

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - Angie has arthritis and Parkinson's—slowly improving
 - Bert's dad has dementia and Parkinson's
 - Rick's dad has prostate cancer
 - Kim has stomach ulcers and weekly Chemo treatments
 - Jimmy and Rick have heart issues
 - Barb's son (James)
 - Terri's cousin (Becky) has colon cancer
 - Kim's dad (Jerry) colon cancer in remission
 - Jimmy's sister has cancer
 - Sandra's uncle has stage 4 cancer
 - Joel's dad has cancer
 - Joel's mom burned her leg with hot water
- Bill Fix hired as full-time minister here

Sermon Notes



CHURCH OF CHRIST

Invitation

'Therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' – Mt. 22:9

5080 Highway 70 East
Rockwood, TN 37854
(865) 806-6387

Assembly Times
Sunday Bible Study – 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship – 11:00 AM

Follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchofChristRockwoodTN>

June 21, 2020

*We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and members.
Should you have any questions or need any assistance, please
let one of us know.*

Adult Bible Class – Gal. 5:22ff
Sermon Topic – Father's Day: Respect for Our Father

Memory verse:
A gentle answer turns away wrath. – *Prov. 15:1*

Little Things in Life

By Robert S. Turner

It is the little things that get under one's skin that really trouble us in this life. Like "little foxes that spoil the vineyards" (Song 2:15), the effect is out of proportion to the initial cause. When we react in an exaggerated manner, our response cultivates the soil, waters and fertilizes the seed, and thus contributes to greater problems. And if some friend reminds us that scratching only increases the itch, we tell him to mind his own business, our blood pressure increases, and so does the effect of "the little things that get under our skin."

I have seen grown men—strong in body and mind, capable of standing unflinchingly against brute force, personal abuse, financial reverses or doctrinal onslaughts of the Devil—who will squirm and twist or stoop to degrading practices when some mites get next to them. We must continue to war against the "giants in the land," but surely there is a reason to drop all pride and admit that we need a better defense against chiggers. (What did you think this was all about?)

The wise man said, "There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24). The metaphor is a good one, but blackberry vines harbor something that gives friend or brother a real challenge. What about "closer than a chigger"? (I just itch to make my point.)

If there is anything closer, more powerful for his size, easier to acquire, harder to put off, or more democratic in his fleshly taste than a chigger, I do *not* want to know or have anything to do with it. One can rub down with turpentine, grandma's lye soap, and gobs of modern chigger medicine, only to make his flesh more inviting for the invisible red-bugs that are waiting, who knows where, for him to prepare the feast.

An Arkansas farmer told me the best remedy was "scratch him 'till ye brings the blood;" but how can I tell when a chigger is bleeding? I have resigned myself to kerosene, a good wife's sympathy, and the job of making some kind of point out of my misery. Oh, to get out of a chigger just a fraction of what it gets out of me!

So, if one must be philosophical about chiggers, just remember what I said at the first: It is the little things that get under one's skin that really trouble us in this life.

Reprinted from STUFF ABOUT THINGS, a compilation of Mr. Turner's *Plain Talk* columns, now available in the public domain at www.wordsfitlyspoken.org.

Fixating on What's Important, 6-21-20

By Bill Fix

I plan to use this column as a way to highlight the importance of spiritual matters, perhaps contrasted against current events or the daily struggles we encounter in life. "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:1-2).

While I thankfully can't remember having any personal unfortunate interactions with chiggers, I have had my share of mosquito bites, sunburns, and allergy attacks that made it difficult to focus on whatever important task was in front of me. Or at work, it's often a challenge to complete assignments when calls or emails interrupt my concentration and time.

Similar to these irritating annoyances, Satan (or our own weaknesses) seems to work on us little by little until we fail. How often have you...

- Unfairly snapped at your kid who sang the same single line of a song for the 57th time?
- Taken your spouse, family members, or friends for granted because you were too focused on your own worries/problems?
- Ignored someone who could have used your help or encouragement?
- Heard a friend, coworker, or actor use foul language or the Lord's name in vain so often that the same words slip out of your mouth?
- Yelled at some "idiot" or "maniac" while driving? [Regardless of whether the other driver heard you or "deserved it", did you set a good example for your kids or exhibit anger with a brother "without a cause" (Mt. 5:22)?]
- Got too busy with work, hobbies, recreation, etc. that you forgot to pray or open your Bible to adequately maintain your relationship with God for the day?

In the United States, I don't believe we'll ever see the old hypothetical actually play out where someone holds a gun to our heads, threatening to kill us unless we renounce God. That's a BIG thing. But the little things can build and build to where they erode our faith, patience, and diligence to study, pray, and teach others. We can get so preoccupied with everything else in this world that we misplace our priorities. Let's keep the little things in check so we don't lose sight of the biggest things.