

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Sylvester Johnson (*upcoming treatments & bone marrow transplant*), Leon Miller (*effects & complications caused by brain tumor & treatments continue*), Neil & Ahreah Miller (*He with his blindness and she with her broken leg & rehabilitation*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Steve Parker (*recovering from heart surgery and fall*), Moses and Mary Stevens (*with their health*).

Family and friends: Vivian Dillman, Ned Hicks, Brian James (*cancer*), John Marschall (*Bob Marschall's father*), Keith & Becca Marschall (*as they adjust to parenthood*), Kirk Marschall (*doing WELL with long-term rehab*), Ricky Ross (*Robyn Day's father*) and Dorothy Trice (*Carla Moore's mother*).

Worship Services: An abbreviated Sunday morning service at the begins at 9:50am for those able to attend. On Sunday (6PM) and Wednesday evenings (7PM) we have a virtual study through Zoom. Meeting ID 542 518 2960, Password: 991682. Let us know how we may assist you in getting started.

Ladies' Bible Class: Was scheduled for April 13th. Be sure to study lesson number 8 on page 43, "Trouble Over Divorce" in the book "Troubled Over Many Things," by Connie Adams.

Area Meeting(s): Our meeting with Derek Long has been postponed.

New Addition: To the Marschall family! Katheryn Cay was born March 26th 2020 at 10:10pm weighing 6lbs 15oz with a length of 19 and 3/4 inches. Let's be sure to rejoice along with this family (*Rom. 12:15*).

Remember and encourage those who are struggling physically and spiritually.

1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

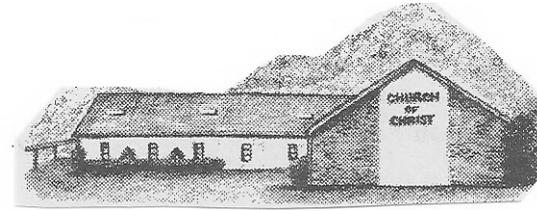
6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

~ New King James Version



**Lakeland Hills
Leader**

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SERVICES

Sunday
Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Morning Services 9:50 A.M.
Evening Services 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday
Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

DEACONS:

Robert Marschall
Michael Sadler
Moses Stevens
David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

“When We Don’t Know Why”

We have so much difficulty grasping why bad things happen in this world. How can God be in control when we see so much heartache, sickness, and evil? This has long been a point of doubt for many. Books like Job, Ecclesiastes, Habakkuk, and many Psalms grapple with this problem.

The reality of evil and heartache in this world need not sink our faith. The fact that Scripture devotes so much space to the problem of evil, and indeed is a major theme of Scripture, is evidence that its existence in no way impugns the integrity and purposes of God. Scripture is a testimony of God’s response to the problem that includes Jesus dying for our sins so that we can be reconciled to Him.

Times like these require that we make a decision about whom we will trust. Trust will be tested the most when we are required to give up the most. Think about Abraham sacrificing Isaac and trusting that God knew what He was doing, even to the point of believing that God would raise Isaac from the dead (Gen 22:1-14; Heb 11:17). When Abraham was asked to give up the most, he trusted God all the more.

When we don't know why, we must trust that we know the One who does know why and that He always has good reason to act, to allow, and to arbitrate between the various events and issues that we face in this world. Since we are to walk by faith not by sight (2 Cor 5:7), and since faith undergirds our hope (Heb 11:1), then we ought to remember that faith is the demonstration of our trust in the reality of what we cannot see. We don't see what is going on "behind the scenes," but we know the One who owns and manages the stage.

God is all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise, all-understanding, and all-loving. None of that changes when we do not understand something. Our lack of knowledge about greater matters of reality should never be a reason to turn from God; rather this is all the more reason to turn to and trust God.

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you" (Psalm 56:3).

Trusting God in a world that is full of "bad things" requires that we be prepared both spiritually and physically. Spiritually, we prepare our minds for action and seek to obey His will and to be holy as He is holy (1 Pet 1:13-16). Without spiritual preparation, we will be open to the schemes of the evil one (Eph 6:10-18). Physically, we prepare because "your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God" ... and "you are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Cor 6:19-20).

Spiritual interests are always more important than what may happen to our physical bodies (not that our bodies are unimportant). Recall that when Jesus had healed the man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years, He later found him in the temple and told him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you" (John 5:14). Sin will be more destructive to us, body and soul, than any particular physical illness. One can be physically ill yet spiritually robust, and one can be physically in good shape yet spiritually anemic. The former condition would be far better than the latter. After all, if we are reconciled with God, we trust that the resurrection is coming.

On the other side of the spectrum is the problem of panic. This is generally some kind of sudden or overwhelming fear and can lead to irrational behaviors. Sometimes panic results in an outbreak with larger groups of people acting irrationally at the same time. This type of fear can be very destructive, and not only with physical properties. Our peace of mind is ruined. There is no joy in a mind full of fear. Think about the difference panic and preparation:

Panic is irrational.
Preparation is rational.
Panic is based on fear.
Preparation is based on trust.
Panic loses sight of the needs of others.
Preparation cares for the needs of others.
Panic forgets God is in control.
Preparation submits to God's control.

The child of God is called upon to trust God. God has given us tools to by which we may overcome our anxieties and fears. Paul put it this way:

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:5-7).

As we think on things that are excellent (v. 8), determine to practice what is right (v. 9), show our care for others (v. 10), and learn to be content in our circumstances (vv. 11-12), we know that Christ will strengthen us (v. 13).

When we don't know why, trust the only One who does know.

~ Doy Moyer

"Now Is A Good Time"

The be not anxious section of the sermon on the mount (Matt. 6:25-f) closes with these words: Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. It seems Jesus has given two cures for anxiety (1) make his kingdom and his righteousness your first goal; and (2) live one day at the time. In our emphasis upon the first, I believe we tend to overlook the importance of the second.

The anxious mind races ahead to troubles that may never happen, or sink morbidly in the mire

of yesterday. It wallows in despair; is crippled and ineffective in life's most crucial moment of truth — the awesome, tingling, wonderful NOW.

NOW IS A GOOD TIME! That motto is attached to my study clock, but it is more than a warning against procrastination. It affirms one's trust in Almighty God — the kind of trust that makes a happy soul here and hereafter. Genuine Christians do not abdicate today for a heavenly existence; they live today — with assurance. To all who walk by faith NOW is opportunity: full of challenge, meaning and hope.

TODAY is a jewel, contrasting boldly with the yesterday that has been so effectively blotted out by the forgiveness that is in Christ (Heb. 10:17) and brilliantly illuminated with His promise of tomorrow. (Jn. 14:1-6). But it is ephemeral, delicately set in the effervescence of time. It must be used NOW, or it is lost forever.

When we ask, What is a Christian? we use the present tense. Not was, nor may be tomorrow — but NOW, what IS he? In a real sense, I am a follower of Christ to the extent that I use TODAY for Him. Forgetting the past, confident of the future, I press, (Phil. 3:13-15). Press is a NOW term, a TODAY word. The atmosphere, the clime in which a Christian lives is sparkling with NOW!! It is sweet urgency, too rich to be called frantic, too wonderful for leisure, it must be eaten while it is hot.

And where, in this kind of life, is there room for anxiety? This malady of emotions is rooted in a yesterday that we cannot believe forgiven, or in a tomorrow that we will not trust. It is not of God.

~ Robert F. Turner