

Week of July 22, 2007

Dr. Randall L. Adkisson

Monday

Rom. 5:6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Too often we forget how truly ungodly we were! And in forgetting, we are prone to take for granted the grace of God that revealed itself in the sacrifice of Jesus. There is no way around it, we were ungodly, lost, without hope, and covered with the filth of our own sin. Only by God's grace did we find forgiveness and favor. We are no better than any other, no matter their crime against the Kingdom. We must not think that we are; for when we do, we forget the wonder of His grace.

Tuesday

Rom. 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Oh, how much God does love us! I can rest in His never-ending love because no beauty or goodness in me brought it about—I was a sinner, from the beginning unworthy of His love. God's love for me is based upon Him, His character and nature. Because He loved me even when I was at my worst, He will love me always. Although life's circumstances may change, although I may disappoint, even fail Him, I can rest on the unchangeable fact that God loves me.

Wednesday

1John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also **ought** to love one another.

"Ought" is a word of obligation. Because God loved me and I have accepted that love in receiving Christ as my Savior, I also accepted the divine obligation to follow Him in all areas of my life. Loving and forgiving others is one of those areas of "ought." It is not easy. It is necessary. Decide now to forgive, to release others from the debt they may owe you, just as God has released you from your debt of sin. It is a divine "ought."

Thursday

Heb. 12:15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.

Bitterness is a deadly enemy. It will kill you. Modern medicine reports the damaging effects of bitterness upon our physical health. Such is no surprise to God. Bitterness is deadly to spiritual health, too. Bitterness steals joy, robs peace, murders usefulness in the Kingdom. "Lord, deliver me from bitterness and sinful anger. Let me dwell in your grace. Lord, I pray for more; I pray that by the example of my walk, you may be able to deliver others from the prison of bitterness." Amen

Friday

Prov. 26:20-21 For lack of wood the fire goes out, And where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down. Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife.

Some people are easily embittered and through their bitterness cause great contention. It should not be so in the family of God. "Lord, deliver me from an easily embittered attitude. Make me slow to take offense and slow to offend. Create in me a new heart of peace and fill me with your grace. Let my mouth speak encouragement and let my disposition be one of tenderness. Then I will be pleasing to you and a salve on a hurting world." Amen