

A Word from Our Preaching Elder:
Sunday, June 14, 2009

"May the LORD watch between you and me
when we are absent one from the other.

Genesis 31:49

When I was in about fourth grade, the little girls in my class all had to have a "friendship necklace." It was actually two necklaces that came in a box together – one for each friend. Separate, each necklace looked like a coin that had been cut in half with a jagged edge. But when you put the two halves together, you could see that there was a heart, and inscribed in that heart were the words of Genesis 31:49 (above). It was cute and, as I said, every little girl had to have one for her BFF (Ask a kid if you don't know)

Little did I know it back then, but that verse was anything but a "pledge of friendship." If you read the story, you'll find that it's Jacob's Father-in-Law, Laban, who speaks these words as a curse against Jacob. Jacob, you remember, was a real scallywag (so too, by the way, was Laban). The two went out of their way to cheat each other. Finally, when Jacob had had enough, he tried to sneak away – taking his family with him. Laban caught up to him and there was big fight. It was when the men decided to separate, never to see each other again, that these words were spoken in anger meaning, "*May God keep his eye on you, because I don't trust you!*"

It's funny, isn't it, how we can misunderstand a verse of Scripture when it is taken out of context and make it say almost exactly the opposite of what it really says? Well, the truth is, I will miss you all while Amy and I are gone to Arkansas, and I do want God to watch over you as our Brother Bob faithfully brings the Word, in context and according to God's clear meaning for your good. Keeping you in our prayers that God will watch between us (in the friendship sense!) while we are apart one from the other!

We'll see you tonight when we get home!

Pastor Scott