

December 9, 2001

Christina and Fay Day

As we send these two young ladies off today, I want to speak some words of encouragement for them.

As we know, Fay is going home after being here since last February. I am sure she will tell you that this has been some year – a year she will never forget.

And Christina is going to Brazil to spend about six months with Fay's family and Bettie's sister's family. This is an opportunity of a life time, that very few young people get to experience. Knowing Christina's personality, I am sure she has many reservations about the whole matter.

There are a couple of verses I want to call your attention to this morning:

Proverbs 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

And

Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Notice I ended up with Proverbs on the pictures, and I could not reprint them. I did not notice the problem until after I finished printing that side and started to look the passage up for this short message.

First,

Proverbs 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

What is a **friend**? This is one we esteem or look to more than to another. This is one we are more open with than with others. We have confidence in this person more than in others.

Proverbs 17:17 ¶ A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 27:10 Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off.

Proverbs 27:14 ¶ He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.

Solomon tells us that a friend loves at all times, not just when things are prosperous and going good. (Pro. 17:17.)

He tells us that a friend will tell us the truth even if the truth hurts. (Proverbs 27:6 .) We will have confidence that the friend has our best interest in mind.

Bettie regularly says, "If you are my friend, you will tell me when I have green stuff stuck in my teeth." A friend will be lovingly honest.

A friend is known for his good counsel. (Pro. 27:9.) The one who professes friendship yet urges us to do wrong is not a friend.

The company and conversation of a friend is never dull and inactive; rather, it refreshes, revives and makes us think. (Proverbs 27:17 ¶ Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.)

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. 16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. 17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Jesus Christ is everything mentioned above in a friend, for He is the friend.

Here the Wise Man, King Solomon, tells us what we must do if we would have friends, and that is, BE FRIENDLY.

If in our troubles, we want a friend, we must be friendly. Moreover, if we want a friend who will never leave nor forsake us as earthly friends do, we must have Christ.

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

The second passage goes along with the first:

Psalms 133:1 *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*

What would closely tie a family in Brazil to a family many thousands of miles away that the Brazilian family would allow their most prized possession, their daughter, to come live for a year? Certainly, we are allowing Christina to go to Brazil for six months, but she is going to stay with a relative, Bettie's sister, who is now Christina's aunt, and three cousins there.

The answer is Christ. The unity that is among Christians and in Christ.

Ephesians 4:2 ¶ *With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. 7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 **Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:** 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the **whole body fitly joined together and compacted** by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

Certainly, there are more Christian denominations and non-Christian religions than one can keep track of in fact, Fay's parents are not Baptists, but Presbyterians. What is the dividing line between the true and the false denominations and true and false religions?

That dividing line is Christ. There is one God and one Father of us all, but there is only one way to that One Father, and that is Christ.

John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

We all worship one God is a lie of the devil. No! The only way to worship the God of the Bible is through faith in the finished work of Christ.