

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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December 15, 2024

“Dealing With Loneliness”

By David Cox

“Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I am desolate and afflicted.” — (Psalm 25:16).

Do you ever have times that you experience loneliness? If so, you are not alone. In a world with so many ways to connect, many people feel disconnected and isolated. However, loneliness is not a new problem.

In Psalm 25, David is well aware of what it is to experience loneliness as he proclaims, “For I am desolate.” Sometimes, loneliness may come from our faults and decisions. However, it is also true that when one is striving and doing the right thing, people turn away and leave them alone. What can one do to deal with times of loneliness?

Look To God’s Word

As one looks to God’s word the promise of God is there, but also the strength gained by mediating on His word. There are four scriptures to remember:

1. Matthew 28:20 — *“Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

The promise Jesus makes here is that His disciples will never be alone. There is never a time that God is not with us. God’s promise to be with us always implies that we can always talk to God in prayer.

God is always with us, looking over us and wanting to hear from His people (1 Peter 3:12). As the people of God, we can tell God our feelings, concerns, hopes, and desires. What a promise that God has left His people, “I am with you.”

2. Proverbs 18:24 – *“A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”*

The fact is that friends come and go throughout life. Why is that the case? Because people change. Some people are more spiritual in their focus in life, and others are not; the life one lives will bring different people into one’s life. The changing of friends is fine because life changes. However, as disciples, there is always a friend who is there. He is there in all the lonely passages of life.

3. 1 Peter 5:7 — *“Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”*

God wants His children to be in constant communication with Him. The reason is that life presents man with many hurdles and obstacles. In times of these hurdles, the temptation is to isolate oneself from others,

But God’s answer for these times is “Cast your cares on Him.” God loves and cares for each one, and He does intend for each one to get through their struggles by themselves. Lean on the Lord, and let Him walk with you in times of trouble.

4. Romans 8:38-39 — *“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Paul says, “Nothing can separate us from God.” When the times of loneliness come, remember that God is with us always, and no man can pluck us out of His hands. The key is not to focus on what one can see but on our faith and trust in God.

In times of loneliness, remember these scriptures and have the faith seen in David as he pours out his heart to God and asks the Lord to “turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me.” How thankful disciples can be to have God on our side.

“Who Can Be Against Us?”

By Mark McCrary

It seems that a lot of Christians are down and out right now, discouraged by recent events in our country. Let’s find a few words of encouragement from God’s word—Romans 8:31-39...

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Christian, have hope! Trust in God in difficult days!

“Struggle”

By Terry Francis

The verb struggle is defined as “to proceed with difficulty or with great effort.” The noun struggle is defined as “an act of strong motivated striving.” That’s a good description of life—or at least my life. We spend our lives struggling with life.

I struggle with being a good person. I struggle with being a good husband, father, neighbor, friend, and Christian example. I don’t always say the right things. I don’t always do the right things. I don’t always do what I know I should or even what I say I will do. It’s not that I want to fall so short. I just do. And that causes more struggle. That sounds somewhat familiar though...

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”

(Romans 7:18-24)



Memory Verse of the Week:

John 3:17 (NKJB)

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, & Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, George Hutto, Nathan Cox, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, and Sherry Fuqua Doles had a fall and is still recovering.
Lowell Gann had his gall bladder removed last week and is recovering.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Conner Whittemore
Preaching: Duston Coan
Sermon #1: "Honk: Lessons From Geese"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Author: The Books Of James
Starting Page & Question: Rick Billingsley
Page 23, Question #14

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Doug George
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Conner Whittemore
Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:13-21
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Paul Johnson
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Duston Coan
Sermon #2: "The Multitude Fed"
Closing Prayer: Paul Busby

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

December 18, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: The Minor Prophets #2
Author: By Marc Gibson
Starting Page & Question: Page 53, Question #11
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer: Blake Briggs

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