

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

By: Ronnie Scherffius

In addition to serving as the 25th President of the United States, William F. McKinley achieved the rank of major in the Union Army during the Civil War and served two terms in the United States House of Representatives. During one of his congressional campaigns he was followed from place to place by a reporter for a paper of the opposite political party. The reporter was shrewd and persistent; always at work, quick to see an opportunity and skilled in making the most of it. While Mr. McKinley was annoyed by the misrepresentation to which he was almost daily subjected, he could not help admiring the skill and tenacity with which he was assailed. His admiration, too, was not unmixed with compassion.

On one occasion the reporter was ill, poorly dressed and had an annoying cough. That night Mr. McKinley took a closed carriage to a nearby town at which it had been announced he would speak. The weather was wretchedly raw and cold. He had not gone far when he heard that cough and knew that the reporter was riding with the driver in the exposed seat. McKinley called to the driver to stop so he could get out.

“Get down off that seat, young man,” he said. The reporter obeyed, thinking the time for vengeance had come. “Here,” said Mr. McKinley, taking off his overcoat, “You put on this overcoat and get into the carriage.”

“Major McKinley,” said the reporter, “I guess you don’t know who I am. I have been with you the whole campaign, giving it to you every time

you spoke, and I am going over tonight to rip you to pieces if I can.”

“I know,” said Mr. McKinley, “but you put on this coat and get inside and get warm so you can do a good job at it.”

How easy it is to be kind to our friends and admirers—to those we love and hold in high esteem, but should we not with equal compassion show kindness to those who would do us harm and disservice? Consider the actions of king David toward his adversaries: “False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul. But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother.” (Psa. 35:11-14) David’s attitude toward those who sought to do him harm was that of kindness, mercy, and compassion. Rather than seeking retribution on his enemies he prayed for their wellbeing. He did not seek to do them evil, but to the contrary treated them as a friend. And for such an attitude he was blessed by God! The phrase “and my prayer returned into mine own bosom” means that the blessings he had petitioned God for his detractors were given to him instead.

Kindness that we show our enemies may result in great blessings and even a change of heart on their part also. To the Romans Paul wrote, “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but

rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Rom. 12:19-21) The heaping of coals of fire upon the head of our enemy through doing good does not indicate that by doing good to them we will harm them! Such an interpretation of the passage contradicts the very premise on which Paul makes the statement. The meaning is that our doing good might produce a sense of guilt that will cause our enemy to repent. We should not be overcome with evil, that is, allow evil done to us cause us to desire to do evil to another, but rather overcome the evil done to us with good.

Jesus taught, “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.” (Matt. 5:43-46). Jesus came to offer

salvation not only to the good of humanity but also to the evil; He died for both the lovely and the unlovable. Christ gave us the supreme example of love—are we walking in His footsteps?



Nothing To Joke About

Article Selected

After playing AC/DC's 1979 hit, “Highway to Hell,” the classic rock radio DJ quipped, “When life on this spinning ball called earth is over, will you ascend the beautiful ‘Stairway to Heaven’ or will you speed full throttle down the ‘Highway to Hell’? I know where I’m going! And I’m gonna need my sunglasses and shorts, because it’s going to be really hot! Ha!”

The rich man in Luke 16 wasn’t even in hell yet, when he “cried” from “torments in Hades...‘I am tormented in this flame’” (16:23-24). Does that sound like a joke? Jesus Himself described hell as “everlasting punishment” (**Matt. 25:46**), “everlasting fire” (**Matt. 25:41**), “outer darkness” (**Matt. 25:30**), where “the fire shall never be quenched” (**Mark 9:43-48**), “their worm does not die” (**Mark 9:44-48**), and there will be “weeping and gnashing of teeth” (**Matt. 8:12**). It is “prepared for the devil and his

angels” (**Matt. 25:41**), “away from the presence of the Lord” (**2 Thess. 1:9**).

Hell is NOTHING to joke about! It is EVERYTHING to avoid! Give thanks to God for showing us “the way which leads to life” (**Matt. 7:13-14**)!



Upcoming Events

Today!: Youth Devotional after evening services here at the building. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Friday, July 22: Family Fellowship night at 6:30pm at the building. Please bring finger foods and games.

Sunday, July 31: Going away reception for the Scherffius family will be held after the evening services.

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

July 17-22: Peach Valley Youth Camp. Applications can be found online at peachvalleyaim.com

Aug. 5-7: Discipleship University

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:
James Cammock who fell recently. Rieke Bass who was at DeTar with health issues. She is now at home recuperating. Mickey Tissue who is having back surgery on Tuesday. Pat Davis who fell on both her knees.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson.

Service Roster

Week of July 10, 2022

Sunday Morning
Scripture Reading..... Kirk FitzSimmons
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Dan Fielder
Closing Prayer..... Lupe Escojido

Lord's Supper & Offering
Bread..... Ron White
Cup..... Mark FitzSimmons
Offering..... Ronnie Scherffius
Assist..... James Cammock
Assist..... Bryant Siegel
Assist..... Lupe Escojido

Sunday Evening
Song Leader Rick Bass

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Will Burleson

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Lupe Escojido,
Bryant Siegel

Wednesday Evening
Adult Class James Cammock
Song Leader Lupe Escojido
Devotional James Cammock

Other
Prepare Communion Randle

Congregational News

Birthdays
Braxton Flonnory..... July 13
Larry McLaughlin..... July 14

Anniversaries
Bryant & Nina Siegel..... July 13

Food Helpers for the month of July - Team A.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ronnie Scherffius
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Ronnie Scherffius

Weekly Reading

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every
word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

Matthew 4:4

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of July 3, 2022

A.M. Bible Class.....57
A.M. Worship.....67
P.M. Worship.....48
Wednesday Bible Class.....52
Offering week of July 3, 2022.....\$2,807

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
Anthony Scherffius *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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