



Warners Chapel Church of Christ

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"The churches of Christ salute you" Rom. 16:16

A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU

August 1, 2021

Suffering

Introduction to Suffering

There are a number of reasons why God allows suffering. Some of those reasons are revealed to us in the Scriptures. Others we may speculate concerning. Yet so much more is beyond our ability to know and comprehend. But, we do not need to have all of the answers concerning suffering in order to still have faith and trust in God. When Job demanded to know why he was suffering God spoke to Job, but never gave him a direct answer (Job 38-41). God spoke of knowing everything and of having the power to do anything consistent with His character and purpose, but God never told Job specifically why Job was suffering. Job was simply to trust in the fact that God knows what He is doing.

Much of the suffering that exists in the world today is caused by sin, and sin is the result of free-will. God has created mankind with free-will and therefore the opportunity for man to sin against God (Genesis 2:15-17; Joshua 24:5; Revelation 22:17). Sometimes we suffer from the choice Other people have made to sin. We all suffer from the choices of Adam and Eve and the choices of the wicked world before the flood. We also suffer sometimes from the selfish choices, or the just plain foolish choices of others, but the same could be said for own choices. There are times when our own sinful choices bring consequences we did not intend. Yet, the fact of free-will does not give us all the answers concerning suffering.

One of the reasons God allows us to suffering may lay in the fact that there are spiritual benefits and blessings that can only come through suffering. Consider the list below:

The Spiritual Benefits of Suffering

Hebrews 12 touches on one of the reasons we may sometimes suffer. There are times when God's children, whom He loves dearly, begin to lose their spiritual focus. On such occasions, God will chasten and scourge His children. These words imply pain, or difficulty. Suffering can help us to see what is really important, and gives us the opportunity to sharpen our spiritual focus.

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James chapter one gives us another reason God allows suffering. God allows suffering because it strengthens our character and builds our souls. Suffering can help us to become spiritual complete and it increases our endurance and patience. The endurance and patience developed by suffering enable us to remain sharply focused on what is truly important, and it builds our stamina for facing future problems. While suffering we may struggle for wisdom in seeing our way through. God promises us He will give us that wisdom if we will ask Him.

2 Corinthians chapter one speaks of a time when the apostle Paul had been “burdened beyond measure.” During such a time he learned from that suffering to trust in God and not in himself. Suffering points us to God and causes us to rely upon God. God is perfect in every way and we are not. God is all powerful and we are not. Suffering very quickly reveals our limitations to us and causes us to realize that where are limits are reached we must count on God’s unlimited power to help.

2 Corinthians one also addresses the fact that our suffering better equips us to help others who are suffering. We can never fully understand another individual’s suffering. Therefore, it is best to never say, “I understand what you are going through.” However, having experienced similar suffering we can have a more empathetic and compassionate approach in our efforts to help others.

Hebrews 5:7-9 speaks of the suffering of Jesus Christ. Here we learned that Jesus prayed fervently for the opportunity to avoid the suffering. God heard Jesus’ prayer because Jesus was righteous but God still said “no”. Jesus still had to endure the suffering and in this way He learned obedience by the suffering.

2 Corinthians 12 contains Paul’s request to have his “thorn in the flesh” removed. He prayed three times for this. Paul was a righteous and humble servant of the Lord, so God heard his prayers. But God said no. God said to Paul, “my grace is sufficient for you”. The context indicates Paul came to recognize the fact that the thorn in the flesh had humbled him and was good for him spiritually. When he came to that understanding he stopped asking for the thorn to be removed and took joy in knowing the thorn made him stronger spiritually.

Suffering Will End

1 Peter chapter one speaks of the great joy we can have because of what Jesus Christ has done for us. His suffering has made it possible for us to have an incorruptible inheritance in heaven. Yet, for now we must live in a world in which we are tried by suffering. While being tried by suffering we must continue to look to God for help, and look to the eternal reward in heaven as our motivation. The day is coming when we will suffer no longer.

~Kevin Rutherford



READ THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2021

August 2 - Romans 5
August 3 - Romans 6
August 4 - Romans 7
August 5 - Romans 8:1-21



August 6 - Romans 8:22-39
August 7 - Romans 9:1-15
August 8 - Romans 9:16-33

OUR SICK

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Steve Martin, Hope Turnmire, Mozzeta Dobbins, Jack Piper, Neal Harper, Eddie Manor, Merry Beth, Bryan Byrd, Mary Ellen Dull, Kim Matthews, Elwood Flinchum, Kathy & Wayne Hutchins. Don Jackson, Sandy Smith, & D.J. Harrison.

David Moore has been having difficulty with back pain. He has seen a doctor for help. Please keep him in your prayers.

Nancy Warner has been moved to Clemmons Village II. She is in the first building on the left and her Room is #20. The address 6441 Holder Road, Clemmons, NC 27012. She will be happy to see visitors. (The Clemmons Village #2 was closed last Monday by the Health Dept. due to a report of someone being ill. All the occupants of the building were tested for Covid-19 by the Health Dept. No patient or staff were found with the virus. It was reopened this past Tuesday.)

Also, please pray for **Mattie Pharr**. She will be having surgery on Wednesday, August 4th to replace the parts in my body which controls my pain.

Please continue to keep **Roger Allen** in your prayers as he continues to overcome his health issues. Roger has reported that his mother has been released from the hospital and has now been moved to an Assisted Living facility. Please continue to pray for her also as she is recovering from her illness.

Debbie Southern has requested prayers for her good friend, **Karen Shrader**, who has developed breast cancer recently. She is presently receiving radiation treatments at this time.

Carl Cooper's nephew, **Eddie Manor**, was reported to be improving with a number of medical problems he has been having along with his son, **Bradly**, who is 11 years old is suffering with anxiety over his father's health and is on medication at this time. **Please keep both of them in your prayers.**

Request for prayers for Phillip Patton, Co-Director for the Foundation Youth Camp who has been unable to attend camp this year because of Covid. He is a good man and a faithful preacher in Texas. He has been in the hospital for six weeks and Sunday he took a turn for the worse. He is sedated and on a ventilator. They are looking for a way to pull fluid away from his lungs. He is about 45 years old. If you could ask the congregation to pray for him and his wife, Stephanie, it would be appreciated. His situation has worsened, Stephanie said. Phillip no longer has Covid but his body is struggling to recover from the damage done by the Covid. **Please pray for Phillip Patton!**

Welcome

WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU VISITING WITH US THIS MORNING. WE INVITE YOU TO RETURN THIS EVENING AT 6:00 P.M. FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE AND AT 7:00 P.M. EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING FOR THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY.

WARNERS CHAPEL EVENTS:

Reminder: Each Sunday at 5 p.m. there is a Sunday Youth Class that meets in the Annex.

Carolina Bible Camp - If you are planning on attending the Carolina Bible camp this summer, it is recommended that you sign up for weeks 3, 4, or 7.

Aug. 1- Sunday Morning Bible Study will resume at 10 a.m. We will have classes to start with: 0--Kindergarten, 1st--5th Grade, 6th--12th Grade, and Adult Classes.

Aug. 2 - If you wish to sign up to Audit a class for NCSBS, a paper is provided in the foyer that list the classes available to you that you may circle and give it to Mike Glenn.

Vacation Bible School

Warners Chapel Vacation Bible School has two more evenings left of VBS-2021, beginning at 7 p.m. The Theme: "The Flood"

August 4 - "The Animals"
August 11 - "The Flood"

Adult Class - Guest Speakers:

August 4 - Al Simmons
August 11 - Jeff Greene

7:00 pm - In auditorium for welcome comments
7:10 pm - Children & Teachers dismissed to classes
7:40 pm - First Bell
7:45 pm - Second Bell
7:50 pm - All in the auditorium for brief review
8:00 pm - All dismissed - Refreshments and activities

FOR THE RECORD

SUNDAY WORSHIP -A.M.	July 25, 2021	- 131
SUNDAY WORSHIP -P.M.	July 25, 2021	- 93
WED. VBS	July 28, 2021	- 111

SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

AUGUST, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY:

COMMUNION FOR AUGUST:

OPENING PRAYERS FOR AUGUST:

SUNDAY A.M.

SUNDAY P.M.

WEDNESDAY

SECURITY AND GREETING:

PLEASE OPEN BUILDING BY 10:30 A.M., 5:40 P.M., AND WEDNESDAY BY 6:40 P.M.

SONG LEADERS FOR AUGUST:

SUNDAY A.M.

SUNDAY P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Aug. 1 - Clayton Workman
Aug. 8 - Steve Tesh
Aug. 15 - Wayne Allen
Aug. 22 - Nathan Roy
Aug. 29 - Gene Southern

Aug. 1 - Clayton Workman
Aug. 8 - Steve Tesh
Aug. 15 - Wayne Allen
Aug. 22 - Nathan Roy
Aug. 29 - Gene Southern

Aug. 4 - Gene Southern
Aug. 11 - Charley Belch
Aug. 18 - Clayton Workman
Aug. 25 - Roger Allen

IF YOU SHOULD BE UNABLE TO SERVE ON ASSIGNED DATES, PLEASE GET SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR PLACE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE.

GENE SOUTHERN

“GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE” at 10:30 p.m. each week night on Cable 8
SEARCH PROGRAM - Sunday Mornings at 7:30 a.m. on Cable 68

WARNERS CHAPEL CHURCH OF CHRIST
8999 LASATER ROAD
CLEMMONS, NC 27012

ELDERS

Tim Allen
Todd Hinson
Steve Tesh
Andy Santiago

DEACONS

Randy Warner
Keith Warner
Mark Minor
Jody Everett

Gene Southern
Shawn Thomason
Mark Roy
Adam Warner
Jacob Woodbury