

The Floral Heights Informer

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Character

By Tom Witherspoon

While watching TV the other night I saw a commercial advertising an alcoholic drink and the big point of the commercial was that this drink had character. After thinking about this I decided that it really did have character after all. Lets look at some of the qualities that make up this character. The first, and probably strongest, quality is its ability to motivate people. People everywhere are influenced to do things they never thought they would or could do.

The second quality is that it helps build the economy. Again people everywhere spend most of their hard earned wages in order to have this beverage.

Thirdly, it will help you to live the good life, the good life with gusto (whatever that means). We could go on and on but that is enough.

You know, we could probably say that John Dillenger or Charles Manson or even Attila the Hun also had some of these same qualities that made up their character.

Quite the contrast is the character of a Christian. Who can question the qualities in Gal. 5:22-23; *“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law. And they that are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts thereof.”* The apostle Peter adds more to this lists saying, “Yea, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply viture; and in your virtue knowledge; and in your knowledge self-

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors. We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please come back at your every opportunity.

Nina Grey had surgery on her eye this past week and is home recovering.

Rita York had surgery on her injured shoulder this past week and is home recovering. Keep both of these ladies in your prayers as they are experiencing much pain that comes with such work.

Check out our **live chat line on Monday evenings at 8:00 PM!**
<http://www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org/chat/>

Although the chat line is designed to preach to the lost members of the church are encouraged to log on and participate in Bible discussion too.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Verlon Powell
Rolling Meadows Health Care Room 31

Calvin York:
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

control; and in your self-control patience; and in your patience godliness; and in your godliness brotherly kindness and in your brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, they make you to be not idle nor unfruitful unto the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (II Pet. 1:5-8).

So, my friend, the next time you see and hear a commercial lauding an alcoholic beverage with character, Think on these things!

Thoughts on Matthew 8

The word of God reveals that the purpose of miracles was to confirm the truths taught by Jesus and His apostles as being of divine origin (cf. Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:3-4). When people saw these miracles being performed it produced faith in them (Jn. 20:30-31). Said faith was not a casual belief that God is but rather a faith that makes itself manifest in man’s obedience (Jn. 3:36; Heb. 11:1ff).

When Christ walked upon the earth He performed many miracles in the eyes of a multitude of witnesses. Matthew chapter eight is one example. Jesus said to the leper, “**be thou made clean**” (8:3), He simply said “**the word**” and the centurion’s beloved servant was healed of palsy (8:5-13), the Lord “**rebuked the winds and the sea**; and there was great calm” (8:26), and said to the legion of demons in the two men at Gadarenes, “**Go,**” and they obeyed and left (8:32).

Dearest friends and brethren, if the Lord’s spoken word was obeyed by sicknesses, diseases, demons, and the elements of the earth should we not too give heed to His spoken word? There is much at stake in our decision to obey and or disobey. The apostle Paul wrote that God would “*render vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at in all them that believed in that day*” (II Thess. 1:8-10).

Let us see with eyes of faith that the Lord is creator of all things and has revealed a standard to follow whereby man may be saved from the eternal painful consequence of sin.

What Happened at the Cross?

Introduction:

I received an e-mail the other day regarding Madonna's new music video that is suppose to be released in November of this year. The video is a mockery of the cross and crucifixion of Christ. Madonna has been quoted as saying, "Crucifixes are sexy because there is a naked man on them."

It seems that the world has a warped view of sin. While sin is glamorized in television it is put in its proper light in the Bible. Sin separates a man from God (Isa. 59:1-2), causes one to be spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1ff), and makes one liable to eternal punishment (II Thess. 1:7-11). Due to sin, Christ had to be crucified so that sinful man might not have to face such punishment. God truly is the God of love (I Jn. 4:7-10).

I. Jesus was killed (Lk. 23:33-49):

- A. God's sovereign choice was blood for atonement (cf. Lev. 17:10-13).
- B. Jesus served as a sin sacrifice (cf. I Jn. 2:1-2; Heb. 7:26; 9:23ff).
- C. The price for sin was paid in full (Rom. 6:23; Isa. 53:7-12; Matt. 26:26-27).

II. The Mosaic Law ended and the Law of Christ began:

- A. Jesus said that all things written in the OT regarding him must be fulfilled (cf. Matt. 5:17-18).
- B. Jesus came into the world in the "*fullness of time*" (Gal. 4:1-5).
- C. When Jesus was crucified the Mosaic Law was "*nailed to the cross*" (Col. 2:14 / cf. Jer. 31:31ff).

III. God's Promise was Fulfilled:

- A. Man's initial decision to sin called for an eternal remedy (cf. Gen. 3:1-6, 15).
- B. The eternal God always knew this would be the case (Eph. 1:3-7).
- C. God promised to deliver all nations from the consequence of sin through the seed of Abraham (Gen. 12:1ff).
- D. God's promise fulfilled in Christ (Gal. 3:14, 16).
- E. Man's redemption is equated to the forgiveness of our sins (Eph. 1:7).

Conclusion:

What happened at the cross? Jesus became a blood sacrifice because all of humanity chose to sin (Rom. 3:23). The law of death (Mosaic Law) ended at the cross and the Law of Christ began. God had promised that He would provide man the opportunity to be forgiven and so He fulfills His promises. Let us all seek out His gracious offer of forgiveness before its everlasting too late.