

May 17, 2019

Warm hellos dear brethren, and spiritual family here on the Gulf Coast, and scattered children of God.

My wife and I pray and hope this finds you all doing well, and that again your week has been blessed.

### **Are weeds important?**

Here on the Gulf Coast, as well as in the northern hemisphere, spring and summer is the time where everything really starts to grow! As I sit at my desk in my office, the noise outside of mowers, trimmers, blowers and the like is almost distracting, but a welcome sound.

As I mowed the lawn earlier this week, something else caught my attention that is growing...yes, you guessed it, *weeds*. My grass is green, but more noticeably, are the various weeds, they are growing, and in abundance, or so it seems in my yard.

A famous quote came to mind, *“And what is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not been discovered.”* --Ralph Waldo Emerson

I pondered Emerson’s words again today, when did these words come to him?

It could have been the day when the harvest was ready to be gathered, and the golden fields rippled with the wind, wheat soon to be winter’s bread. Many decades ago, wheat was once thought to be, yes, a weed, useless to mankind. Useless we might ask?

Perhaps on that day, as he was looking at the bountiful fields, as Emerson was returning from a visit to his friend the teacher, Bronson Alcott—the tireless, undefeatable, man—and he paused to reflect on Alcott’s tenacious insistence that it was never the “bad person” who was to blame but those who lacked patience to probe beneath the surface to search for what is good, however unpromising or unfriendly that surface might be.

History spoke of a well known truism, and it was well known, there were indeed no “weeds” in Bronson Alcott’s classroom.

So many times over the years, in clinics, hospitals, church congregations, and youth camps I have seen the apparently hopeless person transformed into a hopeful and helpful person—someone who gives, not takes—by the simplest display of others and my interest and belief in him or her. Encouragement goes a long way in this world.

It makes me wonder how many citizens, genuine people who contribute to the common health of all of us, have been lost because someone, somewhere was misled by the husk or covering,

and did not look for or see the golden grain hidden *inside*. Perhaps the outside obstructed their view of the inside?

How does God indeed look at His children that He has created in His image? Do we look at each other the same?

I suppose my friends, it all boils down to this : One of our first “to dos” on our daily list should be to pause before passing judgement, remembering that the apparently useless weed in my lawn, or in the dirt along the roadside, with care and cultivation, may provide tomorrow’s bread and food for us all.

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (I Samuel 16:7).

You and I can take great courage knowing that God indeed looks on the heart in building that relationship with Him.

...as I close this letter, as I do every Friday evening...as we enter His Sabbath...reflect on this with me, will you?

And again, may God continue to richly bless you. Our prayers and thoughts are with you daily! Please do pray for us as well.

-*Scott (and Gayle) Hoefker* (Pastor and wife, The Living God Ministries Gulf Coast)

The schedule for this week’s Sabbath is:

**May 17<sup>th</sup> / Friday: Gifts for the Lord/ Praises/Gifts and Prayers to welcome God’s Sabbath**  
7:00 pm (via Teleconference live connect with Stephen Glover in Montgomery)

**\*May 18<sup>th</sup> / Saturday: Spirit and Truth Worship** 10:15 am, with local services held in Spanish Fort and Montgomery. (All are also welcome and encouraged to connect live to Worship Services via our normal phone conference from Montgomery). **Family Style potluck Noon Meal** at 12:30 pm following the Worship Services at the Hoefker’s for those in SF.

**May 18<sup>th</sup>/ Saturday: Sabbath Fellowship** (Interactive Bible Study) **4:00 pm** from Spanish Fort (connect live with all others via telephone conference).

Upcoming dates for TLGM Gulf Coast:

**May 24<sup>th</sup> / Friday: Gifts for the Lord/ Praises/Gifts and Prayers to welcome God's Sabbath**  
7:00 pm (via Teleconference live connect with Stephen Glover in Montgomery)

**May 25<sup>th</sup> / Saturday: Spirit and Truth Worship** 10:15 am, with no local services held in Spanish Fort. (All are welcome and encouraged to connect live to Worship Services via our normal phone conference from **Montgomery**). Guest speaker Wynn Skelton (CGI) will speak to combined LGM/CGI services in Montgomery.

**\*May 25<sup>th</sup> / Saturday: Sabbath Fellowship** (interactive Bible Study) 4:00 pm *from* Montgomery (connect live to all others via telephone conference).

\* Please rsvp with my wife, Gayle if you plan on attending here in Spanish Fort on May 18th, to facilitate planning.

Telephone Ministry: Call 1-712-770-4700; then, when asked, enter Code 112165 # to join.  
(Note: All callers are muted and must press \*6 to comment and \*6 to resume mute.)

#### Our Daily Bread Recordings

Sunday through Saturday / Our Daily Bread [listen anytime 24/7 to a recorded 15 minute message] Call 1-712-770-4709 (note this call in number is different and ends in "9"), then when asked, enter code 112165# [reference code numbers are on "Spiritual Fellowship Opportunities" on this website <http://www.tlgministriesgc.org> or at "Resources/Archives" on <http://www.haggai114.net>]

#### Daily Fellowship Opportunities

Sunday – Friday / **Morning Sacrifice** (Prayers & Scripture Reading) at 6:00 a.m.  
Sundays / **History & Background of the Gospels** (Interactive) at 6:30 p.m. [Scott & Friends]  
Mondays / Africa Discipleship at 7:00 a.m. [Glovers & Moses]  
**Almond Branch Fellowship** at 8:00 p.m. (Interactive) (Stephen & Friends)  
Tuesdays / **Haggai Fellowship** (Interactive) at 6:30 p.m. (Interactive) [Stephen & Friends]  
Wednesdays / Africa Discipleship at 7:00 a.m. [Glovers & Moses]  
1st & 3rd Wednesday / **Sons of God Fellowship** (Young men training) at 6:30 p.m. [Stephen & Friends]  
2nd & 4th Wednesday / **Lydian's Fellowship** (Ladies) at 6:30 p.m. [Esther/Gayle & Friends]  
Thursdays / **Mt. Carmel Fellowship** (Interactive) at 6:30 p.m. [Hoefkers & Friends]

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