



Blackfoot Church of Christ

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If God be With us, then Why this?

By Bill Sexton

Often people look around and say if God is with us, then why is all this happening to me? This thought is not foreign to scripture. Gideon expressed as much when he was told:

"And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour."
(Judges 6:12).

His response was:

"Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." Judges 6:13

You see the Midianites were oppressing Gideon and his people. Gideon was aware of the fact that if the Lord was among them, things would be different: Much better. But you see the problem was that his people had done evil and forsaken the Lord. He therefore would not fight their battles for them. Listen:

"And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Median seven years. And the hand of Median prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds." Judges 6:1-2

Often we may not be able to discern absolutely why we are suffering at the present. It may be for any number of reason.

As was true with Israel, they had "done evil," our pain may be brought on partly at least by our own sins. Such as alcoholism and its evil consequences; drug addition brings pain and shame; misconduct in sexual behavior often has several consequences, etc. etc.

However, Christ, the Righteous suffered at the hand of the evil, and so may we at times. There may be pain inflicted upon us by our neighbors, associates, relatives who are not concerned about serving God and doing right. We have to remember that the Lord is the avenger: He'll repay; it's not our duty or privilege to do it for Him.

"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Ven geance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Rom. 12:19

"For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people." Heb. 10:30

It may be that we are being tried. We may not understand, as did Job, but like him we need to keep our faith! Job was shamed and ill advised by his wife and friends all of whom had a faulty view of God and His providential care. Yet, Job did not act foolishly denying or denouncing God:

"And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." Job 1:21-22

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him; but I will maintain mine own ways before him." Job 13:15

Let us hear the words of inspiration written by Peter:

"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." I Pet 21:6 7

Beloved, I suggest to you that even though we don't know, at times, why we are having a difficult time, let us be convinced that trying times can make better people out of us. That mind set may take some time and effort to develop, however, I'm convinced that from experience and scriptural observation says it's true! Be convinced Satan can't destroy a faithful child of God! Hang in there, someday we'll see!

The Old Man in The Mirror

By Bill Sexton

Seventy Five years old, surely that's NOT me
A Short time ago, I was a boy plowing the field, it seems.
Wanting to hurry up and be a big man so others could see
As an adult I could explore the world, perhaps even sail the sea
Yes, when I look in the mirror, sometime I see
An old man looking back at me
I wonder how that old frame in my mirror me could be
For In my mind a younger man should be smiling at me
Surely seventy Five years could not have passed so fast
Leaving the old figure in the mirror I observe when I pass
For I'm still young at heart,
From that young age I'm not ready to depart
How old is seventy five years anyway
When one is young that age seems so far away
Someone once said he/she is just as old as they feel
So, beloved, In my heart I'm still YOUNG enough to climb a hill
Please don't write me off as being old just yet
The Lord surely knows how much time I have left
But while He allows me to live, love and laugh
I'm young in mind, enjoying youth while He allows it to last
O, yes another year is just about to end
Seems just the other day it only began
Which indicates we need to be busy all the time
Doing things, by looking back, will bring joy to our mind

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Dave and Catherine will be traveling for the next two week visiting family back east.
- Brenda has started a series of treatments to improve her health
- Misty McCray had surgery for a brain Tumor, Misty is a friend of the Empey's.
- Update on Shirley Torres: she has started new cancer treatment. Let's continue to remember her and her family in our prayers. The Torres family has visited with our congregation.
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class has moved to Sunday evenings at 6:00pm at Chad and Kass' on evangelism

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<u>Today</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Ben Palmer Invitation – Ross Ward
<u>Next Sunday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Ben Palmer Lord's Table – David Porter Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Next Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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