

The Apple

In the last few weeks you may have had your church harvest services. The displays of ripe, plump fruit and vegetables on show are always very attractive. One of my favourite fruits is the apple. A harvest display is never really complete without a few shiny, bright, red apples. There are many lessons we can learn from the apple.

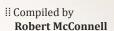
Firstly, all apples are different in colour, size and use. Some are great for eating, while others are better for cooking. However, all apples do have one thing in common. When you cut into their centre, they all have a hard, tasteless core. What a picture this is of us all! Although we are all different on the outside, inwardly we each have that same hard core of sin. This sinful nature within spoils and ruins our lives. Yet it is something that can be dealt with by the Saviour, who is willing and able to cleanse us from all our wickedness, if we repent and seek His forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)



Secondly, there is the storing of the apple. At harvest time, unlike other food stuffs, apples have to be stored away very carefully. They must be placed on racks without touching each other in case of disease. If one of those apples is bad and touches the other apples around it,

the rot will spread, destroying everything. What a lesson about the company a Christian should keep! Are there any rotten apples amongst your friends? Are you being pulled down or led astray? Good companions are a blessing. (Psalm 1:1)

Finally, there is the usefulness of the apple. The rhyme says "an apple a day keeps the doctor away." Apples are full of vitamin C. They are a handy sized, healthy food. They are refreshing, tasty and juicy. I wonder, do our lives reflect the goodness of the apple? Are we sweet and beneficial to those around us? This can only really be the case if are saved and are living in a Christ-like manner in obedience to God's Word. (Galatians 2:20)



'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'

## **PRIZEC!**

Are you 12 or under? Send your answer, name, address and church to:

## Rev. Stephen Pollock

Email: answer@fpvision.org 15 Fernagreevagh Road, Loughgall, Armagh, BT61 8PN

## £5 WINNERS LAST TIME:

- » Maisie Adair (Portavogie)
- » Matthew McCoy (Comber)
- » Adam Watt (Dungannon)
- » Joe McMullan (Portglenone)
- » Jodie McKeown (Aughnacloy)
- » Cophie McAuley (Ballymoney)
- » Joshua Lucas (Garvagh)
- » Judah Omerod (Cloughmills)



EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T WIN THIS TIME, PLEASE KEEP TRYING - MAYBE NEXT TIME!

## Quiz:

Cross out all the different kinds of fruit in the words below to reveal a very familiar Bible verse found in Psalm 34, but what is the verse number?



Banana O orange taste and pear see that grapes apple the plum LORD is peach good: blessed pineapple is the grapefruit man that strawberry kiwi trusteth in date him gooseberry.

Answer: