

Messenger Of Truth

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

June 25, 2013

Issue No. 100      Mark Aites, Editor

## **Friendship**

"Friends are family you choose for yourself." – Jane Adams

"The only way to have a friend is to be one." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

"I don't need a friend who changes when I change and who nods when I nod; my shadow does that much better." – Plutarch

"Our friends see the best in us, and by that very fact call forth the best from us." – Black

Friendship is such a tremendous blessing. My how lonely we would be without it. Even though our Lord had 12 disciples, one still thinks of the occasion when He had those more intimate moments with Peter, James, and John.

One of the most amazing passages on friendship says, "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24). Someone made the observation that we have no choice in who we are kin to, but when it comes to friends we get to choose them. One can surely appreciate the notion that some friends are more precious to us than even relatives.

When we think of a beautiful friendship, Scripture provides us with the story of Jonathan and David. It was a very close relationship. In fact, speaking of Jonathan's affection for David, the Bible says, "...for he loved him as he loved his own soul" (1 Sam. 20:17). It is those kind of friendships that have a value that is hard to put into words.

One of the greatest compliments in Scripture is the statement made concerning Abraham where the Bible refers to him as, "The friend of God" (James 2:23). My, what an honor and commendation for this righteous man of old.

It is amazing as we look at the different individuals in this life and see where some have very few friends, and others it seems like a vast number. Perhaps the wisdom of the Proverb writer mentioned above sheds some light here, "A man who has friends must himself be friendly...." The reason that some don't have many friends, is quite frankly they themselves are not friendly toward others.

Think of the pearls of wisdom from Scripture, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" (Prov. 17:17). "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful" (Prov. 27:6).

"If you're alone, I'll be your shadow. If you want to cry, I'll be your shoulder. If you want a hug, I'll be your pillow. If you need to be happy, I'll be your smile... But anytime you need a friend, "I'll just be me." - Unknown