

**Thank you Mike Perkins ...
...for being our speaker for today!**

June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador

June Anniversaries

5 Kurt and Debbie Hoffman
5 Aaron and Esmeralda McCollum

*"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the
Lord is, there is freedom."
2 Corinthians 3:17*

Regular Meeting Times

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

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*"Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and do not lean on
your own understanding."*

Proverb 3:5

- ***"Fight the good fight"***
- ***"Keep the faith"***
- ***"Finish the course"***

The Anatomy of the Christian

By Aaron Veyon

Have you ever seen an anatomy chart? Sometimes you will see one in a doctor's office. These charts reveal the different internal and external parts of the human body (often explaining each part and how they function). The human body is unique in many ways; yet beyond its physical significance, there is a spiritual consideration that I believe is worthy of note: namely, the human body is a perfect similitude for the Christian's spiritual existence in Christ.

Concerning members of Christ's one true church Paul said, "*For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ...For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased...Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually*" (1 Cor. 12:12, 14-18, 27). To individual

Christians Paul says, “*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Thess. 5:23).

Friends, are you a faithful member of the body of Christ? Do you “*love and serve Him*” with every fiber of your being (Mk. 12:30)? If not, why not?

The Source of Our Suffering

By Aaron Veyon

It Begins with Me

Life can be very difficult at times, that’s for sure. Our days may be filled with many joys and a certain measure of happiness, but lurking somewhere in the shadows is disappointment, discouragement, or perhaps even despair. Bad news happens. Sickness happens. A sprained ankle happens. Sometimes *things* just happen. We may not be able to control the negative things that happen in our lives, but we have full control over how we respond to them.

Sometimes Christians suffer because of their association with Christ. In Acts 5:41 the apostles had already been warned that they were not to be preaching or teaching in the name of Jesus anymore. Verse 40 says that the council called the apostles in and they flogged them. (Imagine the agony that those men felt, to have the skin stripped off their backs, flayed open). They flogged them and then they released them. Verse 41 says, “*So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.*” That’s the proper way to react to suffering; but that’s not the way we always react, is it?

Now do you believe that these disciples would have prospered, or that the Lord would have comforted them, or that the Lord would have blessed them if when they left

there they said, “I’ll tell you what, I am so sick of being a Christian and being kicked around in this town! All we have done is gotten hauled up before the council every time we speak. I’ll tell you, if it weren’t so *hard* to be a Christian, it’d be a nice existence! And if I didn’t want to go to heaven so bad, I wouldn’t put up with this junk! I’m *tired* of being a Christian!” Do you think that there would have been a blessing in it for them? There wouldn’t have been. Would the Lord have comforted them? Would there be any joy among the disciples if they had reacted that way? How does the Lord feel when if something doesn’t go right for us, or somebody gives us a hard time for being Christians, then we complain and grumble and talk about how tough it is to be a Christian; and how sometimes we wish we weren’t, and if we didn’t want to go to heaven so bad we wouldn’t put up with all of this? Friends, it cannot help in our suffering, if we suffer for the wrong things.

We also need to recognize that some of our suffering may be self-inflicted to some degree. For example, a person may suffer in their relationship with other people; but who is at fault? Some have a rocky relationship with their spouse. Some have an on-again-off-again relationship with their friends. Some parents are out of touch with their children. Some Christians struggle in their existence with other Christians. While there may be a lot of blame to go around, the key to making the most out of difficult situations is to stop blaming everyone else and start examining ourselves. Maybe we are the problem (or at least part of it). We need to adopt this policy: “A better friendship begins with me.” “A better marriage begins with me.” “A better family begins with me.” “A better church begins with me” – etc. Jesus said, “*...first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also*” (Matt. 23:26). If we would all follow this rule, imagine how truly wonderful this life could be.