

Comfort in Hardship

by Jon Mitchell

I believe there are two basic human needs that every individual has... forgiveness and comfort. I also believe that only God can completely meet both of those needs. We all sin (Rom. 3:23), and so we all need God's grace. We all suffer, and so we all need the peace that only God can provide (Phil. 4:6-7).

Every Christian needs encouragement at various times throughout this life. We suffer due to family problems, health concerns, natural disasters, spiritual weakness, emotional trials, problems at work, and even difficulties in the church. This is nothing new, for there were problems in the church even during biblical times. In the church of Christ at Corinth alone, we read of division, immorality, lawsuits between brethren, incorrect worship practices, abuse of miraculous gifts, lack of love for one another, and misunderstandings concerning the resurrection of Christ and the resurrection of the dead in the last day. Corinth, like most every congregation of God's people, was filled with hurting people. This is why God inspired Paul to give them a lot of encouragement (2 Cor. 1:3-5). They needed to grow stronger and remain stronger and more faithful, and encouragement would do that.

There are people around you who are hurting. We live in a broken, fallen world; thus, no life is free from hardship (Job 5:7). However, what we see in life is not determined by our own vantage point...but rather how we view life. Sometimes the hardships of life beat us down, and it is during those time that we must need to be encouraged (2 Cor. 1:5; John 16:33; 1 Pet. 4:12-13).

Why rejoice when fiery trials come upon us, Peter? Because with those hardships come opportunities to receive God's comfort. Yes, I know that we think that we can do it all ourselves, that we have convinced ourselves that we are invincible, that we think we are self-reliant, that we think that if we obtain enough wealth and possessions we do not have to depend on God, that if we can educate ourselves enough we can determine our own morals, laws, and guidelines so we have no need of the Bible, that if we can be busy enough with programs, plans, and activities, we will have no need of the church...but God knows differently (John 15:5; 2 Cor. 1:9).

Hardships have a way of bringing us to our knees and reminding us of our great need for God's comfort (Heb. 12:7-11). So instead of running away from God during the hard times, let's run TO him (Heb. 4:16; 1 Pet. 5:7).

The Devil's Other Workshop

by Sam Dilbeck

The heat of summer is already melting away the days of spring, and school is over. After all the graduation banquets, awards assemblies, and promotion parties are over, we will have eleven weeks free and clear with our kids. No homework. No late night laundry. No lunches to pack. No permission slips to sign. June brings a deluge of free time. How will we spend all of it?

Okay, so free time is a fantasy. In reality the summer "break" is as busy as the school year. Baseball, picnics, camps, vacation, appointments, day care, soccer. A million things take up the void left by school. It isn't a question of how do we spend the time off, but how can we get all that stuff in during the time off.

In the busyness of summer vacation, often we get overextended and exhausted. Here are some tips for summer planning that may help us keep our sanity.

Don't overschedule. Kids bore easily so parents try to keep their minds occupied. Instead, acclimate kids to downtime. Frantic kids are produced by frantic households scrambling to get to the next thing on time. "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

Plan to serve. Summer sports and recreation offer great reward for a year stuck in the classroom, but don't fall into the trap of thinking, "My kids just need to decompress." Summer activities are usually as much a pressure cooker as school. Instead take them to visit a shut-in or an elderly Christian in a nursing home. Make cards or cookies and take them to somebody who needs a pick-me-up.

Other ways to serve may be to help decorate a classroom at the church building, clean out a storage room, decorate a bulletin board, pick up trash around your neighborhood, mow the yard at an abandoned house, plant a garden and share the harvest, walk a neighbor's dog, host a prayer group, or invite neighbors to worship. Serving others offers great

reward, but most of all it is commanded, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

Keep teaching. School may be over, but as parents, our job to teach continues. Use service projects to teach lessons about considering others, helping others, and how to behave in calm situations. Some parents use their children's behavior as the reason not to visit in nursing homes. Instead, parents should take their children into those environments and train them how to behave. Otherwise, they will never learn. Teach children to open their eyes to opportunities, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10)

Offer rest. One of God's greatest promises is the offer of rest, "Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it" (Hebrews 4:1). While this is speaking of entering the church, it is a time of rest for seeking souls. But, it illustrates how God uses rest as a reward itself. Just as he rested after the creation, our bodies are designed to rest. So lead children beside the still waters and let them rest.

Attend Worship. School demands a lot of attention, so often the church gets overshadowed. Use the summer vacation to emphasize the importance of God's church. Attend every service and Bible class. Come to the building during the days and visit or allow your kids to play. Participate in activities such as Summer Youth Series and Vacation Bible school. Make the church the hub of your daily life.

Idle hands are the devil's workshop. But the longer I live, the more I realize busyness is the devil's workshop too. Slow down and help kids see what is truly important—it's not ball games and picnics. It is God. Let's plan our summer accordingly.

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Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org
House to House, Heart to Heart
In Search of the Lord's Way
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies
The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv
WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works

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New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

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Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Prayer List

Continue to Remember: Gayle Garner, Sharon Mahoney, Velma McDougald, Bud Moore, Henry & Eula Parrish, Barbara Shore, Mollie Southard, Paula Spillyards, Patty Williams, Meagan Gould

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart

Birthdays This Week

June 7 - Turner Jones

Next Week's Adult Class

Final Departure from Galilee & Limited Commission (Mat. 19:1-2; Mark 10:1; Luke 9:51-10:24)

Announcements

Registration is Now Open Online for both the Girls' & Boys' Leadership Initiatives. Please, register. All of the information is available online with the form.

Summer Youth Series Begins Tuesday! We will leave from the building at 5:30 to go to Meadow View in Mesquite.

Ladies' Birthday Lunch this Wednesday at 11:30 AM ALL Ladies are invited to join us at Cotton Patch to celebrate, ESPECIALLY those with June birthdays.

Wednesday Night Summer Series begins this week! Join us in the auditorium each Wed. night for a study through Galatians.

Camp Ida Begins Next Sunday, June 12. We will leave from the building at 6:30 am. Please, be here by 6:00 am to load up. We'll return Friday evening.

VBS Meeting Next Sunday, June 12 after evening services. If you'd like to help out with VBS in any way, please, join us to make plans. Vacation Bible School is July 11-13.

Important Dates:

Girls' Leadership Initiative - June 24-26

Youth Mission Trip - July 16-20

Boys' Leadership Initiative - July 29-31

Summer Youth Series (Here!) - August 2

Records for May 29, 2016

Bible Class	190
AM Worship.....	247
PM Worship.....	n/a
Wednesday	185
Contribution	\$10,832.82

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	Cory Myers
Opening Prayer	Gene Steinkraus
Communion Leader	George Schmidt
Communion Servers	
Luke Baumgartner	Tyler Baumgartner
Tanner Bearden	Wade Braly
Joe Glass	Ken Green
Wade Hall	Caleb Jackson
Andy Parrish	Wayne Prater
Thomas Saunders	David Shastid
Bronny Watson	
Closing Prayer	David Baumgartner
Nursery	Acie Mahoney & Carolyn Milton
Security	Terry Barrett, Mike Drain, Buck Murphy
PM Song Leader	Joshua Haden
PM Opening Prayer	James Horn
PM Closing Prayer	Brody Owens
Wed. Song Leader	Justin Williams
Wed. Summer Series Speaker	Tim Cooke
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