

SUVISESHA DHWANI

Suvishesha Dhvani Reg. No. RN 29475/78

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FRUITLESS VINE

Everybody likes grapes. Many among us use grape juice to reduce stomach troubles, quench the thirst and overcome tiredness. Palestine is a place where this grows in plenty. The wedding in Cana reminds us that in those places wine was used as a special drink during weddings. The prophet Hosea says about Israel, "Israel is an empty vine". In Malayalam translation it is spread vine. This is not the correct translation.

In view of this verse, the prophet has simulated us, the believers, to vine. The husbandman gets profit and becomes refreshed only if the vine bears fruits. Do we, the vines live bearing fruits for our Lord, the husbandman. The gardener would cut off the fruitless vines. In Isaiah 5:1-4 we read, "My well beloved hath a

vineyard in a very fruitful hill: And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes." Therefore the gardener, "will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and breakdown the wall there of, and it shall be trodden down".

Oh! Believer, our well beloved Lord sanctified and saved us by delivering us from our sins which are the stones and thorns in our life in order to bring forth fruits. We should be fruitful to God and God's children. We should be able to console and comfort our fellow believers. But today, how sad it would be if wild grapes are being brought forth from us! If we are mere useless believers the gardener will bring down the wall there of and leave

us helpless. In the book of Revelation while giving messages to the churches it is written, "I will remove they candlestick out of his place, I will fight against them with the sword of my mouth and I will spue thee out of my mouth". This means that when we become fruitless and useless to God. He will leave us, break down the wall and allow and others to graze upon us. Not only that we will also come to the stage of loitering, losing the that we will also come to the stage of loitering, losing the spiritual light and happiness in our lives. To escape such an end let us be the vines bringing forth good fruits to our husband man.

Hosea again says that he brings forth fruits for himself. The believer as the vine does not bring forth

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A GREAT MISSION

Some Insurance agents gains crores of policy deposits. When we look into their work, we will find that those people work very hard during day and night. They attain the merit only through hard work. When a local church look after an evangelist, in his lifetime he has to add many believers to that assembly. The church as well as the evangelist should give account to God. If Church is not growing something is basically wrong somewhere. We have to find it out. All the evangelist have to take the responsibility, rededicate and do the work with seriousness. Let us pray sincerely for that.

If an evangelist is without the burden about souls, he is like a teacher who doesn't like to teach or a lady doesn't like to conceive or a doctor doesn't like to treat or a farmer doesn't like to farm. An evangelical work is not something like visiting a house or conducting a marriage or speaking at a funeral service or visiting a patient or collecting mail from post office. An evangelist is those who obey the imperial command of our King of Kings - 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'. A farmer is not supposed to go after an elephant. A soldier is not allowed for farming, hence he cannot fight for the country. If the doctor is a drunkard he cannot treat the patient. If the teacher goes for fishing who will teach the children. If the evangelist goes for making money who will evangelize. If he is not faithful to his call, he is unfaithful to God.

- obliged to prathidhwani

SPIRITUAL MEN

Who is spiritual? What is Spirituality? Instead of dealing with these subjects I wish to state who is not spiritual? and what is not spirituality? Today it is not easy to show assembly as a perfect model to follow. Because there is none like that of the Thessalonian Assembly. Likewise it is not easy to find a spiritual man to take him as an example and to follow his footsteps. The spiritual state of the believers has reached the lowest level. Church is the temple of the Holy God and the body of Christ. But it is not functioning properly. It has lost its aim, purpose

and does not act worthy of its calling. So the church is not functioning as it functioned in the 1st century. During the first century we read in the scripture as "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" But it is not happening today. Why it is not happening like that is a relevant question which we have to ask ourselves. The Lord added to the church. This process meant was not only for that period. It is equally applicable today too. But we forgot the meaning and value of it. So the assemblies lost the warmth of fellowship. It has deteriorated to the level of lifeless

organisations. The local assemblies have lost and are losing their testimony. So the prophecy that we see about Laodecian church is taking place today. At the end of the church age the groom is outside the hall and is knocking at the door. He wishes to get the door opened. He wishes to enter in and enjoy the fellowship with those who are bought by the precious blood. Sometimes the condition of the spiritual people of the nominal assemblies are also the same. They are out of the assembly rule and administration. Those who live and serve according to the

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Y.M.E.F GENERAL CAMP

If God willing, the Y.M.E.F General Camp (The combined camp of all Y.M.E.F divisions conducted once in two years) is proposed to be held at Thekkady (Kumali) in the High Range Division during Onam holidays this year.

The Camp will be conducted in the Holiday Home at Kumali from Tuesday, 9th to Saturday, 13th of Sep. 2008. Bros. Varghese Kurian, Chandappilla Philip, Jose Mathew, Sajeew Varghese, Biju K and Jose Mankudy will be speaking on that occasion. Various Programmers such as Bible Class, Character Study, Missionary conference, devotion, group prayers, singing, Bible quiz, question answer session, and testimonies are arranged. All brothers are requested to attend the camp.

We earnestly request your sincere prayer and generous financial support. Contributions may please be made in favour of Y.M.E.F/A/c No. 20040125, Catholic Syrian Bank, Koor Branch (Kozhikode) and sent to the general treasurer in the following address; Paul P. Scaria, A/9 Vrindavan Hsg. Coly, Chevayoor P.O, Kozikode, 673017. For more details contact Br. Sabu Mathew, Kalyil House, Anyarthohu.P.O, Idukki, 685515, Ph:No.9847707257, 04868270281.

THE YOUTH ILLUSIONS OF SOME MEDIA

Weeks before I wrote an article called 'the positions of our media' which invited many criticisms. Let me scribble few lines due to the compulsion of some sincere and God fearing brethren. All India Radio and Doordarsan are the most influential media in India. Other private channels come after this. And these channels are totally commercial. Printed articles are less popular among Indians because illiterate people are more here. But the printing media has got more power over the literates, who controls the political, social and intellectual life. Especially among the people who lives in towns and near by areas this can be seen clearly. The ideas published through this media are the ideas of its owners also. The religious and political sets will publish their ideas through their media. If the owners of the media are connected socially or obliged to some people or institutions, their interest will be seen in the publications. The publications are not independent. Sometimes for existence media should satisfy the government of the ruling political party. Different media gave different reports about the social Studies text book of class 7.

At the same time we have to evaluate the modern media and writers of the spiritual field also. Then only we will be able to understand the defects of the news and comments which appears as harmless at the first sight. By appearance they pretend that they stand for the word of God and for the scriptural truth. But when we read it carefully we will find these are misleading us. There are a lot of

writers and leaders among us who are away from the real truth. And this type of people are increasing. The experience of the first century remains as a memory in these last days. The discussions published in a Gulf Magazine recently about ornaments and dress is only a youth illusion. These people belittle those who respect our forefather's examples. Their views are critical ideas derived from the so called modernism. Instead of appreciating and practicing the separated life of brethren, they are very eager to adopt all these illusions. And these type of publication only help the new generation to be away from a separated life. It is immaterial to debate about the cosmetics and body beauty when the entire world is facing inflation, price hikes, power shortage, scarcity of food and spiritual starvation. Those who search Biblical support for this vanity is like a man who search a black cat, in the dark room, which is not there at all. These things happens because of wealth and new age technical knowledge. The writings should not come out of the vanity dreams. The writer should understand the serious problems around him and think about it in meditation before publishing it.

The writer should have the heavenly quality to bring back the people from the fallen state. The uncontrolled excitement, limited ability and poor knowledge are against good articles. So the ability of the christian writers should be used for the world evangelism, teaching the word of God, teaching of doctrinal subjects for the edification of people and freedom of mankind.

Jose Philip

Fruitless vine... (contd fm page 1)

a reminder Timothy alone? No, it is applicable to you and me too. But do we really give due attention? What do you think of the present time? Is it not the same time that the Holy Spirit has spoken of? What is happening in this world in these days? What is happening in our society? We have to think and evaluate it. For what? We have to understand our shortcomings and confess it to the Lord and turn to Him. The inner man in us should grow and strengthen us so that we can be useful to our Master in Heaven. We the saints are expected to learn and understand the importance of the Word of God.

'He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches. (Rev 3:12). We know and believe that all the prophecies of the Scripture is going to happen. In the past thousands of prophecies became a reality. The remaining will also become a reality. "And the people shall be oppressed, every one by

another and everyone by his neighbour, the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient (elderly), and the base against the honourable" Isaiah 3:1. What a real picture of the present world and its events. When these things happen the world, the earth will rotate backwards in the opposite direction. 'As for many people, children are their oppressors and women rule over them. O my people, they which God thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths Isaiah 3:12. In verse 9 we read that they are proud of declaring their sin like Sodom. They do not want to hide it. Woe unto them is the cry of the prophet. All these things that the prophet speaks of are taking place in our society today. So what we have to do? Let us weep and cry like Nehemiah and Daniel. Let us declare a fasting and confess our sins and shall pray for the society and let us keep vigil for the coming of the Lord.

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word of God have to face this situation. But to those who can compromise with any situation do not have to face such a problem. But they do not understand the reality that it will hinder their spiritual growth.

"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ" (1Cor. 3: 1). This was the evaluation the Apostle Paul about the Corinth Church. Even if he addresses all of them as spiritual, in reality all of them are not spiritual. Paul was not all concerned about their opinion about him and he did not want any flattering from them.

In the Corinth church the carnal men were much more than the spiritual. Though the assembly has few spiritual people along with a majority of carnal men, the world will see only the negative side of the assembly ie, the carnal side. So the spiritual people too get a bad name from the world outside. The worldly people will misunderstand the spiritual men also. But that is natural.

One becomes carnal not by committing grave sins.

"For ye are yet carnal for whereas there is among you envying and strife and divisions are ye not carnal and walk as men?" (!Cor 3:3). Generally saints will not give much importance to these sins or sometimes they may even ignore it as sins. That could be the reason that many carnal men believe that they are spiritual.

In Chapter 3 of 1st Corinthians we see spiritual, carnal and natural men. In the spiritual view every human being will come in are of these categories. The first spiritual is the perfect. Even the spiritual can become carnal and the carnal may fall in to the deep ditch which is worse than the condition of the natural man.

Though it may seem to be strange sometimes it is easier on the part of the spiritual to deal with the natural than the carnal. It is lamentable but remains true especially in these days. Many assemblies are ruled not by the spiritual men but the so called spiritual or rather carnal. I do remember a statement of a christian business man, "He said that he had business relations with many in the different parts of our country. But

had been often cheated by the believers or so called believers'. What a tragedy! I Kept my silence.

"That there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same case for another. whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it for one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it" (!Cor. 12:25-26). Division in an assembly is a clear picture of the carnality. One wonder what can be the reason for divisions in the assemblies. Lack of selfless love (agape), desire for authority and its positional fame senseless and meaningless words that may provoke even the spiritual are some of the reasons for divisions and factions. Can we bring in division among the spiritual. Yes is the emphatic answer. It can be done by the carnal. There won't be any split among spiritual men. That is a principle. But the carnal group can cause it and it becomes a success for the carnal group. What a tragedy today that we see these things in our own assemblies



LATEST NEWS IN OUR MIDST

SBS NEWS

Thrissur. This centre of the SBS wishes to give special awards to those who have got the highest marks in the S S L C Examination conducted in March 2008. Anyone who belongs to our assemblies in this centre may apply with photocopies of the marklist attested by the elders of the assembly. The awards will be distributed during the annual camp that will take place from September 9-13. For more information please contact: Prasad David, Alappatt Chembur House, Swathandra Nagar, Kuriachira P O, Thrissur, 680 006.

Prayer Vigil

Thiruvalla. The special prayer meeting conducted for the blessing of the Music Fest will be held on Aug 3, 2008 at the residence of Bro. M V Samuel, Mulamoottil Thiruvalla.

C M Chacko, Prayer Coordinator.

Kottayam. The prayer meeting of the SBS General will be held on 25th July at 6 P M in the Kottayam Brethren Assembly Hall. All are requested to attend this meeting.

C M Chacko

Gospel Music Fest Thiruvalla

Thiruvalla. God willing the Music Fest Thiruvalla 2008 will be held on November 7, 8, 9, 2008 at the Thiruvalla Public Stadium under the auspices of the Brethren assemblies in an around Thiruvalla. This is being conducted with a view for the spiritual edification of the believers for the spreading of the true gospel. Bro. Krishnankutty, Chandapilla Philip and Jose Mathew are the speakers. Many singing troupes will sing songs. Kindly pray for the spiritual blessing. For more information: **M V Samuel, Mulamoottil House, R S P O, Thiruvalla.**



ARE GOD'S CHILDREN REJECTED?

Today the world is seeing God's children as low status group of people. They may not get high position or standards which the worldly people consider as great. But in the sight of God they are highly valued. These people even mocked our Jesus by saying 'He is the son of a carpenter'. In this case what do we have to boast? But we are valuable in the eyes of God. Because we are redeemed by the precious and pure blood of His son.

Once a tourist went to a shop which sells ornaments. He bought a necklace which was embedded with yellow stones. But when he came to his home town, he was charged a large amount of money as duty. At that time he went to the jewellery

shop and tested the necklace. He examined from all angles. Then he examined it with a special lens and told the tourist that he will give him Rs.50000 for it. Then he went to diamond shop and examined it. That shopkeeper offered him Rs.1 lakh for that. When he looked into one of the stones of the necklace, there it was written "From Nepolean Bonapart to Josephine". The relation that the necklace had with Nepolean made it very precious.

The life and death of a saint is very precious to God. Who is this saint or God's child: those who are redeemed by the precious blood of Lord Jesus. So the God's child has a great position in heaven. Their

IN TV CHANNELS

SATGAMAYA TALK SHOW PROGRAMME

In the People's channel of Kairali's News channel
on all Fridays (Malayalam) 4.30 - 5.00 p.m.
On Mondays: 6.00 - 6.30 a.m. in C.TV (Hindi)

THE CUP AND NEW TESTAMENT

The cup and the New Testament are closely connected. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. The relation between the cup and New testament is doctrinal and it is clear through an Old testamental shadow. After Israelites were redeemed from Egypt, they entered into a new covenant. God said about this through Ezekiel "I have done a covenant and truth with you, and you are mine thus says the Lord". This covenant is like a marriage covenant. The same day Moses, Aaron, Nabadab, Abenadab and 70 elders of Israel ate and drank. It was ritualistic feast. Jesus knew that the New testamental offering is going to happen soon. The same night He took the cup saying 'this cup is the new covenant in My blood'. When we take part in the cup we proclaim and celebrate the fact that we are in a wonderful relation with God.

But Israel had moral and spiritual commitment towards this relation. The idol worship can be compared to the immoral act of a wife. It will increase the wrath of God. The grain offering of jealousy seen in Numbers chapter 5 is a warning against the idol worship of Israel. In 1 cor 10:22 'Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy'? this question of apostle is in connection with cup. If anybody drink the cup of blessing in an unworthy manner it will become a cup of bitterness. Just like the cup is connected to the blessing and laws, the bread denotes Christ's body and its wonderful fellowship. We should know that, we got more blessing through the membership of one body than the eternal covenant of blood. In the nearest future Israel will enter in to the blessings of New testament. But they will not be the members of that one body. This wonderful fellowship of New testamental believers in which they entered, is explained where the positions of priests are given. Those who eat from the offering have intimacy towards the altar and they have fellowship with the altar in peace offering. (Lev 7:31,32) The breast and right thigh shall be the share of the priest. But the fat-good portions are for Jehovah as burnt offering. They were strengthened by their share. So they are like the believers who came to the fellowship of God. The believers eat according to the will of God. God delights in His loving Son. This fellowship is more than the fellowship with other believers. We are pleased at His delight in our fellowship with God. The breast – the love of Christ, is it important for me? The right thigh – the power of His resurrection, is it in my experience? Apostle Paul prayed for Ephesians for the knowledge of these two things. Therefore the Lord's table is not only in remembrance of Christ and His redemption work, but it is a feast of relation with Christ and an outward expression of fellowship with Him. The believers those who come to remember Him, proclaims His death. This practice should be a testimony for the unbelievers who come to that gathering. The proclamation of the death of Christ and His resurrection should work in the heart of them for salvation.

The death of Christ empower His greatness and the victory over the death. Feeding of 5000 people, the calming of the sea etc, all these incidents are recorded to establish His power and Lordship. But His Lordship is perfectly established in connection with the death which is the last enemy of man. When we proclaim the death of Christ we celebrate the greatest victory of the human history.

(obliged)

citizenship is in heaven. Their names are in the book of life. They are the members of God's family and heirs. They dwell in the secret place of the most High and abide under the shadow of the Almighty. They are seated in heaven. Jesus Christ's great desire and His prayer to God is to guard His children from evil. See! The heaven is caring its cost of blood which are in the earth in a special way – like the way Cherian Sir had sung Christuvin dheesa senakale krusin..... . But in the sight of God we are precious. Dear brethren sometimes the world may reject us. If the heaven valued us, that is enough. In the way that Nepolean's name was written on the necklace, likewise His name is written in our hearts. Holy Spirit's seal is in us. We are His temple. Thus the world does not know our value but God does-that's enough.

We do not need the boasting of the world but the approval from heaven.

T.V.S