



# Whispering Hills

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

— GROWING TOGETHER —

VOLUME I, ISSUE IV

January 22, 2023

### SUNDAY Gathering Times

Bible Class 09:30 AM  
Morning 10:30 AM  
Evening 5:00 PM

### Leadership

#### Elders:

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#### Minister:

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### 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 listen and obey the Gospel message SHALL be saved (Ac 2:38).

God adds them to the church of the Bible, which His Son is coming for because it was purchased with His Blood (Ac 20:28; 2 The 1:7-10).

### HOW TO BE SAVED

1. Hear (Jn 6:45; Rom 10:17)
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)



Our goal is to worship God according to His Will just as the Christians in the first century did (Ac 2:42). Please ask us a question about the reason why we worship the way we do (1 Pet 3:15). Also, please take the time to fill out an attendance card today (in the holder facing you) and give it to one of our members acknowledging your presence with us.



### 5 Scriptures to Remind You God Loves You

No matter how you are feeling today, remember that God loves you and nothing will ever change that fact! These 5 scriptures will remind you of God's love for you.

1. Know that God has promised never to leave you (Hebrews 13:5.)
2. When you look around you and wish you were more like them, remember that God delights in you (Zephaniah 3:17.)
3. When you feel stressed and overwhelmed, take comfort in knowing that God has promised that because He has begun a good work in you, He will see it through to the end. He won't give up on you (Philippians 1:6.)
4. When you feel like a failure, or like you are not measuring up, don't give up. You can do anything with God's help (Philippians 4:13.)
5. The truth is, those thoughts and feelings you've been having (that you are alone, that you aren't good enough, that you can't handle the stress, that you are a failure, etc.) are lies. Lies from the enemy who desires to steal, kill, and destroy anything that would keep you from experiencing the peace, joy, and abundant life God desires for us (John 10:10).

Print them out, memorize them, and proclaim God's truth over your life. The enemy won't be convinced until you are convinced!



### Continuous PRAYERS

Walter Simon, Mack Cloud, Ron Forge, Pat Harper,  
Patricia Skinner, Don Zeno



### General

Greg Owens (Bro Owens' brother)  
Michael Porter (Sis Owens' brother)  
Jessica McCants (Bro Ramsay's daughter)  
Wesley Pollard (Bro/Sis Simon's brother-in-law)  
Baltimore Hernandez (Bro Spataro's brother-in-law)  
Miguel Graves, Jr (friend of Bro Owens, Jr)  
Christopher White (Sis White's son)  
Chantez Thomas (Bro Williams' cousin)  
Claudia Springer (Sis Williams' sister)  
Zaira Arteaga (Bro Ramsay's daughter friend)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

- [1] Our **PRAYERS** should echo loud and clear on a daily basis for God's **GRACE, MERCY** and **LOVE** by taking nothing for granted continuing to live up to His Expectations and Commands through **OBEDIENCE** (Mt 7:21-23)
- [2] **BIBLE STUDY** (**S**unday, 22 **J**anuary @ 09:30 **A**M): Book of **H**ebrews 3:7 - 19
- [3] **L**adies **B**ible **C**lass (Every **W**ednesday in **J**anuary @ 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM): conducted virtually [Duncanville]
- [4] **D**ay of **R**ecognition: **V**alentine's **D**ay (**T**uesday, **F**ebruary 14, 2023)
- [5] **F**ederal **H**oliday: **P**resident's **D**ay (**M**onday, **F**ebruary 20, 2023)



# January

...looking forward to February 2023  
for additional anniversaries & birthdays...



**FOOD FOR  
THOUGHT**

### **Blessed Are They That Mourn**

The Bible says, “**Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted**” (Mt 5:4). There are many doors into the life of blessedness. It does not depend on outward possessions, such as worldly goods or high birth. There is no soul of man, however illiterate, lonely or poor, to step suddenly into this life of beatitude and begin to drink of the river making glad the city of God as it is. Our Lord *lived* this life before He described it. He has opened the doors for us.

People mourn for many reasons: sickness, pain, bereavement, material loss and wounded pride. But, in this context, it is speaking of those mourning for their sins. The Apostle Paul says, “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (2 Cor 7:10). It would include those who mourn over the sins of others (Psa 119:1-50; Dan 9:1-19). When one mourns over one’s sins, then repents and obey the gospel, one is comforted. Their sins are forgiven. One is justified and able to become a child of God with hope (Ac 2:26; 24:15; Rom 5:2, 5; 8:24; 15:13; 2 Cor 10:15; Col 1:5).

This 2<sup>nd</sup> beatitude on the surface appears to be a paradox: “**Blessed (happy) are they that mourn.**” How can mourning make you happy? Why would I ever feel blessed if I’m sad? While the world might suggest that happiness and tears can’t coexist, God paints a different picture. There is some sorrow which not only must be embraced, but is necessary; if we are to ever experience true happiness.

The Bible refers to this type of mourning as “...godly sorrow...” (2 Cor 7:10), which differs from worldly sorrow and has a much different outcome. Paul references a sorrow felt by the Corinthian church because of the 1<sup>st</sup> letter sent confronting and rebuking their sins (2 Cor 7:8-10). While he was initially concerned about how they would receive his admonition, he now rejoices seeing it filled them with “...godly sorrow...” which in turn led to their repentance. He uses their example to teach on the importance of Godly sorrow which can be distinguished from worldly sorrow by the outcome it produces. Godly sorrow leads to repentance and can ultimately lead to our salvation. In contrast, he says, “...sorrow of the world worketh death” (2 Cor 7:10).

This gives us a glimpse into what Jesus says, “**Blessed are they that mourn...**”. He is saying that Kingdom character entails being someone who grieves over sin and wrongdoing. Isaiah says, “For all those *things* hath mine hand made, and all those *things* have been, saith the LORD: but to this *man* will I look, *even to him that is poor* and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word” (Isa 66:2).

These 1<sup>st</sup> two beatitudes (Mt 5:3, 4) are connected (such as Isa 66 and other Scriptures). God loves those who are humble and contrite of heart. The Lord’s half brother says, “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up” (Jas 4:8-10).

We should grieve over our own sins just as David (Psa 51:1-19); grieve over the sins of the church and/or community as Daniel (Dan 9:1-19); and grieve over this painful, broken, sinful world that we live in as the psalmist (Psa 119:136).

If we have this sort of “...godly sorrow...”, then Jesus promises the blessings of comfort: “**Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted**” (Mt 5:4). If our sin and those all around us moves us to mourning, then out of that sorrow (and repentance) can come the unspeakable comfort of a God who ultimately wipes away all tears (Rev 21:4). It has been said the word of God is intended to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. The faithful, who are suffering because of the sins of others can trust in the God of all comfort (2 Cor 1:3-5). The prophet foretold of the Lord’s anointed who would come to “heal the brokenhearted” and “comfort all who mourn” (Isa 61:1-3). But that blessing applied only to the remnant of Israel which had been humbled and grieved by the nation’s punishment for it’s sins (Eze 9:4). Thanks be to God, the anointed One has come and with a heart that is sorrowful over sin, we can experience His abundant comfort (2 Cor 1:5).

