

Isaiah's Parable of the Vineyard

by Dave Rogers

"Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. 2 He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 4 What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? 5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. 6 I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!"

Isaiah 5:1-7, ESV

Isaiah's parable tells of the goodness and generosity of Jehovah toward the ancient nation of Israel, as well as their rude and ungrateful response to the rich blessings He gave them. The first verses of the "story" show how God provided everything they could need to produce good "fruit:" He selected a rich location (the promised land); He cultivated and cleared it for them (giving them victory over the idol-worshipping Canaanites, just as Joshua and Caleb had promised in Numbers 14:9). He planted "choice vines" (the people themselves, Hebrews 8:10), built a watch-

tower and a wine vat there (fortifying it and making provision for the vineyard to be productive), but instead of a rich harvest, the Lord was rewarded with "wild grapes" (a word that could be translated as "stinkberries"). Where God had provided Israel every opportunity to bear and enjoy the benefits of a rich harvest, they rewarded His kindness with worthless stinkberries.

Just as He called for the people of Jerusalem and Judah to "judge" His cause against His own people, one day God will call us to account for what we have done with the blessings He has provided us (Romans 14:10 and 12, and 2 Corinthians 5:10).

As He asked "what more could I have done for my vineyard?" will He also ask of US "What more could I have done for you?" Just as the Father had the right to expect Israel to bear good, rich fruit for Him, **He has every right** to expect Christians to become the embodiment of His holy influence in this world (Philippians 2:14-15) and bear rich fruit in His kingdom (John 15:8), to justify the awful price He paid to ransom us from sin (Mark 10:45; 1 John 4:10).

Isaiah foretold that God would lay waste the "vineyard" of Israel because it was unfruitful, and Jesus likewise warned that many who think of themselves as fine and upstanding servants of the Lord will be terribly shocked on the judgment day when they discover that He does not share their opinion of themselves (Matthew 7:23). As He did in that ancient day, God looks for justice and righteousness among His people today; when He looks at you does He see a "good grape" or a stinkberry?

Right or Left?

by Leon Bridges, Buchanan Dam, Texas

In politics as well as in the church I hear people speaking of others as being on the "Right" or on the "Left." The things each says about the other are not very complimentary. I think I know where I stand. This sometimes becomes a little confusing to me and I know that it is sometimes confusing to others who know me. Those on the "Left" think I am sometimes too far to the "Right," and those on the "Right" think I am sometimes too far to the "Left." So, I've come to this conclusion: I'm ambidextrous! That's right! I'm both "Right" about some things and there are some things that I've "Left." I hope I haven't confused you, but in case I have, let me share with you just a few things that I believe I am "Right" on and some things that I have "Left."

I think that I'm "Right" about the Bible being the only source of information we have in this present age that tells me how to have a right relationship with God.

I think that I'm "Right" about the Lord's church being the only institution in this present age that God has given through which we might glorify Him and Christ.

I think that I'm "Right" when I teach and preach that there is only one way to Heaven and only one way into that institution, the Lord's church, that will get me to heaven.

I think that I'm "Right" about preaching only that which God authorizes me to preach.

I think that I'm "Right" for standing up for "Right" even when it's not popular to stand up for "Right."

So you see, I guess that I'm a "Rightist." But, I'm also a "Leftist." Let's look at the "Left" side of the matter.

I've "Left" the love of the world and its practices. (At least I'm trying.)

I've "Left" trying to force my opinions on others. (Ditto.)

I've "Left" the burden of sin I carried when I entered the Christ and was ushered into His Body, the church.

I've "Left" trying to establish a righteousness of my own (that is, if I'm kind to Granny and don't kick the cat I'll get to heaven).

I've "Left" the idea that I can do as little as possible in the Lord's Kingdom and still get to heaven.

I've "Left" the idea that I can get along without God, His truth, and good folks in the church who can help me get to heaven.

Well, there are many other things that I'm "Right" about and many things that have been "Left." AMBIDEXTROUS? You Bet! The question really comes

down to this: "Are we on the 'Right' side of 'Right' and have we 'Left' the things that would keep us from Heaven?" (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Clergy or Laity?

by Joe Slater, Justin, Texas

Are you in the clergy? Or are you a lay person? If you are a Christian, you should answer both questions the same: **Yes!**

Our word "clergy" goes back through the English and French languages to a Latin word meaning "priest." "Laity," on the other hand, comes from the Greek word **laos** (people). In the Old Testament, Israel distinguished between their priesthood and "the people" in general. Only certain Levites who were male descendants of Moses' brother Aaron, were priests.

The New Testament however, recognizes no such difference among Christians. In fact, Peter tells Christians that they are "built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). To the same Christians he writes, "But you ye a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people" (1 Peter 2:9). Every Christian, then, serves God as a priest under the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ. Thus the Hebrew writer exhorts: "Therefore by Him [i.e. by Jesus Christ] let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name" (Hebrews 13:15).

Since there is no distinction in the Lord's church between priests and non-priests, all Christians are also the laity (the common people). Our Lord has instructed that no one seek self-exaltation: "But you, do not be called 'Rabbi': for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren" (Matthew 23:8). The next two verses continue the same prohibition against religious titles such as Father and Teacher (Master). In principle, these are no different than Reverend, Doctor, Pastor, or any other title men might invent to elevate themselves above their brethren. All such titles are divisive and violate the teaching that Christ's disciples are brethren.

Family Matters

Bob Howell – Will continue chemo for the cancer.
Butch & Joann Trawick – Are recuperating at home.
Becky Higginbotham – Is recovering at home.
Mary Elizabeth Hutson – Susan Smith's mother has been transferred to Vitas Hospice. The family is asking for prayers for comfort and peace.
Caylee Williamson – Terri Durden's 9 year-old great-niece is in Egleston Hospital-ICU with Guillain-Barre Syndrome.
Meg Wallace - Sharon Obrien's has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.

Members With Health Problems: Brenda Mitchell, Equillar Butler, Theresa Green, Ruby Fowler, Bill Benton, Shirley Jones, Lucille Amon, Marlene Etheridge, RuPearl Sharpe, Mattie Williams, Bernice Gillespie, Maylon Swann, Hick & Estell Higginbotham, Una Fortson, Forrest & Burma Chapman

Shut-ins: David & Shirley Lee, Valorye Whittaker, Annette Benefield, Lillian Gray, David Nash, Audrey Shaw, Jane

Lankford, Joe Clark & Frances Elder

Others With Health Problems: Willard Mann, Bree Couch (Ginny's daughter-in-law), Roy Cox (Donna Hagin's father), Gregory Crook (Lucille Amon's nephew), Jean Benefield (Annette's daughter-in-law), Norma Tolle (Lewis Armstrong's cousin), Greta Newsome (Jill Nash's sister), Harry Johnson & Joanne Daugherty (David & Wayne Nash's B-in-L & Sister), Carol Bomar (Charity Nash's aunt), Dylan Carter (11 month-old daughter of the Hagins' friends), Loretta Russell (Ray's mother), Nelda Hayes (Jack Sorrell's aunt), Tom Holcomb (Annette Benefield's S-in-L), Nancy Ford (Joann Crook's sister), Virginia Poskevich (David's mother), Xernonia Fortson (Una's daughter), Eddie & Lil Cauthen (Joan Poskevich's B-i-L/S-i-L), Joe Hand (Jim Scoma's B-in-L) and Marvin Cook (Jean Johnson's brother)

Prayer Requested - Scott Kelly's email address jpay.com (Web site) #1001380630 (Scott / Robert Kelly)

Prayer Requested – Jamie & Jason Campbell (Sylvester & Missy's sons).

Military Members Deployed: AM3 Candace Butts (Connie Elder's daughter), US Navy



Baby Lily is here! She is 6 lbs, 14 oz. and 18 1/2 inches long. Both mother and baby are doing great. Thank you all so very much for the prayers. They were definitely heard and answered.

Love, The Hagin Family of Five

Calendar

Tonight – SilverWings Dinner & Youth Program at 6pm in the fellowship hall hosted by Teri Durden & Susie Graham. We will provide hamburgers & hot dogs; we need side dishes, home-made ice cream & desserts.

June 26 – Widows/Widowers Luncheon after the AM Service.

June 26 – Singing @ Hope Center, 2 pm

July 1 – Game Night at 6pm

July 10-13 – VBS “The Voyage”. We need teachers!

July 31 – Service Sunday and Luncheon

Aug 4-13 – Scotland Mission Trip

Aug 17 – Graham McDonald USA Visit

Aug 19-25 – Polishing the Pulpit Week

September 18-21 – Fall Gospel Meeting, Speaker: Joey Barkley

October 7-8 – Ladies' Retreat at Calvin Center. Please let Luann Rogers know if you would like to help organize it. If you plan to attend, *please sign up*; the cost will be \$80.00 for overnight (Dinner & Lunch) and \$15.00 for Saturday.



2016 VBS
July 10th-13, The VOYAGE
Needed Cookies & Powdered Lemonade

Youth Events

Today – Area Wide Youth Devo—East Point COC

June 28 & 30 – Puppet Practice, ages 5-19, 9-11am.

July 10-13 – VBS “The Voyage”

July 15 – God's Ranch

July 10 – 15 – Connections 16 – Future Leaders Training Camp, RISE UP, Young Men Grades 6-12, at McDonough Church of Christ

July 17 – Area Wide Youth Devo at McDonough COC

July 19 – God's Ranch—Feed the Homeless

July 26 – God's Ranch—Peach Pickin'

Aug 6 – Stone Mountain Trip – All L2L, leaving the church building at 2 – late

Aug 19 – Youth Program—Movie Night at 6pm

WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

Call To Worship

Scripture Reading	6/26 Zeke Poskevich
Prayer	Bill Ruffer
Song Leader	
Preside Lord's Supper	Ray Russell
Server	Harry Williams
Server	Luke Quinn
Server	Larry Rose
Server	Brad Hopkins
Server	Randal Bell
Server	Jack Sorrell
Server	Rory Bell
Server	Andy Johnson
Sermon	Dave Rogers
Response Elder	Jim Pelfrey
Announcements	Greg Nash
Song	
Closing Prayer	Jim Pelfrey

Evening Service

Prayer	Bob Howell
Sermon	Song Service
Server	Rick Sharpe
Server	Anthony Ravenell
Closing Prayer	Jim Garner

G.S.O.P.

Summer 2016 Short Courses at Piedmont Road church of Christ

July 21-23 The
Godhead,
Instructor,
Phil Sanders

Communion Preparation

Morris Jones
July - Miranda Kendrix
Nursery
26 Charity Nash

Care of Building

16-30 Andy Johnson/Dennis Graham
7/1-15 Stan Mitchell/Shirley Allender
16-31 Keith Killingsworth/David Hopkins

Ushers

26 Rick Sharpe/Harry Williams

Media Center Helpers

June 26 & July 3 Gayle Pelfrey
July 10 & 17 Ben Rogers
July 24 & 31 Morris Jones

Open Arms

26 - Susie Graham, Zeke Poskevich,
Barbara Edmonds,
Linda Armstrong, Jack & Carla Sorrell
Jul 3 - Sally Wallace, Laura Gibson,
Connie Kelly, Martha Vickery, Theresa Green,
Hugh Kelly & Ron Biles

Wednesday Evening Devotional

29 Eric Hagin

Fayetteville Church of Christ 2016 Goal - Evangelism

Address:

870 Redwine Road
Fayetteville, Georgia
30215

Monday -Friday , 9-4
Office Telephone
(770) 461-3617,
(770) 461-8231 Fax

Email: mail@fcoc.com

Web Page: <http://www.fcoc.com>



www.Facebook.com/Fayettevillecoc

Ministers:

Dave Rogers
(361) 649-6638
Dave.rogers@fcoc.com

Greg Nash,
(404) 455-1546 (cell)
gnash999@gmail.com

Office Secretary:

Susie Graham
celiagram@bellsouth.net

Elders:

Tom Durden
(770) 652-7389
Jim Garner
(770) 461-3197
Greg Nash
(404) 455-1546
Jim Pelfrey
(770) 629-2061

Deacons:

Dennis Graham
David Hopkins
Hugh Kelly
Jerry Kendrix
Andy Johnson
Paul Lyons
Stan Mitchell
David Poskevich
Anthony Ravenell
Jack Sorrell

Assembly Schedule:

Sunday
9:00 am Bible Classes
10:00 am Worship Service
6:00 pm Worship Service

10:00 am Tuesday Morning
Bible Class
(September 11—May 14)

7:00 pm Wednesday Night
Bible Study

7:00 pm Thursday Night
Ladies Class
(September-May)

The Fountain of Life with Larry Acuff

Saturdays at 7 am, on channel 57

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

Sunday at 7:30 am, on channel 57

Our Missionaries



Graham, Elizabeth, Joshua, Megan,
Bethany & Elijah McDonald
Scotland, 11 Woodhead Ct,
Westfield, Cumberland,
North Lanarkshire, G68 9DB
Email: graham@gmcd.net
Skype: gmcd105 or www.gmcd.net



Scott, Rebecca & Violet Shanahan
Pohnpel
scottshanahan@hotmail.com



Kenloy & Ivell Walker
Mandeville, Jamaica
Old Harbour Church of Christ,
876-569-2039



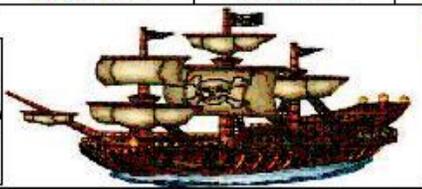
Forrest & Burma Chapman,
State of Georgia
email: ftc1952@alltel.com

July 2016

Evangelism

Response Elder - Jim Garner

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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