

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 899

June 3, 2012

Trees are mentioned hundreds of times in the pages of the Bible. From the tree that was wrongfully eaten from in Genesis 3 to the tree of life in Revelation, trees often had a vital role in the Bible.

No doubt you have many trees on or near your place of abode. Consider the following lessons that can be “harvested” from trees.



1. **Trees take time to mature.** No one expects to have a lawn full of stately trees within a few months after trees are planted. Trees take many years to mature and reach their maximum potential. We could plant a tree and for many months easily bend or break the tree with our bare hands. In a few years though, the very same tree would refuse to yield to our strength. It is the same tree, but time has made the difference.

Likewise, we need to be patient with ourselves and others who are Christians. Christian development and strength takes time and patience.

2. **Trees must be firmly rooted.** The root system of a tree must be deep, wide spread, and in soil conducive for growth.

We must be firmly rooted if we are to survive as Christians. This is accomplished by our dedicated studying of the Bible, prayer, regular worship, and daily Christian living.

3. **Trees often need to sacrifice in order to grow.** How often have you seen trees that have had to sacrifice diseased limbs in order to survive?

We will greatly enhance our spiritual development if we rid ourselves of bad habits, activities, and attitudes.

4. **Trees face varied hazards.** Disease, drought, and storms can all bring a tree to an early demise. How often have we seen trees that have weathered storms for decades and then suddenly, a strong wind topples the tree?

We face spiritual hazards each day. We must not take any spiritual danger lightly. Heed the words of Paul in I Corinthians 10:12, “*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall.*”

5. **Trees are expected to produce.** Whether a tree is planted for shade, fruit, or simply beauty, we expect it to perform its intended function. We see the fate that awaited the fig tree in Luke 13:9 if it failed to bear fruit. “*And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.*”

As Christians, we are to produce fruit and be productive citizens in the kingdom of God.

6. **Trees support other life.** A tree might have moss, vines, birds and numerous other animals living on its bark and in its branches.

Those who are stronger Christians can support the weak and encourage the downhearted. Someone’s spiritual survival may be made much easier by the strength you offer.

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Sunday 9 AM & 6 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

News

—Continue to remember **Sally Marshall, Jewell Watkins, Jimmy Terry, Audrey Terry, Jean Coffey, Lillian Riffle, Vicki McDaniel and Shirley Edwards. Allen Terry** is at home recovering from bypass surgery. **Allen Riffle** is recovering from foot surgery.

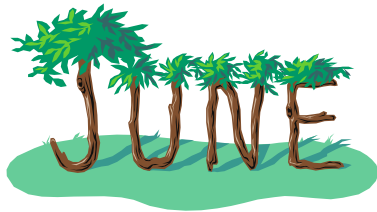
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7. **Trees continue to influence long after they die.** Many objects in your home are made of wood. The trees from whence they came are now deceased, but you are reaping the benefits of their life.

When we die, we leave behind a legacy. Will we be remembered for the evil in our lives or will people continue to be influenced by our Christian lives for years to come? We are told concerning Abel in Hebrews 11:4, *“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*

—Marty Edwards ❖



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Abby Edwards — June 7
Lauren Edwards — June 27
Marty & Ruby Edwards — June 27
Sherry Crabtree — June 28
Jewell Watkins — June 28
Ali Rose Duncan — June 29

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Sunday, May 27, 2012		
Classes	11	John 1:1-23
Preaching	18	Hebrews 11:1-40
Contribution	\$373.00	
Evening	14	Revelation 8:1-13
Wednesday, May 30, 2012		
Classes	3	Deuteronomy 33:1-29

Visitors— May 27 (PM) Joanna Locke (Hardyville, KY);
April Thompson (Hardyville, KY)

Bible Quiz

What happened for one-half hour after the seventh seal was opened?

Last Week's Answer— The blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14)

—Tonight will be our first-Sunday singing.

—There are copies of the bulletin and Wednesday night lessons on our web site. You can also access past recordings of our services and listen to Bible readings. The audio of all our services are broadcast live.

—God's Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)