

Upcoming Events...

Galatians Class: Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Business Meeting: July 8 at 4:30 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class: July 15

Barnabas Group Meeting: July 24

Consolation During Affliction

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” Psalms 23:4

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort...” 2 Corinthians 1:3

“Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.” Psalms 55:22

July Birthdays

22 Morgie McKnight

30 Willie Henderson

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

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DISAPPOINTED WITH GOD?

by Bill Brandstatter

Has anyone every disappointed you? Perhaps you expected something from someone and they failed to deliver. Has this ever happened with you and God? Did you expect something from God and He failed to deliver???? God appears in a number of ways in the Bible. At times He is very active. At other times He seems distant and remote.

David asked, *"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* (Psalms 22:1). Yet, another Psalmist wrote *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."* Why did God seem so distant to David, yet so near to another Psalmist? Habakkuk cried, *"O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear!"* (Habakkuk 1:1). Yet, on another occasion, Habakkuk wrote, *"O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid"* (Habakkuk 3:2). Why does God seem to come and go? Why does He appear, and then remain hidden? Part of the answer to the above questions may be man's perception of God. There were times when God allowed "bad" things to happen to His people (Deuteronomy 8:3). These were only "bad" to the people at the time. God had planned a far greater purpose.

God is not a man (Numbers 23:19). Solomon stated, *"For God is in heaven, and thou upon earth."* (Ecclesiastes 5:2). God does not think like man. Man does not think like God (Isaiah 55:8,9). We cannot know exactly what God is thinking at all times, nor what His will is for us. (1 Corinthians 2:11). God does not think like man does.

At times God appears to be hiding. That is the way Isaiah put it. The Messianic prophet stated, *"I will wait on the LORD who hides His face from the house of Jacob; and I will hope in Him."* Isaiah 8:17. Notice even though God seemed to be hiding, Isaiah still had hope. Later in the same book, Isaiah writes: *"Verily thou are a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour."* (Isaiah 45:15). At times, perhaps, God seems to be hiding.

Yet, he is a very present help in trouble (Psalms 46:1). How can God on one hand appear to be hiding, and on the other be ever present? Perhaps the answer lies in our perception of God and what we expect of Him. God has laid choices before man (Deuteronomy 30:15). Many in Bible times were faced with choices. Abraham, Moses, David, Joseph, and many other Bible characters had choices to make. Sometimes wrong choices were made. Did that mean God was not with them? Of course not. It simply means that God often will not intervene in the normal affairs of man. God does not eliminate problems, but he helps us through them (1 Corinthians 10:13). Many in the Bible suffered greatly. Yet, God was always there to see them through the difficult times. Remember the promise in Hebrews 13:6 *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."* We need not think God is not with His children. At times He may seem distant when He may actually be closer than we think. Paul may have recognized this when he wrote: *"Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 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 Corinthians 12:9,10).

WHY DO IT GOD'S WAY?

by Lawrence Barr

I'm not sure, but I believe that much of the religious world today makes an assumption based (in their minds) on the truth that we are saved by grace and not by works see Ephesians 2:8-10). The assumption is that since we are saved by grace, God does not hold us accountable for doing things a certain way.

I beg to differ with that assumption. Even the passage mentioned above tells us that we are *"created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10, NIV). These are good works which God prepared. If he prepared them in advance, then He tells us what they are. So grace leads me to do what God tells me to do (naturally, not with the idea that I can now merit salvation).

Of course, we can go to the Old Testament and pull out the story of Saul and see how he failed to obey God in the case of Agag and the Amalekites (I Samuel 15). God, by his grace, had put Saul in the position of King. The truth is, when God gives us his gracious gifts, he expects us to obey.

In Romans 6, we learn that when we were baptized into Christ, we died to sin and self and rose to walk in newness of life. So I am no longer following my own desires, but His! That should be enough to encourage me to put every practice up to the light of the will of God. After all, He bought me!

Dear Preacher:

There are 566 members in our church, but 100 are frail and elderly. That leaves 466 to do all the work. However, 80 are young people away at college. That leaves 386 to do all the work. However, 150 of them are tired businessmen, so that leaves 236 to do all the work. 150 are housewives with children. That leaves 86 to do all the work. There are also 46 members who have other important interests. Which leaves 40 to do all the work, but 15 live too far away to come regularly. So that leaves 25 to do all the work. And 23 of them say they've done their part. So, preacher, that leaves YOU and ME and, frankly, I'm exhausted.

Good luck to you.

A. Member