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# THE CHRISTIAN TIMES

LA PLATA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, March 17, 2013

## YOU GOTTA TAKE THE LEAVES WITH THE NUTS

A man planted his pecan tree too close to his neighbor's property line. As the tree grew the limbs spread over into his neighbor's yard. The neighbor gladly picked up the pecans that fell from the tree but he constantly complained about the leaves that fell in his yard during the fall. This seems so typical of human nature.

We want the pecans and the oranges and apples and peaches and all the good things, but we don't want the falling leaves to trouble us. We want the roses without the thorns, the sunshine but not the clouds, fall but not winter. Even in religious matters we want a crown but not a cross, spiritual knowledge but not study, the church but not Jesus, heaven but not the straight and narrow way. We should remember that God has planted the tree of life on the earth. It has both leaves and nuts.

When Job was afflicted his wife encouraged him to curse God and die. He replied, "Shall we accept good from God and not trouble?" (Job 2: 10)

David saw the benefit of leaves. He said, "Before I was afflicted I went astray but now have I kept thy word" (Psalm 119:67). Paul learned to accept the fallen leaves of life. He said, "I have learned that in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content" (Phil. 4:11). Jesus said it best in the garden, "Not my will but thine be done."

You see, leaves have their useful purpose in life as does trouble, hurt and sorrow. Let us receive patiently all that falls from the tree of life!

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# Announcements

- ❖ **SCRIPTURE READING TODAY:** Romans 8:1-8
  
- ❖ **PRAYER REQUESTS:** If you have a special prayer request this morning, please take one of the green cards from the rack beside the door, fill it out, and place it in the collection plate. Requests will be in our announcements and prayers.
  
- ❖ **SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION:** There will be a second special collection during morning services today to help offset the cost of replacing our song books. As previously announced, we have set the third Sunday of the month for this purpose.
  
- ❖ **RECORDED SERMONS:** The Sunday morning sermons are being recorded. If you missed part of the lesson or just need to hear God's word again, you can hear the sermons on our Internet site at: <http://www.laplatacoc.com/sermons>.
  
- ❖ **KUDOS!!** We have some good news to share about one of our high school seniors. Quianita Miller has passed the Certified Nurses Assistant (CNA) exam. This is quite an achievement as the exam is the final part of a course of studies at North Point that also included workplace experience. Be sure to encourage Quianita and all our students for their hard work this school year.
  
- ❖ **UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:**
  - Mar. 19 Ladies Bible study class, church bldg., 10 a.m.
  - Mar. 21, 28 Ladies Bible study, church bldg., 6:30 p.m.
  - Mar. 23 Ladies Day, Bayside Church of Christ, see flyer posted on bulletin board
  - Mar. 31 Easter Sunday