

## The Right Culture

Two summers ago I traveled back to Winfield to attend my High School reunion. It was hard to realize that I had been out of High School 30 years, but it was true. Time had taken its toll on several of my classmates; gone were the trim athletes and cheerleaders. In their place was bald heads, graying hair, wrinkles, and larger bellies. Yes, there were some standouts, still trim and young looking but, most had changed dramatically. There was one thing that had not changed with a few, the career. One classmate was a biophysicist, one worked at NASA as an Aerospace Engineer, and several were professional people. Most of us however had simple jobs. One thing I don't like about my class reunions is that people are judged as successes or failures based on what they do and how much money they make. How would you like to be part of a church with the mentality that you are wanted only if you have the right job and have enough money? That is the world's culture.

In a culture like the world's, asking for help is admitting to failure. The world's culture of climbing over people to get to the top has no room for benevolence. But, in the Lord's church we have God's culture that values the poor, the diseased, the uneducated, and the old, as well as the healthy, the educated and the young, the normal and those that have money. The one thing that determines if God sees us as successes or failures is faithfulness to Him. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing." II Tim. 4:7,8

God is benevolent; He is the essence of Love, Grace, Hope, and help. His mercy has reached through sin to reclaim the sinner, to make him and her His own. Truly the word cannot understand Love like that, but those whom God has forgiven do. God's benevolence cleanses our hearts, hands, and consciences; it stands us upright and gives us the most wonderful task on earth, to share His benevolence with other sinful, lost and dying people. Victory is found in God's culture, for all of mankind is highly favored by this benevolent God.

With Love in Christ,  
Larry Scarth