

PULASKI STREET BULLETIN

PULASKI STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

247 Pulaski Street, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

931-762-5161

fax 931-762-5269

pulstch@pulaskistreet.com

www.pulaskistreet.org

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April 30, 2020

The Significance of Suffering

(Part 3)

As we have already established, Scripture says that suffering is worthy of both complaint and celebration, and it is the latter thought that we have been exploring. We only have two more benefits of suffering to discuss.

Suffering prepares our hearts for ministry. Adversity makes us far more compassionate than we would be otherwise. As one person said, "One cannot comfort effectively until he has lain in the bed of suffering." When we saw others suffering before experiencing any significant suffering of our own, we may have secretly wondered what all the blubbing was about and why people cannot just suck it up and move forward. Then it comes to us—and ever after, we understand. When we have suffered, we become more tenderhearted and able to help others in suffering. If we handle suffering properly and refuse to allow it to make us hard, it can create wisdom in us, providing us with a range of insights that are useful to many other people we meet.

Consider the dynamics of 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. Paul's sufferings drive him to God and his unfathomable comforts. Paul then shares these comforts with others in affliction, and the implication is that these sufferers, in turn, become comforters to others—and on and on it goes. The church then becomes a community of profound consolation, a place where people get enormous support for suffering and where they grow, through their troubles, into the people God wants them to become.

Isn't it true that when we are suffering that we want to share our suffering with someone who can sympathize, even empathize, with what we are enduring? Beyond our family and friends, we must not overlook Jesus in those times of suffering. He can sympathize with anyone about anything (Heb. 2:18; 4:15).

Suffering pushes us to long for the life to come. Peter sought to encourage early Christians who were being persecuted not to despair by reminding them that they were but "sojourners and pilgrims" upon this earth (1 Pet. 2:11). Paul echoes this sentiment in Philippians 3:20: "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." The ancient patriarchs "confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth," so they looked for "a better country, that is a heavenly [one]" (Heb. 11:13-16).

This life is the time of testing man's heart, and this world is the place where the testing takes place. But this world is not man's home. Suffering, more than anything else, tends to remind us of this fact. It is not the will of God that people live upon this pain-plagued planet forever. We never will be "at home" until we are "with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8), and suffering helps make us homesick. Heaven is going to be a wonderful eternal existence that is worth all the suffering we might endure in the meantime (cf. Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17; Rev. 21:4).

Let's review. Suffering is unquestionably significant for those who respond appropriately and constructively to it. Suffering positions us to glorify God, produces dependence on God, promotes our spiritual maturity, proves the authenticity of our faith, prepares our hearts for ministry, and pushes us to long for the life to come. Whenever you suffer, it is okay to lament your suffering, but don't get lost in the lamentation. At some point, you need to lift your eyes to God, remember who He is, and recall the good things that God can accomplish through your suffering.

Jacob Evans

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS – May 10, 2020

UPCOMING WORSHIP INFO

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 continue for some time. We [the elders] will stay abreast of any new information that may allow us to change course.

We are aware of the video problems that occurred on Sunday, April 26, and we are working toward smoother streaming experiences in the future.

In order to access the **worship service** this Sunday, **May 3, at 10:30 a.m.**, you can go to one of two places: (1) Jacob Evans's Facebook Page or (2) Pulaski Street Church of Christ's YouTube Channel. (You will NOT be able to access the streamed worship service through Pulaski Street's Facebook page.)

The elders, Jeremy, and Jacob will be leading the (abbreviated) worship service.

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.

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

SERVING THROUGHOUT MAY

Baptismal Clothes.....Judy Butler and Sandi Cook
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.....Carter Hughes

Prepare Communion.....Christy Smith
Pick up Cups.....Olen and Diane Springer

April 22 and April 26, 2020

Mid-Week Bible Study.....	—
Sunday Morning Bible Study.....	—
Sunday Morning Worship.....	—
Sunday Evening Worship.....	—
Contribution (2020 Budget \$10,635.48).....	\$9,511.00
Average (last available).....	\$9,791.10

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
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LAWRENCEBURG, TN
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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 May 4 – May 8 will be hosted
by the SALEM 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 ¼ 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 could continue to be altered, postponed, or cancelled due to recommendations regarding the current coronavirus situation.

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

NEW GREAT GRAND

baby boy

Brand new baby boy **CLAYTON "WELLS" BASS** was born on April 22, 2020, in Nashville, TN, to parents **Brooks and Shae Bass**. Wells arrived weighing 7 lbs. and 11 oz. and measuring 21 inches long. Wells has a big brother, **Walt Bass**.

Pulaski Street great grandparents are **Ruby Bass** and **Jim and Elizabeth Land**.

Mother and baby are home and doing well.

MEMORIAL

A donation from **Tom and Sally Hestle** has been given to the Pulaski Street Church of Christ Building Fund in memory of **KNOX HOLDER**.

Amazing!

The *Greyhound* had been thrashing about in the north Atlantic storm for over a week. Its canvas sails were ripped, and the wood on one side of the ship had been torn away and splintered.

The sailors had little hope of survival, but they manually worked the pumps, trying to keep the vessel afloat. On the eleventh day of the storm, sailor John Newton was too exhausted to pump, so he was tied to the helm and tried to hold the ship to its course. From one o'clock until midnight, he was at the helm.

With the storm raging fiercely, Newton had time to think. His life seemed as ruined and wrecked as the battered ship he was trying to steer through the storm. Since the age of eleven, he had lived a life at sea. Sailors were not noted for the refinement of their manners, but Newton had a reputation for profanity, coarseness, and debauchery which even shocked many a sailor.

John Newton survived that day at the helm. That day, March 21, 1748, was a turning point in his life. It was a day that he would never forget, for he believed that "on that day the Lord sent from on high and delivered me out of deep waters." On that day, he began to turn to the Christ that he had ignored since childhood when his mother had tried to teach him the Scriptures.

Newton went on to write the words of the following beloved hymn:

"Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see."

Newton lived to be eighty-two years old. Even then, Newton never ceased to be amazed by God's grace and told his friends, "My memory is nearly gone; but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior."

via *House to House, Heart to Heart*, Vol. 24, Number 3 (adapted from Stan Mitchell, *Forthright Magazine* and *The Reformed Reader*)

INFO and REMINDERS

Please note: We are aware of the video problems that occurred on Sunday, April 26, and we are working toward smoother streaming experiences in the future.

The elders, Jacob, and Jeremy plan to lead an abbreviated **worship service** that will be streamed at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 3, (and following Sundays as necessary).

TO ACCESS:

Via Internet



To join the stream, you can go to one of two places: (1) **Jacob's Facebook Page** or (2) **Pulaski Street Church of Christ's YouTube Channel**. You will NOT be able to access the stream worship service through Pulaski Street's Facebook page. During his sermon, Jacob will be able to incorporate PowerPoint slides for visual learners and avid note-takers.

Via radio

The Sunday morning services will **air at about 6 p.m.** on Sunday evenings over **the radio**. (6 p.m. is not an exact time; the broadcast should begin sometime between 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.) 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.)

On **Wednesday evenings**, Jacob will be **streaming a devotional message from his Facebook page** and **from Pulaski Street Church of Christ's YouTube Channel** at 7 p.m.

We're doing all we can to stay connected to our church family from the youngest to the oldest. Please share this information with anyone you might know who could benefit from it.

During **office hours (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)** you may pick up personal communion kits and/or drop off your weekly contribution or money to help feed Ingram Sowell students. You can also mail contributions/donations to 247 Pulaski Street, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

Graduates, please e-mail your **SENIOR PICTURE** and info to pulstch@pulaskistreet.com.

Senior Night will NOT take place on May 10 as had been scheduled. It may

Pulaski Street's **Vacation Bible School** (scheduled for June 7-11) will NOT take place this year.

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. 1 John 5:4

YOUTH NEWS

We've been having some virtual Bible classes with the teens lately revolving around the seven "I Am" statements of Jesus in John's Gospel. It has been encouraging to consider once again the hope that these statements bring about!

"I am the bread of life." In John 6:35, Jesus tells us that He is the answer to hunger and thirst. This is obviously not a physical hunger and thirst, but a spiritual one. And Jesus will fill us up.

"I am the light of the world." John 8:12 teaches that Jesus gives light to our paths. Similar to what we read in Psalm 119:105 which tells us that God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, Jesus, the Word (John 1:1ff.), gives light to those who follow Him.

"I and the door." Jesus tells us in John 10:7-9 that He is not "a" door, but "the" door. He is the only way into His sheepfold. He knows us, we know Him, and we can find pasture only through Him.

"I am the good shepherd." Just after saying that He was the door, Jesus says that He is the good shepherd (John 10:11). A good shepherd protects the flock. A good shepherd has the sheep's best interest at heart. A good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. Jesus did and continues to do all of these things.

"I am the resurrection and the life." In John 11:25, Jesus told Lazarus's sister Martha that He was the resurrection and the life. Adding emphasis to this particular statement is the fact that Lazarus was dead and had been in the tomb for four days. Shortly after making this claim, He would resurrect Lazarus, allowing him to continue his life. He will do the same for us.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life." While many of these statements imply similar truths, Jesus makes it even more clear than He did with His "I am the door" statement that He is the only way to the Father.

"I am the true vine." Jesus is the vine, and His Father is the vinedresser, and His disciples are the branches. As we truly follow Him, we bear fruit by staying connected to the vine and being pruned by the vinedresser.

There is one other "I Am" statement of sorts. Perhaps it was the most astonishing one of them all to those that heard it. It comes from John 8, which is packed full of good stuff. Jesus has just told the Jews that they were of their father, the devil, as they were making claims to be children of Abraham. After further discussion the Jews posed a significant question: "Are you greater than our father Abraham?" In response, Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I AM."

In this declaration, Jesus shows that He has been there from the beginning and is superior to Moses. While this shocked the Jews that heard it, it gives us confidence today. The Savior that we serve is not only all of the things mentioned above from the seven "I Am" statements in John's gospel, but also the everlasting King who was, and is, and is to come!

Until next time, **Jeremy Gargis**

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

As of Tuesday, April 28:

NELL DIXON is scheduled for knee replacement surgery on Wednesday, May 20. Nell has been awaiting this surgery for the past few months after suffering a knee injury and having severe pain since late last year. 1505 Massey Ave., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

JEFFREY HUGHES is living in the midst of a COVID-19 outbreak at the Bledsoe County Correctional Complex. Two of his fellow cellmates have tested positive for the virus. You may send cards of encouragement to Jeff addressed this way: *Jeffrey W. Hughes, IM#571879, Bledsoe County Correctional Center, 1045 Horsehead Rd., Pikeville, TN 37367.*

DONNA MARSTON is scheduled for one more chemotherapy treatment on May 7, and surgery will be scheduled following that. 5 Ashley Court, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

JAMES MCCLLOUD was scheduled for an [essential] eye injection on Tuesday, April 28, in Nashville. 512 Bumpas Rd., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

THELMA MCCLLOUD was scheduled to have an epidural injection on Wednesday, April 29, in Columbia. Thelma has been coping with severe back pain for the past few months while awaiting this treatment. 512 Bumpas Rd., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

RUBY WELCH is home and feeling better after a stay in Maury Regional with heart problems. She is scheduled to see her doctor on Thursday, April 30, and she has an appointment at the hospital that day to receive a heart monitor. 411 Morris Street, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

BOBBY CURTIS, uncle of **Eric Nutt** and brother-in-law of **Howard Nutt**, has transferred to TrustPoint Hospital in Murfreesboro for physical therapy following a lengthy hospitalization with COPD. Home address for cards: 1007 Whitehall Rd., Murfreesboro, TN 37130.

ANNIE HARDISON, a dear friend of **Dean Hughes**, recently fell and broke her left shoulder. (Contrary to the information in last week's bulletin, the surgery has not yet taken place.) Annie will require a complete left shoulder replacement, but because of the COVID-19 situation, the procedure has not yet been scheduled. 1788 Medical Park Drive, Apt. E405, Biloxi, MS 39532.

EMMA MOORE, granddaughter of **Barbara Weaver** who attends our Ladies Bible Class, was recently diagnosed with eosinophilic esophagitis, which is a chronic, allergic inflammatory disease of the esophagus. She will be having an endoscopy as soon as possible to see if healing has occurred. Two attempts have been made to introduce food while the feeding tube is still in place; both were unsuccessful. Emma's family is awaiting further instructions from the doctor. 157 Lanning Road, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

KATHRYN SANDLIN, grandmother of **Katie Lee**, was admitted into MRMC on Saturday, April 25, with heart failure. As has been protocol during this pandemic, she can have no visitors. You may send cards of encouragement to the following address: 194 Old Florence Pulaski Road, Leoma, TN 38468.

Please continue to remember: **Mary Louisa Belew, Kym Bilbrey Brown, Willodean Campbell, Lorene Chandler, Ruth Goff, Donna Helton, Michael Mashburn, Chad Brown, Phillip Gattis, Dustin Haltom, Martha Hampton, Kevin Huckaby, Linda Jenkins, Clifford Doyle Johnson, Linda Kelley, Keith Mattox, Jay Thomas**, and all those recently mentioned.