

**Thank you, again...Raymond Gonzales
Speaker for today**

Attention!
Business Meeting today
August 11 at 2:30 p.m.

The Story of Two Bears

In a village there lived an old couple who often had sharp quarrels. Suddenly they quit quarreling, and they were never heard to dispute after that. The town folk wondered what made the change. Finally, one brave woman asked. "Two bears did it," said the wife. "Two bears?" "Yes, two bears we found in the Bible..." *"Bear ye one another's burdens."* (Galatians 6:2), and *"Forbearing one another in love"* (Ephesians 4:2).

August Birthdays

1 Paige Cree 12 Debbie Hoffman
16 Nick Hoffman. 27 Isaiah Diaz

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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The Wooden Bowl
From "Lessons of Life"

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year-old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about Grandfather," said the son. "I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor."

So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food. The four-year-old watched in silence.

One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work.

The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done. That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to

care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.

Children are remarkably perceptive. Their eyes ever observe, their ears ever listen, and their minds ever process the messages they absorb. If they see us patiently provide a happy home atmosphere for family members, they will imitate that attitude for the rest of their lives.

The wise parent realizes that every day the building blocks are being laid for the child's future. Let's be wise builders.

Work Out Your Own Salvation

By Mike Johnson

Philippians 2:12 says, “. . . *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*” What is this passage saying? Is it saying there are many ways to be saved, and people can be saved by whatever method they choose? This is not the meaning of this passage as such a view would contradict other clear passages found in the Scriptures.

From this passage, we learn an important principle that salvation is an individual matter as he speaks of your “own” salvation. Our salvation is not based on what others do but on what we do. In fact, 2 Corinthians 5:10 tells us, “*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*” Hebrews 5:8-9 emphasizes that Christ “. . . *became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.*”

In addition to telling us that we must work out salvation, Philippians 2:12 tells us that we must do this with fear and trembling. Thus, we must have reverence for God and be highly conscientious in seeking to obey Him. Our salvation should be of such great importance that we would never approach it in a careless or unconcerned way. When dealing with our salvation, we are dealing with that which pertains to our eternal destination.

So let us work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

A Father's Greatest Sermon

Unknown Author

The farmer and his family, after a hard year of typical farm work, were rewarded with an unusually fine crop of grain. There were happy days ahead.

Just a few days before harvest came a terrible wind and hailstorm. The entire crop was destroyed! After the storm was over, the farmer, with his wife and little boy at his side, went out to the back porch to view the field and the damage.

The little boy looked at what was formerly a beautiful field of wheat, and tearfully looked up at his dad expecting to hear words of despair.

All at once his father started to sing softly, “Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee. . . .” Years later, the little boy now grown said, “That was the greatest sermon I have ever heard.”

The farmer had lost a grain crop, but because of his faith, manifested in great trial, he had gained forever for the Lord the soul of his son. The son saw the faith of a godly man in practice!

The Person Down the Road

In thirty, forty, or fifty years you'll meet a person down the road. Whether that someone is kind and gentle or selfish and demanding depends on what you do today. If you live only in terms of what you can get out of life, this person will be crabby, self-centered, and spiteful. But if you open your life to others and live as a giver, this person will be kind, open, and generous.

This somebody whom you'll meet down the road some day is you. The person you will be tomorrow depends on the life you live today. Every day, in every way, you are becoming more and more like yourself. Make sure the person you are becoming is someone whom you'll enjoy being around.
