



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

March 24, 2020

When Life Doesn't Make Sense

By Allen Webster



The Bible warns us that “evil” days will come (Ecclesiastes 12:1; Matthew 6:34; Ephesians 5:16). Job observed, “Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble” (Job 14:1; cf. Psalm 73:14, 21). At times, there will be events, situations, diagnoses, tragedies, and conditions in our lives that will not make sense. The Psalmist wondered aloud, “*Why standest Thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest Thou Thyself in times of trouble?*” (Psalm 10:1).

There are mysteries in the New Testament that are not explained:

- James, the brother of John was martyred for Christ, but on the same occasion Peter was delivered from prison and spared from the same ruler (Acts 12:1ff). Why? Surely the Jerusalem Christians puzzled over this matter.

- Four companions in the gospel—Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke—arrived in the city of Philippi to do mission work. Two of them—Paul and Silas—are whipped and thrown into prison. The other two were untouched. Why?

- Epaphroditus, Paul’s helper in Rome, became desperately ill but recovered (Philippians 2:25-27). Paul, however, was afflicted with a grievous “thorn in the flesh” that was chronic (2 Cor. 12:7-9). Why?

At such times, our faith will be tested. And, in such storms, there are foundation stones that cannot be moved.

We can trust God in the dark.

Corrie Ten Boom, popular author and Holocaust survivor, wrote, “When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don’t throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer.” So it is in life. We can trust God farther than we can “see.” Solomon wrote, “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding; in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will make thy paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

When we hurt, we really have only two choices: We can hurt with God, or we can hurt without Him. We need God more in suffering than ever before. Losing faith will not remove our pain. It rather adds a second problem, and of the two, Wayne Jackson notes, “infidelity is of far greater consequence.” Job trusted in spite of unheard of suffering. When all of his children died, his possessions were lost, and his means of livelihood removed, he said simply, “*The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD*” (Job 1:21). When he soon also lost his health and suffered months of agony, he remained unfazed: “*Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him*” (Job 13:15).

Wayne Jackson advised that a period of suffering is a time to “immerse ourselves in the evidences that builds faith in the integrity of the Word of God” (Psalm 19; Romans 10:17). It is absolutely paramount that we establish confidence in the testimony of the Scriptures. Unless we are convinced that the Bible is true, and we can trust its message, there is nowhere to go for any meaningful resolution; we will fall into the devil’s trap of doubt.

Faith Must Be Tested to Be Genuine.

Do you remember those public service announcements that began, “This is a test”? When going through trials, we can say to ourselves, “This is a test.” Times of crisis prove our friendship with God and declare the authenticity of our faith. Do we love God because He provides gifts? Do we love those gifts more than we love the Giver? This was the accusation Satan made against Job (Job 1:8-12; cf. 1 Peter 1:6-9). All the things we cling to in this world will eventually disappear. The One who gives them is all that will ultimately remain.

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Simple answers sometimes are enough.

R. C. Sproul offers an interesting insight in his book, *Not a Chance*. He notes that when a child asks a complicated question, or one that he is not yet ready to understand, a parent's simple reply is, "Because." "Because" implies that there is an answer but does not give all of it. As God's children, sometimes it must suffice to accept "because" when we ask "why?" In Job's trial, as well as in ours, part of the test is not knowing the reason for the suffering. Jesus neither gave long explanations of evil nor ignored it (Lk 4:18-19).

Vance Havner remarked, "God marks across some of our days, 'Will explain later.'" He continued, "One day of green pastures and still waters is followed by dark valleys and miry swamps, and a thousand 'whys' lie unanswered, tabled for future reference." Warren Wiersbe wrote, "God's people live by promises, not by explanations." What promises do we have when life does not make sense?

We have the assurance of God's presence.

While God never promised life would be problem-free, He did promise to be with His people (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 46:5-7). God was with David in the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23). He was with the three Hebrew men in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3) and with Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6). God sent an angel to the garden to strengthen Jesus (Luke 22:43). God is not a disinterested spectator in our lives. He is neither distant nor disengaged. He does care (1 Peter 5:7). Even when we are afraid, through faith we can sing, "What a fellowship, what a joy divine, safe and secure from all alarms."

We have the assurance of God's peace (John 14:27; 16:33; 20:19-21; Ephesians 2:12-14; 1 Peter 5:14).

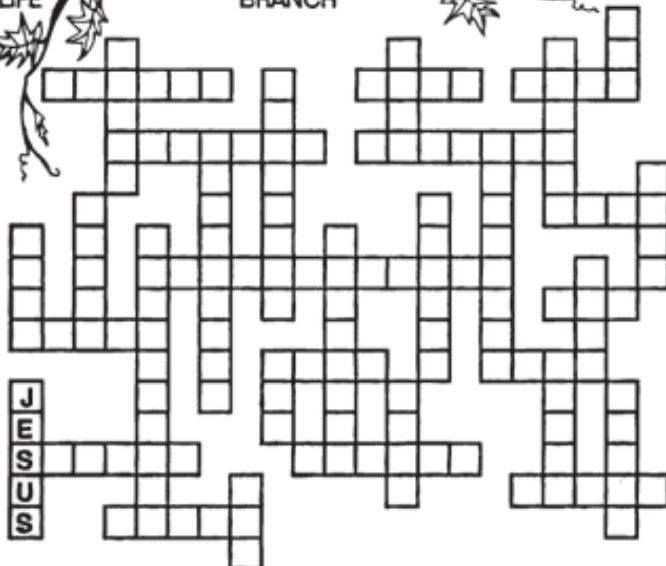
We have the assurance of God's providence (Romans 8:28). Rather than asking "Where is God?" or "Why me?" let us ask, "What can I learn from this?" and "Who can I help because of this?" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). College classes are not easy, but they prepare us to be of service after graduation. Life's problems are not easy, but they qualify us to serve in ways we never could otherwise.

BibleWise

And His Name Shall Be Called . . .

Jesus had many names. All the words below were used to refer to Jesus in the Bible. Fit the names into the puzzle. (Hint: Start with the longest names.)

GOD	SEED	CHRIST
SUN	STAR	SAVIOR
WAY	RABBI	MESSIAH
ONE	BREAD	TEACHER
ROOT	LIGHT	REDEEMER
WORD	TRUTH	IMMANUEL
LAMB	ALPHA	SHEPHERD
GATE	OMEGA	COUNSELOR
LORD	STONE	BRIDEGROOM
KING	FATHER	RESURRECTION
VINE	PRINCE	
LIFE	BRANCH	



Nell de Vries and Mary Currier. More Bible Activities You Can Do. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books Publisher, 1999.

Find Your Own Place

Some animals started a school. The students were 4 in number: A bird, a squirrel, a rabbit and a groundhog. The courses offered were climbing, flying, running and burrowing. You can imagine which course each wanted to take. The squirrel made an A in climbing, and so on.

That is, UNTIL they started taking new courses. The bird not only made an F in burrowing, but it brought his A down to a C in flying because while trying burrow, he broke some wing feathers. The rabbit's A in running dropped to a D, because his 31 mph running speed didn't help any when he crashed into a tree and suffered brain damage. Not only an F in climbing but now a poor runner as well.

The moral is that each of us has talent in some field. Your talent will not be like that of another. But don't fret. Just do your best in the element God gave you. Don't try to do something God did not equip you to do, because if you do, you'll feel inadequate and defeated every time. Just be thankful for whatever you're able to do. And, do it with all your heart. And that is enough!

~ Ken Joines ~

PRAYER LIST



Ron Griggs, father of Madison Griggs was released from the Oxford Hospital Mon. He is dealing with another infection in his leg.

Audrey Nell Clement, sister of Richard Jennings is recovering from carotid artery surgery.

Brian Carpenter is recovering from knee surgery.

Sympathy: We express our deepest to the family of Daniel Cross who passed away March 20th.

Daniel had battled heart problems since his birth and just last year received a heart transplant. He was 15 years old and a student at West Union. He leaves behind his parents Jeff and Chrystal Cross and two sisters. Graveside services will be held Wed. March 25th, at Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery near West Union.

Continue to Remember:

Michelle Bell, Molly Clayton, Jerry Coats, Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Phillip Haynes, Janie Huggins, Bill Lyon, Elizabeth Phagen, Jerry Robbins, Shannon Sciara, Levi Smith, Mildred Shackelford, Sue Stroud, Josie Tidwell, Angela Victory, Donnie Wilson

Shut-Ins:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski, J.D. Stroud

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joe Downs, Jerry & Lucille Gibson, Price Senter

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- March 27. Mary Martin Crotts
March 28. Roger Clayton
March 28. Ella Boyd
March 29. Caleb Jennings

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- March 24. J.D. & Sue Stroud



CHURCH FAMILY UP DATE

Due to the changes that seem to come daily concerning the Coronavirus the Elders, after careful consideration, have cancelled all worship services here at our building until further notice . They are continuing to work on the best possible way for us as to have services on line. Please keep check on our website for lessons and information. Also, our Newsline is being updated again. The number for the Newsline is 534-0016. If you know of those who may be sick or in need please contact Kathy Jennings at 662-317-1588, or one of our deacons. Those who are on our church text list will be contacted as the need arrives. Please contact those that may not have internet service or church text to keep them informed. We look forward to the day (hopefully soon) that we can be back worshipping together all in one place. Until then stay safe and continue to check on one another.

Meditate on These Things

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

~ Philippians 4:8 -9 ~

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- 1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:13-17)
2. Believe the Gospel (Acts 15:7; Mark 16:15, 16)
3. Repent of Sins (Acts 3:19)
4. Confess Faith in Christ (Acts 8:37)
5. Be Baptized for the Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38)
6. Be Faithful (Revelation 2:10)

I've Learned...

Without hearts there is no home.



Visit our website @ http://www.nacoc.us

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

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Volume 12

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
 Morning Worship.....10:30
 Evening Worship.....6:00
 Wednesday Bible Study....6:30

MINISTER

Shaler Grigsby....Youth/ Assoc.
256-263-9137
 Office 534-4649

ELDERS

Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195
 Jason Jennings..... 801-3260
 Randy Wall 316-9255

TO SERVE

Scripture.....
 A.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed.....
 Wed.....
 Lock.....
 Usher
 Security

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....
 Sunday A.M.....
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....
 Contribution.....
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS



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 Church of Christ
 511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148
 New Albany, Mississippi 38652
 (662)534-4649

Periodical
 Postage Paid
 New Albany, MS

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
 (Form 3579) to: The Informer, P.O. Box
 148, New Albany, MS 38652

MANY PARTS - ALL IMPORTANT

It is amazing how something so small can bring things to a halt. One little key can make the difference from being able to get into your house or office. One key lost or misplaced can keep you from getting from point A to B. The small key you keep in your pocket gives you access to your car, home, or office. Without that piece of metal that goes into the doorknob you will have to wait for someone to bring a backup key. The little key is important!

If you have a lawnmower and the little plastic center breaks on the rear wheel, it will render the machine unusable. A little piece of plastic the size of a half dollar that probably costs less than that to make, but without it the mower is as useless as to its effectiveness. You don't think much about the little piece of plastic on the wheel before it breaks and then that's all you can think about. The bottom line is without this fifty-cent piece of plastic, your mower is sidelined. The absence of one part, seemingly small part, can greatly delay the machine. It is the same way in the ministry. Every member is vital. *The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body* (1 Cor. 12:12a).
 ~ Clark Tatum