

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Reconciliation"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

"For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation." Romans 5: 10,11 NIV

Last week, we wrote on sacrifice. Freedom certainly isn't free. It comes at great cost. The United States found out just how high the physical price could be in the final days of World War II while trying to capture Pacific islands on their way to Japan. We also know that our freedom in Christ cost Jesus His very life's blood on the cruel Roman cross.

Apparently part of the reason that President Truman finally made the decision to use atomic bombs against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in an attempt to end WWII was due to the incredible Allied casualties already sustained in the taking of Iwo Jima, Okinawa and other small Pacific islands and the understanding that perhaps millions more would be required in conventional warfare...so the bombs were dropped. Of course, and understandably so, the anger of Japan against the United States and vice versa, was great indeed. Nevertheless, as the old saying goes, "Time heals

all wounds." "On February 19, 1985, the 40th anniversary of the day that U.S. forces began the assault on Iwo Jima, veterans from both forces gathered for the Reunion of Honor just a few meters away

from the spot where U.S. Marines had landed on the island. During the memorial service, a granite plaque was unveiled with the message:

"On the 40th anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima, American and

Japanese veterans met again on these same sands, this time in peace and friendship. We commemorate our comrades, living and dead, who fought here with bravery and honor, and we pray together that our sacrifices on Iwo Jima will always be remembered and never be repeated."

It is inscribed on both sides of the plaque, with the English translation facing the beaches where U.S. forces landed and the Japanese translation facing inland, where Japanese troops defended their position. Sacrifice eventually brought reconciliation between enemies." (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iwo_Jima).

The greater reconciliation is this: Until you receive Christ as Lord and Savior, God sees you as evil and as His enemy; but He is not yours. Colossians 1: 19-23 says, "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in [Jesus], and through him to reconcile to himself all things... by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.



Life travels fast and can take different tracks. God's track, our track, how do we choose the right way to go? We have our own plans and goals and God has plans and goals for us. How do we unite the two tracks? Pray for His guidance and discover His will for your life. He will give direction and guide you in the right way to go. Get on the right track at your house of worship and have a safe journey.

Weekly Scripture Reading

| | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|----------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| Nahum | Psalms | Genesis | Genesis | Psalms | Psalms | Amos |
| 1.1-15 | 46 | 1.1-2.4a | 2.4b-25 | 104 | 105 | 9.5-15 |

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society

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Farmers raise money for the needy in Africa

Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by Linda Mason from "THE BUDGET"

Wroxeter Ontario, Canada
Oct. 18 - Jerry had a unique experience last week. He took our combine and joined 120 other combines to harvest 160 acres of soybeans. It was a fund raising event to raise money for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, especially for sending money to the needy areas in Africa. A farmer near Moncton donated a 160 acre field. Local businesses donated the seed and sprays. They sent out word in the spring, asking farmers to donate their combines to harvest the soybeans. So last week was the big day. It took Jerry an hour to drive to the scene.

There was a large hayfield nearby where the farmers could leave their header wagons. They had

previously done the head lands, and also a strip down the middle. They had a long row of combines line up at each side of the field. Following a Scripture reading and prayer, the combines started their engines and set out across the field where they met in the middle. They had the field of 160 acres combined in 11 minutes, which set a world record. Grain buggies collected the beans and took them to the trucks.

An auction of the soybeans immediately followed the harvest, with the first bushel being sold for \$1,000. The first two large lots of 1,600 bushels each were sold at \$36.00 per bushel, which is well above market price. They were able to reach their goal of raising over \$200,000.00 for this project. Several thousand people turned out to watch this unusual event.

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