



Blackfoot

Church of Christ

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If God Be For 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 will 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, Vengeance 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." (1 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!

Honoring Our Word

By Doy Moyer

“If a man gives to his neighbor a donkey or an ox or a sheep or any beast to keep safe, and it dies or is injured or is driven away, without anyone seeing it, an oath by the Lord shall be between them both to see whether or not he has put his hand to his neighbor's property. The owner shall accept the oath, and he shall not make restitution.” (Exo 22:10-11)

In a culture where truth is seen as relative, it is difficult at times to take others at their word. When the very nature of truth is in question, how shall we believe anyone? No one wants to be gullible. Yet consider what the Lord expected of His people. If one makes an oath that he did not, in this case, harm his neighbor's property, then that was enough. The man's word was to be accepted. No further action was required.

Among Christians especially, we know we are to be people of our word (James 5:12), and we are also to be people of love who bear, believe, hope, and endure all things (1 Cor 13:7). Start with the best assumptions. Believe the best of another. Assume the person is telling the truth. Don't be so suspicious of everyone. This is difficult because cynicism has become so engrained in culture.

This doesn't mean we are to be gullible, but it does mean we may be vulnerable and we can get hurt. The problem is that we can let how one person hurt us bleed over into other relations so that we trust no one. This can turn us into angry, bitter people who no longer know how to love. God does not want that for us.

There is no way to have loving relationships and fellowship if we are not willing to show trust. In a fellowship of believers, especially, we ought to be trusting and willing to assume the best of our brothers and sisters. A yes means yes, a no means no, and those words ought to be sufficient for us.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Sylvia Ward, Ross's Mom, starting in-home rehab
- Cameron Bauman brain tumor, treatments have been ineffective
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) cancer treatment
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines
- Mens meeting after services today

For prayer requests, call or text

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

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader – David Porter

Lord's Table – Tom Mitchell
– Ray Mitchell

Wednesday

Song Leader – David Porter

Invitation – Tom Mitchell

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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