

*Thanks to our Speaker
Alexis Brown*

Overcoming Trials

“Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him”. James 1:12

“And not only this, but we also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance”.

Romans 5:3

“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

May Birthdays

2 Peggy Woodruff

15 Kena Brown

Regular Meeting Times

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

Temporary Meeting Times

Sunday.....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
(Vacant)

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What a Difference a Day Makes!

By Bill Brandstatter

My youngest grandson just had a birthday. It was his first double-digit birthday. He is now a big 10 years old. His birthday was a big day for all of the family. As grandchildren grow it causes us to reflect on the past, the present, and the future. I have realized daily the expression “time flies.” I remember when he was born. I have seen pictures of our grandson recently when he was little. Now he is ten and it’s hard to comprehend. The writer James told of life and stated, *“It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”* (James 4:14 NKJV) Reflection is good for the soul. It causes us to look at where we are and where we ought to be. The Psalmist stated, regarding life, *“For it is soon cut off, and we fly away”* (Psalms 90:10).

Where have I been? The past life is gone. The present is now. Whatever mistakes I made in the past I need to forget and move on from them. The apostle Paul had to remind himself to do that. He stated he was “forgetting those things which were behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead (Philippians 3:13). I can’t change the past. I can make the present better.

Where am I now? God is concerned about where we are now. The urgency of the moment is expressed in several Bible passages. Paul wrote, *“Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (2 Corinthians 6:2). We should be *“redeeming the time”* (Ephesians 5:16).

Where will I be in the future? I don’t know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future. The best way to prepare for the future is to prepare now. The future happens with the dawn of

every new day. As one person stated, “Today is the start of the rest of your life.” My entrance into heaven depends on what I do while here on earth. I have the chance now to do what I must to enter heaven one day. What a difference a day can make. We must obey Jesus today, so that we can see Him tomorrow (John 12:48; Hebrews 5:8, 9).

Image and Allegiance

By Joe Slater

April 15 typically involves long lines at the Post Office as procrastinators mail those dreaded 1040 forms along with a sizeable check to the U.S. Treasury. We have extra time this year due to circumstances beyond our control, but it just delays the inevitable!

Nobody enjoys paying taxes. No doubt much of our tax money is spent unwisely, to say the least. Nevertheless, Romans 13:7 says, “*Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.*”

When Jesus walked this earth, His enemies tried to trap Him with the controversy over Jews paying taxes to the pagan government in Rome. “*Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?*” (Luke 20:22). If Jesus just said, “Yes, pay the taxes,” they could claim He wasn’t a loyal Jew. But if He said, “No don’t pay,” they could accuse Him of treason against the government. As always, the infinitely wise Jesus recognized their ungodly motives and gave them an answer they couldn’t use against Him. “*‘Why do you test Me? Show Me a denarius. Whose image and inscription does it have?’ They answered and said, ‘Caesar’s.’ And He said to them, ‘Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’*” (Luke 20:23-25).

The coin bore Caesar’s image. Caesar had a right to require it in tax. People bear the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). He has a legitimate claim on our service. There is no conflict between the

two. As we pay our taxes this week or in weeks to come, may we be mindful to render to God that which is due to Him!

You Win

By Rick Woodall

As life passes challenges come and there are many hurdles to jump over. Discouragement creeps through the door of many lives and one may get to the point where they feel as if the floor under their feet has disappeared. We can become so preoccupied with what hasn’t happened that we cannot see what has.

How has God blessed us? Is there anything that stands out in our mind that is delightful and positive? Maybe if we would just stop and calculate the awe-inspiring moments the hurdles will appear shorter.

In the family of God, we all have our worries and troubles. Sometimes we fill the overload of deadlines and personal goals. We get caught up in the nervous tension of the moment. We can’t hear the soothing song that causes worries to flee.

One can get all caught up in the physical that it blinds the eyes to the spiritual. The promises of Christ represent His teaching. While on this earth the people envisioned a physical kingdom. His promise was not based on things cash could acquire. Like them, we sometimes have trouble seeing the big picture.

My gift reminds me that no matter how big the stress, God is still taking charge. One must finish the journey to fully get the picture.

“Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 3:13-14

Keep focused. Better days are just beyond the finish line.