



Beech Grove Church of Christ

meeting at Beech Grove, TN since 1875

❖ Visitors Always Welcome ❖

Highway 41 near I-24 exit 97

 P.O. Box 85 -- Beech Grove, TN 37018

Phone 931-394-2305

<http://kennethlorin.com/BeechGroveChurch.html>

<http://kennethlorin.com/WeeklyBulletin.html>

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The Thinkable and the Unthinkable

Ken Thomas

In 1979 Francis Schaeffer and Everett Koop published *Whatever Happened to the Human Race?* They were concerned with the erosion of moral absolutes in modern culture. Referring to many atrocities and cruel events of the past, they reminded their readers that both victims and perpetrators were HUMAN, just like you and I are."We seem to be in danger of forgetting our seemingly unlimited capacities for evil, once boundaries to certain behavior are removed."

"There is a 'thinkable' and an 'unthinkable' in every era. One era is quite certain intellectually and emotionally about what is acceptable. Yet another era decides that these 'certainties' are unacceptable. On a humanistic base people drift along from generation to generation, and the morally unthinkable becomes the thinkable as the years move on."

We speak of a generation gap, but it may well be that due to the increase in humanistic ideas we are all lulled into thinking that the passing of time turns what was "unthinkable" into something that is not only "thinkable" but acceptable.

Pornography is somehow turned into "art" that must be studied and appreciated by the cultured person. Filthy language becomes "artistic expression." Abortion becomes a mother's right to control her own body. Parents arrested for child abuse may be confused at being condemned, when they could have legally killed the same child just a few months before when it was yet unborn! What has happened to natural affection (Romans 1:31)? (This was written in 1993, but the problems mentioned are in the news even today.)

Sunday Schedule

Bible Classes	10 AM
Worship	11 AM
Worship	6 PM
Wednesday: Bible Classes	7 PM

Mission Works and Evangelism:

House to House/ Heart to Heart
 Restoration Radio
 Jim Waldron
 Manuelito Children's Home



Bible Search

by Kenneth L. Thomas

Questions for week of October 28, 2007

1. What is the reaction of Satan to resistance?
2. Who will run away when no one is chasing him?
3. What is considered as a sporting event in the view of the foolish?
4. Who was mediator of a faulty covenant, and in comparison to Christ had an inferior ministry? To answer this you need to find a passage in which this is implied by the wording of scripture.
5. In the USA we name hurricanes alphabetically, but what strong wind is named in the Bible?
6. To what weapon are sons and daughters compared (in the context of being an inheritance from God)?
7. To what plants (around a table) are children compared?

Answers for week of October 21, 2007

1. What woman had decided that she could not be married because of advanced age?

Answer: Naomi.

(Ruth 1:10-14) "And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people. {11} And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? {12} Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for **I am too old to have an husband**. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons; {13} Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me. {14} And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her."

2. Where was an elderly man living when his male guest was the object of the lusts of merry-makers?

Answer: Gibeah. (Not "Sodom", because Lot is not referred to as an old man, but the man who

sojourned at Gibeah is.)

(Judg 19:16-24) "And, behold, there came an **old man** from his work out of the field at even, which was also of mount Ephraim; and **he sojourned in Gibeah**: but the men of the place were Benjamites. {17} And when he had lifted up his eyes, he saw a wayfaring man in the street of the city: and the old man said, Whither goest thou? and whence comest thou? {18} And he said unto him, We are passing from Bethlehemjudah toward the side of mount Ephraim; from thence am I: and I went to Bethlehemjudah, but I am now going to the house of the LORD; and there is no man that receiveth me to house. {19} Yet there is both straw and provender for our asses; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for thy handmaid, and for the young man which is with thy servants: there is no want of any thing. {20} And the old man said, Peace be with thee; howsoever let all thy wants lie upon me; only lodge not in the street. {21} So he brought him into his house, and gave provender unto the asses: and they washed their feet, and did eat and drink. {22} Now as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial, beset the house round about, and beat at the door, and spake to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him. {23} And the man, the master of the house, went out unto them, and said unto them, Nay, my brethren, nay, I pray you, do not so wickedly; seeing that this man is come into mine house, do not this folly. {24} Behold, here is my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; them I will bring out now, and humble ye them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you: but unto this man do not so vile a thing."

3. According to the word of witnesses, what deed was judged as the worst thing that ever happened from the time of the Exodus until the day of the atrocity?

Answer: The dismemberment and display of the body of the concubine after she had been killed by abuse from the Benjamites in

Gibeah.

See verse 30 below for the key statement.

(Judg 19:24-30) "Behold, here is my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; them I will bring out now, and humble ye them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you: but unto this man do not so vile a thing. {25} But the men would not hearken to him: so the man took his concubine, and brought her forth unto them; and they knew her, and abused her all the night until the morning: and when the day began to spring, they let her go. {26} Then came the woman in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her lord was, till it was light. {27} And her lord rose up in the morning, and opened the doors of the house, and went out to go his way: and, behold, the woman his concubine was fallen down at the door of the house, and her hands were upon the threshold. {28} And he said unto her, Up, and let us be going. But none answered. Then the man took her up upon an ass, and the man rose up, and gat him unto his place. {29} And when he was come into his house, he took a knife, and laid hold on his concubine, and divided her, together with her bones, into twelve pieces, and sent her into all the coasts of Israel. {30} And it was so, that all that saw it said, **There was no such deed done nor seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt unto this day: consider of it, take advice, and speak your minds.**"

4. What river was the place where a priest announced a time of fasting and self-affliction to be observed?

Answer: river of Ahava. Ezra was the priest according to chapter 7 (several references)

(Ezra 8:21-22) "Then **I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way** for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. {22} For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that

forsake him."

5. What is the attitude of a fool toward sin?

Answer: They make a mock at sin. This probably means that they think sin is a joking matter, a unnecessary concern. Prov. 14:9.

(Prov 14:8-9) "The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit. {9} **Fools make a mock at sin:** but among the righteous there is favour."

6. Why should a person not talk to a fool?

Multiple answers:

A. He will despise your wisdom

Proverbs 23:9 Speak not in the ears of a fool: for **he will despise the wisdom of thy words.**

B. So as not to be a fool yourself.

Prov 26:4-5 "**Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.** {5}

Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit."

(With a fool, you can't win either way.) (Prov 29:9) "If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest."

Miscellaneous "fool" passages

Psalms 53: 1 **The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt** are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good. 2 God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God.

Ecclesiastes 10:12 The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the **lips of a fool will swallow up himself.** 13 **The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness.** 14 A fool also is **full of words:** a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?

7. What is too "elevated" for a fool?

Answer: Wisdom

Proverbs 24 :7 **Wisdom is too high for a fool:** he openeth not his mouth in the gate.

One internet participant commented: "You know, I really didn't realize just how much was written in the Bible about fools until I started looking for the answers to these questions."

Prayer Needs and Requests

- ◆ Pray for the sick and injured of our congregation.
- ◆ Remember all of our shut-ins and the older members who have to deal with the infirmities that come with age.

Events

- ◆ Bible Bowl - November 4 at Mt. Leo
- ◆ 4th Sunday Singing next week at New Union
- ◆ Area - wide Friday Night Singings:
November 2 - Main Street, Manchester
November 9 - Windrow, Rutherford County.

The Holy Kiss Today? by Ken Thomas

I was grown and preaching before it really dawned on me that the "holy kiss" was prescribed to the early church in any other place than Romans 16:16. In chapter 16 the apostle Paul speaks of many people who were to be "greeted" or "saluted." He then said "Salute one another with an holy kiss." (See also 2 Corinthians 13:12) 1 Thessalonians 5:26 says, "Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss."

For many in our culture the kiss has become a cheap, meaningless prelude to an illicit relationship, rather than a sign of affection. Young boys often avoid any display of warmth or affection even for family members lest they be labeled as effeminate. So then, what is the status of the "holy kiss" today? I have heard preachers equate it to our modern day handshake, but I am not fully convinced that firm sincere gripping of the hands carries the same warmth or affection as implied here.

For an individual to take it on himself/herself to practice the "holy kiss" in a literal way would be so strange and shocking as to cause a real commotion today. There are times that hugs are accepted - when old

For the record:	9/30	10/7	10/14	10/21
Bible Study	18	24	20+	24
AM Worship	33	28	29	31
PM Worship	17	11	21	22
Wed. Bible Study	25	18	*	21
Contribution	\$518	\$362	\$736	\$587

friends are reunited, or at a funeral or marriage. But what about at other times? Can we increase our warmth of expression in the church? Could we begin by using kind words of appreciation and love toward one another? This would surely be a start toward showing the love of Christians. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another," Romans 12:10. "Let brotherly love continue." Hebrews 13:10

In 1 John 3 we learn that there is a dual test by which God's children can be distinguished: "Whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." God's children will "do right" and "love each other." If we do not love each other we are still spiritually dead (1 John 2:9, 1 John 3:14), and we must show that we love each other in deed and in truth (1 John 3:18).

The Christian in Corinth who sinned so tragically in a case of incest (1 Corinthians 5) was finally disciplined after Paul urged such action. This action was not out of hate, but so he could possibly "be saved in the day of Christ," 1 Corinthians 5:5. In 2 Corinthians 2:6, Paul speaks of the punishment which had been inflicted on the immoral Christian by the congregation. Is it not great that the congregation's action caused the man to repent? Paul urged the church to "forgive and comfort him" lest he be swallowed by excessive sorrow. He said "I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him." Somehow I see in that passage a foreshadowing of the affection and hugging that takes place toward a newly baptized Christian or the wayward Christian who returns to the Lord. That display of love is a real strengthener for most people. Let's not forget to "let brotherly love continue" after the initial show of love.

Assignments	October 28	November 4
Song leader (SS)	Ken Thomas	Tim Waldron
Announcements	Andy Miller	Mason Fisher
Songleader-Worship	Tim Waldron	Wayne Gannon
Scripture reading	Daniel Green	Daniel Green
Opening prayer	Joe Green	Tim Waldron
Table service (center)	Wayne Gannon	Joe Green
(center)	Ken Thomas	Nick Graham
(outside)	Junior Conner	T J Waldron
(outside)	Nick Graham	Cole Gordon
Closing Prayer	James Mason	Lee Rose
<i>If you cannot serve, please contact</i>	Junior Conner	