

Visitors

The members here would like to offer a special welcome to our visitors today. Please allow us to shake your hand and talk with you, as we take great joy in getting to know you. Visitor cards are available at the pews for you to provide us with a record of your attendance. We appreciate you taking the time to fill these out.

Important dates to remember:

February:

Sun. 21st - Teachers Meeting at 5:00 pm.

Sun 28th - Elders, Deacons & preachers meeting

Fellowship Opportunities:

Sun. 21st - Group 1 meets after evening service

Fri. 26th - Family night potluck at the Uptegrove's, 6:30pm



Ladies House to House Fellowship

Lesson Book: "Developing Inner Strength, Living in the Joy of God's Love"

Next class: Today at Mavrey Uptegrove's home after Morning Services
Please prepare lesson 10. Lunch will be provided.

Classes

Young Adults Class: Fridays at Caleb's home. See Caleb for details.

"Gathering" meeting: meets next week at 3:30 at the building. All ages.

THE CHRISTIAN RACE

by Gary McDade

In the Corinthian correspondence from Paul the apostle he makes an analogy between Christianity and the Isthmian Games. These games were second in worldwide prestige only to the Olympics, but to the Greeks they symbolized the pride of the Hellenic race. To the Greeks these games were fully a half of human education. Interest in the games was so high that if Greek states were at war with each other they would call a truce in order to attend the celebration. Enormous crowds were present. A winner was immortalized by his people. These games took place at Corinth. Paul alludes to the ten month training period for athletes in these games which also included a month of exercises at the gymnasium prior to the games. To the Christians at Corinth Paul wrote, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Cor. 9:24-27).

The context of chapters eight through eleven may correctly receive the heading: "The Sphere Of Christian Liberty Must Include Self-Denial". The major application of this section deals with eating or refraining from eating meat that had been offered in sacrifice to pagan idols. Involved is not only one's conscience and a respect for his brother's conscience but also the principle of self-denial as the way to act on the convictions of the conscience. It does not take the common sense of a Will Rogers to observe the need for this teaching in the church today. The large problem areas of worldliness, spiritual indifference, a lack of Bible knowledge, and disunity among brethren can often be resolved down to selfishness. One commentary styles the section of chapter nine mentioned above: "Enforcement Of The Duty Of Self-Denial By Reference To Grecian Games".

Self-denial is a Christian duty that when spurned may thrust one headlong into one of these large problem areas. Like an athlete in training who sets aside personal desires so he can tone his physical body to reach its maximum potential, the Christian must strive to maintain his spiritual standing before God and man.

Continued on back page