

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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In This Issue:

**Edification and Local
Preachers1-2**
Local News 2
Sermon Outline 3
**The Book of Psalms – Back
Cover**

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Edification and Local Preachers

The idea behind edification is construction. To construct a Christian is to teach one to familiarize, respect, and reverence the sound doctrine of Jesus Christ. After one obeys the gospel there is much to learn. The more one knows of God's divine revelation the greater respect and reverence is exercised. The apostle Peter said, "*Ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*" (I Peter 2:5). God has ordained apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to do the work of building or edifying the body of Christ (see II Corinthians 10:8; Ephesians 4:11-12). Seeing that apostles and prophets no longer disseminate divine revelation we are left with pastors, evangelist, and teachers. When pastors, local preachers, and teachers edify the saints today they are establishing and strengthening their brethren in truth just as the early apostles did (see Acts 14:21-22; 18:23).

The Bible speaks of various preachers that remained in various locations for the purpose of edifying the saints. Paul was a preacher (see I Timothy 2:7). Paul, on several occasions, spent time at various churches edifying the saints. The apostle spent three years in Damascus (Galatians 1:16-18), three years in Ephesus (Acts 20:31), at least a year and a half at Corinth (Acts 18:11), and one year at Antioch of Syria with Barnabas (Acts 11:25-26) preaching and edifying the saints. Luke spent approximately 7 years in Philippi preaching and edifying the

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Announcements:

Add to your directory **Joe and Rachael Smarr's** address:

1206 Ridgeway Dr. # 23
Wichita Falls, Texas 76306

Home phone:
940-851-0554

Cell
850-529-9833

Web Page:

Check out our web site if has been a while (Acts posted very soon)

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

"They that wait for Jehovah shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint"

Isaiah 40:31

saints (compare Acts 16 with Acts 20:4-6). Timothy spent time in Corinth (I Corinthians 4:17) and Ephesus (I Timothy 1:3ff) edifying the saints.

Edification of the saints was an ongoing work for these earlier located preachers (Acts 9:31). The Lord had ordained the work of edification to these men that they may build up the body of Christ (Acts 13:1). When the body of Christ has been built in strength there are great things that happen. First, the church will naturally **grow** in numbers (see Acts 16:4-5; 9:31). Secondly, the church will experience **peace** (Acts 9:31). Thirdly, the church will walk in the **fear of the Lord** and in the **comfort** of the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:31). Fourthly, the church will experience doctrinal **unity** (Ephesians 4:13). fifthly, the church will **not be so easily led astray** by false doctrines (Ephesians 4:14). Sixthly, it will lead one to obtain the inheritance of **eternal life** (Acts 20:31-32). Seventhly, the individual saint will experience **spiritual growth** (I Corinthians 14:3-5, 12).

While it is true that the fields of men's souls in the world are ripe for the harvest and the Lord needs preachers and teachers to fulfill this duty (see Matt. 9:37-38) it is also true that brethren need edification. The Corinthian church had preachers who had labored full time among them and were receiving wages for such work. Paul said, *"Even so did the Lord ordain that they that proclaim the gospel should live of the gospel"* (I Corinthians 9:14). Don't *"muzzle the ox when it treads out the corn"* (I Corinthians 9:9). Let us all encourage local preachers who have made it their life's work to not only preach to the lost but to edify the saints of God. Heaven is at stake!

REVELATION

Chapter 13

The beast of Revelation 11:7 is identified clearly as the Roman Empire or its emperors in Revelation 13. This world power was depicted in Daniel 7 as the fourth beast of both Nebuchadnezzar's and Daniel's visions. The beast had power and authority given him by the devil (Rev. 13:2) yet regulated by the Lord (Rev. 13:5-7). The beast persecuted Christians for a specified time (Rev. 11:2, 3; 12:6, 14; 13:5-7). The dragon was filled with wrath because he had failed to kill the "*man-child*" (Jesus) (Rev. 12:5f) and he had failed to destroy the church of Jesus Christ (Rev. 12:13f). The devil was now pursuing the faithful children of God that he may destroy them (Rev. 12:17). The methods (i.e., the river out of Satan's mouth that had the purpose of carrying away the church in apostasy / see Rev. 12:15) he used are the beast from the sea (Rome) (Rev. 13:1) and the beast out of the earth (false religion) (Rev. 13:11). The conclusion of the thirteenth chapter is that the devil failed in his pursuit of the true child of God. A three fold failure of the devil is represented by the number 666 (Rev. 13:18).

I. A Beast came out of the Sea Clothed with the Power and Authority of Satan (13:1-10):

- A. We first read of this "beast" at Revelation 11:7
- B. The objective of Satan, who works through the beast, is to cause God's people to apostatize from truth (Rev. 12:15).
- C. This beast parallels the beast of Daniel 7:2ff and is clearly identified as the Roman Empire and its emperors.
- D. The unregenerate and apostate shall worship the beast (Rev. 13:4).
- E. The beast will make war with the saints.

II. Another Beast comes out of the Earth (13:11-18):

- A. The second beast had the appearance of righteousness yet he was deceptively false in his ways.
- B. This second beast was a false prophet (or false religion).
- C. Satan would attempt to wash away the saints through persecution and false religion.

Conclusion:

The lessons that Christians were to learn was that God is in control though things are going very wrong for them. The Lord, through the visions of Daniel (Daniel 7), has foretold of all these things coming to pass. All things are going according to God's plan and the true child of God will realize this and thereby press on in faith.