

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

WEEK OF SUNDAY March 23, 2025

Announcements	Todd Webb
---------------	-----------

SUNDAY DOOR GREETERS

North Side	Todd / Jody Webb
South Side	Gary/ Donna Loftis

SUNDAY DOOR MONITOR

Ricky Davis	Jere Whitson
-------------	--------------

MORNING WORSHIP

Adult Bible Class Prayer	Joel Knight
Song Leader	Adam Swallows
First Prayer	Bobby Rothfus
Sermon	Joel Knight
Lord's Table	Jonothan Whitson
Closing Prayer	Ron Brown

Evening Worship

Song Leader	David Allen
First Prayer	Jondan Rothfus
Scripture	Levi Whitson
Sermon	Joel Knight
Prayers	Enoch Knight/ Levi Swallows
Lord's Table	Todd Webb
Closing Prayer	Adam Swallows

Wednesday March 26, 2025

Song Leader	Enoch Knight
Scripture Reading	Levi Swallows
Devotional Talk	Bobby Rothfus
Closing Prayer	Gary Loftis

Wednesday Door Monitor

Jere Whitson

Jere Whitson is responsible for worship assignments. If you are going to be absent or need to request changes, please contact him.

Gospel Broadcast Supported
Preaching the Gospel, Sunday 7:30 A.M. – Ch. 11

Important News:

2025 THEME

Jesus Built His Church

Matthew 16:16-19

Verse 18 : And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

THIS WEEK'S TEXTS

AM class-TBA

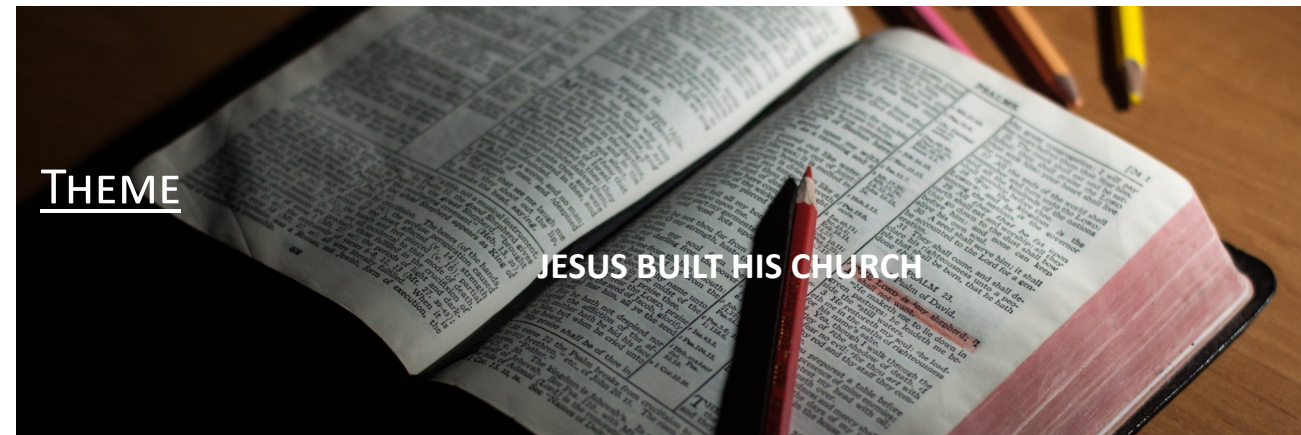
AM sermon– TBA

PM sermon– TBA

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Christian Messenger
395 West Main Street
Algood, TN 38506-5391

CHRISTIAN MESSENGER
(USPS 961-220)
Published weekly by
Algood Church of Christ
395 West Main Street
Algood, TN 38506-5391

**PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID
COOKVILLE, TN
38501**



CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

A publication of the ALGOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST located at
395 West Main St. | Algood, TN 38506

SUNDAY

Bible Study9:00 AM
Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.



www.algoodcofc.com



It Is Written



readthewordtoday.com

Volume XLVI Thur. March 27, 2025 Number 12

God and Suffering (Part One)

John Chowning

I recently received a request to address the question of “Why does God allow suffering?” It was believed by the one requesting this that a single sermon on the matter would be sufficient. While it is true that many Bible subjects and questions can be answered in a single, simple study of God’s word, this is not one of them.

From all the available evidence, the book of Job appears to be a one of the oldest books in Scripture. Its focus is on the question of suffering. These two statements demonstrate that the subject of suffering has been a challenge for a long, long time to humanity, especially to those who seek to live by faith in Jehovah. Job’s three friends Bildad, Eliphaz, and Zophar foolishly believed their simplistic answers to this challenging question were complete and accurate. They were wrong. Grotesquely wrong. It would be foolish to follow in their footsteps.

Before delving into any of the possible aspects of the question of “Why does God allow suffering?”, let’s begin with five important preliminaries:

Beware of the devil. The very first words of Satan in Scripture were spoken in the form of a question: “Yea, hath God said, ‘Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” (Gen. 3:1). Questions are great tools for greater spiritual awareness. God, for example, asked the sinner Adam, “Where art thou?” (Gen. 3:9). Jehovah was not seeking a geographical location; He was seeking to bring His disobedient son to a clearer understanding of the heinous spiritual crime he had committed. Not so with our Adversary. If given the opportunity, the Devil will seek to have you question yourself right out of your faith.

Remember the possibility of asking more questions than the Bible answers. Like a two-year old who is endlessly stuck on “Why?”, we also can ask more questions about God and suffering than the Bible answers. This is not some great accomplishment or an impressive display of mental ability. The Bible’s purpose is not to answer in detail every possible question the human mind can create; rather, its intended function is to fully equip us unto all good works (2 Tim. 3:17) and to give us all things pertaining to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). According to 1 Timothy 6:3-4, having a morbid interest in endless questions is a trait of those who do not consent to wholesome words and the doctrine which is according to godliness.

Learn to be content with the answers given in Scripture. As noted above, the Bible’s purpose is not to answer every possible question the human mind can create. There are many “secret things” (I.e., things God has not chosen to reveal to humanity). They are in God’s domain and it is His rightful prerogative to keep them unrevealed to humanity, “but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law” (Deut. 29:29). To believe God has withheld the answer to an essential question of life is to believe like Eve did; she thought God’s prohibition of eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil was detrimental to her well-being (Gen. 3:5). Such is a lie. A blasphemous lie.

Beware of repeating Naaman’s great folly (I.e., “Behold I thought”--2 Kings 5:11). Few statements have greater spiritual danger in them than those which begin with: “I think a God of love would...” and “I think a God of love would not...” To set your puny self up as the standard by which the holy, wise, omniscient, omnipresent, eternal, sovereign God of heaven and earth is to be judged is presumptuous, arrogant, and folly. Such pride is of the devil (1 Tim. 3:6). Job learned this hard truth and declared, “I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6).

Use the shield of faith. Spiritual victory is not determined by who has the most right answers. It comes by putting on the whole armor of God and standing up against the onslaught of the devil. When the fiery darts of the wicked are launched in an attempt to destroy you and your confidence in God and His word, you must use the shield of faith to protect yourself (Eph. 6:11-16). This was the course of action the prophet Habakkuk chose (Hab. 2:1). He chose to walk by faith (Hab. 2:4) and not allow Satan’s fiery questions burn up his faith and leave behind the ashes of doubt and despair. Tenacious faith in God is not a luxury in life. It is essential to spiritual victory. Use your shield, soldier.

Sixty-two years ago, brother Thomas Warren wrote and published *A Sun and Shield For Troubled Hearts*. It is a ten chapter treatise on the question of God and suffering. Unlike brother Warren’s more scholarly publications, this book is not difficult reading. Even though I am intending to use some of the material in this book in future articles, I wholeheartedly recommend that you read it in its entirety by adding it to your personal library. Last week I ordered ten copies of the book and will be happy to pass one on to you at cost. (Its retail price is \$19.95.)

IMPORTANT NEWS

-If you want to help Ron Gilbert with the preparing of the Africa newsletter, please meet at the building on Tuesday, March 18th at 10 a.m.

-The elders are still needing one more person to assist with organization of the library. If this interests you, please let one of the elders know.

-Don’t forget to stay and join in the learning of a new song following P.M. Services on Sunday, March 23rd.

-On Sunday, March 30th, we will have a potluck after the morning services and sunshine bags will be assembled following that meal. No donations of items are needed at this time for the sunshine bags.

-Also, on Sunday, March 30th, the P.M. services will be led by the Christian men of the congregation in songs, scriptures, and prayers. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

ILLNESSES

Al Beaty, will still be receiving at least 2 more treatments for his health issues he is dealing with, but it was wonderful to see him at worship this past Sunday.

Bonnie Woody, has been dealing with bronchitis, but we were so glad she was able to be with us this past Sunday for worship.

Bill Barnes, is in the Livingston hospital with pneumonia, please keep him and Betty in your prayers.

Lou Bryant, is at home but not doing well at this time.

Ronan Chatfield, the 2 year old great grandson of former member Peggy Chatfield, has recently been diagnosed with leukemia. They have ask for prayers during this time.

PANTRY ITEM:
Small Dawn Dish Soap

EXTENDED ILLNESS

Bonnie Stockton, Carol Meadows, Junior and Lou Bryant, Sue Ing, Mike and Lucy Mitchell, and Bill and Betty Barnes.

PHONE	
(931) 537-6221	
ELDERS	Deacons Cont’d
Bobby Rothfus	Joel Knight
Ext. 701	Ext. 803
Gary Loftis	Jondan Rothfus
Ext. 702	Ext. 804
Derek Crawford	Todd Webb
Ext. 703	Ext. 805
PREACHER	Jay Whitson
John Chowning	Ext. 806
Ext. 700	Jere Whitson
Deacons	Ext. 807
Ron Brown	Jonathan
Ext. 801	Whitson
Ricky Davis	Ext. 808
Ext. 802	