



The Camden Companion

November 19, 2006

"Come let us reason together says the Lord" (Isaiah 1:18)

FATHER OF MERCIES

*Father of mercies, day by day My love to Thee grows more and more;
Thy gifts are strewn upon my way Like sands upon the great seashore.*

*Father of mercies, God of love, Whose gentle gifts all creatures share,
The rolling seasons as they move proclaim to all thy constant care.*

*Father of mercies, may our hearts, never overlook Thy bounteous care
But what our Father's hand imparts still own in grateful praise and prayer*

The above words are from a song called Father of Mercies by F.W. Faber. The words, in an especially beautiful way, speak of the mercies shown unto us by God. As we watch the seasons change from Fall to Winter we see God's constant care for His creation and for us. His hand is bountiful to us, His blessings more numerous than the sands on the shore and the more we are blessed, the more we love Him.

This Thanksgiving, take special note of how many ways God has blessed you. Be thankful for your families, your possessions, your job, for quiet and busy times, and for our congregation. Be thankful for laughter and times of mourning. Be thankful that God has made all things beautiful in His time. Then the day after Thanksgiving, do it all over again. After all, His blessings are "day by day" and so should be our thanksgiving.

AUTHORITY DOES MATTER

In our society we find that rules govern everything we do. One cannot drive down a highway without noticing speed limit signs. The red light means "STOP". In other words there are rules of the road to govern the safe and orderly flow of traffic. Failure to abide by the rules can bring penalties such as fines or loss of driver's license. or worse, bodily harm and death can result.

When the Kentucky Wildcats play football, the players have to play by certain rules. A defensive player cannot tackle a player by grabbing the facemask. The defensive line can't jump offsides or the offensive line can't false start. You can't block in the back or grab the jersey to block someone. Failure to abide by the rules will result in a penalty call against the offender and loss of yardage thus hurting the team. Of course, all sports have their particular set of rules.

When we go to the grocery store, there are rules to follow. Just try and walk out of the store without paying. No matter what we do in life, rules are there to keep things in line. Whether we talk of the store, bank, barber shop, amusement park (don't cut in line), gas station, or what ever we put our hand to do, there are rules to abide by with penalties for breaking the rules.

That is except for religion. For some reason folks realize the role that rules play in everyday life but then when the subject of religion comes up, all of a sudden, there are no rules. Everyone is free to do what please them or their "religious" group. Jesus is still saying, "why do you call me Lord, and do not the things that I say" (Luke 6:46; see also Matthew 7:21.) Yes folks, there are rules for religion too and those rules are found in the New Testament. The Lord's rules are the only ones that matter. Are you playing by His rules or trying to bring your own?