

THE THREE BEARS

Two things that I have always liked to do with my children are to read and tell them stories. One such story that I have told and will tell again is a familiar one to many of us. It is the story of the three bears. Many children have enjoyed this story through the years. In this article I want to tell a story of three bears. This story is found in **Galatians 6:1-10, 17-18**. These three bears are not animals but mean to carry, help, or support.

Have you ever heard someone say that they are in a state that is “unbearable?” However, God promised in **1 Corinthians 10:13** that He will “not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” Notice that we will be able **“to bear it.”** What are we supposed to be able to bear? Well, let us notice three things we all must bear—hence, **the three bears!**

First, we are to bear one another’s burdens (Gal. 6:2). The importance of this command is shown in the phrase “and so fulfil the law of Christ.” In **John 15:14**, Jesus said that we are His friends if we do what He has commanded us to do. Verse one of **Galatians 6** is the best commentary on what verse two is talking about. We find out that a burden, here is a fault and that in helping others to bear these faults we should do so in meekness. We “ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves” Paul says in **Romans 15:1**. Stories are told that in one tribe in Africa, when a child is three years old, parents reject it, refuse to feed it, and the child has to fend for itself or die. We think how horrible this is, and it is. However, we have often done the same thing with new converts, babes in Christ. We have baptized them (the birth process) and then left them to the world to struggle alone. Do we do the same thing when we do not visit the sick or those in nursing homes, etc., or do not pray for them? What about those with physical, mental or financial problems, or the needy? If we do not pray for them and help them are we again “leaving them to fend for themselves? Do we immediately begin to nit-pick at everything about the new convert or do we

help them to grow in their faith? The first time we meet David he is carrying the head of a giant in his hand and is a hero to the people. However, some time later David is a fugitive from the king and all of the “great job David” and “I knew you could do it David” compliments are gone and his encouragers have diminished when he really needed them. On the other hand, we see the greatness of Jonathan when we read of him that he went “into the wood and strengthened” the hand of David “in God.” It is no surprise then that later David wanted to show kindness to the house of Jonathan. Not only must we bear the burdens of others, but we must, of course, be careful not to cause burdens.

The second bear is to bear our own burdens (Gal. 6:5). We must do our own work according to verse four of **Galatians 6**. There are works that only you can do. We are all part of the body (the church) and some functions cannot be done by other parts. There are people that you know that only you can help them be converted. We cannot pass on burdens that are meant for us to bear. No one else can do what the Lord has laid out for you. With these burdens we need to remember the promise of the Lord in verse nine: Do not be “weary in well doing: for in a due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” We must prepare ourselves for death, we must worship for ourselves, we must have faith of our own, and we must bear our own burdens of responsibility.

The third bear is to bear the marks of Jesus (Gal. 6:17). This can be done in two ways. One way is to bear physical marks as Paul did (2 Cor. 11:23-27). The second way is to bear the resemblance of Christ. We are to be followers of Him (1 Cor. 4:16). The things “which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen” (Phil. 4:9) we must do. Paul looked like, talked like, and acted like Jesus. We must do the same. Paul bore the marks of Jesus. We may some day be called upon to do the same.

How can I bear the burdens of others, bear my own burdens, and bear the marks of Jesus all at the same time? By keeping the great commandment that we read about in **Matthew 22:37-40**. We must love God with our all and love our neighbors as ourselves. Love **bears** all things (1 Cor. 13:7).

If I love God, I will love His children and want to help bear their burdens. I will not want to put my burdens on others and I will bear the marks of Jesus. How many burdens of others have you shared? How many of your own burdens have you fulfilled? Can the marks of Jesus be found on you? “And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God” (Gal. 6:16).

Curtis Graves

A GREAT DIFFERENCE

An English writer has said, “The early Christians did not go around saying, ‘Look what the world is come to.’ Rather they went out with great joy and said to all men, ‘Look what has come to the world!’”

There is a great difference between these two attitudes. Yes, the world *is* in bad shape—but read the second chapter of Romans and you will find that the world was in an awful condition in Paul’s time. Nearly all thoughtful men agree that man is in a terrible predicament, but the unique Gospel of Jesus Christ offers the solution to man’s problems.

Look! See what has come into the world—God’s revelation of Himself in all His power, wisdom, and love through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. This is indeed glorious news! This is a message which we cannot keep to ourselves, but we must tell everybody about it. No wonder Christians are radiant with joy. They have found the treasure all men are seeking. They have seen what has come into the world in the advent of Jesus Christ, and they are working for the advancement of His kingdom until He comes again.

Author Unknown

“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.” **Colossians 3:13**

ANNIVERSARIES

Allen & Clara Scott, 05-29; John & Janice Carter, 05-31;
Bo & Tammy Marcum, 06-02; Michael & Leslie
Simmons, 06-02.

ILL

Wednesday: Millie Robertson. Elizabeth Ray, Clara Scott's sister, is in St. Joseph Hospital. Kim Clark is in the ICU at Lee's Summit Hospital. Her family has requested limited visitation. Those battling cancer: Diane Cannon, Kim Clark and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is in Room D-3 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

John and Janice Carter are in Michigan on vacation. Chris and Sara Edwards are in Liberal, KS visiting relatives. Wilba Hopkins is in Southern Missouri visiting relatives.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, June 4 following our AM worship. All are invited to come and enjoy the good food and good company!

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 74; Sunday PM, 57; Wednesday PM, 43.

PLEASING GOD

Perhaps Genesis 5:24 is the world's shortest biography – *“And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.”* It is not necessary to write a volume to tell whether or not a man has lived a worthwhile or wasted life. Because of these brief words, the name, character, and destiny of Enoch will live in human memory until the resurrection of the dead. - *Selected*

Those To Serve

May 28, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Thrasher

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
PRESIDE..... Ken Greer
ASSIST..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... Myron Nebergall

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
CLOSING PRAYER..... Michael Simmons
LORD'S SUPPER..... Ken Greer

WEDNESDAY May 31st

SONG LEADER..... 5th Wednesday Singing
INVITATION Myron Nebergall

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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