



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 26 July 1, 2020

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
John McShane
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

SECRETARY

Dee Parramore

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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WEB PAGE

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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

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Marc Veary.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald..Scotland
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

Lessons from Job on Suffering

Hiram Kemp

There are few people that are unacquainted with the suffering of Job. The New Testament writers expected their readers to know of Job's suffering and his patience (James 5:11). As we read the forty-two chapters that make up the Book of Job, many of our questions about suffering are answered and many others are not. We know that Job was an upright and righteous man (Job 1:1). And we know that Job tried to do the right things in life in relation to his fellow man and his God. Still, Job did not escape suffering; suffering still found its way into the life of righteous Job. Though we may walk in the light of Christianity, suffering will find its way into our lives as well, and we should be prepared (1 Jn. 1:7). Many have claimed that the Book of Job provides answers to human suffering that it does not. Still, others have failed to read and learn the lessons that can be derived from the book. Let us notice a few things that the Book of Job clearly teaches us about suffering in order to be better equipped when the hour of trial comes upon us.

God has Confidence in Humanity

While Job probably never knew about the events in the first chapter of the book, we do. We know that Satan walks into the presence of God and is looking for something to do (Job 1:6-7). God expresses confidence in Job and offers him up to be tested by Satan (Job 1:8). God not only offers Job up to be tested by Satan, but He believes that Job is righteous and will be able to withstand Satan's advances (Job 1:11-12). Even after Satan's initial wave of hardship, God has confidence that even when Job's flesh is touched, he will remain true to his God (Job 2:1-8). Job does get frustrated, angry, and agitated throughout his trials, but he remains faithful (Job 42:7). Satan was wrong, and God was right about Job (Rom. 11:33-36).

Skeptics and unbelievers use suffering as a reason to disbelieve in God, but God believes in humanity's ability to withstand some suffering. He told Paul that the thorn in his flesh was something he could endure (2 Cor. 12:7-10). He also did not remove the cup of suffering that Jesus was going to drink through the crucifixion (Matt. 26:39). We may not have much confidence in our ability to deal with suffering, but God does. He did not think Job would quit and give up just because it was hard to trust him. The Lord uses suffering to refine His people; we are sometimes made better by suffering (Heb. 12:7-11). God believes His people can make it through suffering without losing our faith. We should believe in ourselves as much as the Lord believes in us (John 16:33). Just like He believed Job could endure, the Lord knows that we can, too.

Everyone will Suffer

Job knew that he was not unique as a sufferer. His suffering was intense and harsher than what most people will deal with, but suffering is common to all.

Job said man's days are full of trouble (Job 14:1). Whether we are Christians or not, we will suffer. There is no escaping this reality. Job did not enjoy his suffering, and he struggled to accept it, but he taught us that suffering will be a part of the human experience. Since sin has entered our world so has suffering (see Genesis 3). The question we all have to answer is whether we will suffer as Christians or as heathens (1 Pet. 4:16). Christian suffering results in a crown if we hold fast to Jesus (James 1:12). It is a necessity to enter into the kingdom (Acts 14:22). Job acknowledged that our days are sometimes filled with trouble, but they can also be filled with triumph in Christ (1 Jn. 4:4, 5:4).

Trust God Through It All

Job did not suffer perfectly. He wished that he had never been born and despised the way things had turned out for him (Job 3). However, we should also take notice of the many powerful statements of conviction and faith that Job uttered even though he is dejected and grieved. He knew God should be worshipped even on the worst day of our lives (Job 1:20). He also believed God's name should be blessed no matter what or who we lose in this life (Job 1:21). He understood that if we receive good from God, we should not curse Him when the evil days come (Job 2:9-10). Though Job felt he was being slayed by God, he vowed

to trust him (Job 13:15). He swore to wait until his change arrived (Job 14:14) knowing that his record of innocence was maintained on high (Job 16:19). Job wanted to speak to God and defend himself. When he finally met God through the whirlwind, he confessed that God could do anything, and man should repent when he is made aware of his sins (Job 42:2, 5-6).

When we suffer, we should remember to trust God like Job did. Maybe memorizing some of these statements of fidelity and commitment would be good for us to do. Job shows that the righteous do get upset, but we must never be upended by our trials. Job's friends did not speak correctly about God, and we must avoid repeating their error (Job 42:7). When you are in the heat of hardship, remember to boast in all that God has done and will do (2 Cor. 1:9-11). Hold the end of your confidence firm until the end (Heb. 10:22-23). Remember the patience of Job and how things turned out for him in the end (James 5:11). Just like God did for Job, He will bless our latter end more than our beginning (Job 42:12; Rom. 8:18). Job did not get all of his questions answered, therefore we should not expect that the book which bears his name will answer all of our questions. What Job did receive, God's presence and comfort, was better than answers. God's presence is what we need most in suffering (Matt. 28:20)!

Youth Group

by Vince Daugherty

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."
(Proverbs 1:7)

Do we have a proper "fear" of the Lord? We usually associate fear with a person trembling in a ball on the floor next to something big and terrifying. Some reject the idea of "fearing" the Lord because they equate God as "all-loving" (which He is) as opposed to only a negative idea of fear. While fear can involve a person trembling in terror, the Bible word for fear is much more complex. Reverence is a word that is often used with a "fear" of God. Reverence is defined as a deep respect for something or someone. Fear in the Bible carries the idea of honor and respect. When the alpha lion leads, the rest of the pride fall in line. Growing up, I had a healthy fear of my father. I looked to him for guidance and showed him respect when he was teaching or talking. But on certain occasions, I had a trembling fear when my dad would break out the belt for punishment. To this day, I view myself as having a healthy fear of my father. Fear does not always have to carry negative feelings. In fact, I believe that the firm faith I have in the Lord first stemmed from the fear I had of my own father. To God's enemies, they will tremble in fear of the punishment of eternal separation from God. To God's faithful children, they bow in reverence and fear.

Do you have the right view of the fear of the Lord?

Senior Saints

by John McShane

While watching Vince's sermon Sunday evening, I came across the following verses from Genesis 6:11-12 **"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth."** Those are the reasons why Noah was told to build the ark. My mind tried to tell me that that is close to what is going on in our Nation today. So with my wandering mind, I wondered if our building fund should start investing in gopher wood. We, especially us Senior Saints, know that God is in charge, but how are we going to let the rest of the world know that? We can start by following Paul's advice to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:2. **"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine"**. These words are not only for preachers but are directed to all Christians today.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Our Members:

PRAYER LIST

Ginny Hamby; Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt; Brian Smith; Brenda Mask; Phil Fife; Linda McShane; Margaret Norman; Bernetta Green; Ray Nashick; Carlene Long; Bobby Simpson; Cierra Edwards; Ellen Shearer; Bob Pratt; Ron & Judy Ford; Geny Johnson; Sharon Washington; Stacey Paulin; Annette Phillip; Margaret Coone; Neil Entwistle; Jim Turner; Antoine & Marcella Swain

Others: **George French** (Kenny & Reba's son, pancreatic cancer); **Roselyn Roberts** (friend of Darlene Thompson); **Thelma Rachford** (Dottie Fife's sister); **Maria Wardell** (Darlene Thompson's granddaughter, pneumonia & problems with liver and kidneys); **Alicia Zamot** (Jagie's aunt); **Keith Cozort** (former member); **Chip Bolding**; **Tony Seibert**; **Neil Entwistle Sr.**; **Tanya Irizarry**; **Trevor & Sandy Hutchins**; **Derick Jordan**; **student of Jimmy Sweeney** (brain tumor); **Keijuan Callaway** (Sharon Washington's son); **Mary Ankroum** (knee surgery); **Patricia Hewitt** (chemo); **Phil Sweeney** (shingles, friend of Brenda Mask); **Vontreal Mitchell-Copeland** (Ruby Lewis' nephew, cancer); **Jenny Laws** (Nikki Williams' cousin, cancer); **Tim Kenyon** (Brian's brother, possible cancer); **Terrance Dindy, Sr.**; **Gene Johnson** (Mark Johnson's father, cancer).

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Ron & Judy Ford have not been well lately. **Terrance Dindy, Sr.** was recently in Winter Haven hospital for dehydration. He is now home and feeling better. **Tim Kenyon** (**Brian Kenyon's** brother) is having tests done to check for possible cancer. **Gene Johnson** (**Mark Johnson's** father) has been diagnosed with cancer. He is scheduled for surgery on July 7.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Carol Eason Joyce Burbage
Cheryl Barker Ellen Shearer
Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt

Thank you

To our friends at SFA,

Thanks so much for the phone calls, prayers, and cards. We miss being there for services. But thanks to YouTube again.

We give thanks. Our church friends are special as always.

We love you all, **Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt**

Central Florida Bible Camp 2020!

Happy Campers from SFA, including NayNay's "grandchildren."



Not pictured is Jonny Singh. Thanks to our eldership and those who contributed.



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Sunday, July 5, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"The Scriptural View of Suffering" John 16:33

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
"When Jesus Fed 5,000 People" John 6

Live stream will continue until further notice.

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) Phil Fife
Song before class Brian Kenyon
Announcements Brian Kenyon
A.M. Song Leader David Williams
Scripture reading/Prayer Wesley Brunson
Lord's Table Jeff Stewart
Closing Prayer George Davis

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
Scripture reading/Prayer Rick Kenyon
Lord's Table Jeff Stewart
Closing Prayer Phil Fife

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Song Leader/Prayer David Williams
Closing Prayer David Anderson

ASSEMBLING UPDATE

The State of Florida is now in Phase 2 of re-opening.

If you are not already attending and would like to, please notify the office. We still encourage those who do not feel well and those who consider themselves high-risk to stay at home.

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22. In view of more people attending, we will post a "Those to Serve" list above. If you would like to serve in these areas, please let the office know.

- Elders -

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jun 7	.....	\$7,396.00
Jun 14	.....	\$5,979.00
Jun 21	.....	\$8,651.00
Jun 28	.....	\$6,526.00
Contribution Average	.....	\$7,050.32

Like so many, Asaph was troubled and pondered his situation, likely even as he laid down for sleep. Bedtime, even while overwhelmed with concern, is an excellent time to talk to the Lord about our problems. Asaph did just that (Psalm 77:1-3). However, as do many, the more he thought about his predicament, the larger the problem seemed.

After the musician's constant contemplation of his calamity continued, more terrible thoughts added to his dilemma: Will God no longer help me (Psalm 77:7)? Will His mercy never intervene on my behalf again (Psalm 77:8)? Because of God's anger, will He never again be gracious to me (Psalm 77:9)?

Rather than letting his worrisome thinking make matters worse, his logic and memory returned, putting the situation back into perspective. Asaph now recalled the years that God had helped in the past (Psalm 77:10-19). If our walk and relationship with the Lord are the same as it was when God delivered or watched over us in the past, He will do it again. Our warranty with the Lord has not run out. He is the same God that helped us face the last mountain of fear.

The Day After Sunday Worship

Sing a song of praise
(James 5:13)

Put something into practice you learned
(James 1:22-23)

Pray for someone in need
(Hebrews 13:18)

Thank those who preach the truth
(Galatians 6:6)

Share the truth with someone who wasn't there
(Acts 8:4)

Reach out to someone who has fallen away
(James 5:19-20)

Begin to prepare for next Sunday
(Psalm 122:1)



We REJOICE
with the
angels that
Scout Carter
was baptized
on Tuesday,
June 30, 2020

Scout was
baptized by her
grandfather,
Wayne Shearer,
in Lake Agnes.

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Return Service Requested