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Perry Hill Road Bulletin

The Palm and Cedar Trees

"The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon" (Psalm 92:12).

I have always liked looking at palm trees. Of course, growing up in the Midwest I never saw a palm tree, except for potted ones indoors and on television shows, until I went to college in Florida. However, some of my favorite television shows were ones like McHale's Navy and Gilligan's Island (as silly as it was), because both were set on tropical islands with swaying palm trees. I have always thought of sitting under a palm tree on an island beach romantically idyllic. To many people, the palm tree, because it is always green and luxuriant, represents that which grows lush and full.



However, the cedar tree is something with which I have always been familiar because it grows abundantly in the area where I was raised. It evokes a slightly different picture, but there are similarities. Palm wood is not good for much of anything, but cedar wood is prized because it is strong, durable, and fragrant. Also, cedars can grow where other trees will not, so it represents tenacity and endurance. Thus, the "cedars of Lebanon" are used to symbolize strength and stability (Psalm 80:10, 104:16). Continued on next page.....

