

MAKING THE DEVIL PAY

By Anthony Scherffius

There is a story of a faithful Christian widow who lived next to an atheist. She was always joyful and spreading the good news to her neighbors, but the atheist was growing tired of her message. Although joyful, she was financially struggling and was barely making ends meet. Every day she would open her windows and pray to God thanking Him for the blessings He would bestow upon her. The atheist, outside every morning, heard these prayers. He would attempt to antagonize her through argumentative and accusative statements towards her God, saying, "If He really did exist, you would not be struggling." Hearing these hurtful words she would get down on her knees and pray for the atheist. As the weeks went on, she continued her prayers, enduring the persecution of this unbelieving critic.

One day the atheist heard the widow praying for food, for she had none. He came up with a plan. He would buy food and leave it on her doorstep and ring the bell. After seeing it and thanking God, he would prove to her that he was the one that provided, not God. With quick and swift execution of his plan, the widow came to the door and saw food. With tears in her eyes and joy in her voice, she fell to her knees and thanked God for the food He provided. The Atheist jumped out and said, "Aha! I got you! I told you there was no God. I gave you the food, not Him!" Hearing this, she grinned happily and looked to heaven and said, "Thank you Father for this food. Not only did you provide for me, but you made the devil pay for it."

Even in times of persecution and rejection from the world and unbelievers, God will always provide for His people. Let us not forget the words of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ who said, "For

this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:25-33)

Our Father is the Father of Lights with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. Every good and perfect gift comes down from Him (James 1:17-18). Our Father cares for us (1 Peter 5:7), for we are His children (1 John 3:2). Joseph even explains the providential care of God who will do good for all mankind and establish His will to save His creation: "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive" (Genesis 50:20). Let us remember to endure the persecution, even in times of poverty and ill will from others, knowing that "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Remember in Prayer

Neely Lovelady is home and recuperating from her surgery. She is not able to do much but is progressing.

Scott Samford's 6 year-old cousin Rex began chemo treatments this week for cancer. He will be undergoing 40 weeks of treatment and surgery.

Jimmie Ivey got encouraging news on Tuesday and will begin treatments for his cancer soon.

Luanne Patterson is scheduled for knee surgery on 4/10.

Sharon McMillan will see her cardiologist on 4/20.

Remember Also:

Melva McManus,
Archie & Nancy Underwood,
Joy Tull, Judy Mitchell,
Samuel & Diana Ramirez,
Steven Coats, Donna Roberts,
Branden Skinner, Lee Wright,
Hayden Gammon, Chris Calvin,
Roger Elam, Louis Thomas

In Sympathy

Services are now scheduled for our sister Flora Johnson. Visitation is scheduled for 6 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 13. Funeral will be Saturday, March 14 at 1 p.m. Family meal will be later that day at 5 p.m. All events will be here at the church building.



Ladies! If you are providing food for the family meal, please have your dishes at the building by 4 p.m. on the 14th.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 15- Elder/Deacon Mtg./4:00

March 26- NH Birthday Party/2:00

March 29- Potluck Luncheon

March 29- 5th Sunday Question & Answers/PM Service

Youth Devo

Sunday, March 15 at
the Scherffius Home
following evening services
Boys bring drinks.
Girls bring desserts.



**38th Annual
Mabank Lectures
April 24-26
"Resume of a Christian"**

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**AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP
TODAY IN THE INFORMATION
ROOM:**



The words of *Truth*