



## Tidings From Timothy

**Meeting!:** Today begins our Gospel Meeting. Welcome brother Michael Shephard and all of our visitors as we strive to get the Word out to all who will hear. Speak to everyone today and be friendly. Make sure to stay with us after this morning's worship for food and fellowship.

**In Need of Prayer:** Kate Carter broke her hip and had surgery. She is in Medical Center at Bowling Green. We are saddened at the death of Jennifer Buhrow, daughter to Jim Blythe. I understand that Yokely-Trible will be handling the funeral arrangements. Food group 2 is in charge this time.

You prayers are requested for Josh Wheeler, friend to Josh Key. Mr. Wheeler was in an accident and broke his neck. He is in Vanderbilt.

**Food Pantry:** You all did a good job with the Crackers and Maccaroni & Cheese. Now it is time to stock up on **canned meats**. Grab some kind of canned meat when you're grocery shopping. Let's spam it up.

**Service Times:** Don't forget that church tonight will be at 7pm instead of 6pm.

**House to House:** The latest edition of this publication is out on the desk, get a copy or two if you don't happen to get this in your mail.

**Congratulations:** To Tyler and Gina Netherton, who were married yesterday at Fountain Run.

### The Value of Human Suffering by Wayne Jackson

It has been said that there is no greater education than matriculating through the University of Hard Knocks. One thing is certain; many who have passed through the crucible of suffering will acknowledge that they have found themselves infinitely better for the experience—bitter though it may have been. Robert Browning Hamilton expressed this thought so wonderfully in verse:

I walked a mile with Pleasure  
    She chatted all the way,  
But left me none the wiser  
    For all she had to say.

I walked a mile with Sorrow  
    And ne'er a word said she;  
But oh, the things I learned from her  
When Sorrow walked with me!

Atheism, of course, alleges that the problem of human suffering represents one of the more formidable arguments against the existence of a powerful and loving God. It is not my intention to respond to that baseless argument here; I have addressed it elsewhere in detail (see Jackson, 1983). At this point, it will suffice simply to say that God has, as an expression of His love (1 John 4:8), granted mankind free will (Joshua 24:15; cf. Isaiah 7:15). That free will enables human beings to make their own choices. Foolish choices can have devastating consequences (e.g., suffering). Thus, the responsibility for unwise choices is man's, not God's. The problem of human suffering is not irreconcilable with the love of a benevolent Creator. In this article, we will limit our discussion to the benefits that suffering can provide—if we are wise enough to learn the lessons.

First, suffering highlights the fact that we are frail human beings; that is to say, we are not God. Some, however, have no greater ambition than to be their own God. They are "autotheists"—self-gods. They imagine that they are accountable to no one higher than themselves. To borrow the words of the infidel poet, William Ernest Henley, they are the masters of their fate, and the captains of their souls! These rebels submit to no law save the self-imposed law of their own arrogant minds. But when we humans suffer, we are forced to focus upon our own weakness. There is no remedy within us (see Job 6:13). It is hard to be haughty when you are hurting. Pain can be humbling; it can slap smart-aleckness out of us, and open our hearts to greater vistas.

Second, suffering can draw our interests toward the true God. When one is in a state of anguish that offers little respite, the natural inclination is to turn toward a higher source for help. Only a deliberate and forced stubbornness can quench that urge. When we are hurting, the "God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3) is waiting to help. Joe, a personal acquaintance of this writer, was taught the gospel of Christ and happily embraced it, being united with the Lord in baptism (Romans 6:3ff.). For a while, this likable gentleman in his mid-forties struggled to remain faithful against the powerful, negative influences of a family that had zero interest in spiritual matters. Finally, he drifted away from conscientious service. Then, Joe suffered a severe heart attack. He hastened back to the Savior and maintained a contented fidelity until, some months later, his spirit slipped quietly away into eternity. Suffering can get our attention! David once wrote: "In my **distress** I called upon Jehovah, and cried unto my God" (Psalm 18:6).

What Must I do to be saved?

- **Hear the Gospel - Acts 15:7**
- **Believe the Gospel - Mark 16:15,16**
- **Repent of Sins - Acts 17:30**
- **Confess Christ - Rom. 10:9,10**
- **Be Baptized for the Forgiveness of Sins - Acts 2:38**

Then, as a Christian we must:

- **LIVE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH - REV. 2:10**

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### Study the Bible?

God speaks to us today through the Holy Word of God - The Bible (Hebrews 1:1-2). The Scriptures instruct us in the way God requires His people to live (2 Timothy 3:16,17). The Bible is powerful and able to save us (Romans 1:16; James 1:21-25), if we will hear, learn and obey it.

⇒ **Yes!** I want to learn more about the Holy Bible. Please enroll me in the eight lesson FREE Bible Correspondence Course (we even pay for the postage).

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Mail to: PO Box 266, Tompkinsville, KY 42167*

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## Mt. Gilead church of Christ

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**John 6:32 - 35** <sup>32</sup>Then Jesus said to them, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”** <sup>34</sup>Then they said to Him, **“Lord, give us this bread always.”** <sup>35</sup>And Jesus said to them, **“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.**

Elders:

Keith Dyer.....427-4105  
 Veachel Harlan.....487-5727

Deacons:

Steve Carter, Larry Copas, Ray C. Lyon, Cass Thomas Froedge, Bobby D. Gerald, Bobby Harlan, Jimmy High, Gary Rowland, Kevin Deckard

Evangelist:

Tim McHenry, 931-258-3494  
 12955 Clay Co. HWY Moss, TN 38575

Schedule of Services:

**Sunday:**

Bible Study... 9:30am  
 Morning Worship... 10:05am  
 Evening Worship... 6pm

**Wednesday:**

Bible Study... 7pm

**Listen to our Sunday Morning Radio Sermon on WTKY 1370 AM & 92.1, 102.7, 101.5 FM at 8:30am each week, and to our weekday 10min program after the Noonday news and reports.**