Make Church a Part of Your Life WEEKLY SERMONETTE



By Kirk Kasson, Pastor, Congregational Church, Almena

Thanksgiving means so football on TV. Grandma duster. Bugs and disease com the word "harvest" Kasson would gather us all for the meal on her nice china and she or Aunt Mary would offer the blessing. Being farmers the prayer would intertwine thanks for God's grace as well as for family and the year's harvest.

How was your harvest this year? I remember helping with harvest during my teen years. Times were tough in the dry eighties and we all knew farmers whose livelihood hung on every truckload, every field. Constantly wanting to be reassured that we were having a good harvest, from time to time I would ask Dad, "How is the harvest going?" His answer was always the same: "We will know when the check is in the bank."

Farming is an exercise love rain. Now if we can occurs 109 times in many things to so many in delayed gratification. just get good weather for the New Testament. people. Looking back to Spring rains? Great! But the combines, and a good Jesus used the harvest my childhood I think that that doesn't mean the crop price. to me it meant Turkey and will suffice. Planting all in? Ham, playing football Fantastic? Now we need crop is when the check is the end of the age. As a outside with the older rain. Timely rains? Maybe in the bank. cousins, and watching it's time to call the crop

as a metaphor for the We will know how the judgment of souls at pastor I understand the According to biblesuite. correlation. How much of what we do on earth will end up in Heaven? Time will tell. Some years the harvest seems plentiful; others, not so much. And Jesus warns us in Matthew 13 that not all that appears to be genuine bounty actually is; there are tares among the wheat.

When people ask me "How is church, Pastor?" I hesitate to say. Sometimes things seem grim, at other times promising. We will have to wait to see what treasures, what souls await us in Heaven.

Until then, let us not become weary in doing good, for in due time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up. [Galatians 6:9] Let us thank God, who is Lord of the Harvest, for his provision, his providence, and his harvest.



With the beginning of Advent we begin to think of Christmas and the gift the Heavenly Father shared with us...his Son Jesus. As we enter the holiday season we can consider what gifts we can share to brighten the lives of others. A gift can have great or little value, depending on our resources; it's the thought that counts. Even if it's only a smile, we all have something we can thankfully share each day. At your house of worship this week, think about God's greatest gift and prepare your minds and hearts for the miracle of Christmas.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Matthew

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society



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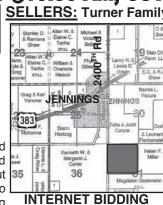
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9	5	1	8	6	7	2	3	4
4	8	3	2	1	9	7	6	5
2	6	7	4	5	3	9	1	8
6	3	5	7	9	1	8	4	2
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"Celtic Crosses"

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