

Jesus' Weather Forecast

by Bill Brandstatter

There have been a lot of weather forecasts that we probably didn't like. What would you think if Jesus was the weather forecaster? He, after all, can control the winds and the sea. He knows all. He is the one who created all things. There is an old statement, "Red sky at night, sailor's delight. Red sky in morning, sailor's warning." Jesus would likely concur with that statement based on what He told the Pharisees in Matt. 16:3-10.

In this passage, the Jews want a sign from heaven. I don't know what exactly they were expecting. Jesus tells them that they were able to determine weather patterns, but they can't determine who He is. Are we like this today, do we look for some special sign from heaven? Some folks today have certain events happen in their lives and will state, "It is a sign."

Do we want a sign from heaven about what we should be doing in our lives? We already have all things we need for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). The information we need is in the book God has given. God speaks to us today by His son (Heb. 1:1, 2). Special signs and miracles were given in the New Testament times to produce belief and confirm the spoken word. (John 20:30, 31; Mrk. 16:20).

We have the word today. We are no longer in need of special signs.

Do we want a sign from heaven that God hears us? Some might want some special sign as proof that God answers prayer. The Bible tells us that his ears are open to the prayers of the righteous (1 Pet. 3:12). The answer to prayer comes at God's choosing, not ours. Sometimes his answer is yes. Sometimes he answers NO. When Paul prayed that God would remove his thorn in the flesh, God's answer was "my grace is sufficient" (2 Cor 12:9). Sometimes God answers "wait a while." But God will answer the prayers of His children according to His will (1 John 5:14).

- Marion Church of Christ, Marion, IL (via *Bulletin Gold*) -

ARE YOU REALLY LIVING LIKE CHRIST?

Gary Colley

Some would be shocked and indignant if it were suggested that they were not living like Christ. Yet, their lives do not seem to include His principles. The term Christian means to be Christ-like. His teaching is our rule of conduct. Check the following to see some areas in which we may need to improve.

1. Do we do unto others as we have them to do unto us? (Matt. 7:12). Is this our constant practice?
2. Do we rebuke our brother who has sinned against us with the hope that he will repent, or tell everybody but him? (Luke 17:3).
3. Are we busy-bodies in other men's affairs? (1 Pet. 4:15).
4. Lately, have we been praying for those who revile us, persecute and say all manner of evil against us falsely? (Matt. 5:11-12).
5. Do we do good unto all men, and especially those of the household of faith? (Gal. 6:10).
6. Have we forgotten to pray without ceasing? (1 Thes. 5:17).
7. Do we obey them that have the rule over us? (Heb. 13:7, 17).
8. Do we serve the Lord heartily with all our might? (Col. 3:23-25).

- Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

Do unto others as if you were others.

News & Notes

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Tammy West. Lori Stocks (niece of David & Karen Strum). Lori is in the hospital in Findlay, OH after recent surgery.

COVERED DISH DINNER: Today about Noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our afternoon service at 2:00 p.m. at the church building.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Nov. 11th, 8:30 a.m. at the Columbi-ana Church of Christ.

BIRTHING KITS: Monetary donations are being accepted to purchase items to make the Malawi Project Birthing Kits. If you would like to donate, cash or checks made out to the church, please give to MaClay Toomey.

PANTRY: Vegetable soup.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: Melissa Rosohac, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Blondenia Orr, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **In Ohio:** Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Hanoverton-----	Nov. 5 - 9-----	Students & Faculty of WVSOP
Steeltown-----	Nov. 5 - 9-----	Steve Stevens
Bridge St., N. Martinsville-----	Nov. 12-15-----	Phil Sanders

The Refiner

There was a group of women in a Bible study on the book of Malachi. As they were studying chapter three, they came across verse three, which says: "he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." This verse puzzled the women and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out about the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible study.

That week this woman called up a silver smith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She did not mention anything about the reason for her interest in silver beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silver smith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest so as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot—then she thought again about the verse, that he sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.

She asked the silver smith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left even a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silver smith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy—when I see my image in it."

- Author Unknown (Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL) -