

Upcoming Events

Revelation class: Today at 2:30
Sealed 144,000

Tuesday Meet Up Class
August 31 at 7:00 p.m.
77682 Country Club Drive A-2
Palm Desert

August Birthdays

4 Noah Perales 12 Debbie Hoffman 12 Noemi Critchfield
16 Nick Hoffman 25 Pat Limburg 31 Andrea Chandler

August Anniversaries

24 Jack and Noemi Critchfield

September Birthdays

3 Wendy Cortes 11 Marie Burruss 15 Marcos Perales
16 Jim Burruss 24 Mason Perales
30 Dortha Gentry 30 Kurt Hoffman

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Adversity

Lean on Him!

By Kari Adams

I've heard it said that "God never gives you more than you can handle," but is it a biblical truth or a feel-good platitude? Yes, 1 Corinthians 10:13 says that we won't be tempted beyond what we can stand, but that doesn't mean that life's circumstances won't be overwhelming.

Paul had an affliction that was more than he could handle, and he asked God to take it away three times. Elijah was threatened with death by the most wicked of royal couples, believed himself to be the last faithful man on earth, and prayed that God would take his life. Job had much more than he could handle when he lost everything, and his wife told him to curse God and die. I don't know about you, but I'd classify being stuck in the belly of a giant fish, thrown into a fiery furnace, sold into slavery by my siblings, and asked to sacrifice my child as situations that are more than any human could handle.

God consistently allows His people to experience more than they can handle, and then He asks us to cast those cares on Him so He can handle it for us. He told Paul that His "*grace was sufficient*" and that His "*power is made perfect in weakness*" (II Corinthians 12:9). He gave Elijah sustenance and strength from one meal for a 40-day journey, reassured him of the 7,000 faithful others, and displayed His glory not in the might of wind, earthquake, and fire, but a low whisper (I Kings 19). He reminded Job of His power and might and not only restored but doubled all that he had once he had proven himself faithful (Job 42:10).

Regular Meeting Times

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

Preacher:
Jack Critchfield

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81-377 Ave 46
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(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

Having stress and trials that are more than we can handle are what help us learn to rely on God. That's why James tells us to "*count it all joy*" when we experience trials (James 1:2). There is no greater blessing than being so worn down with burdens too great for us that we have no choice but to finally force our stubborn hearts to let go and lean on God.

“I Feel Fine!”

By Clifton Angel

There are some physical ailments that begin in secret. There are no immediate symptoms. Yet the illnesses, like some cancers, may be silently wreaking havoc on one's body. Sometimes one who is seriously sick may proclaim, "I feel fine!" Sometimes such destruction has been caused that by the time it is detected, it is too late to correct the problem. Sometimes the problem can be mended but with great pain, surgeries, and treatments.

Is it possible to suffer from the spiritual ailment of sin and be unaware of it? Today, sin occurs when one transgresses the commandments of the New Testament (1 John 3:4). Sin occurs "unknowingly" when a person is not allowing God's Word to train his conscience. Jesus said that the scribes and Pharisees had developed their own "righteousness" (Matthew 5:20). In other words, what was right and wrong to them did not align with what was right and wrong to God. Following His statement in Matthew 5:20, Jesus went on to correct many of their false teachings and misconceptions. The former Saul, now known as the apostle Paul, had persecuted the Lord's church. He even had some put to death. Yet, he had done it in "*all good conscience*" (Acts 23:1). Saul was doing what he thought was right. That did not make it right. What God says is right, is right. What God says is wrong, is wrong. Therefore, it should be our desire to train our consciences with God's Word.

The principle above is found multiple times in the Proverbs. "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*" (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25). "*Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts*" (Proverbs 21:2). "*The way of a fool is right in his own*

eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise" (Proverbs 12:15). And so, what are we to do? "*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths*" (Proverbs 3:5-6). If we want to be complete (spiritually healthy), we must examine ourselves by God's definition for doing what is right (2 Timothy 3:16-17). For, if we continue saying spiritually, "I feel fine!" sin may be wreaking havoc on our consciences, progressing as it does (Psalm 1). Have we had our spiritual checkup lately?

The School of Hard Knocks

By Ron Bartanen

The psalmist prayed, "*You have dealt well with Your servant, O LORD, according to Your word*" (Psalm 119:65).

At first, taking the verse alone, we might think he was thankful that God had blessed him with an easy life—but not so. In verse 71 he wrote, "*It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.*"

It seems the psalmist had apparently gone through what has been called "the school of hard knocks." While we seek to avoid the pains in life, we need to learn that if our heart seeks the Lord, we can learn from our painful experiences. When troubles come, we have the choice of facing them with bitterness or with assurance that "*we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose*" (Romans 8:28). In the "school of hard knocks," we must learn to seek comfort in God's word, submitting our lives to Him and His will.

Are there afflictions and difficulties in our life that sometimes seem insurmountable? If so, have we learned to turn them over to the Lord? By faith, find comfort and strength in God's word: "*Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you*" (1 Peter 5:6-7). Do we seek strength in prayer and God's word? Have we let the Lord be our Teacher in the "school of hard knocks?"