

ON THE FRONTIER

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the gospel”

A Full Glass

by Linus A. Mathis III

Have you ever taken a glass and filled it to the brim with water? If you're careful, you can take the water to a level slightly higher than the rim of the glass. This physical marvel is called a *meniscus*. The condition that permits this is surface tension. Intermolecular forces about the individual surface molecules give the water surface properties like an elastic skin under tension. It's a most remarkable sight! (You might want to try this before you read on. At the very least, this little demonstration will educate and entertain your kids. And at its conclusion you may quench your thirst.)

This may all seem ridiculously simple yet, one of life's greatest lessons is to be learned from this full glass of water. You see, since the glass is full, you can't put any more in it. If you try, the surface tension will be broken and the *meniscus* will cease to exist. Moreover, the water will spill out. Nothing will be gained and the additional water will be lost. All efforts will be wasted along with the spilled water. We all know this so well that we give it almost no thought.

The man who knows everything is like a full glass of water, you can't teach him anything. And today there are more and more men who seem to know everything. When I was a kid that type of person was called a know-it-all. When you reach the place where you think

you've learned it all, you ought to start over. You haven't learned anything. You've missed the most rudimentary of life's lessons.

Psalms 25:9

The meek [the receptive] will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

How can God teach and guide someone who already has the answers?

James 4:6

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud [haughty, self-sufficient, the opposite of humble], but giveth grace unto the humble [those who realize that they need God's help].

The words "meek" and "humble" have been degraded in our modern use of them. Today, a person who is meek and humble is considered to be weak and cowardly. Biblically, a person who is humble is wise. A humble person is one who has emptied himself of all arrogant notions of haughty self-sufficiency. They recognize the need for God's help and depend upon it. Meek people are those who have humbled themselves. They have emptied themselves and are ready to be filled. They are teachable. A meek person is one who hears and accepts God's Word without argument and stubbornness. Humility and meekness are not signs of weakness, but of strength and intelligence.

Proverbs 22:4

By humility *and* the fear [reverence, respect] of the LORD *are* riches, and honour, and life.

Modern man is becoming more and more arrogant and self-sufficient. He is a "full glass." Full of himself and full of hot air. This is not an enviable situation. In the logic of Dirty Harry, "they have become legends in their own minds." Unless, that man humbles himself he cannot be delivered.

If you are full, consider becoming empty. If you are pouring God's Word, Matthew 7:6; Proverbs 9:8; 10:17; 12:1; 13:8; 15:31; 25:12 and II Timothy 3:16,17, should be of interest to you.

1 Peter 5:6

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:
