

Planning Ahead!

Special Congregational Meeting: Today, evening service: financial report; 2016 budget; “corporation meeting”.

25th Annual “Last-Saturday-in-February” meeting: just 3 weeks away! Saturday, February 27. A **workday** will be held on Saturday, February 20; start about 9:00 a.m.

February Birthdays

8 Zoie Perales 18 Hazel Brouillette
25 Mike McKnight

February Anniversaries

5 Mike and Morgie McKnight

Read through the Bible in 2016!

(Submitted by Mike McKnight)

Suggested chapters to read so that we might read through the entire Bible during 2016! **This week’s “schedule”:**

- **Day 39** - Exodus 28-29 Monday
- **Day 40** - Exodus 30-32 Tuesday
- **Day 41** - Exodus 33-35 Wednesday
- **Day 42** - Exodus 36-38 Thursday
- **Day 43** - Exodus 39-40 Friday
- **Day 44** - Leviticus 1-4 Saturday
- **Day 45** - Leviticus 5-7 Sunday

Regular Meeting Times

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

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

Church of Christ

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

(Address Service Requested)

Indio Informer

Vol. 27 No. 5

January 31, 2016

When Life Doesn’t Make Sense, Part 1

By Allen Webster
(Selected excerpts)

The Bible warns us that “evil” days will come (Ecclesiastes 12:1; Matthew 6:34; Ephesians 5:16). Job observed, “*Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble*” (Job 14:1; cf. Psalm 73:14, 21). At times, there will be events, situations, diagnoses, tragedies, and conditions in our lives that will not make sense. The Psalmist wondered aloud, “*Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?*” (Psalm 10:1). At such times, our faith will be tested. And, in such storms, there are foundation stones that cannot be moved.

We can trust God in the dark.

Corrie Ten Boom, popular author and Holocaust survivor, wrote, “When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don’t throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer.” So it is in life. We can trust God farther than we can “see.” Solomon wrote, “*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding; in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will make thy paths straight*” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

When we hurt, we really have only two choices: we can hurt with God, or we can hurt without Him. We need God more in suffering than ever before. Losing faith will not remove our pain. It rather adds a second problem, and of the two, Wayne Jackson notes, “infidelity is of far greater consequence.” Job trusted in spite of unheard of suffering. When all of his children died, his possessions were lost, and his means of livelihood removed, he said simply, “*The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD*” (Job 1:21). When he soon also lost his health and suffered months of agony, he remained unfazed: “*Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him*” (Job 13:15).

Wayne Jackson advised that a period of suffering is a time to “immerse ourselves in the evidences that builds faith in the integrity of the Word of God” (Psalm 19; Romans 10:17). It is absolutely paramount that we establish confidence in the testimony of the Scriptures. Unless we are convinced that the Bible is true, and we can trust its message, there is nowhere to go for any meaningful resolution; we will fall into the devil’s trap of doubt.

Faith Must Be Tested to Be Genuine.

Do you remember those public service announcements than began, “This is a test”? When going through trials, we can say to ourselves, “This is a test.” Times of crisis prove our friendship with God and declare the authenticity of our faith. Do we love God because He provides gifts? Do we love those gifts more than we love the Giver? This was the accusation Satan made against Job (Job 1:8-12; cf. 1 Peter 1:6-9). All the things we cling to in this world will eventually disappear. The One who gives them is all that will ultimately remain.

Simple answers sometimes are enough.

R. C. Sproul offers an interesting insight in his book, *Not a Chance*. He notes that when a child asks a complicated question, or one that he is not yet ready to understand, a parent’s simple reply is, “Because.” “Because” implies that there is an answer but does not give all of it. As God’s children, sometimes it must suffice to accept “because” when we ask “why?” In Job’s trial, as well as in ours, part of the test is not knowing the reason for the suffering. Jesus neither gave long explanations of evil nor ignored it (Luke 4:18-19).

Vance Havner remarked, “God marks across some of our days, “Will explain later.”” He continued, “One day of green pastures and still waters is followed by dark valleys and miry swamps, and a thousand ‘whys’ lie unanswered, tabled for future reference.” Warren Wiersbe wrote, “God’s people live by promises, not be explanations.” What promises do we have when life does not make sense?

We have the assurance of God’s presence. While God never promised life would be problem-free, He did promise to be with His people (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 46:5-7). God was with David in the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23). He was

with the three Hebrew men in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3) and with Daniel in the lion’s den (Daniel 6). God sent an angel to the garden to strengthen Jesus (Luke 22:43). God is not a disinterested spectator in our lives. He is neither distant nor disengaged. He does care (1 Peter 5:7). Even when we are afraid, through faith we can sing, “What a fellowship, what a joy divine, safe and secure from all alarms.”

We have the assurance of God’s peace (John 14:27; 16:33; 20:19-21; Ephesians 2:12-14; 1 Peter 5:14).

We have the assurance of God’s providence (Romans 8:28). Rather than asking “Where is God?” or “Why me?” let us ask, “What can I learn from this?” and “Who can I help because of this?” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). College classes are not easy, but they prepare us to be of service after graduation. Life’s problems are not easy, but they qualify us to serve in ways we never could otherwise.

Note: some parts adapted from
Wayne Jackson, ChristianCourier.com

Trust in God...Consolation

“The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who take refuge in Him.” Nahum 1:7

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:6-7

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”
Isaiah 41:10

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28