



Thursday Thought

by Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

“Who’s the real enemy”

Thursday, October 27, 2016

Verse for the week: “Proverbs 24:17 (NLT) Don’t rejoice when your enemies fall; don’t be happy when they stumble.”

I have attended a few city council and county board of supervisors meetings in my lifetime. Usually they aren’t all that interesting and are fairly uneventful, but I have been to a couple that elicited a lot of emotion. Recently I attended one that had people so upset they were visibly shaking and their faces were red and contorted. (It intrigues me when people allow themselves to get so upset that they allow their emotions to control them rather than controlling their emotions, but that’s a topic for another time. My wife says I would understand it perfectly if I was a woman.) The people were getting upset with the supervisors who, in this circumstance, were in the same boat as everyone else and couldn’t do anything. Too often we direct our emotions toward the wrong person, treating them as if **they** are the enemy when they either disagree with us, or are not able to control any change. Isn’t that the way it usually happens? We’ve had a bad day and the clerk at the store is a little slow and we blow up at them. Or we come home after a bad day and “bite the head off” of those who we care about the most. The best thing that we can do is to take a deep breath, calm down, and remember **Romans 12:18 (NLT) Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.** When we do this, we will hopefully realize that the person we are being unkind to isn’t the real enemy. In many cases, even the person who we think is the enemy isn’t the enemy. The ultimate enemy that wants to trip us up and cause us to lash out at others is the devil. **1 Peter 5:8 (NLT) Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.** We need to be on guard so that we don’t fall into his trap and end up hurting someone.

Question to ask yourself: When have you displaced your emotions, and took them out on someone else? What will you do to rectify the situation?