

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

WEEK OF SUNDAY March 30, 2025

Announcements	Bobby Rothfus
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SUNDAY DOOR GREETERS

North Side	Joel Knight Family
South Side	Amy/Levi/ Randi Swallows

SUNDAY DOOR MONITOR

Gary Robinson	Ricky Davisa
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MORNING WORSHIP

Adult Bible Class Prayer	Bobby Rothfus
Song Leader	Joel Knight
First Prayer	Todd Webb
Sermon	John Chowning
Lord's Table	Jonothan Whitson
Closing Prayer	Ricky Davis

Evening Worship

Song Leader	Men of Congregation
First Prayer	Men of Congregation
Sermon	TBD
Lord's Table	Todd Webb
Closing Prayer	Men of Congregation

Wednesday April 2, 2025

Song Leader	Enoch Knight
Scripture Reading	Ron Brown
Devotional Talk	Ricky Davis
Closing Prayer	Jay Whitson

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

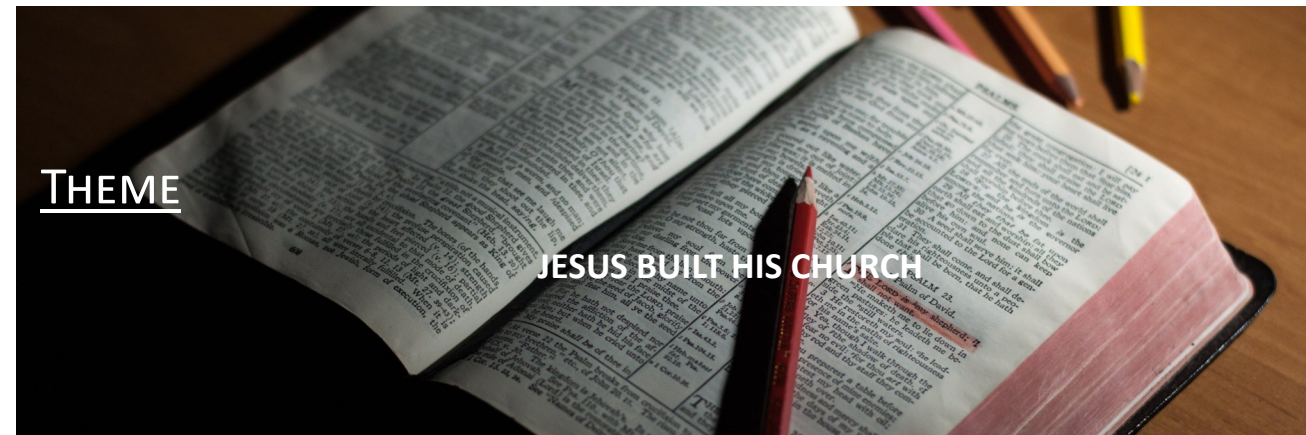
AM class-Titus 2:11-15

AM sermon- Ephesians 4:11-16

PM sermon- Services led by the Men of Congregation

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SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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



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It Is Written



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Volume XLVI Thur. April 3, 2025 Number 13

God and Suffering (Part Two)

John Chowning

Suffering exists in human history because of two immutable reasons: 1) Every heavenly and human being is a free moral agent (I.e., we have the freedom to choose good or evil) and 2) Satan--the source of evil--exists. Being made in the image of God with the capacity to love, every human has the ability to choose whether they will love wisely or foolishly. Loving God with all one's heart, mind, soul, and strength is the wisest and greatest choice any human can make. Because heavenly and earthly beings have chosen foolishly, there is worldwide suffering on every page of human history.

Being a free moral agent necessitates consequences for every choice you make. If you choose to obey God, you will please Him and enrage Satan. If you choose to disobey God, you will please Satan and offend God. Neutrality or a lack of consequences is impossible. Just as Newton's Third Law of Motion ("For every action, there is an equal and opposite

reaction”) is true in our physical world, it is also true in the spiritual world. Job suffered from the wrath of Satan because of his choices to live blamelessly, uprightly, fearing God and eschewing evil (Job 1:1). The world of Noah’s day was destroyed by water because of its choices to offend God by being wicked continuously in thought and action (Gen. 6:5-7).

Someone may declare, “Well, surely God could allow freedom of choice without there being any consequences.” Since God is a rewarder of human behavior (Heb. 11:6), this is not possible. In addition, if suffering in some form (s) is not a consequence of sinful decisions, how do you propose to teach a sinner of the horrors of sin, especially with its passing pleasures? What convincing proof could you give to demonstrate the sinfulness of sin? Criticizing God implies that He could have had a better plan but chose an inferior one instead. His critics need to inform Him and us about that superior plan He failed to come up with. “I don’t know, but He could have” lacks concrete specifics. It will not suffice.

Suffering when one is innocent is the most perplexing and challenging of miseries. On many levels, it does not make sense. But, remember: If God had created a world in which there could be no suffering by anyone who is innocent, there would be no Savior or salvation from sin. The redemption of every sinner from sin is predicated upon Jesus’ (the innocent’s) suffering and death for the guilty. When the Godhead made humanity, They did so knowing it would necessitate the horrific suffering of the sinless Son of God at Calvary.

Another path which Satan has led people away from faith in God is built upon the misguided and insufficient view of love. “How could a loving God create a place called hell?” “How could a loving God give the orders to put people to death?” “How could a loving God test a child of His (like He did Abraham)?” “How could a loving God require and permit His Son to die so brutally?” To believe a human’s understanding of love is comparable or superior to Jehovah’s--who is love (1 John 4:8)--is presumption. The chasm of knowledge between God and humanity is astronomical (Is. 55:8-9). Anyone who loses sight of this significant truth will be plunged into folly and, ultimately, profound regret.

Many of the criticisms made against God from the approach of “love” are easily exposed. Are gardeners “unloving” when they eliminate weeds and pests from their gardens? Are farmers “unloving” when they build fences and barns for their livestock? Are parents “unloving” when they buy a watch dog and lock the doors at night? To claim the gardener, farmer, or parent is “unloving” in protecting something of great value to them is to display an embarrassing misunderstanding of love. When God carries out the same type of actions a good gardener, shepherd, and father would, it clearly is not because He is “unloving”.

Being tested is a fact of life. To believe Satan is never going to test your faith and commitment to God is to believe a bald-faced lie. Where in Scripture is such a spiritually insane thought taught? To believe your faith in God is free from any and all deficiencies is to think more highly of yourself than you ought. When God tests our faith, He does so for our improvement. Like a metallurgist refining gold, He seeks to rid our faith of its impurities without ruining the precious metal (1 Pet. 1:6-7). How can this be “unloving”? Is a farmer “unloving” when he gets his soil tested to identify and rectify its deficiencies?

Tests also allow someone to show growth and proficiency. Is a teacher “unloving” for giving his students an exam over a concept or skill he has taught? In seventeen years of teaching, I never had a single student accuse me of being “unloving” when a test had been given and he had gotten an achievement score of 100%. Typically, the harder the student had to work to reach mastery, the greater the joy he felt with his achievement. How much more so, for every disciple of Christ.

In a book published by brother Thomas Warren in 1972, he addressed the question: “Have atheists proved there is no God?” His answer then--which remains true today--is a resounding and emphatic NO! Suffering is proof that Satan exists; it is not proof that the God of the Bible is non-existent or untrustworthy.

IMPORTANT NEWS

-Don’t forget the bible class on Tuesday, March 25th at 10 a.m. , on the lessons concerning “Studying Sin Seriously”.

-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.

-There will be potluck meal following AM services on March 30th and sunshine bags will be assembled also.

ILLNESSES

Al Beaty, still has some treatments remaining, but is still able to come to worship. We are so happy for that.

Bonnie Woody, will be having a heart doctor appointment on March 31st. Pray for a good report.

Bill Barnes, is now at the Overton County nursing home after a stay in the hospital.

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

Jasper Birdwell, is in CRMC, room 403, dealing with some health issues 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.

EXTENDED ILLNESS

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

PANTRY ITEM:

Spam

SYMPATHY

Allen D. Loftis, brother of Ella Morgan, who passed away last Wednesday, funeral services were held Saturday, March 22nd.

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ELDERS

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Deacons

Ron Brown

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Ricky Davis

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Deacons Cont’d

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Jondan Rothfus

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Todd Webb

Ext. 805

Jay Whitson

Ext. 806

Jere Whitson

Ext. 807

Jonothan

Whitson

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