

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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HOW WILL YOU BE REMEMBERED?

Cheryl and I went to hear Joel and Labrisca Hemphill a few days ago. The music was great but the message that he preached was memorable. Joel spoke about Mary who poured the ointment on Jesus' head. The ointment was worth a year's wages. The point of the message is that Jesus said that Mary would always be remembered for what she did. I began to consider what I will be remembered for in my life's journey. A few things I would hope for are as follows: a good person, a considerate person, a caring person, a righteous person, one of character and mostly, a servant of God who preached the Gospel. The list, of course, could go on and on. Maybe this article can spark a thought concerning your life. Faithfulness to our Lord is the highest compliment that could ever be paid. Only time reveals the depth of a person. My life has been surrounded by some people of the highest character and, no doubt, this has influenced my life so much. Probably, you can say the same. As we continue to march for our Lord, let's hold the banner high and set standards for others to follow.

Pastor George Ferrington

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“FALL FUN DAY”—On Saturday, October 24th, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, here at the church, there will be food, fun, games, pumpkin decorating, and a huge inflated jumper for our kids to come and enjoy. Everyone is invited and parents are encouraged to call Miss Judy or Miss Cheryl if you have any questions or would like to help with the food and/or events.

“THANKSGIVING CHURCH DINNER”—On Sunday, November 1st, everyone is invited to bring a dish and come enjoy our annual Thanksgiving Holiday meal together here at the church immediately after the morning services. Come join us for fellowship and an early celebration of all that we have to be thankful for.

GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

POURING OUT

“In God is my salvation and my glory, the rock of my strength; my refuge is in God. Trust in him at all times, ye people; pour out your heart before him. God is a refuge for us.”
(Psalms 62:7-8)

In Colossians 1:24, the Apostle Paul makes the puzzling statement that he was completing the sufferings of Christ, **“Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is left behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body’s sake, which is the church.”** So Paul felt that Jesus left something undone which he could complete? But when Jesus died on the Cross, He declared **“It is finished”** (John 19:30). No, I believe that Paul saw something in the mysteries of God’s plan that would be completed in us as a “result” of the work of Christ.

Recently, I was privileged to see a vision in the Lord that has changed my life. I saw that as children of God and desiring to be faithful to Him, we are daily “poured out” in His presence. I literally saw myself melting before God until I was completely gone, and then saw God restore me by “filling” me back up with His creative power. This regeneration proved to be a renewing of body, soul and spirit in the Lord. Each time this occurs, something bad is removed and something good and holy replaces it. I also perceived in my spirit that this can only happen when the person desires His holiness above all other things.

“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we who live are always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.” (2 Corinthians 4:8-11) So this “pouring out” is a spiritual dying in the flesh so that we can be regenerated to life in the spirit through Jesus Christ. We become more like unto Him by sharing in His crucifixion. We complete that which is already accomplished, by believing upon Him and acting in accordance with His Word. This level of commitment (and discomfort) is part of the privilege of belief: **“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him but also to suffer for his sake.”** (Philippians 1:29) It is through this suffering (literal pouring out and giving up) of ourselves that we are made complete and whole in Him. We as teachers and preachers are reluctant many times to talk about the suffering aspect of Christianity. But we have been called to complete this important part of the perfection process.

Let me give you a crude example. If you set a coin on its edge, you only see half of its face. Even from the end, you only see half of the coin. But if you spin the coin you get to see all of it, if only for a glimpse as it rapidly spins in your line of sight. It looks more like a sphere, because I seem to be seeing both sides at once. It doesn’t look so one-dimensional. When we stop to ask God questions like “Why?” I have to remind myself that from where I am seated, I can’t see both sides of the coin. I can’t always know what God’s plan is, and how I fit into it. I must go on in faith, trusting His direction and power to guide me through every process. When the coin is spinning so fast, I may not even recognize it as a coin anymore. It has morphed into something from which God can speak and act in my life. **“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which**

are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18) We can kick and scream and rebel, but our Father in Heaven will not be deterred from His plan, which is the completion of His Son’s work in the earth. We are His Son’s work in the earth; and the Father desires to see us complete and perfect.

“The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; And if children, then heirs—heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ—if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” (Romans 8:17-18). God does not force this commitment upon anyone. That is why we see so many lukewarm Christians today. God has called us to a higher level of service. You may think you are suffering for Christ now, but when you surrender to that higher level of service, satan will come to test you. When you willingly pour yourself out before Him, He will guard and protect you—and He will fill you. Romans 8:20 is a blessed promise for life, **“For we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”**

Bro. Mike Woods

JOB

I would imagine that Job learned a lot during his trials and testings. Ultimately, all that he lost was restored by God two fold. Let’s look at some of the lessons learned from his experiences. We know that Job had good reason to complain to God—after all, he had lost all of his possessions, his properties, his children and his health. The only thing that remained was his life and his faith in God. Even his wife told him to curse God and die—that’s pretty cruel, isn’t it?

Job’s friends also had their own interpretation of the problem. Some thought Job had some hidden sin, others explaining the judgments of God and the need for pain. Each spoke of Job’s situation and of God’s condemnation, even as Job justified his own position as follows:

- Job 3:1 “Job cried out. . . .”
- Job 4:1 “Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered. . . .”
- Job 6:1 “Then Job answered. . . .”
- Job 8:1 “Then Bildad the Shuhite answered. . . .”
- Job 9:1 “Then Job answered. . . .”
- Job 11:1 “Then Zophath the Naamathite answered. . . .”

This verbal ping-pong goes on for twenty three chapters. Finally Job begins a dissertation on his opinions on God. For six chapters (26-31) Job asserts his uprightness and justification in the face of his accusers. It makes for an interesting journey into the soul of a man that has witnessed all that the flesh can throw at him and still believe in a righteous God. Still, his implication of the unjustness of the trials and tests that have come against him leaves him open to criticism by his friends and by the enemy.

But God knows the heart of all men. He knew Job’s heart before the test ever came, and He knew that Job could prevail. Beginning in Job 38, our Father God begins a scathing rebuke to Job for his questioning of the ways and intentions of God’s heart. Literally, the question for Job then

and us today is this—“Who are you, O small and insignificant man, that you should question the plan and purposes of God?” We can feel the great love of God, and we can experience His grace and mercy, and we have know that we are saved for eternity and that we will forever be with Him in Heaven, and this is all very good. But we are not worthy to question the edicts of God. For He has set a course for all of creation that will not be deterred by man or by spirit. He has determined that we will be part of that plan, and we are called to obedience in that plan. We are not consulted by God in how or why it will be done—He has already set it in motion by His sovereign power—We are privileged to get to ride along.

What did Job do when God rebuked him? In Job 40:4-5 we read his reply, **“Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken, but I will not answer. Yea, twice, but I will proceed no further.”** In the presence of God, Job’s best action was silence. If he could speak nothing to edify and uplift, he should not speak or act at all. This was reverence in the presence of God. This is where we must come to. Not that we are to be mutes, but that we are to be wise in all that we do and say, not accusers and revilers, but reverent and obedient children, not exalting ourselves above God or outguessing His ways. He would have us to trust Him in the midst of the bad, as well as the good. Don’t think He has abandoned you just because you are having problems. Don’t blame him for your troubles, ask Him for an answer. Then, even if you don’t get an answer, don’t blame Him for it. If you really believe and trust in God, whatever comes your way has a purpose and a blessing in it. It may be hard to see, but God has a way of making it happen. When the flesh rises us, cover your mouth, bend your knees to God, and trust Him. Psalm 46:10 says, **“Be still and know that I am God.”** This verse contains a command and a promise. The command is “BE STILL.” The promise is “You will know that I am God.”

Set your sights on God. Don’t try to outrun Him or outguess His plan for your life. Find a quiet time with Him and know that He is your God. Job rediscovered his relationship with God at the end of his trials. God gave him twice what he had lost, and he lived out his life in peace and rest with God.

Bro. Mike Woods

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GIVE THANKS!