

Please thank these...

Thank the men from our congregation who will be preaching for us today: **Phil Cornelius** and **Chuck Limburg**.

Quotations about Trials of Life

“It is one thing to read the Scriptures and affirm their truth. But until you are in the trenches of trial, until you are faced with life circumstances that test your faith, until you are pressed to the absolute limit of your physical and emotional capacity, until you face the unrelenting stress of ongoing trauma, you never really know how you'll respond to what you may have embraced so easily during a comfortable Bible study.” - Kevin Malarkey -

February Birthdays

8 Zoie Perales 18 Hazel Brouillette 24 Jonathan Munayco

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
(Vacant)

Church of Christ
81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

Indio Informer

Vol. 26 No. 5

February 1, 2015

“Trials of Life...”

Are You Down in the Pits?

By Don Williams

“And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colors that was on him, and they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it” (Genesis 37:23-24).

Have you ever felt like Joseph must have felt on this occasion? Forsaken by those who loved you—having that which was precious to you taken away (his freedom and his coat)? Their original thought was to kill him, but eventually they chose to get rid of him by selling him to Ishmaelite traders. They thought they were through with Joseph, but God intervened.

Trials in life make us bitter or better. Problems can either be opportunities to strive to do the right thing, or they can be obstacles that cause us to shrink back and not do what we can to fix the problem.

A friend once called me with a personal problem. His words were, “I’m about at the end of my rope—I do not know where to turn.” He was down in the pits, but instead of withdrawing and giving up, he asked for help. He surrounded himself with resources (his friends) who could give him counsel and insight into how he could get out of the pits. Today he is much better because he allowed the “bumps” in his road to lift him up to a higher plane of living.

Joseph no longer had his family, but he had the greatest friend man ever had—his God (Romans 8:31). His days of despair were not over. He ended up in the pit (prison) again because he maintained his integrity and his accountability to God. *“How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”* (Genesis 39:9). Even in prison, God was watching over him and blessed him (Genesis 39:21-23). In the end, God made Joseph the second in command of the pagan nation of Egypt. Joseph was reunited with his people,

and ultimately (providentially) his family became the nation of Israel that inherited the promised land.

God has promised us that He will not forsake us (Hebrews 13:5-6). Even when we must travel through the valley of death, He has promised to stay with us (Psalm 23:4).

May we look for the help He makes available to us, and may we strive to use the problems of life as stepping-stones to greater service and as opportunities to grow and to become better, stronger children of God.

Trust the Lord

By Mike Vestal, Midland, Texas

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5).

The pressures and anxieties of life can lead us to trust worldly wisdom rather than in our all-knowing God. However, real peace and strength are only found when we place our confidence in Him (Psalm 32:10; 125:1). We should trust the Lord...

In Everything. *“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths”* (Proverbs 3:6). Some revel in their independence; others think they are self-sufficient (Revelation 3:17). Nothing could be further from the truth! We are insufficient (James 4:10) and are desperate for God’s help. *“The Lord shall help them . . . because they trust in him”* (Psalm 37:40).

For Everything. *“Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass”* (Psalm 37:5). Every good and perfect gift comes from the heavenly Father (James 1:17). It is easy for us to think that everything we attain is solely through our own efforts, but that is not so, for in God we live and move and have our very being (Acts 17:28).

With Everything. *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”* (Matthew 6:21). Some people cling to possessions or pride as though they were going to have them forever. To the faithful child of God, the Father must come first (Matthew 6:33; Luke 14:25–33).

Through Everything. *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”* (2 Corinthians 4:17). We must trust God even in the midst

of trials, for although we may not understand the purpose of those difficulties, He will get us through them. *“The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate”* (Psalm 34:22). May we truly be able to say, “In God we trust!”

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart.”

Proverbs 3:5

The Emperor Moth

By Tony Williams

A man once found a cocoon of an emperor moth and decided to take it home to watch the moth come out. One day, he noticed a small opening had appeared in the cocoon. He watched the moth off and on for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. It finally reached the point where it seemed to stop making progress. He thought the moth had made it as far as it could and was stuck. Out of kindness he decided to help.

He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon so that the moth could get out. The moth came out, but had a swollen body and small shriveled wings. He expected the body to shrink and the wings to grow to be able to support the moth in flight. Neither ever happened.

The bloated moth spent its shortened life crawling around on the floor. The man acted from kindness but did not understand that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the moth to emerge were necessary to move fluids from the moth's body to its wings. Without the struggle, there could be no flight.

Sometimes people wonder why God allows trials and tribulations in this world. The answer lies in the fact that we derive great benefit from the struggle. The troubles we face teach us more about ourselves. From a personal perspective, I have learned much more from my failures than I ever have from my successes. Personal loss reminds us that this world is not our home. Personal triumph is not possible without personal tragedy. God, the all-knowing Father, allows trials because He sees with an eternal perspective. Our faith should be great enough to allow us to see adversity as an opportunity, not a tragedy.

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” - James 1:2-4