



# Church of Christ at Beech Grove

meeting at Beechgrove, TN since 1875

❖ Visitors Always Welcome ❖

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

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

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## Equality

by Michael E. Brooks

"For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack - that there may be equality" (2 Corinthians 8:13-14 NKJV).

2008 in Nepal was a year of shortages and insufficiency. Taxi drivers told of waiting in petrol lines for 24 to 48 hours and then receiving only the rationed ten liters of fuel. Electricity blackouts, planned to ration the limited supply of power, averaged 8 hours per day throughout the country (where there is electricity available at all; much of the nation still lacks power infrastructure). Food and other necessities were similarly restricted and prices often placed them beyond the reach of the majority of the people.

Visitors from the West, including myself, are shocked and saddened at such obvious poverty. Most of us have never experienced anything remotely approaching these conditions. It is difficult not to feel compassion for the people, and, upon returning to our relative wealth and prosperity, feeling guilt for what we have. But is that the appropriate response? The Bible does not condemn prosperity. Rather it teaches the prosperous to be responsible with their blessings (1 Timothy 6:17-19). A proper response to the contrast

between the blessed and the poor includes the following.

First, those who have been blessed with material prosperity must be grateful. "Nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving" (1 Timothy 4:4). These words specifically refer to all types of food, which are clean and may be eaten if one is first grateful to the Maker and Giver. The principle, however, applies to all gifts which he provides. Guilt over our possessions implies that the one who gave them to us has erred in some way. Obviously, if what we have was obtained dishonestly or immorally, we should feel guilt, but if God has bestowed them freely to us, let us be thankful and use them appropriately. He has his purpose in all that he does.

Second, the prospered must act generously and compassionately with what they have been given. "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?" (1 John 3:17). In the parable of the rich fool, Jesus taught that whoever stores up his harvest selfishly sins, because "he lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:21). The prosperous please God when they "do good, that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come that they may

### Sunday Schedule

<b>Bible Classes</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>11 AM</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>6 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday: Bible Classes</b>	<b>7 PM</b>

### Mission Works and Evangelism:

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



# Bible Search

by Kenneth L. Thomas

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## Questions for week of February 1

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1. What nation was compared to a pot used for washing?
2. Whose weapon, wrapped in fabric, was given to the person who killed its original owner. (Their battle took place at the vale of Elah.)
3. What child was engaged in religious discussion (at the time unknown to the child's parents) and caused them to be disturbed because they did not know where he was?
4. Whose royal corpse was beheaded, displayed in enemy territory, and attached to a wall?
5. What king had once worn the uniform of a prisoner?
6. What reason seems to be behind the command that priests (Old Testament) should wear linen and not wool?
7. What Jewish priest and his sons were using the names of Jesus and Paul in attempted exorcisms?

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## Answers for week of January 25

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1. Question: How can one recognize the voice of a foolish person?

**Answer: ". . . a fool's voice is known by multitude of words." (Eccle 5:3)**

Ecclesiastes 5:1-4 - Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give **the sacrifice of fools**: for they consider not that they do evil. 2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. 3 For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and **a fool's voice is known by multitude of words**. 4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

The "sacrifice of fools" seems to be an offering of many words. Many words and no substance seems to come easy for fools. As one who tends to be wordy, these verses hit me hard !

Ecc. 10:12-14 "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?"

Other characteristics of the speech of a fool are slander, outpouring of foolishness, perversity, and

excessive openness.

Slander - Proverbs 10:18 -He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.

Lack of knowledge - Proverbs 14:7 Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.

Outpouring of foolishness - Proverbs 15:2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

Perversity - Proverbs 19:1- Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

Excessive openness - Proverbs 29:11- A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

Contentiousness - Proverbs 18:6-7- A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes. 7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.

Proverbs 17:7 - Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince.

Ecc 10:3 Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.

Prov 14:3 "In the mouth of the foolish [is] a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them."

2. What grain farmer told his workers to deliberately leave part of the crop behind in the field so a certain poor woman might be able to come through behind the harvesters and find an abundant gleaning?

**Answer: Boaz** gave the order for the gleaners to leave "**handfuls on purpose**" for the gleaning of his fields by Ruth. (Ruth 2:15-16)

Ruth 2:1 And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz. 2 And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter. . . . 8 Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearkest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens: 9 Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn. 10 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger? 11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come

unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore. 12 The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust. 13 Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens. . . . 15 And when she was risen up to glean, **Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: 16 And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave [them], that she may glean [them], and rebuke her not.** 17 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley. 18 And she took [it] up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed. 19 And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day [is] Boaz.

**3.** What observation is made about a person's birth in a passage that refers to the direction of flight of particles from a fire?

**Answer:** Eliphaz, the Temanite asserted that **man is born unto trouble**. Trouble does not come from the ground as a plant might. The significance of the sparks flying upward? . . . I don't know! :)

(Job 5:6-7) Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground; **7 Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.**

**4.** What three people pleaded with a king not to burn a roll, but he did it anyway?

**Answer: Elnathan, Delaiah and Gemariah.** The roll was a scroll or book.

Jer 36:2 Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spoke unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day. . . .22 Now the king sat in the winterhouse in the ninth month: and there was a fire on the hearth burning before him.23 And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth. . . . 25 Nevertheless Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah had made intercession to the king that he would not burn the roll: but he would not hear them.

**5.** When the Chaldeans who were besieging Jerusalem heard that the army of Pharaoh had come out of Egypt, what was their response?

**Answer: They left Jerusalem, but only temporarily.** (Jer. 35:5 and context)

Jer. 35:4 Now Jeremiah came in and went out among the people: for they had not put him into prison. **5 Then Pharaoh's army was come forth out of Egypt: and when the Chaldeans that besieged Jerusalem heard tidings of them, they departed from Jerusalem.** 6 Then came the word of the LORD unto the prophet Jeremiah, saying, **7 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say to the king of Judah, that sent you unto me to inquire of me; Behold, Pharaoh's army, which is come forth to help you, shall return to Egypt into their own land.** 8 And the Chaldeans shall come again, and fight against this city, and take it, and burn it with fire. 9 Thus saith the LORD; Deceive not yourselves, saying, The Chaldeans shall surely depart from us: for **they shall not depart. 10 For though ye had smitten the whole army of the Chaldeans that fight against you, and there remained but wounded men among them, yet should they rise up every man in his tent, and burn this city with fire.** 11 And it came to pass, that when the army of the Chaldeans was broken up from Jerusalem for fear of Pharaoh's army,12 Then Jeremiah went forth out of Jerusalem to go into the land of Benjamin, to separate himself thence in the midst of the people.

**6.** To what land did a woman take her household to avoid a famine that lasted for seven years?

**Answer: The land of the Philistines.** 2 Ki 8:1-6 Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a **famine**; and it shall also come upon the land seven years. 2 And the woman arose, and did after the saying of the man of God: and she went with her household, and **sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years.** 3 And it came to pass at the seven years' end, that the woman returned out of the land of the Philistines: and she went forth to cry unto the king for her house and for her land. 4 And the king talked with Gehazi the servant of the man of God, saying, Tell me, I pray thee, all the great things that Elisha hath done. 5 And it came to pass, as he was telling the king how he had restored a dead body to life, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life.

**7.** What female prepared an ark, waterproofing it and setting it afloat in the midst of flags?

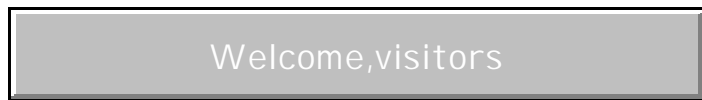
**Answer: Jochebed, the mother of Moses**

Exodus 2:1-10 And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. 2 And the woman

conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. 3 And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an **ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink.** 4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. 5 And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. 6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. 7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? 8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. 9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. 10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

Exodus 6:20 And Amram took him **Jochebed** his father's sister to wife; and she **bare** him Aaron and **Moses**: and the years of the life of Amram were an hundred and thirty and seven years.

(Num 26:59 And the name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, the daughter of Levi, whom her mother bare to Levi in Egypt: and she bare unto Amram Aaron and Moses, and Miriam their sister."



### **Beech Grove News, Prayer Requests**

In nursing homes: William Miller (NHC); Frances Cartright (Nancy Harvey's mother) at Boulevard Terrace.

Shut in - Laura Singleton; Melissa Dickerson.

Lost her job - Diane Hernandez

If there is sickness in the congregation other than the normal aches and pains, I am not aware of it (Ken)

Food Pantry: Please continue a sustained effort to bring items. If you know of a pressing need for food (including your own) please let it be known. We have distributed several items of food recently for needs that were presented.

Today's Bible Bowl will be at West Sparta. We wish the best for our youth who participate.

### **("Equality" Continued from front page)**

Finally, those with plenty of this world's goods must be alert to the dangers of materialism and covetousness.

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:5-8).

An older preacher often stated, "You have money; that's good. Money has you; that's bad." It is not the possession of material things that condemns us. Rather, it is our devotion to those things, at the expense of what is eternal and of true worth. The Holy Spirit commands, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2). Some wealthy persons are spiritual in spite of their prosperity. They treasure the things of God; they are involved in his work and are obedient to his laws. Such wealth is a glory to him and is a means by which his purpose is fulfilled.

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### **Attendance and Contribution for the Week**

Mo	Wk	BS	MW	EW	Wed	Cont
Jan	25	21	30	18	12	\$719
Jan	18	15	24	18	16	780
Jan	11	16	21	16	9	534
Jan	4	21	33	20	11	587

Assignments	February 1	February 8
Song leader (SS)	Tim Waldron	Wayne Gannon
Announcements	Joe Green	Junior Conner
Songleader-Worship	Wayne Gannon	Tim Waldron
Scripture reading	T J Waldron	Daniel Green
Opening prayer	James Mason	Lee Rose
Table service (center)	Joe Green	Steve Miller
(center)	Daniel Green	Ken Thomas
(outside)	Ernie Green	Wayne Gannon
(outside)	Junior Conner	T J Waldron
Closing Prayer	Steve Miller	James Mason