

PULASKI STREET BULLETIN

PULASKI STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

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VOLUME 31, NUMBER 15

April 16, 2020

The Significance of Suffering

(Part 1)

Scripture exhibits a paradoxical relationship to suffering. On the one hand, the Bible says that suffering is worthy of *complaint*. Consider the myriad of laments in the Book of Psalms (cf. Pss. 13; 55; 88). God does not denounce the questions or even the anger that His people voice in their pain and perplexity. On the other hand, the Bible says that suffering is worthy of *celebration*. Consider the following admonition from James: "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (Jas. 1:2-4). James's words resonate with a note struck often in Scripture: There is value in suffering. According to Christian theology and contra secular thinking, suffering is not meaningless. Suffering has significance, and Christians should have a working knowledge of the purposes or benefits of suffering that Scripture underscores. We'll look at two of these purposes below and reserve the other four for subsequent bulletin articles.

Suffering positions us to glorify God. The words *suffering* and *glory* are linked in a surprising number of biblical passages. Paul says repeatedly that our sufferings prepare for us an eternal glory (Rom. 8:17-18; 2 Cor. 4:17). In 1 Peter 1:6-7, the apostle explains why his readers are "grieved by various trials." These have come, he writes, "so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." Trusting God in our suffering obviously prepares and refines us for a future glory, but it also glorifies God in the present, which does not go unnoticed by God or others.

When we treat God as God in the midst of our suffering, we not only glorify Him, but we also show the world where our trust and strength reside. It is when we suffer that we are most tempted to forget who God is and to question Him as to why He didn't do things the way we thought He should. While there is a place for perplexity and questions (see above), we must allow our suffering to remind us of God's unwavering trustworthiness (cf. Job 13:15). In our suffering, we are giving an opportunity to glorify God in a special way. Moreover, our patient endurance of suffering, when onlookers know that we are Christians, can point them to God, revealing His greatness, power, and glory, as well as His worthiness to be trusted and obeyed. Paul never forgot the way Stephen bore up under suffering (Acts 7:54-60; Acts 22:20; 26:14), and Paul would become a "Stephen" to others (Phil. 1:12-13; 2 Cor. 4:10). When we demonstrate in our suffering that God matters more to us than anything or anyone, it gets people's attention. It always has; it always will.

Suffering produces dependence on God. Suffering has a way of transforming our attitude toward ourselves. It humbles us and removes pride. It shows us how fragile we are. Most folks in Western society have extremely unrealistic ideas of how much control they have over their lives. Suffering removes the blinders. Suffering strips the self-satisfied of their pride. Suffering does not so much make us helpless and spin us out of control as it shows us that we have *always* been vulnerable and dependent on God. Suffering merely helps us wake up to that fact and live in accordance with it. Such was certainly the case with Paul (2 Cor. 1:8-10; 12:7-10). It is hard to be haughty when you're hurting.

Moreover, suffering can drive us toward God to pray as we never would otherwise. In suffering, we can find greater depths of intimacy with God than we thought possible. John Newton, who composed "Amazing Grace," once wrote the following to a grieving woman: "Above all, keep close to the throne of grace [in prayer]. If we seem to get no good by attempting to draw near him, we may be sure we shall get none by keeping away from him." Humility involves depending on God in prayer (1 Pet. 5:6-7).

Finally, suffering can strengthen our relationship to God as nothing else can. C. S. Lewis's famous dictum is true that in prosperity God whispers to us but in adversity He shouts to us. Suffering is indeed a test of our connection to God. It can certainly tempt us to be so angry at God and at life that we have no desire to pray, but it also has the resources to greatly deepen our dependence on Him.

Jacob Evans

ELDERS: Tim Hammond, 852-4832 Biff Helton, 242-8785 Bob Markus, 762-9779 Eric Nutt, 242-3566

Please speak with the elder chairman regarding anything you'd like the elders to discuss or to arrange a time to meet with them. The elder chairman for April, May, and June is **Tim Hammond**.

DEACONS: Shayne Adams Joe Cook Jacob Cothren Jim Donnelly Mark Evans Scott Harris Billy Helton III Reggie Holt Shane Hughes Andy Lee Mark Miller Brad Nielsen Caleb Shadrack

MINISTERS: Jacob Evans, 731-343-5325 Jeremy Gargis, 931-231-9557 **Hispanic Ministry:** Rodolfo Espinoza, 615-516-0650 **AGAPE COUNSELOR,** 931-762-8502

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS – April 26, 2020

Please note:

We do not have any definite timetable on when we will be able to resume meeting together in person. However, it seems evident that the present situation will probably last through at least the end of April. We [the elders] will stay abreast of any new information that may allow us to change course.

We will be **live streaming** our worship service via the church's Facebook page again **this Sunday, April 19, at 10:30 a.m.** Just type "Pulaski Street Church of Christ" in the search box on Facebook, and follow the links. The elders, Jeremy, and Jacob will be leading the (abbreviated) worship service. In this way, you'll be able to see some familiar faces and hear some familiar voices.

Recordings of the Sunday morning services will be uploaded to **YouTube** sometime Sunday afternoon. You may view the videos by going to www.youtube.com. Type "Pulaski Street Church of Christ" in the search box to find our channel.

These Sunday morning services will be aired at 6 p.m. on Sunday evenings **over the radio** at least through the duration of this pandemic. (6 p.m. is not an exact time; the broadcast should begin sometime between 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.) **To listen to the broadcast, tune your radio to 106.1 FM (Lawrenceburg), 93.1 FM (Loretto), or 590 AM (Lawrence County).** You will also be able to access the broadcast through the X Radio App on both Apple and Android. Our main target group for this endeavor are those in our church family and other sister congregations who do not have access to the internet, Facebook, etc. Please share this information with anyone you might know who could benefit from it. We're doing all we can to stay connected to our church family from the youngest to the oldest.

On **Wednesday** evenings, Jacob will be live streaming a devotional message from his Facebook page at **7 p.m.**

SERVING THROUGHOUT APRIL

Baptismal Clothes.....Gina Burns and Shirley Evans
Please check at each service for garments and towels that need to be washed. The baptistry is used frequently for jail ministry baptisms.

Sunday Morning Song Leader.....Eric Nutt
Sunday Evening Song Leader.....Jeremy Gargis
Wednesday Evening Song Leader.....Joe Cook

Prepare Communion.....Jennifer, Olen, Diane Springer
Pick up Cups.....JoJo and Vangie Gieske

April 8 and April 12, 2020

Mid-Week Bible Study.....	—
Sunday Morning Bible Study.....	—
Sunday Morning Worship.....	—
Sunday Evening Worship.....	—
Contribution (2020 Budget \$10,635.48).....	\$8,767.00
Average (last available).....	\$9,843.51

Pulaski Street Church of Christ
247 Pulaski Street
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

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LAWRENCEBURG, TN
PERMIT NO. 112

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SCHEDULE of SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:25 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.*
Wednesday night.....7:00 p.m.
(*Each 4th and 5th Sunday evening service is at 1 p.m.)

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

◆ On WDXE AM 1370/FM 102.5 ◆ 12:45 p.m. ◆ Monday – Friday ◆
The upcoming week of April 20 – April 24 will be hosted
by the **DEERFIELD** Church of Christ.

PANTRY LIST

instant potatoes/8 oz. pkg. **rice**/1 lb. bag
crackers/1 lb. box **macaroni & cheese**/7.25 oz. box
quick oats/18 or 42 oz. **OR** boxes of individual packets
dried beans/1 lb. bag **ramen noodles**/3 oz. pkg.
cans of: **tuna**/6 oz. **Vienna sausage**/5 oz. **salmon**/15 oz.
SpaghettiOs, ravioli, etc./15 oz. can
fruit or vegetable juice/46 oz. can or bottle
peanut butter/18 oz. jar **soup**/10.5 oz. can
canned vegetables/14.5 oz. can...
(corn, green beans, peas, baked beans, pork & beans, etc.)
canned fruit/15 ¾ oz. (peach, pear, etc.)
canned meat/12-24 oz. (Spam, Treet, Chicken, etc.)
jelly, jam, or preserves/18-32 oz. jar

Monetary contributions are always welcome!
Make check payable to Pulaski Street Church of Christ,
and please indicate "PANTRY" on the memo line.
Thank you!

Services, events, and office hours have been and could continue to be altered, postponed, or cancelled due to recommendations regarding the current coronavirus situation.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the birdhouse that was sent when Buddy's grandfather passed away. It really means a lot that people are thinking of you at such a hard time. Thanks to those who came to visitation and the funeral as well. Love my Pulaski Street family. **Buddy and Terri Rose, McKenna and Callie**

Thanks to our elders, preachers, and all those that made it possible for me to enjoy the worship on the radio on Sunday night. It really makes me feel like I'm right there with you. I follow along with my Bible, take notes, and then I do my communion with you. Thanks again. Keep up the good work!
Hazel Violet

Thank you so much for my birthday surprise. I absolutely loved it. This was my best birthday ever!
Maxine Anderson

INFO and REMINDERS

1. As of Tuesday, April 14, the plan is still to have the elders, Jacob, and Jeremy leading an abbreviated **worship service** on Sunday, April 19, (and following Sundays as necessary) at 10:30 a.m., which will be **live streamed** from our auditorium using **Facebook**. Recordings of the Sunday morning services will be uploaded to YouTube. You may view the videos by going to www.youtube.com. Type "Pulaski Street Church of Christ" in the search box to find our channel.

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2. We have **personal communion kits** (PCKs) on hand at the church office. Drop by during weekday office hours to pick up your portion of PCKs.

3. Your **weekly contribution** can be mailed to the church office at 247 Pulaski Street, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464, or it can be delivered to the church office during office hours weekdays.

4. We are helping provide **food for Ingram Sowell students** while school is out. At this time, donating money is the best way to help with this project. You can drop that by the church office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays.

5. **Graduates**, please e-mail your photos and info to us soon.

6. Please continue to check on your fellow church members, family, and neighbors, especially the elderly, and see how you can help.

SYMPATHY



We extend Christian love and sympathy to the family of **KNOX HOLDER**. Knox was **Bob Markus's** uncle and **Mindy Markus's** great uncle. He was a cousin of **Polly Gray**. Arrangements with Neal Funeral Home were incomplete at print time. Condolences may be sent to **Bob and Linda** at 104 *Roberta Lane, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464*, to **Mindy** at 1804 *Frances Street, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464*, and to **Polly** at 504 *N. Military Ave., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464*.

We extend Christian love and sympathy to the family of **JUDY NEWTON**. Judy was the sister of **Margaret Hammond**. Margaret and her husband, Leonard, are former members here. A memorial service will be held later. You may send condolences to **Leonard and Margaret** at their new address: 11750 *Co. Rd. 71, Lexington, AL 35648*.

We extend Christian love and sympathy to the family of **JACKY GRINNELL**. Jacky was the brother-in-law of **Olen and Diane Springer** and the uncle of **Alana Dickey and Jennifer Springer**. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Condolences may be sent to **Olen and Diane** at 314 *Prosser Rd., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464*, **Alana Dickey and family** at 71 *Taylor Circle, Ethridge, TN 38456*, and to **Jennifer Springer** at 200 *Fleet Ave., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464*.

We extend Christian love and sympathy to the family of **BOBBY VANDIVER**. Bobby was the uncle of **Cara Robertson**. He was the brother-in-law of Cara's dad, **Jackie McCord**. A graveside service for immediate family only will be held. Condolences may be sent to **Cara and family** at 21 *Land Rd., Leoma, TN 38468*, and to **Jackie McCord** at 308 *Ellingson St., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464*.

We extend Christian love and sympathy to the family of **JIM LAWSON**. Jim was a youth deacon at the Hendersonville Church of Christ when **Jeremy Gargis** interned there. He passed away from complications with COVID-19. He leaves a wife, **Theresa**, and three children, **Amanda, Megan, and Joseph**.

We extend Christian love and sympathy to the family of **CAROLE CHILDERS**. Carole was the wife of **Tom Childers; Tom and Jacob Evans** have worked together for several years on the Southeast Lectureship books.

We extend Christian love and sympathy to the family of **MARLIN CONNELLY**. Marlin was a longtime Gospel preacher and teacher at David Lipscomb.

We extend Christian love and sympathy to the family of **ROBIN ANDERSON** and **HANNAH MOON**. Robin and Hannah were killed in a car accident on Friday, April 10. Robin was the father of **Devin Anderson** who is the nephew of **Christy Smith**. Condolences may be sent to Devin at *c/o Heather McNatt, 187 Wagoner Hill Rd., Fayetteville, TN 37334*.

YOUTH NEWS

I remember when I was only four or five years old walking through the aisles of Piggly Wiggly in Central Heights, Alabama, with my friend Brandon Wesson and his mom. I was spending the day with him, and we were not very happy that we had to suspend our playing outside for a little while so his mom could go grocery shopping. As young children tend to do, though, we found a way to make the best of the situation.

Each time we would stop as Brandon's mom looked at various items, we would argue back and forth about various things. The one thing that sticks out in my mind is how big our dads were. I would hold my hands out in front of my stomach and say, "My daddy's this big." Brandon would then try to reach his hands out even farther, while replying, "Well, my daddy's thiiiis big." Then, I would arch my back as much as I could, stretch my arms out as far as they could go, and say, "Oh yeah? My daddy's thiiiiiiiiiiis big!" On and on we would go trying to prove that our daddy was the biggest (sorry, dad).

There is no denying that parents who invest in their children the way that they should have a lasting impact on their children. Brandon and I both had parents who loved us, and we both thought that our respective parents were the best, and we turned it into a competition, even if it was about how big our dads were! Ha!

While we should honor our parents and speak highly of them, how much more worthy is our heavenly Father?!? As children of God, we should regularly be telling people how great our Father is!

Just think of some of the things that could have been uttered over the years about the supremacy of our Father:

"Our Father parted the Red Sea as we were fleeing the Egyptians..."

"Our Father caused the walls of Jericho to fall..."

"Our Father gave Gideon a victory despite the fact that there were only 300 men in his army..."

"Our Father helped David defeat Goliath, a great man of war, when he was only a teenager with no military experience..."

"Our Father provided Esther with an opportunity to save her people, the Jews..."

"Our Father demonstrated His love for us by permitting His only Son to be killed for us..."

Time and time again throughout history God has given His people reasons to boast in Him. He has demonstrated His power. He has given proofs of His justice. He has shown His love. He has removed any excuse not to exalt Him!

What are we doing to tell others just how great our Father is? Are we telling our friends? Are we telling our families? Are we telling the strangers that we come into contact with? As children of the high and holy God, we should be telling others daily of His power, His mercy, His grace, His justice, His love, and His Son.

Until next time,
Jeremy Gargis

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

As of Tuesday, April 14:

DONNA HELTON is getting a little better each day as she continues to recover at home from head and facial injuries she suffered in a fall. 219 *Waterloo St., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464*.

CHAD BROWN, father of **Josie Brown** and **Mary Beth Brown**, is recovering well after surgery to relieve a blockage in his right leg. He will still be having surgery for the blockage in his left leg, but that has been delayed until at least June. 216 *Admiral Circle, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464*.

SHANNON COTTON, granddaughter of **Jean Caperton** (neighbor of **Jean Parrish**), is back at home after lengthy hospital and nursing home stays with a serious respiratory illness. *c/o Brenda Stooksberry, 107 Horseshoe Bend, Leoma, TN 38468*.

LINDA JENKINS, sister of **Mike Hughes**, had bypass surgery last week in Birmingham, AL, for a completely blocked carotid artery. The surgery went well, and Linda is recovering at home. 14173 *CO RD 33, Killen, AL 35645*.

CLIFFORD DOYLE JOHNSON, brother of **Hazel Violet**, is undergoing chemotherapy treatment on Mondays and Tuesdays and radiation treatment Wednesdays through Fridays. The treatment schedule has not been easy on him, but his doctors are pleased with the results to this point. 1842 *Dunroamin Lane, Fayetteville, TN 37334*.

Please continue to remember: **Mary Louisa Belew, Kym Bilbrey Brown, Willodean Campbell, Lorene Chandler, Nell Dixon, Ruth Goff, Donna Marston, Michael Mashburn, Thelma McCloud, Bobby and Mary Ann Curtis, Phillip Gattis, Dustin Haltom, Martha Hampton, Kevin Huckaby, Clifford Doyle Johnson, Linda Kelley, Keith Mattox, Emma Moore, Jay Thomas**, and all those recently mentioned.

Be still, and know that I
am God: I will be exalted
among the nations, I will
be exalted in the earth.

Psalm 46:10



For this light momentary
affliction is preparing for us an
eternal weight of glory
beyond all
comparison....

2 Corinthians 4:17