

# View

DECEMBER 27, 2009

*"Heaven above is softer blue, earth around is sweeter green;  
something lives in every hue, Christless eyes have never seen."*

## "Attitudes Towards the Weak

BY BILL HALL

The Messiah's attitude toward the spiritually weak is pictured by Isaiah in the following words: "A bruised reed will he not break, and a dimly burning wick will he not quench" (Isaiah 42:3).

In our zeal for purity and strength in the church, we may be guilty of doing the very thing that our Lord does not want done. We create a mental image of what the ideal church ought to be, and then go about to establish one. Every member is going to attend every service. Every member will be "sound" in his convictions. Worldliness will not be tolerated. This church is not going to have the weaknesses that characterize other churches we know of. This is going to be a strong church, a model church.

A new convert is made, and immediately he is indoctrinated in what this church is, and the contribution he is expected to make to the maintaining of this ideal. Each newcomer is viewed as a potential

**"AS LONG AS THERE IS A LITTLE LIFE IN THAT  
'BRUISED REED,' THERE IS HOPE. DON'T CRUSH IT!  
AS LONG AS THERE IS A LITTLE FIRE LEFT, IT  
MIGHT BE FANNED TO BURN MORE BRIGHTLY.  
DON'T EXTINGUISH IT!"**

threat. If he's not going to "line up," we don't want him. Weaker members are handled with a "shape up or ship out" attitude. People soon recognize that there is far more concern for the image of the church as an organization than for them as struggling and weak children of God. While the Messiah is tenderly and delicately nursing the "bruised reeds" back to health, we may be there crushing them. While He cups His hand around these fluttering, dimly burning flames to protect what fire is left, we may be there quenching them.

We are not suggesting that unrepentant false teachers and immoral members ought to be tolerated. They must be warned, marked, and withdrawn from. Nor are we suggesting that the weak ought to be left alone in their weakness. They must be taught, encouraged, re-proved, rebuked, and exhorted, but with all longsuffering, and with a view toward strengthening them. "Admonish the disorderly, encour-

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#### Service Times

Sunday Morning Assembly  
9:30 AM

Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study  
7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.

Private classes arranged at your convenience.

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age the fainthearted, support the weak, be longsuffering toward all" (I Thess. 5:14). Ask not what they can do for the church but what the church can do for them.

As long as there is a little life in that "bruised reed," there is hope. Don't crush it! As long as there is a little fire left, it might be fanned to burn more brightly. Don't extinguish it!

# A Psalm of Trust

A PSALM BY KEITH DICKEY

Keith wrote this psalm while a student at Florida College. The work was by the late Phil Roberts in his class on the Old Testament. Brother Roberts passed away relatively soon after Keith wrote the psalm.

In you I will trust my God;  
I will confide in you completely.  
You refresh my soul,  
When I decide I am too tired to serve you.  
You redirect my thoughts,  
When I agree with them and say it is not  
worth it.  
You guide my decisions,  
When I know I am not smart enough.  
You give me hope,  
When I am ready to give up.  
You comfort me,  
When I choose to be frustrated with life.  
You pilot me,  
When I let my faith weaken.  
You love me,  
When I assume that no one does.  
In this life I will trust you, my God,  
Until He comes again. Amen.