

Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

September 30, 2018

Issue 29

OVERCOMING DISCOURAGEMENT (Part 2)

Ronnie Scherffius

One of the greatest and often kept hidden challenges that we have in this life is discouragement. Everyone faces discouraging circumstances in their lives. These circumstances vary from bad grades on a test, not making the team, or a relationship breakup for a youth to job loss, lengthy illness, or loss of a spouse for an adult. Among all of humanity and at every age everyone suffers from discouragement. This being the case we should direct our attention to the Scriptures that we may learn just how we can both endure and overcome such trying times.

Last week we noted two particular *scriptural treatments* for overcoming discouragement: 1) look up rather than down and 2) count your blessings not your problems. Let's continue these thoughts noting three more *treatments* which, if properly applied, will help us in those times when we find ourselves struggling with discouragement.

Look outward rather than inward. Paul instructed the Galatians, "Bear ye one another's burdens" (Gal. 6:2), and "As we therefore have opportunity, let us do good unto all" (Gal. 6:10). It is impossible to adhere to these admonitions when we continually dwell on our own problems to the exclusion of the trials and difficulties of others. Hanging on the cross Jesus uttered two amazing statements: "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34), and "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). While we often consider the spiritual significance of these statements we fail to consider that even in the most trying time of His life, Jesus was looking outward to the needs and state of others rather than His own difficulty. If we were truly to stop and

think about it, on our worst day we could find someone engaged in a far greater battle than ourselves. When we look to others who are discouraged, and try to encourage them, we will ourselves be encouraged. Thus another treatment to help us overcome discouragement is to look outward rather than inward — be an encourager!

Read the end of the book—We Win! We've all had days that start out bad and seem to get worse as the day progresses. If we know nothing of what lies beyond this life we might easily give up. But the end of all things for the Christian is victory in Jesus Christ! We have a mansion prepared for us (John 14:1-3); this body in which our spirit dwells will one day give way to that "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Cor. 5:1)! Paul encouraged the Corinthians saying, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58). The earth and all contained within it, including the trials and difficulties of life, will one day pass away! In that dwelling place which is to come there will be no sadness, sorrow, tears, death, parting, separation, fears, worldly labors, or temptations — ONLY VICTORY! Read the end of the book (Rev. 1-21). We Win!

A final treatment suggestion to help us overcome discouragement is: **look at the difficulties of this world as a way to make you stronger and lift you up.** We often read the instruction of James when considering this thought: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into diverse temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh

patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:2-4). But consider also the significance of Paul’s words, “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you” (Phil. 1:23-24). In essence Paul could say: “I may not know the plan but I know God, and I will trust Him to see me through.” Paul allowed the difficulties of this world to draw him closer to his Savior to such a degree that he would say, “for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2 Tim. 1:12). The trials and tribulations of this life, if we will let them, can lift us up closer to God than we have ever been.

God told Abraham “Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art” — then God showed Abraham what He was going to give him. Similarly God has told us to lift up our eyes and look to Him and His Word and He will help us to overcome! Are you discouraged? Focus your eyes on heaven and count your blessings. Look around—if you find one in a worse condition than you—help them. Remember, as Christians faithful to God—We Win! Let the difficulties of this world lift you up, in doing this we can overcome discouragement!

Everlasting Life

By: Wayne Lankford

If we believe in God’s existence, we can also (by the same standard) believe in “Everlasting life.” The prophet Daniel wrote, and many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt (Dan. 12:2). Of course man, with his finite mind cannot understand the infinite mind of God. Paul wrote, O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements, and his ways past finding out! (Rom. 11:33). Daniel’s reference is regarding the final resurrection of the just and the unjust. Jesus said, Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come

forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29). When the Word became flesh (John 1:14), Everlasting life was brought to light (John 3:16). The majority of us have stood at the open grave, as a friend or loved one’s body is brought to its final resting place but realized this is not the end. Jesus said at the grave of His friend Lazarus as He spoke words of comfort to Martha, *Thy brother shall rise again* (John 11:23). Next He told her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? (John 11:25-26). The only way we can know this truth is from God’s Word. Bible faith is based on hope (Heb 11:1). We have many reasons for hope of Everlasting life. **God’s power** assures us of Everlasting life. He is the creator of the world and all in it (Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:11). He continues upholding all things by the Word of His power (Heb. 1:3). Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well, But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life (John 4:14). To enjoy Everlasting life, one must in this life obey the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16). Salvation is found only “in Christ” (see 2 Tim. 2:10). Those who reject this power “judge themselves unworthy of everlasting life” (see Acts 13:46). **God’s dependability** gives promise to Everlasting life. Peter wrote, God is not slack regarding His promises... (see 2 Pet. 3:9). Moses recorded the words of Balaam the prophet saying, God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? (Nu. 23:19). We have assurance death is not the end for faithful Christians. Paul wrote, For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (2 Cor. 5:1). These facts give hope, joy, and comfort to all who are faithful in Jesus.

The Forest Hill News, The Forest Hill Church of Christ Weekly Bulletin, July 31, 2018.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of September 30, 2018

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Dylan Herring

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Doug Jobes
Fruit of the Vine: Lupe Escojido
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: Scott DeDear, Isaac Jobes, Don Lynn

Sunday Evening: Doug Jobes, Lupe Escojido

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson
P.M. Closing: Tom Pitchford

Ushers:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional:

Ronnie Scherffius

Open/Close Building:

Will Burleson

Sound System:

Mike Page

Greeters:

Will Cleveland
Allen Clifton
Don Lynn

Prepare Communion: Kelly Cannady

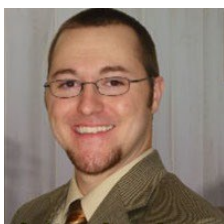
TODAY! Cody Kilgore will be preaching our Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class, Morning Service and evening service.

FALL ONE DAY MEETING

Sunday, October 21, 2018

Guest Speaker: Cody Westbrook

Cody will be preaching the Morning Adult Bible Class, Morning Service and 1pm service. The 1pm service will be conducted by the young men of our congregation.



There will also be a potluck meal after morning service. Please bring a potluck dish to feed your family and a visitor.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

BILL YOUNG, as he continues to have health problems; MARK FOSTER, son-in-law of the Tissue's, his mother had surgery at DeTar last week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 2: Ladies/Men's Bible Classes
Oct. 6: Youth Summer Series Awards & Fellowship
Oct. 7: Forever Young game night
Oct. 9: Ladies/Men's Bible Classes
Oct. 14: Jr./Sr. high devo hosted by the Pitchford's
Oct. 16: Ladies/Men's Bible Classes
Oct. 21: Fall One Day Meeting with Cody Westbrook
Oct. 23: Ladies/Men's Bible Classes
Oct. 28: Trunk or Treat
Oct. 30: Ladies/Men's Bible Classes

IN THE AREA

Oct. 5-7: Freddie Anderson @ Weber Road C of C
Oct. 26-28: Fall Retreat @ Peach Valley

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Tamyra Carroll (1); Barbara Nuckels (5)

Happy Anniversary: Tom & Gayla Pitchford (5)

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS

Jeff Cannady	Della Rampley
Dee Gilpatrick	Clark Withers
Ann Pantel	

SHUT-INS

Faye Henderson	Sandy Malone
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FRIENDS & FAMILY

Victor Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)	Vikram Gottam (brother-in-law of Archana Verma)
Kim Neel-Farthing (daughter of Joyce)	Antonio Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

Will Cleveland
Tom Pitchford

Deacons:

Adrian Cannady
Mark FitzSimmons
Doug Jobs
Bryant Siegel

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius

Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of September 23, 2018

Bible Class.....118
A.M. Worship.....145
P.M. Worship.....99
Wednesday Bible Study.....108

Offering \$4,561

QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

Heaven

Prepared mansion.....John 14: 1-3
No tears, sorrow.....Rev. 21:4
2 Cor. 5:1; 2 Pet. 3:13; Mat. 25:46



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

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