

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

April 22, 2012

Issue No. 39 Mark Aites, Editor

Kindness

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." – Aesop, *Fables*, "The Lion and the Mouse"

"Life is short and we never have enough time for gladdening the hearts of those who travel the way with us. O, be swift to love! Make haste to be kind. – Henri Frederic Amiel

"To speak kindly does not hurt the tongue." – French Proverb

"You can accomplish by kindness what you cannot be force." – Publilius Syrus

All of us appreciate the kindness of others. This world is filled with plenty of rude and insensitive people. It is so refreshing to have someone do some kind act or say some kind things.

The word *kindness* in Scripture appears some 46 times in the NKVJ. Obviously it has some significance.

One of the beautiful passages in our New Testaments has to be the words of encouragement from the apostle Paul to the church at Ephesus: "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:32). Did not Paul say in that great chapter on love, "Love suffers long and is kind..." (1 Cor. 13:4). My how the Lord's church would benefit from such an infusion of kindness.

In what is often called the twin epistle, Paul wrote to the church at Colossae by saying, "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do" (Col. 3:12-13). The phrase "put on" is drawn from the idea of putting on a garment. We are to put on these things, including kindness, that it might be a part of us.

The proverbial icing on the cake has to be Peter's writing concerning "the Christian graces," where he speaks of those things that we should add to our faith. There it is modified in the expression "brotherly kindness." Literally it is "fraternal affection." Such is the love we should exhibit to others.

This is a much needed and powerful admonition for the church. Since the church essentially has a strong basis in relationships, we need to be sure that we are treating others with kindness. Certainly the Golden Rule applies here: "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matt. 7:12).

Remember that this is part of the fruit of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23).