do the loving and accepting and let God do the judging.”

The problem with such a statement is that it ignores and contradicts biblical truth. While it is true that God is our Judge (Acts 17:30-31; Hebrews 12:23, 13:4), it is not true that the church, therefore, cannot make any judgments of its own based upon the Word of God.

Is the church not only allowed, but charged with obligation to “*judge those who are inside*” (1 Corinthians 5:12)? Remember the situation in Corinth? A man was having sexual relations with his father’s wife. What was the church instructed to do with him and his situation? Was the church instructed to love and accept him and let “God be the judge? Absolutely not! Rather, the church was instructed to withdraw their fellowship from this man because of sin in which he was engaged. In other words, they were to pass judgment on his lifestyle, determine that it was not in harmony with the teachings of Christ, and reject him so long as he persisted in that sinful relationship.

This “accept them and let God be their judge” philosophy is not a new one. It was tried in times past by other congregations. Remember the church at Pergamos (Revelation 2:14-15) and the church at Thyatira (Revelation 2:20)? These two churches allowed or tolerated some among them to hold to false doctrine and some among them to commit sexual immorality. It’s not that the entire church was engaged in these activities, they just tolerated this behavior among some of their fellow church members. Now, did Jesus commend them for their tolerance and acceptance, telling them that “God would be the Judge of these individuals?” I think not! Rather, Scripture states that if these churches did not repent of their tolerance and acceptance of that which was sinful, that the Lord would fight against them.

Brethren, it is true that God will eventually judge all of us, but it is not true that we, therefore, are forbidden to do any judging ourselves. A church cannot be faithful to God while allowing any member to persist in sin while at the same time enjoying the fellowship of the church. Dealing with sin is unpleasant and difficult. Certainly, none should find enjoyment in confronting those who are doing wrong. Yet, the direction of our lives should not be determined upon the basis of what is pleasant and easy. God sometimes calls us do the difficult.

Certainly, God will be the Judge, but a church, if it is to be faithful to God, had better be involved in some righteous judgment, too (John 7:24).

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Newman Kirkland, Jacquelin Dopwell, Sam Bolding, Evelyn Wyatt, Duane Nelson, Mary Shoemaker, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Earl Anderson, Karen Swiney, Nina Hart, Annie Beth Coone.

Shut In Members: Newman Kirkland, Artis Bassett.

Others: Jim Angel, Bonnie Hendricks, Sarah Russell, Joyce Benson, Christina Feussner, Kathy Peel, Danny Edmonds. Also, Matthew Bishop who is serving in the military in South Korea.

Upcoming Events

June 8th - Women of the Florida Churches of Christ quarterly meeting. See bulletin board for more information.

June 8th - Ladies Day at Carolina Ave. Church of Christ in Avon Park.

June 15th - Men's Breakfast at Central in W.H. at 8:00 am.

June 16th - 20th - Vacation Bible School. Time is 6:00 pm on Sunday, then 7:00 pm Monday thru Thursday.

June 30th - July 6th Central Fla. Bible Camp. You can register on line, or pick up an application from the table in the foyer. If you register early, there is a \$20.00 discount.

Visitors

David & Cara Mohundro & daughter, Dahlia. Mrs. Donna Smith & son, Anthony.

Our Fellowship

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship on Sunday evening which was to honor our Lads to Leaders for their participation at the convention, and to honor our military veterans.

Sympathy

We express our condolences to bettye Bolding at the passing of her brother, Don Moore, on May 25th. in Texas. Don had fought a long battle with cancer.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

June

Kenny French **Table** David Williams
Casey Paulin..... **Assist**..... Robert Cooper

June 2, 2013
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer..... Charles Sanford

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... David Anderson
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Anderson
Closing Prayer David Deal

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer Jeremy Padilla
Closing Prayer Ken Walker
Greeters Ken & Ginny Walker
Att. Cards..... Tucker & Paul Sweeney
Open & Close Building..... Tim Croson

Wed. June 5, 2013

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Jeremy Padilla
Closing Prayer Kyle Bingle

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt, so he can get a replacement - 859-5231.

Sunday, June 9, 2013
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Frank Hamby
Prayer..... Kenny French

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Closing Prayer Kyle Bingle
Greeters Kenny & Reba French
Att. Cards..... Ian Enamorado & Sebastian Rapley
Open & Close Building..... Tim Croson

Wed. June 12, 2013

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Closing Prayer Casey Paulin

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

May 05 \$3,841.54
May 12 \$4,923.09
May 19 \$3,579.10
May 26 \$3,489.87
Contribution Average \$4,153.81
2013 Weekly Budget \$4,255.13

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week -The Chicken & the Pig

WONN 1230 (Tue. - Fri. between 4 & 5 pm)

WLKF 1430 (Wed. - Fri. between 4 & 5 pm)

or on our web page

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