

July 19, 81 Rm -

"SWEETEST TEXT IN THE BIBLE"

Eph. 4:32

There is a chapter heading after this text -- but it is misplaced.

It should read:

5:1 - Be ye therefore followers

V. 2 - Walk in love

4:30 - Grieve not the Holy Spirit . . .

V. 31 - Let all

Bitterness - long standing resentment, (refuses) to be reconciled. Some have ways of (nursing) their wrath, keeping it warm, (brooding) over the insults and injuries.

The more we think of these the deeper rooted they will become. James 3:14.

Rom. 3:14.

(Good Prayer): Lord teach me how to forget!

Anger + outburst of passion, all the spirits are busy in trouble, sets the house on fire. May be habitual, short-lived, it is a fever in the heart, a fire in the face, a sword in the hand. A lark in the grass rising upwards and hopes to get to Heaven but a strong Eastern wind beats the poor bird to the earth and is forced to sit and stay until the storm is over.

Clamour and evil speaking - loud talking, insulting language.

(Observe) people in a discussion or argument (raise) their voices. Then it's time to stop.

Learn to keep our voices down.

Simply if we do not have something good to say to a person better not say anything.

This is depth of unkindness.

V. 32 - Be ye kind. (Positive) action. Three things - kind action - tender-hearted compassion. Forgiving grace!

The entire passage begins.

5:1 - Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children. Greek - "children of love". I John 4:8. Special kind of love. We are children of God born in his love. We are wanted, desired, prayed for.

Not wanted children found on the door step.

(Imitation) of God - followers of God. Mimeograph - copies of God - imitate God. What an admonition!

If we love the Lord - we will find ourselves unconsciously loving and following those precious characteristics we see of God in Christ.

As political leader in Md. once said, "My mother was a devout Christian woman and when she went to the altar for communion she removed her jewelry. I found myself doing the same - and to my amazement my teen age son removed his ring and watch. That is (imitation)! No special reason for it - following father and mother - copy.

Sons of Eli did not imitate father - Absalom did not imitate David. Duplicate.

How is God? If we were like him what would it be like.

You can't pound this into people - must be set afire with love.

*3 things about (kind) to like
" " god
" " christian*

I. KIND - Like God

For the love of God is greater
Than the measure of man's mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

When the prophet God came to King David to confront him with his sin of numbering Israel, the prophet said, "You must choose between three judgements: seven years famine or to flee before your enemies as they pursue you three months, or three days of pestilence in the land."

David bowing before such a harsh judgement said: I Chron. 21:1-17 - "Let us not

13

fall into the hands of men. Let us fall into the hands of God for He is merciful and kind. I choose three days pestilence."

Wonder of the story is as pestilence swept the land and destroying angel came over Jerusalem - David saw him with his sword drawn over the city.

15 David fell on his face and bowing before the Lord of judgement, pled for mercy in behalf of his people.

16 God sent David to the threshing floor on Mt. Moriah and built an altar to satisfy the wrath of judgement.

Later on the same spot Solomon built the Temple - a place where God shows mercy - where God is kind.

The very place is acknowledgement of the goodness, kindness, mercy of God -- He stayed the plague in answer to David's prayer.

(Explanation) of why God does not destroy the wicked -- those who plan war and violence.

He is kind and good.

Makes His rain fall on the field of a bad man as good.

Makes His sun to shine on the field of unjust and just.

The Lord loves us all -- good and bad.

Peter wrote - 2 Peter 3:9. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us. Word, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Ezekiel 18:23 - "Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Saith the Lord God."

Judgement is delayed - kindness is seen as long-suffering. May be tomorrow the wicked man will repent -- bow and give his heart-forgiving.

Burdens placed upon God's anointed such as slavery of Joseph in Egypt.

Israel cried when Joseph's evil brothers brought the many colored coat. "Is this your son's coat?" They had dipped it in the blood of a goat - is this his coat? Jacob looked - recognized it immediately.

He said, "Everything is against me. I have lost Rachel, the mother, and now Joseph, my son. I will go down to the grave grieving for my boy."

But when Joseph was Prime Minister of Egypt and thereby saved the entire family from starvation, Joseph said, "Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good." Gen. 50:20.

It is same story with Moses in exile. Shepherd for 40 years. God prepared him for service and finally spoke to him!

That is story of Hannah -- broken hearted cry to God -- Samuel was sent and lent to the Lord.

Paul in jail - beaten - no prison epistles.

John on rocky isle of Patmos. On that lonely rock God rolled back the Heavens as a scroll and he saw the pageant of redemption roll by in Revelation.

II. KIND - Like Jesus

If you had a choice in history of picking out one event as a flash back - Alexander the Great victory Persian Empire, Napoleon's defeat by the Iron Duke of Wellington.

What about the time multitudes pressing Jesus on every side -- a leper walked up to him. How did he get near Jesus? Reason, law where ever he walked he had to cover his face with his hands and cry "unclean unclean!" People always fell away from him. Empty circle. He could walk anywhere and crowds part. That is how he got to Jesus. Walked right up to the Lord. Throngs fell apart. But the Lord did not move -- Saviour stood right there.

Bible says -- "The Lord touched him". Put his hand on him.

Feel the sweet loving human hand of the Lord.

It would have been great to have been there.

Children -- mothers were bringing their children to him. "Forbid them not. Suffer them to come to me. Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." And he took them in his arms and blessed them.

Would not you have loved to have been there!

Crowd - hungry - Disciples said "Send them away". Jesus said no. We shall feed them. He fed 5,000 plus women and children.

Blind man cried -- friends tried to "Hush, he has not time for such as you. He is a busy man." The Lord stopped and said "bring him to me". Kind, tender-hearted Jesus was moved with compassion. He was that way all his life.

That way in his death -- those who had crucified Him nailed Him, walked back and forth and blasphemed him. Thief at his side reviled him, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

He was kind, tender-hearted and forgiving. When he saw his mother standing there, He said to John, "Behold your mother -- from that day John look her to his own home.

No wonder the Centurion, a hard man, said "Truly, this man is the Son of God".
Christ was kind in life.

He is that way in Heaven today - kind - tender-hearted and forgiving.

Heb. 4:15-16 "For we have not a High Priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly into the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

He knows all about us, tried, tempted, suffering, no experience but that Jesus has drank of the same bitter cup. He tasted even death for every one of us. The kindness, tender-heartedness, the sympathy, the understanding, and the compassion of our Lord is placed to our account.

III. KIND - Like Christian People

We are to be like our Lord - imitators of God. "Be ye therefore followers of God". Imitators, kind, one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." How we need this!

One of Dr. Geo. Truett's sermons is entitled "The Need For Encouragement".

(Be ye kind one to another.)

Be kind - Tender-hearted.

Life of Sir Walter Scott, when he was a little boy he was dull and slow in his lessons. He was discouraged.

One day, Sir Walter Scott relates, he sat down by Scotland's sweetest singer, Bobby Burns, who read to him some of the lines of poetry he had written. He put his hand on the head of the lad and encouraged him. Sir Walter Scott went back home and wept for joy. There was a marvelous change in his life because of that one word of encouragement.

Gypsy Smith described a moving incident -- a little boy. He has gone to hear Dwight L. Moody and Ira D. Sankey sing. After the service was over he went up to Ira Sankey, Moody's singer.

Sankey talked to the little poor gypsy boy. Somehow by inspiration and a revelation from God, put his hand on the head of that little lonely boy and said to him, "Some day God will make of you a great preacher."

It was just a sentence, just a warm hand, just a smile. Kind. Tender-hearted. Sympathetic.

That kindness changed Gypsy Smith's life.

My experience - I've learned most people are won to Jesus because someone loved them into it. They prayed them into it. They visited them into it.

They say to me, Preacher, so and so told me about the Lord, told us about the

church, told us about Jesus. The friendship of a family has brought some.

That is the way God meant it to be -- we cannot escape it. ("Be ye kind one to another. Tender-hearted, forgiving one another.")

Kind - Roots - Back - Kin - Kinfolk
Natural we are kin -

Gen: Took Rib man - made Woman -

Dolan - This now bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh -
She is my kind - my kin - Expression kindness -