

Upcoming Events

Establish Master Calendar for 2019

Corporation meeting: Budget/Financial Report

Final Preparations: Last Saturday in February 2019 meeting

Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Hebrews class: Thursdays at 11:00

New Address

Keith Lovelady as a new address:

2995 N. Cerritos Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

Bible Reading

“God help me not to read the Bible for information but for transformation.”

“The reason why most people don’t read this book is not because it contradicts itself, but it contradicts man.”

February Birthdays

8 Zoie Perales 25 Mike McKnight

February Anniversaries

5 Mike & Morgie McKnight

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

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Adversity Makes us Bitter or Better

By Dan Jenkins

David makes some truly amazing statements in Psalms which allows us to look into his heart and learn why he was so special to God. How do we become what he was since God has such high regard for him even from his youth? His words express the kind of heart he had. If we spend time making his words our words we will be changed. Perhaps we, too, can be described as a “*man after God’s own heart.*”

Both first and second Samuel tell us about the life of David and all the trials he faced. They began shortly after he killed Goliath when jealous King Saul sought to take his life. He gained the favor of the people around him, and the evil king sent his army to kill David. He almost did not become king as that army was almost successful in taking the life of the young “giant killer.” His friendship with Saul’s son, Jonathan, often enabled him to escape. Years later, David again had immeasurable adversity when his own son led a rebellion against him.

So, how did he view such trials? Read his words, and they may change how we look at life. David said, “*It is good that I was afflicted.*” Our first reaction is that such could not be right! How on earth could any suffering be seen as good? Read the rest of the verse. David said, “*It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes*” (Psalm 119:71). David understood a lesson which each of us should learn early in our life. If our life has little misery and adversity, we tend to ignore God for we have little need of Him. On the other hand, adversity provides us the opportunity to come closer to God. How we respond to such trials

shows the kind of heart we have. It is so important to learn that adversity makes us bitter or better.

The apostle Paul understood this same truth. In his second letter to Corinth, he gave a list of many of the trials he had endured, then he said, *“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong”* (2 Cor. 12:10). Read the verse again—infirmities, reproaches, needs, persecutions, distresses. Pleasure in all of this? How strange! But, what insight David and Paul had into how to deal with all that life brings.

How do we decide what things are good and what things are bad in our life? Here is a rule which might change our whole view of life. Anything which draws me closer to God is good, and anything which keeps me from God is evil.

So, let’s ask ourselves, any good thing happening in our life right now? Think about it.

Cure for Self-importance

Homilies by R. Finlayson
Pulpit Commentary

“But in lowliness of mind each counting other better than himself; not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others.”
(Philippians 2:3).

We are to have a lowly estimate of ourselves. If we have external advantages to think of, we have also to think of responsibilities connected with them. If we have superior natural gifts to think of, we have also to think of the use we have made of them. If we have spiritual excellences, we are to be thankful to God for them; but we are not to be vain of them. Instead of being vain, we must think that we are not what we should have been, considering the grace that has abounded toward us; that we have come far short in the working out of the plan of our life.

The more narrowly we look into ourselves and our work, the more shall we see that we are only keeping to truth. to reality, when we humble ourselves before God as the chief of sinners. But what of our comparing ourselves with others? The apostle teaches that a true looking to the things of others will lead to our counting others better than ourselves. We have to consider this regarding others that, apart from external advantages, from natural gifts, and from moral character, they are of great price before God as created, planned for, suffered for, loved by, God. We have also this to consider regarding others, that we do not know the disadvantageous influences, compared with others, under which they may have been brought up, and it is possible that, when they fail, we should not have done better if we had been in their position. we have also to consider that, even where we may be more excellent than they in some respects, we are not in a position to know all the excellence that may belong to them.

If certainly we compare ourselves with others for the sake of self-exaltation, we are showing our own want of excellence. A true spirit of humility will lead us rather to compare ourselves with others, in points in which they are our superiors, and thus all such comparison must be accounting others better than ourselves. *“Unto me,”* says Paul, *“who am less than the least of all saints.”*

Prayer for Troubled Times

Author Unknown

***Endow me, Lord, with strength to face
The bitter trials of life,
Instill within my troubled soul
Your peace amidst the strife.***

***Lord, plant a song within my heart
That I might praise Thee still --
While storms rage on, grant me the faith
To rest within Your will!***