

APOLLOS WATERED

In years gone by, when the opportunity afforded itself, I would plant a garden in my back yard. Between the planting of the seed, and the reaping of the crop there are certain things that I had to do, like tilling the soil, keeping the weeds out along the way, and applying water in the absence of sufficient rain. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians he too made a distinction between the planting and the watering: “I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase” (1 Cor. 3:6). Think about what is involved in spiritual watering.

First, there is the sheer importance of watering. God, in His marvelous design, arranged the natural order of things so a seed planted in the ground must receive water to sprout and grow. Deprive the seed, and/or the plant of water, and it will die. So it is with God’s spiritual seed, the Word of God (Luke 8:11). The soil may determine the amount of care required to bring the seed to full fruition. But without water, there simply can be no growth.

Second, there are the specifics of watering. A good example is essential to nurturing the seed. A good example must be provided by the teacher, as well as those who claim any association to the message of that teacher. If brother Jones takes the time to teach some lost soul, it is imperative that he set a proper example. Teaching coupled with action is the golden key that unlocks the vault of influence, but it is also important that each member live a life that is exemplary to the message and hope to which they have been called. Hypocrites in a congregation most certainly render a negative influence upon those contemplating attendance or obedience.

Yes, a good example is important. Then there is the need for additional teaching and instruction once the seed

has been planted. Paul introduced the Corinthians to the Gospel; Apollos did the follow up work. Seldom does a soul obey the Gospel after just one lesson (though there are exceptions). Sometimes it takes weeks, months, or even years of encouragement and instruction. As long as a man is willing to learn, let us provide him with the “sincere milk of the word,” and pray for his obedience.

Third, let us realize that planters and waterers share in responsibility and reward. The planting is of no greater or lesser importance than the watering. It takes both. The planter may include those who visit and set up studies, conduct cottage classes, teach and preach the Word publicly and/or privately. The waterer may follow up with encouragement, a visit or call on the phone, or a prayer in behalf of those who have heard yet not obeyed. The planters do their job well, and the waterers contribute to the completion of the work, and both share in the reward. Let us not forget, “for as his share is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his share be that tarrieth by the baggage: they shall share alike” (1 Sam. 30:24).

Fourth, it is important that both the planter and the waterer be versed in the Scripture. A successful gardener must have a knowledge of gardening. On occasions I have actually pulled out precious flower plants because I thought they were weeds. Someone might accidentally poison a plant if he is ignorant of what chemicals are good and/or bad for the care of his garden. And so it is with planting and watering. In Matthew 5:16, Jesus commanded us, “Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” What constitutes a “shining light”? Is my example beneficial or detrimental to the wellbeing of those who are watching me? Am I using Scripture properly in the exhortation and encouragement

that I lend to others? How can you be certain if you know not God’s Word?

Finally, we must share the bounty with others. My first local work was in a farming community. Summer’s harvest, though planted by others, was shared by the many. It was not uncommon for us to receive so many potatoes, tomatoes, and onions that we simply could not eat it all. Waste is wrong and one’s bounty was passed along to others. God’s bountiful harvest is to be shared with others. The Gospel is for all. The Great Commission is not the Great Permission. Those who refuse to share what they enjoy with others are guilty of selfishness. Like the lepers who discovered the goods in the abandoned camp of the Syrians: “Then they said one to another, We do not well; this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, punishment will overtake us; now therefore come, let us go and tell the king’s household” (2 Kin. 7:9). Brother, do not hoard your blessings. Give to others that they too might live.

As we labor together may we recognize the fact that, although some are planters, and others are waterers, our goal is the salvation of the souls of men to the glory of God the Father, through Jesus Christ His Son.

Tom Wacaster

Life gives us time and space. It is up to us to properly fill it.

Habits can be good servants or bad masters.

Self-respect is worth more than all the fame in the world.

BIRTHDAYS

Sara Edwards, 03-28; Clara Scott, 03-29.

ILL

Sunday: Chris Edwards, Dave Parish, Millie Robertson, Robin Brown (PM), Allen Scott (PM). **Wednesday:** Melissa Cole. Gary Cole had gall bladder surgery at Olathe Medical Center on Tuesday and is recovering at home. Allen Scott had a good report from his CT scan. Tom Tucker had surgery at Shawnee Mission Medical Center on Friday and is recovering at home. Louise Dodson's mother is in Olathe Medical Center, Room 421 and is tentatively scheduled for surgery next week.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The Stillwell's were visiting relatives in Arkansas last weekend. Robin, Lauren and Lindsey Brown were visiting relatives in Texas during last week. John and Barbara James are vacationing in Yuma, Arizona.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday following our AM worship. All are encouraged to come!

AREA EVENTS

There are several area lectureships and meetings taking place over the next few weeks. Check the bulletin board for dates and details.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 44; Sunday PM, 43; Wednesday PM, 35.

Those To Serve

March 25, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Thrasher

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
PRESIDE.....Jeremy Keifer
ASSIST.....Allen Scott
ASSIST.....John James
CLOSING PRAYER.....Jared Nelson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
CLOSING PRAYER.....Steve Brown
LORD'S SUPPER.....Jeremy Keifer

WEDNESDAY 28th

SONG LEADER.....Jared Nelson
INVITATIONJeremy Keifer

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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