



OUR LITTLE FLOWER

Terry Joe Kee



Have you ever noticed the flower beds and beautiful flowers at the North and South entrances to the foyer? Each year for several years, Sheryl Taylor and others have planted, watered and nurtured those beds and given an inviting look to those entrances. Thanks to everyone who has had a hand in this good work.

I could not miss noticing that at the South entrance a little flower has escaped its bed and found a new home between the post and the sidewalk in a crack. I love the beauty of this little flower and I have been considering the lessons this little flower teaches me.

First, it teaches me the importance of the seed. The sower is important, but the power is in the seed. I doubt seriously that anyone planted that seed in that place. I do not know how it found its way to that space. Perhaps an insect, a bird, the wind, rain, or who knows by what means it found its way to that spot. But the seed is what produced the plant and not the sower. For us, the seed is the word of God (Luke 8:11). The importance is found in the seed and without the seed there is never going to be a flower. The power is found in sowing the seed.

Second, let us be careful not to overlook places where we might plant the seed. No one would have thought of planting that seed in that place. Maybe we look too hard for the perfect soil, the best flower bed, the places where we think the seed will best grow. Do we ever overlook places where the seed might be sown in favor of places where we want to see it grow? Jesus sent first to those who had been invited to the feast, but when they did not come, he sent servants into the highways and hedges to compel them to come in (Luke 14:12-24). Maybe these guests did not come from the most affluent neighborhoods, but they were thankful to be invited and welcomed the opportunity to come in to the feast.

Third, from whatever place you sprang up and have flourished, whether from a beautiful flower bed, or a crack in the sidewalk, "Bloom where you are planted." If we are not careful, we forget to bloom. Each one of us can bring beauty into the lives of others by filling our community with the beauty of Christ being seen in us daily. Let us all be shining lights to the world (Matt.5:14-16).

Fourth, you must notice that this little flower stands there alone. No one is there to support him, encourage him or to protect him from the elements. This little flower rejoices in the blessings from heaven that are showered upon him from above and he looks up and reaches up to the One from whom all blessings flow. He stands there alone when others will not stand with him. Christians often must stand alone in this world. We often stand out and cannot keep from being noticed by those who pass by. Even when all men forsook Paul, the Lord was with him and that was sufficient to see him through this hard time in his life (2 Timothy 4:16). Let us work to keep others from having to stand alone.

Finally, I cannot help but remember that I need to rejoice and enjoy that little flower while it is there and blooming. As the hot sun radiates down on it and the rains do not come, it will soon begin to wither and ultimately die. Ever since I first saw it a few weeks ago, I now make a point of checking on it, and even watering it a little, from time to time. I rejoice in the blessing it has been to me and even when it is gone, I know that being dead it will still be speaking (Hebrews 11:4).

WHAT IS YOUR STANDARD?

A standard is that which is set up and established by an authority as a criterion, test, or reference. In matters that concern the soul, a standard is the source of right (true) answers to questions which concern the salvation of the soul.

It is obvious that standards are necessary in ordinary activities of life. There are standards to properly operate a football, basketball, or baseball game. There are standards to mail letters and packages through the Post Office. There are standards for paying taxes on properties, autos, and incomes. In fact, without these standards, chaos would prevail.

The Bible is God's standard for men. But when it comes to the abiding by the God's standard, people will reject it. Why? Because people either do not realize the Bible is God's standard for Christian living and worship, or they know it and do not care!

When people reject the Bible standard (either knowingly or ignorantly), they will establish themselves as the authority and develop their own standard. They establish for themselves a false standard. There are many feeble appeals to humanly originated standards.

SOME USE THEIR FEELINGS AS THEIR STANDARD. Feelings are fickle and fleeting. One moment a person may feel secure in their emotional high, but then depression sets in. Now, security is gone. They have trusted in themselves, that is, in their feelings. Solomon said, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof is death" (Proverbs 16:24). Jeremiah concurred with Solomon by saying, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). Man's feelings are not the standard for they cannot save.

SOME USE THEIR CONSCIENCES AS THEIR STANDARD. One should never violate their conscience (Romans 14:23). But what if the conscience does not think there anything wrong with committing adultery? Would that make adultery right? Of course not! The conscience does not tell man what truth is. Truth must be learned from the Bible. Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Truth is external to the conscience, and truth must be learned. Therefore, the conscience must be taught what is right, good, and acceptable to God. Even though Saul said he had lived "in all good conscience", he thought of himself as the "chief of sinners" (I Timothy 1:15; Acts 23:1).

SOME USE THEIR HUMAN CREEDS AS THEIR STANDARD. But human creeds are just what they are; HUMAN. They are not divine! Proverbs 16: 25 and Jeremiah 10:23 apply again. "It is not within man that walketh to direct his steps." If the creed says more or less than the Bible, then it violates Revelation 22:18, 19. If the creed says the same as the Bible, then it is not necessary. Human creeds are not acceptable and ought to be rejected.

CHRISTIANS USE THE BIBLE AS THEIR STANDARD. Why? Because it is the all-sufficient standard (II Timothy 3:16, 17). It teaches us how to go to heaven. It explains how to be pleasing to God in daily living and worship. It warns of false teaching and evil doers which would eternally jeopardize our souls. God's standard must not be overlooked, shunned, or neglected.

Gilbert Gough

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Remember in Prayer:

Hilda Wilcox is undergoing tests and therapy in NEA, Room 5112.

Darlene Felts is in Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Walnut Ridge undergoing rehab. She is in Room 216.

Louis Preston got a good report from his heart cath and will be having hip surgery in August.

Carolyn Tinsley is struggling with health issues at home.

Sympathy goes out to Sandra Johnson, whose sister-in-law (her brother’s wife) passed away in Alabama last week.

Pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.
Violet Blanchard Kee and Blanchard families

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists.

In Other News:

Bible classes for 2 years through 6th grade are cancelled for today and Wednesday.

The wedding shower for *Kara Kee and David Stone* has had to be postponed.

Those Privileged To Serve

July 19, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Noah Flanrey
Opening Prayer: Hal Baugh
Closing Prayer: Jim Johnson
Bible Reading: Sam Light
Preacher: J. L. May

LORD’S TABLE

Presiding: Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts Mark Wooten
Reginald Read Ryan Manley
Robert Stephens Scott Pratt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Noah Flanrey
Opening Prayer: Jeff Presley
Closing Prayer: Craig Nelson
Preacher: J. L. May

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

July 22, 2020

Song Leader: Mark Wooten
Opening Prayer: Barry Roush
Closing Prayer: Reginald Read

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

July 22, 2020
Stacy Eddleman

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of

July 12, 2020

Sunday Bible Study	98
Sunday AM Worship	120
Sunday PM Worship	88
Wednesday Bible Study	59
Contribution	\$5971

“He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.”

Proverbs 17:27

The Friend of Truth

Greensboro Road church of Christ

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870) 932-3920

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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KeeNotes

This is quickly becoming one of my least favorite years. Besides all the personal troubles and stress which have been brought to bear, this virus is all that is being discussed or reported from day to day. So many brethren continue to need our prayers and our support and encouragement.

If you have not been calling, texting, face-booking or whatever your preferred method of communication is, please take some time to make contact with those who are confined and unable to get out and about. Some are suffering with sickness, strokes, heart and joint issues and so many more illnesses and injuries, that all of us are needed to be busy staying in contact with all our brethren and their families. Remember especially those who have been with us for years and fighting to make us who we are and are now having to slow down. Our seasoned citizens in God’s kingdom need to be respected and we all need to rejoice with them. So many of you are already corresponding and caring for all of these.

While we are taking the time to remember our “seasoned brethren,” take some time to remember our little ones. They are living with fears and unrest because they do not know what may be coming with a new school year. There will be so many things that will be different as the new school year begins. Be praying for our students and all they will be facing, but do not forget about our teachers, bus drivers and all who have any part in educating our children, because their lives will be upset as well. Children will be forced to learn under new circumstances and teachers will have to find new ways to get the best instruction for our young ones.

Then remember all of our brethren who are in hospitals undergoing tests, preparing for surgeries and being rehabilitated and trying to get stronger. We also have several who are trying to gain improvement and better health while being confined at home. All of us need to remember our need to pray one for the other and keep everyone in mind daily.

As the elders have announced, we will not be having the children’s classes today or this coming Wednesday night. After that we will be re-evaluating to determine if and when we can return to classes for our younger ones. The elders know the need for our young ones to be in classes and want to work to accomplish this as safely and effectively as possible.

May God keep blessing and helping us day by day. Give thanks to God for all His goodness to us.

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
Randy Oden
Jody Pickens

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts

Jason Garland
Marshall Lands
Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes
Samrit Kammanee
Arnold Kelley
Guyana, South America
Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God
John 8:24

Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the remission of your sins
Acts 2:38

Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

“Where there is no vision, the people perish...”
Proverbs 29:18

God Give Us 2020 Vision in 2020