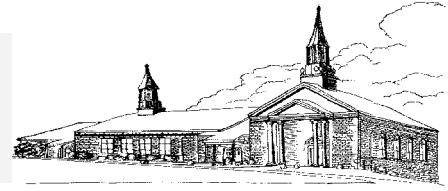


The Olivet Observer



"The little church with a big heart"



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The 147th Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church

I remember riding with my grandpa down an old country highway in the 1980's. We were surrounded by cotton fields and he said, "Oh my goodness it makes my back hurt just to look at it!" By that time, cotton was being harvested using agricultural machinery as it is today. But in his childhood and youth, it was all done by hand. I've heard so many people in my grandparents generation describe how if you've ever picked cotton you know what hard work really is, not only because of the heat and the weight of the cotton bag as it fills up, but also because of the prickly plant itself. One day after I got my drivers license, I decided I would try to see what all this talk was about. I stopped on a road where there were cotton fields and in all honesty, I'm very grateful it was the only cotton I ever picked. One boll was enough for me! Very quickly, I realized it would indeed be difficult to spend all day, during the hottest days of the year in fields picking cotton. It also proved to me that people were not exaggerating when they described how when you picked in the cotton fields not only did your back ache and knees hurt from hunching over for hours at a time, but your fingers would bleed from constantly and quickly grabbing at each fluffy white ball surrounded by sharp protrusions intended to protect it. It was almost impossible not to get pricked repeatedly if you picked fast enough to get your part of the work done. One story told to me by one of my great uncles was of a day when he and my grandpa and their siblings were planting cotton. It was in March and it started snowing. The oldest brother was in charge. The second oldest brother said, "Don't you think we should go back home. It's snowing." The oldest brother answered, "No, I think we should keep working and enjoy the snow, because it sure won't be snowing when we're picking it this summer!" I thought that was a great illustration of making the best of your circumstances.

I don't know if we'll be getting any snow in March of 2025. Personally, it won't hurt my feelings if we don't. Whether we have more snow or not, I think we can all be glad that March has arrived. It's not summer yet, but the days are getting longer. Hopefully it will be a little warmer than it was in January and February. And, before we know it it'll be time for gardeners to start getting their garden spots ready!

March can be a great month as things start to bloom and grow. Flowers and trees will soon begin budding. I hope you will have a very good month this March. As we enter into the first part of the growing season of 2025, as always, I pray we all continue to grow in the knowledge and grace of our Lord Jesus. Enjoy the extra daylight. Make the most of your days and the best of your circumstances. God bless you all!

Grace and peace,