

Tidings From Timothy

Honor to whom it is due. This is a great Bible theme. We will study this morning on the purposes of God and how He is due all honor for His many blessings in this life and in the next.

Tonight we will continue our study of Ephesians, Lord willing.

Request: The church is starting a new record book. The old book starts out with a list of the founding members and has been used since the 1850's (No, I don't know how it has stayed together for so long). We want to start the new book with a list of current members. There is a sack to put strips of paper in out front. Just put your name on the paper and your best guess on the date of your baptism for our new record book!

In Need of Prayer: Gerene Garmon had heart trouble last Sunday and ended up at St. Thomas Hospital where they put in a stint. She is now recovering at home. Rachel Bartley had an incident with her heart (some kind of super-ventricular thingy – probably couldn't spell it to save my life). She is back at home now recovering. Lorraine Smith is now at home following a stay in the hospital due to infection. Olene McPherson has been in the local hospital, she is having problems swallowing. Ruby Ford has been in the local hospital hospital. We are saddened at the passing of Ethan Strode, services will be at the high school at 2pm today. Brother Bobby Welch is at Greenview Hospital and things are going well after his hip surgery. He is waiting to hear what comes next from the doctor. Jessica Shaw is having gall bladder trouble and is to see a surgeon about it. We are also saddened at the passing of Hardy Deckard.

The Value of Human Suffering by Wayne Jackson

It has been said that there is no greater education than matriculating through the University of Hard Knocks. One thing is certain; many who have passed through the crucible of suffering will acknowledge that they have found themselves infinitely better for the experience—bitter though it may have been. Robert Browning Hamilton expressed this thought so wonderfully in verse:

I walked a mile with Pleasure
She chatted all the way,

But left me none the wiser
For all she had to say.
I walked a mile with Sorrow
And ne'er a word said she;
But oh, the things I learned from her
When Sorrow walked with me!

Atheism, of course, alleges that the problem of human suffering represents one of the more formidable arguments against the existence of a powerful and loving God. It is not my intention to respond to that baseless argument here; I have addressed it elsewhere in detail (see Jackson, 1983). At this point, it will suffice simply to say that God has, as an expression of His love (1 John 4:8), granted mankind free will (Joshua 24:15; cf. Isaiah 7:15). That free will enables human beings to make their own choices. Foolish choices can have devastating consequences (e.g., suffering). Thus, the responsibility for unwise choices is man's, not God's. The problem of human suffering is not irreconcilable with the love of a benevolent Creator. In this article, we will limit our discussion to the benefits that suffering can provide—if we are wise enough to learn the lessons.

First, suffering highlights the fact that we are frail human beings; that is to say, we are not God. Some, however, have no greater ambition than to be their own God. They are “autotheists” —self-gods. They imagine that they are accountable to no one higher than themselves. To borrow the words of the infidel poet, William Ernest Henley, they are the masters of their fate, and the captains of their souls! These rebels submit to no law save the self-imposed law of their own arrogant minds. But when we humans suffer, we are forced to focus upon our own weakness. There is no remedy within us (see Job 6:13). It is hard to be haughty when you are hurting. Pain can be humbling; it can slap smart-aleckness out of us, and open our hearts to greater vistas.

Second, suffering can draw our interests toward the true God. When one is in a state of anguish that offers little respite, the natural inclination is to turn toward a higher source for help. Only a deliberate and forced stubbornness can quench that urge. When we are hurting, the “God of all comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:3) is waiting to help. Joe, a personal acquaintance of this writer, was taught the gospel of Christ and happily embraced it, being united with the Lord in baptism (Romans 6:3ff). For a while, this likable gentleman in his mid-forties struggled to remain faithful against the powerful, negative influences of a family that had zero interest in spiritual matters. Finally, he drifted away from conscientious service. Then, Joe suffered a severe heart attack. He hastened back to the Savior and maintained a contented fidelity until, some months later, his spirit slipped quietly away into eternity. Suffering can get our attention! David once wrote: “In my **distress** I called upon Jehovah, and cried unto my God” (Psalm 18:6)

What must I do?

- **Hear the Gospel - Acts 15:7**
- **Believe the Gospel - Mark 16:15,16**
- **Repent of Sins - Acts 17:30**
- **Confess Christ - Rom. 10:9,10**
- **Be Baptized for the Forgiveness of Sins - Acts 2:38**

Then, as a Christian we must:

- **LIVE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH - REV. 2:10**

Birthdays:

John	Biggerstaff	01/11
Glenda	Lyon	01/11
Leandra	Price	01/11
Delma	Proffitt	01/12
Brenda Sue	Harlan	01/13
Jean	McPherson	01/13
Hillary	Gillenwater	01/16

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Mt. Gilead church of Christ

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Verses for the Lord's Supper:

John 6:32 - 35 ³²Then Jesus said to them, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” ³⁵And Jesus said to them, **“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.****

Elders:

Keith Dyer.....427-4105
 Veachel Harlan.....487-5727
 Roger Deckard.....487-8544
 Steve Carter.....487-8746

Deacons: Larry Copas, Ray C. Lyon, Cass Thomas Froedge, Bobby D. Gerald, Bobby Harlan, Kevin Deckard, Jimmy High, Gary Rowland

Evangelist:

Tim McHenry, 931-258-3494
 12955 Clay Co. HWY Moss, TN 38575

Schedule of Services:

Sunday:

Bible Study... 9:30am
 Morning Worship... 10:05am
 Evening Worship... 6pm

Wednesday:

Bible Study... 7pm

Listen to our Sunday Morning Radio Sermon on WTKY 1370 AM & 92.1, 102.7, 101.5 FM at 8:30am each week, and to our weekday 10min program after the Noonday news and reports.