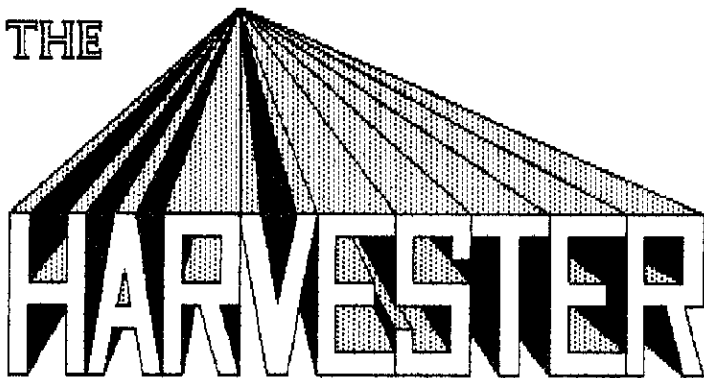


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*"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)*

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## "CLEAVE"

[Editor's Note: The following article contains excerpts taken from a speech given by Bro. Nidey at the last camp meeting held at Wedowee, Alabama. We regret that due to its length the entire text cannot be published. However, we pray that the main thrust has been preserved.]

Several of our speakers this week have referred to passages in Romans 12, a very good chapter. A good speaker can take any verse in Romans 12 and build a two hour sermon around that one verse. This morning I'm going to try to get twenty minutes out of one word.

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Romans 12:9, "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."

Cleave. Just what exactly does that word mean? Cleave. As usual, when I find a word that we don't use very often today, I go to the dictionary; and I find it means: **split, divide, separate**. Let's look at some examples of the word "cleave."

Eccl. 10:9,10, "Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby. If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct." What can he be speaking of here, except chopping wood? [Split, divide, and separate].

Let's look at Psa. 141:7. "Our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth, as when one cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth." [Cut, cleave, split, divide, separate].

Job 16:11-13, "God hath delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked. I was at ease, but he hath broken me asunder: he hath also taken me by my neck, and shaken me to pieces, and set me up for his mark. His archers compass me round about, he cleaveth my reins asunder." Now this word, "cleaveth", in conjunction with the word, "asunder", gives us a pretty good idea there of what the word, "cleave", means, I think. [Divides, separates, splits].

Go back to the dictionary and you'll find one more word used in conjunction with cleave. It is cleaver: **a heavy cutting tool, used by butchers to cut meat.** This cleaver is made to cut meat, but it also cuts bones, [splits, divides, separates].

You notice how I've been misleading you? That's not what it means when it says, "*cleave to that which is good.*" There's another definition of the word "cleave", spelled the same, pronounced the same, but means the exact opposite: **stick, adhere, and cling.** The American translation, instead of using the word "cleave", says "cling." "*Cling to that which is good.*" Good News for Modern Man, I was looking at a while ago, says, "*Hold on to that which is good.*" Well, let's look at a few passages along that line.

Psa. 102:5, "*By reason of the voice of my groaning my bones cleave to my skin.*" Cleave to. Now, I think with the next few passages we read here, we'll find that when it says, "cleave to", it's this last definition [stick, adhere, cling]. I call the word, "to", the key word. That tells us which definition we're supposed to go by.

Psa. 137:6, "*If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth.*" Cleave to: cling, stick, adhere.

Job 29:10, "*The nobles held their peace, and their tongue cleaved to the roof of their mouth.*" The word "cleave" in conjunction with the word "to" is stick, adhere. cling.

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Gen. 2:18, *"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."* We're about to run out of time, so we'll get on down here in the 24th verse. He says, *"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."* [Cleave to: stick, adhere, cling].

Matt. 19:4-5, *"Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?"* If that's not a miracle, I don't know what a miracle is, taking two and making one.

These two definitions we've got for this word cleave: [divide, split, separate], and [cling, adhere, stick]. Which one does it mean here, where it says for a man to cleave to his wife? I hope, it's the latter one.

I've been in the church for 50 years, and I don't suppose I've heard 50 lessons on

the subject of divorce and remarriage. We've been avoiding it and it shows. I think I heard the divorce rate out numbers the marriages. I don't know how that could happen, but we need to speak on it. We need to teach our young children that divorce and remarriage is wrong. They look around the world about, and that's what they see, and think that's the way it should be.

Mark 10:9, "*What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*" I think that means man CANNOT put asunder, (although) that judge can drop that judicial cleaver, and he can [divide, split, separate].

As I said, we should have been teaching on this more than we have. It shows in the world about us. But, I don't think that any man, any group of men, or every man, woman and child on the face of the earth, working together, can undo the miracle God performed, when He made man and wife one. They're still man and wife, even though they have been [split, divided, separated], it makes no difference.

Bro. Erlin mentioned the worldly influences that our young people are going through. They look around, everybody's divorced and remarried, and they think that's the way it's supposed to be. Television: Even John Boy Walton, here a few years ago, was considering marriage, and I remember him saying, "Well, I don't know if we can make it work, but I'd like to try." You don't try marriage like trying on a pair

shoes! It's a lifetime commitment, and our children need to know that! I've got a daughter that married a divorced man; I've got a granddaughter that married a divorced man. I wish people would have been teaching them. When my granddaughter decided to get married, she came to me, and asked if I would perform the ceremony. It brought tears to her eyes, and it brought tears to my eyes, when I refused! But, I couldn't do it; it's just not right. Walen gave a lesson the other night on "Love." You know, that'll solve this problem, too. If man and wife loved each other, we'd have no problem with divorce. Love, the fulfilling of the law; the answer to, we might say, virtually all of our problems!

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## **SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES**

1. When it came to interpretation of dreams, from whom did Daniel get help?
2. Where was Jesus when the crown of thorns was put on his head?
3. If one shows no mercy to others, what may he expect?
4. Why was Jeremiah arrested at the Benjamin Gate?
5. Who died first, Aaron or Moses?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. According to Lamentations when is it good for a man to bear the yoke? IN HIS YOUTH (Lam. 3:27)

2. On what day did the two disciples meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus? THE DAY CHRIST ROSE (SUNDAY) (Luke 24:1,13)

3. In 2 Timothy, what did Demas do? HE FORSOOK PAUL (2 Tim. 4:10)

4. Why was the tower named Babel? BECAUSE IT WAS THERE THAT GOD CONFUSED THEIR LANGUAGES (Gen. 11:9)

5. When Jacob awakened from his dream, what did he do with the stone that he used for a pillow? BUILT A PILLAR (Gen. 28:18)

## IT WORKS WELL!

A skeptic in London recently said, in speaking of the Bible, that it was quite impossible in these days to believe in any book whose author was unknown. A Christian asked him if the compiler of the multiplication table was known.

"No," he answered.

"Then, of course, you do not believe in it?"

"Oh, yes, I believe in it because it works well," replied the skeptic.

"So does the Bible," was the rejoinder, and the skeptic had no answer to make.

--COPIED--

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
July 6 - 10	Owens Rd. Church Prattville, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
July 6 - 10	Hesperus gathering near Durango, CO	Various speakers
July 12 - 17	Temple Hill Church Smithdale, MS	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
July 12 - 17	Valley, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
July 17 - 19	Fairview Church Oxford, AL	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
July 19 - 24 (Su-Fr)	Oak Grove Church Woodland, AL 7:00 week nights 6:00 Sunday evening	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
July 22 - 26 (W-Su)	Fayetteville Rd. Church Fairburn, GA 7:30pm E.S.T.	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
July 26 - - Aug. 1	Ashlock Church near Celina, TN	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
July 27 - 31	Becton, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

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**Too many parents are not on  
spanking terms with their  
children.**