

Whispering Hills

Church of Christ



Volume XII, Issue III December 20, 2020

Gathering Times

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

Updates will be forthcoming as to the continual changes with COVID-19.

Leadership

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HOW TO BE SAVED

1. Hear (Rom 10:17; Jn 6:45)
2. Believe (Jn 8:24; Heb 11:6)
3. Repent (Lk 13:3,5; Ac 2:38)
4. Confess (Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9, 10)
5. Baptized (Mk 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21)

Bite of Bread

for the discouraged...

Monday: Joshua 1:9
Tuesday: Isaiah 35:3,4
Wednesday: Isaiah 41:10
Thursday: Psalm 27:14
Friday: 2 Peter 3:8,9
Saturday: **Luke 1:37**
Sunday: 2 Cor. 12:9

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5 Scriptures for when you are Discouraged

The Lord is near to those who are discouraged;
he saves those who have lost all hope.
PSALM 34:18

We have courage in God's presence, because we
are sure that he hears us if we ask him for
anything that is according to his will.
1 JOHN 5:14

I consider that what we suffer at this present
time cannot be compared at all with the glory
that is going to be revealed to us.
ROMANS 8:18

I have the strength to face all conditions by the
power that Christ gives me.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

But his answer was: "My grace is all you need,
for my power is greater when you are weak." I
am most happy, then, to be proud of my
weakness, in order to feel the protection of
Christ's power over me.
2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

Our religious conviction:

*God chose to save the world by sending His Son,
Jesus to die on the cross for our sins (Rom 10:17).*

*Those who choose to believe and obey
the Gospel message SHALL be saved (Ac 2:38).*

*God adds them to the Church of the Bible, daily
which His Son, Jesus the Christ, shall return for (2 The 1:7 - 10).*



food for thought

Discouragement

Discourage is defined to tend to prevent something from happening by making it more difficult or unpleasant (Encarta Dictionary). Thus, it has its proper place. “And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them?” (Num 32:7). No one is exempt from the dark cloud it casts over our lives. Great men of God—David, Job, Jeremiah and Jesus became discouraged. As shocking as it may seem, faithfulness to God and His Word do not guarantee one to not be discouraged. As we speak, the more one is involved in the work of the Lord, the greater, at times, one’s discouragement may be. Those endeavoring to teach God’s Truth and live faithfully as a Christian will encounter many and varied discouragements. What faithful teacher and Christian has not asked at one time or another, “What’s the use”? Jeremiah was met with almost unimaginable discouragements, “Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they *be* all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men” (Jer 9:2). When his efforts to teach others and setting a proper example seem not only to not accomplish nothing, but also to be unappreciated. Discouragement comes to preachers. The pulpit provides no insulation from it. We must remember others before us have had their disappointments and discouragements. Yet, in spite of all his longings to leave, he stood at his post of duty through the weary years, faithful to God even to the last. Jesus and His apostles faced many discouragements and so shall we. Discouragement, though, is not sin within and of itself. It may be defined to deprive of courage or confidence, hinder by disfavoring, to attempt to dissuade; it may be defined as deep and sober concern because of real problems. The real issues and grim realities of life are too deep to pretend nothing is ever bad enough for heartache and tears. It is common for discouragement to be present. We must know how to not only deal with it, but how to overcome.

Dealing With Discouragements

Jesus is our perfect example as we live our lives before God (1 Pet 2:21), the proper standard for conduct and attitudes. The Apostle Paul encouraged the church in Corinth to imitate him as he imitated Christ (1 Cor 11:1). Jesus faced discouragements. We must ask, “How did He handle discouragements”? In learning how He did, we learn how we ought to. Notice some ways He Dealt with those things disappointing and discouraging Him.

He Did Not Give Up. Jesus recognized the key to any situation was in Him, not in the obstacles. This is due to discouragement being a condition of mind, not one of outside circumstances. Happiness does not depend upon where you are, but upon what you are. Keeping in good Spirit is not a question of circumstances about us but, rather, a question of what we are within ourselves.

He Took a Wider View. The higher up you are, the farther you can see. Jesus saw things from the God-ward side and it is not discouraging. He encouraged His Disciples to have that same perspective. They were to “lift up your eyes” (Jn 4:35). No matter what happens in our lives, all will ultimately turn out well if we are faithful in doing the Lord’s Will. The promise is made to faithful Christians “all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Rom 8:18, 28, 35).

He Kept Working. When He was blocked in one direction, Jesus patiently looked in another. When nothing was left for Him to do but to die, He went to the cross willingly and confidently. Sometimes in life, things may not turn out as we have planned or as we would like and we may feel like giving up. Whenever you feel that way, look to Jesus and follow His Example. Keep doing the will of God. Persevere with all your heart.

He Always Prayed. When faced with a crisis situation, Jesus gained strength through prayer unto His Father (Mt 14:23; 26:36-42; Lk 5:16; 6:12). We must be people of prayer (Lk 18:1; 1 The 5:17). In times of dependency, discouragement and disappointment, prayer is the answer (Eph 6:19; Php 1:4; 4:6; Jas 5:16; 1 Pet 4:7).

Conclusion

In the midst of many discouragements, Jesus calmly, serenely and thoughtfully, kept right on proclaiming the great truths of heaven, doing God’s Will and living the proper life (Gal 6:9). So must we.



Continuous Prayers: Walter Simon, Mack & Carolyn Clouds, Ron Forge, Christina Jones, Miguel Graves, Joyce Fair Patricia Hurd, Ruby Busby (Bro/Sis Busby’s FAMILY), Sheila Harris, Curtis Ward, Joyce Gutierrez, Charles Birdow, Mattie Stafford, Annette Rolette, Chris White (Sis White’s son) Adam McCants (Bro Ramsey’s daughter father-in-law) Joel Sotelo Vazquez / Bertha Tapia [Mexico City, Mexico], Alfredo Cabrera/Ana Yescas (Bro Ramsey’s friend) Maria Diaz (Sis Skinner’s neighbor), Willie Gray (Sis Gray’s brother-in-law) Anthony Yescas (Bro Ramsey’s friend)

Sick: Arthur Henry, Dan Allen, Jerry Birdow, Jose (Bro Spataro’s friend)

General: Demetria Washington, Greg Owens (Bro Owens’ brother), Kelvin & Michael Porter (Sis Owens’ brothers), Simon Young, Sam Lily (Sis Guthrie’s stepson), Michael Neazer, M. Staton, Pat White Millicent Douglas (Sis Glasker’s niece), Jane Sikes Carter (Bro/Sis Sikes’ mother), Sue Everett (*former member*)

UPDATES:

1. Please ensure [we] have ALL relevant information pertaining to birthdays and anniversaries for our Bulletin to be current, so [we] may collectively participate in these extra special events with you. If in doubt, please share it, again for ALL of us to know.
2. **Sis Barbara Mackifield** (grandmother of Sis Allen) funeral services were held Friday (18 Dec) in Florida [18 Dec].
3. **Sis Beverly Vess** [Forum-Terrance CC] underwent major surgical procedures (15 Dec) is home requesting PRAYERS [18 Dec].
4. **Fred Anderson** [New Brighton CC] (Bro Ramsey’s daughter-in-law grandpa) died involving COVID-19 [18 Dec].

Upcoming Activities / Announcements

1. **Door Knocking Campaign** Postponed until further notice.
2. Christmas [**Holiday**]: 25 Dec 20 [Last Friday in December]
3. New Year’s Day [**Holiday**]: 01 Jan 21 [First Friday in January]

December’s *Birthdays*

[21] Pat Skinner
 [25] Nicholas Lee
 [29] Lorena Hunter
 [31] BeBe Kay

Anniversaries

[28] The Brager’s

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