

Hello Brethren,

A few days ago I was reading Psalm chapter 111, which is one of the “wisdom psalms”. I was struck by what the Psalmist (we don’t know for sure who wrote this chapter) wrote in verse 2. It says “The works of the LORD are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them.”

Frankly, I think one of the most powerful works of God is the Bible itself. We probably each own several copies, is a book unlike anything else in history! It was written down over a span of at least 1,600 years by a team of more than 40 writers. These writers didn’t share the same culture, education level, language, experience or writing abilities. Yet through these men the sovereign Creator God wove together the most wonderful book – revealing Himself, His mind, His plan, His love, His power and much more in print for all the world to see!

What is particularly striking is the unity we see in the Bible. Through all these individuals who lived in different ages countries and tongues – God spoke with one united voice. From Genesis to Revelation there is a cohesion and unity to the scriptures, and we can come to understand God’s desire for unity.

Jesus Christ plainly stated that “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30). They are in perfect harmony and unity with each other. The Father is in charge (verse 29), but there is never friction between them, and one is never working at cross purposes with the other. They are in perfect unity.

On the night of the Passover every year we read from John 17 where Jesus Christ prays for all “who will believe in Me” (verse 20), asking “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they may be one in Us,” (verse 21). Once again we see the focus on unity, and the desire the Father and Jesus Christ have for us to be unified with each other and with God.

Their focus on unity begs a few questions of each one of us. For one, how united are we as part of a congregation of God’s Church? Do we allow rivalries, hurt feelings or personalities drive wedges between us or create friction even on the Sabbath? To the contrary, how much effort do we spend with prayer and exercising patience in order to build unity between each other as brothers and sisters in the Faith?

How united are we in our marriages? Are we as husband and wife unified, creating a haven where we find solace and strength, and where we stand together against all the storms of life that challenge us? Or do we find strife, arguments, tension and alienation in our marriages to be the norm rather than the exception?

Of course the unity we have in marriage is directly reflected on the entire family. It is impossible to have a close-knit and unified family of mom and dad are always at odds with each other.

And most importantly, we must ask how unified are we with God? How close is our relationship with Him? That unity will be reflected in what we do (prayer and Bible study being keys), what we say (what kind of language we choose to use, and how we either hurt or help with our words), both culminating in the example we show to everyone around us.

If we have pleasure in the works of God, then as the Psalmist observed, we'll take note of them and study them. Starting with the existence and composition of the scriptures themselves, all of God's works reveal unity, and His desire that we be united with Him and with each other. It is something we should each consider, and work to grow in unity.

Tomorrow my family and I will be in Van Buren in the morning, and then travel down to Mena in the afternoon. We wish you all a wonderful Sabbath, and if we won't see you tomorrow, we'll look forward to seeing you next week when we all combine in Van Buren for 2 pm services.

Best regards,

Tom Clark

Feast Activity Information

Activity schedules and descriptions for our U.S. Feast of Tabernacles sites are currently posted at <http://feast.cogwa.org>. Please be sure to check out the activities at the site you will be attending as soon as possible. In some cases there are early commitments or tickets that must be purchased in advance of the Feast and deadlines are coming up soon. Thank you for your help in this regard. Some sites continue to add activity information; therefore, it would be wise to keep an eye on your specific Feast site to see what is being planned.