

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT “ MEEKNESS ”

The word “meekness” is also defined as “gentleness” (Strong) and “mildness” (Thayer). “Meekness” implies humility, but not weakness or cowardice. Moses was “meek” yet took his stand against Pharaoh and the complaining Israelites (Numbers 12:3). Jesus describes himself as “meek and lowly in heart” but stood firm against compromising with the Jewish parties (Matthew 11:28-30).

So, in what way do these men exemplify the quality of “meekness?” First, consider the

“meek” Moses in Numbers 12. Within this passage, Aaron and his wife, Miriam, are bad-mouthing Moses and his Ethiopian wife (12:1-2). God is angry with Aaron and Miriam and turns Miriam into a leper (12:4-10). Aaron begs forgiveness and asks for the help of Moses (12:11-12). Moses asks for the Lord’s help and Miriam’s health is restored (12:13-16). The reaction of Moses is exemplary. He could have said, “Miriam got what she deserved.” He could have allowed their personal insults to lead to a lack

of forgiveness. He could have pouted about it. Yet, Moses was humble and meek. He was willing to bear personal insult and injury without retaliation.

Such a trait must be ours as we live as Christians. In fact, was this not a quality of Jesus Christ? He “bore our sins in His own body on the tree...” (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus was willing to suffer personal insult and injury for the greater good—saving you. *JRW*



WHY MY FAMILY NEEDS THE BIBLE HOPE

In last month’s article, we noted man’s curiosity forces us to ask, “Where have I come from?” Yet, as surely as we seek answers to our origins man also naturally wants to know of his future. Once the reality of death is established, we ask, “What happens after death?” Do we merely become worm food? Is our death in this life an hopeless end?

Apparently, to some individuals, this must be their outlook on life. If one does not believe in a God, He cannot believe in the great hope only God can offer beyond this life. Rejecting God is a rejection of eternal comfort, heaven or hell and a judgment to come. Therefore, their life is lived with the philosophy “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!” (1 Corinthians 15:32).

For those with this mindset, funerals must be unbearable. They are a complete and final end of all life. They are hopeless. There is no

belief “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain...” (Revelation 21:4). If there is no hope, grief reaches an acute intensity.

For this reason, Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, “...I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope” (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Without hope, sorrows are multiplied at death.

Yet, Paul had a logical reason for believing in life beyond death. In verse 14 he says, “...if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.” Later, he would write, “...we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” (4:17-18).

Friends, heaven is

not just mere wishful thinking. It is based on a simple, documented fact of history—the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If God could raise Jesus from the dead, he can raise us too when life is over. Yet, such a promise is only extended to those who believe and obey Jesus Christ.

Our families need to hear this Biblical message. Fear can become consuming and death’s cold chill horrifying without hope. Yet, our hope in Jesus is “an anchor of the soul” (Hebrews 6:19-20). As Jesus overcame death, so we will someday! We do not face a sad departure from our friends, but look forward to a reunion with the faithful.

With this in mind, we must “always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15).

Do you have a hope beyond this life? *Joshua Welch*



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