



America's Heartland
Roger Alford
 RogerAlford1@GMail.Com

Nothing Smells Worse Than A Skunk Sprayed Hound Dog

When his hound dog got sprayed by a skunk, Bubba headed to Walmart to get the strongest laundry detergent he could find. "You shouldn't use this on your dog," the sales clerk said. "It's too strong. It could kill him." Bubba wasn't going to be stopped. He bought the detergent, and headed home. A week later, the sales clerk saw Bubba in town and asked him if his dog was smelling better. "No," Bubba said. "He died." "Well," the sales clerk said, "I warned you that that detergent might kill him." "It wasn't the detergent that

killed him," Bubba said. "It was the spin cycle that did him in." Well, anyone should know that putting a dog in a washing machine could lead to a bad outcome. In fact, there are lots of things we do that can lead to bad outcomes. Yet, so often we do them anyway. Did you ever wonder why we feel drawn to do things we know we really shouldn't be doing? The Apostle Paul knew what it was to grapple with that very issue, and he offered the answer. Here's what he said: "For the good that I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans

7:19-25). Did you get that? Jesus is the answer. As long as we're in these fleshly bodies, we're going to grapple with the pull and tug to do wrong, to do things that lead to bad outcomes. But through Jesus Christ, we find forgiveness and restoration. In a spiritual sense, the sin in our lives causes us to smell even worse than Bubba's skunk-sprayed hound dog. But we're cleansed by the blood that Jesus shed on the cross of Calvary. The Bible says "if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9). Perhaps you've never accepted Christ as your savior. Perhaps you think it's a difficult legalistic process. It's not. Simply ask the Lord to forgive you and save you, and he'll do it, "for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13). **Roger Alford is pastor of South Fork Baptist Church. Reach him at 502-514-6857 or rogeralford1@gmail.com.**

Breaking Up Fallow Ground

Sunday, September 13th 2020 Morning Message
 Bro. Warren Rogers, Ivory Hill Baptist Church

Here we have a description of our church and all the churches around us. **Hosea 10:1-2 and 10:** "Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images. ²Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images. ¹⁰It is in my desire that I should chastise them; and the people shall be gathered against them, when they shall bind themselves in their two furrows." In **Mark 16:15**, Jesus said unto them, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." God does not expect a person when they are saved to just sit back and watch. He left this last commandment to his disciples and three verses later ascended to heaven. It stands to reason that Jesus was not only speaking to his disciples but to every born-again Christian. It is our job to witness to everyone we meet. We find in Acts, Paul had been in prison and when he got out he traveled Thessalonica, where he preached three days. In Acts 17:6 we find the Jews accusing the Christians of "turning the world upside down." I believe if every born-again Christian dedicated their life to witnessing, we would be accused of the same thing. We need a revival that restores first love and a passion for the lost. We need an old-fashion revival, not just a 2 or 3 day event; revivals that are filled with the Holy Spirit. We need a revival just like in Hosea's day. They were told to break up fallow ground. Webster's dictionary says, "ground left without tilling or sowing after plowing. Dormant or inactive." I think a lot of folks have a lot of fallow ground. Got saved, baptized and then didn't plant or harvest. It tells us in **Matthew 22:9**, "Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage." Fallow ground does not produce anything. Churches have grown cold, unproductive, compromising, preaching to tickle their ears. Slothful Christians are slow to do what God hath commanded in **Judges 18:9**, "And they said, Arise, that we may go up against them: for we have seen the land, and, behold, it is very good: and are ye still? be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land." Slothful Christians hold back from the service of the Lord, **Proverbs 12:27**, "The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious." Slothful Christians find excuses for not getting involved **Proverbs 22:13**, "The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets." How can fallow ground be broken up? By plowing through God's word and applying it to our lives. The Bible enables us to see ourselves as God sees us. Fallow ground can be broken up by repentance **Revelation 2:4-5**, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. ⁵Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." Fallow ground can be broken up by humility and prayer. If there was ever a time in our lives that we need to turn to God as a church or nation, it is now. **2 Chronicles 7:14** says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." What will it take to break up your fallow ground? If you need to talk to me, call 606-481-0444. Until next week, may God bless you!
Bro. Warren

Kitchen Diva by Angela Shelf Medearis

Green Tomatoes: Fruit of the Vegetable Patch

Every year, my small vegetable garden produces far more tomatoes than I can possibly use. As the season wanes, an abundance of green tomatoes forlornly hang on the vine looking for enough sun to turn them into red jewels. I've begun searching for unique ways to use green tomatoes as a vegetable and as a fruit in my recipes. Scientifically, tomatoes are classified as a fruit, but since they don't contain the sweet flavor of most fruits and are typically used in savory dishes, they're legally classified as a vegetable. Tomatoes are low in calories and a good source of vitamins C, A and K. They also are a very good source of molybdenum, potassium, manganese, dietary fiber, chromium and vitamin B-1. In addition, tomatoes contain lycopene, which has antioxidant and cancer-preventing properties. My recipe for Green Tomato and Orange Relish uses green tomatoes like a pickled vegetable. It freezes well, and makes a delicious change from traditional cranberry relish for holiday meals. The spices and flavors of my Green Tomato Spice Cake act as a showcase for the tomato's fruit-like qualities. Whether you decide to use your abundance of green tomatoes like a vegetable or a fruit, you can't go wrong with these recipes!

GREEN TOMATO AND ORANGE RELISH

- 4 medium green tomatoes
- 1 large purple or Vidalia onion
- 1 cup orange marmalade
- 2 cups dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/8 teaspoon red pepper flakes

1. Core the bottom of the green tomatoes and cut them into quarters. Peel the onion and cut it into quarters. Using a food processor, pulse the green tomato and onion 8 to 10 times, until the pieces become small ("pickle-relish" size). Do not puree.
2. Using a 4-quart, heavy-bottomed pot, put in all the ingredients at once. Cook over low heat for 15 minutes, stirring until blended and the sugar begins to dissolve.
3. Turn the heat to medium and cook for 30 to 40 minutes, stirring occasionally. The relish should be syrupy and slightly thick. If it does not seem to have thickened enough, cook the relish 10 minutes more.
4. Cool for 2 hours, and then put the relish in an air-tight container and refrigerate it. The relish can be refrigerated for two weeks. You also can place the cooled relish into plastic zip-lock storage bags and freeze for up to 6 months. Makes 5 cups of relish.

GREEN TOMATO SPICE CAKE

- 1 box spice cake mix
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 2 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup pecans or walnuts, chopped
- 1 cup raisins (or dried cranberries, craisins or currants)
- 1 1/2 cups diced green tomatoes
- 1 large, peeled and diced, Granny Smith apple (about 3/4 to 1 cup)
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup sweetened coconut, toasted, optional
- Whipped cream, optional

1. Heat oven to 350 F.
2. In mixing bowl, lightly beat the water, vegetable oil, eggs and brown sugar until combined, about 2 minutes. Stir in the spice cake mix and flour, and mix until smooth. Stir in the vanilla, pecans or walnuts, raisins, tomatoes and apples. Blend well.
3. Spoon the batter into a greased and floured 9-by-13-inch baking pan. Bake for 45 to 55 minutes, or until a wooden pick or cake tester inserted in center comes out clean. Loosen the cake from the sides of the pan with a knife or spatula. Cool for 30 minutes.
4. Using a fine-mesh strainer or a sifter, sprinkle the top with powdered sugar. When serving, top each slice with a tablespoon of coconut and/or whipped cream, if desired.

(c) 2020 King Features Synd., Inc., and Angela Shelf Medaris



Photo Courtesy Deposit Photos

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Mistake
PEALS

Gift
GITARS

Place
STILLAN

Roam
MARBLE

TODAY'S WORD



"Your tired?! I guess it just proves that women have more _____ than men."

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; for her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. Length of days is in her right hand, in her left hand riches and honor. — PROVERBS 3:13-16



Detail of "Portrait of a Woman" by Louis Anquetin, 1890