

THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH

Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer

That verse being addressed to God, is a prayer. As such, it ought to cause us to stop and think. The request expressed in that verse must not to be taken lightly; "let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight."

That would imply that I must continually examine not only my words, but also my thoughts. Are my words acceptable to God? What does He think about the meditation of my heart? Of course, no words can be whispered so silently that He does not hear them as if the volume were turned wide open. No thought can be kept so secret that He is not fully aware of it. So, I must ask, are they acceptable to Him?

Are my words used to encourage or to destroy? Are my words used to uphold what is godly or am I a cheerleader for evil causes? Do I speak the truth in all situations or is my word subject to be doubted? Are my words used to praise God or do I constantly speak His name in profane ways?

What about the meditations of my heart? The fundamental importance of them was addressed by Jesus (Matthew 15:19)? Is He pleased with the subject of my meditations? It's a sobering thought, isn't it.

--Ron Harper--

When Life Gives You Lemons

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The saying goes, “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.” I’ve heard this phrase all my life and, frankly, never liked it. It didn’t make sense! You can’t make lemonade with just lemons! At most you might be able to make lemon juice, which is just as sour as the lemon itself and even burns. It’s not a pleasant experience. One needs water, sugar, a spoon, a pitcher, ice, and yes, lemons in order to make lemonade (unless you cheat and buy the packets). Therefore, unless life is stocked like Walmart and supplies us with these things, we’re out of luck.

Too often, we filter the positive through the negative. If one thing goes wrong, we immediately forget the good that has come about in the events of that day or week. We see life handing us something sour and unpleasant and forget the joyful, sweet experiences we have had in the past or even in that day.

There is great power in a positive attitude. Sure, things happen in life that we have no control over, and honestly, they stink. However, Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 a list of commands that we as Christians should practice every single day. He uses the imperative verb, “Rejoice” as if it is a direct command. He then follows that with the word “always.” But Paul, what if I don’t have a reason to rejoice?

It’s simple. Pray without ceasing (v. 17). We pray for two reasons: distress or thanks. If we are rejoicing, we can pray a prayer of thanksgiving and rejoice with the one who gave us the cause to rejoice. If we are in distress, we can pray for God’s help and guidance in all things. The two go together.

Is life handing us lemons or sugar? Perhaps we should not underestimate the power of a positive attitude in the midst of drowning in life’s despair (to borrow from Chip Adkins’ sermon last Sunday night). Bad things happen. They happened to Jesus on a regular basis and he always gave them to God. He asked for God’s will to be done and not what his own temptations desired. We should do the same. If we obey God, then we will have the sweetest sugar and living water to make the lemonade of life.

Joshua Houston

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

SICK

(No visitors at this time for Wayne Dodd, Marie Fleming, Ernestine Taylor), Janneil Brown, Ann Clark, Brittany Bullard

TAKING TREATMENTS

Lois Arnold

SHUT INS

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox, Selma Boyd, Janneil Brown, Gerald Wiseman, Jeanie Young, Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson, Wayne Dodd, Ernestine Taylor, Melanie Martin, Brittany Bullard, Janneil Brown, Ann Clark

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

*MEMBERS

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Sue Reeves*, Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Edna Vance*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*, Laura Wiser*, Lillian Whitworth, Louise McKnight*, Martha DeVore

MILITARY

Please keep **Tony Berry** in your prayers, while he is stationed in California at Camp Pendleton.

***Visitors** - We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please fill out a visitor's card and place it in the collection plate.

The Visitor

BUILDING FUND

We have received a Building Fund donation in memory of **Mary Jo Rogers** and **Olene Marlin** by the following:

**Lisa Wallace*

**Carol Neely*

NEWS & NOTES

***All December & May Graduates** please submit 20-25 photos or digital pictures on disc to Tammy Berry or Tammy Glidden.

***Pew Packers** today @ 5:15 p.m.

***Men's Devo** - tomorrow @ 7 p.m. Charles Reeves will host with Joshua Houston leading the devotional.

***Senior Saints** pot luck - Saturday, April 23^d @ 5 p.m.

***All** are invited to a party for **Louise McKnight** celebrating her 90th birthday on Sunday, April 24th at 2:00 p.m. at the Manor.

***Read to Succeed** needs volunteers for one-on-one tutoring of adults. If you have any questions, please see Lisa Mitchell or Ron Harper.

***Fliers in the foyer** - Friends & Family Day and a Gospel Meeting held by area congregations.

**If you would be interested in hosting a 16yr old boy from Japan who wishes to attend MTCs for one year, please see Jon or Judy Holland for more details.*

There will be a Baby Basket Shower
for

John & Brittany Minelli

They are expecting a baby boy in May.
The basket will be located in the foyer near
the kitchen.



April 17, 2016

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We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	
Morning Worship	9:00 am
Bible Classes	10:15 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm
Wednesday	
Ladies Morning Bible Class	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
Jim Hatfield
Jon Holland
Andy Mitchell
Randall Phifer
Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Larry Benson	Andy Melton
Michael Bowman	Brian Melton
Craig Buckner	Alan Pepper
Bob Hoover	Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

April 10, 2016

Sunday	AM worship	220
	Bible classes	157
	PM worship	151
	Contribution	\$6,388.96

Wednesday PM Bible classes 94

Wednesday AM Ladies Class (Sept-May) 14

**When county schools are closed due to inclement weather
AM Ladies Class will be cancelled**

GREETERS

Please be at the door 15
minutes prior to services!



April 17

Louise Smithson
Andy & Lisa Mitchell

April 24

Regenia Grissom
Bobby & Jackie Sims

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!

We were honored by your presence!