

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Farther Along

We sometimes sing a beautiful hymn that captures the essence of the struggle godly people often experience in life. The title of the hymn is *Father Along* and it asks the questions that we so often ponder when bad things happen to good people. The first two stanzas pose the question of why things seem to go well for the wicked, while godly people suffer. The second stanza is particularly poignant because it speaks of how we feel when a loved one has passed away. The third and fourth stanzas exhort us to remain faithful to the Lord in spite of these things because we believe there is a better place awaiting us in the future. In the chorus the words encourage us to persevere because we will one day understand it all. The sentiment of this song is absolutely biblical and it's a principle that ought to never be over looked.

The scriptures clearly teach us that life will be characterized by ups and downs. After the sin in the Garden of Eden God cursed the ground and turned the man's work into toil. He also increased the woman's pain in childbirth. In addition to this, sickness, disease and physical death became inevitable for mankind. To top it all off, sin became prevalent in the world bringing about its own temporal consequences along with the prospect of eternal punishment. These are things that affect everyone, no matter what his or her relationship with God.

When Paul wrote his second letter to the young preacher Timothy, he advised him that Christians must also expect to endure persecution because of their faith. In 2 Timothy 3:12 he said, ***"Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."*** This is an inescapable part of devoting oneself to the living God. However, it should not be a source of discouragement for us. The apostles rejoiced when they were persecuted because they felt it an honor to be counted worthy to suffer shame for their faith in the Lord (Acts 5:41). The reason why they could do so is that they understood what Paul would later write to the church in Rome. In Romans 8:18 he said, ***"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."*** They knew that something far better awaited them and thus they were able to endure in the face of persecution.

The same truth applies with regard to physical death. In the second stanza of *Father Along*, the words say, *"When death has come and taken our loved ones, it leaves our home so lonely and drear; then do we wonder why others prosper, living so wicked year after year."* The biblical answer to this lament is found in I Thessalonians 4:13-18. There Paul told the Thessalonian Christians not to grieve over the dead as do the rest who have no hope. Instead, he assured them that the dead in Christ will rise first on the last day and all the righteous will join the Lord in the air and forever be with Him. In verse 18 he said, ***"Therefore, comfort one another with these words."***

These words are a comfort indeed when we have lost a loved one. For the

Christian death is not the end, but simply a transition to a far better place. We don't fully comprehend it when a loved one departs, but farther along we will understand. If we hold the faith of Christ dear in our hearts, we know that all the things we are unable to comprehend now will one day be fully known. We know that truly, *"Farther along we'll know all about it, farther along we'll understand why. Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine. We'll understand it all by and by."* May God help us to have the faith to patiently wait until we have gone farther along.

—Fred Dominguez

Sympathy

Again, our condolences go out to Stan and LaDonna Chism in the loss of Stan's father, **Charles Chism** who died on March 9th at MCH. His funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. on March 13th at the First United Pentecostal Church. He was buried in Hobbs, TX. Charles was 85 years old.

Responses

Wednesday evening, March 8th we had two members coming forward asking for prayers to become a stronger Christian. **John Cole** stated that he is struggling with many things at this time and needs prayers; **Jonathan Abbott** said he hasn't been living a Christian life and is also in need of prayers.

Ambrose Defranco made a request on Sunday, March 12th that we keep him in our prayers that he may be able to secure employment which he needs at this time.

Prayer Requests

Kenny & Lynn Howard (Devida's cousin and his wife) were involved in an automobile accident last week in Ohio. Kenny's back was broken in three different places. Pins were put in his back. Lynn had a broken thumb and multiple bruises. The lady who pulled out in front of them lost her life. Keep Kenny and Lynn in your prayers.

Irma Gomez (Mirta Garcia's mother) has been diagnosed with stage four Cirrhosis of the liver. Mirta is requesting prayers for her mom that the medicine prescribed will allow her liver to work properly and not get worse. Keep Irma in your prayers.

Concerns Update

James Drake is home from the hospital.

Mary Brown is going through rehab and it seems to be helping.

Jennie Fuls (Nancy Easlon's sister) was able to go home from the hospital last week. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

Urisonya Flunder underwent a surgical procedure on Friday, March 10th. No update yet.

Prayer List

David Alaniz; Lee Roy Bell, Betty Branson; Mary Brown; Bill Bundick; Marie Bundick; Mitchell Bundick; Sissy Bundick; Betty Burns; Crystal Card; Glynn Chandler; Linda and Sonny Coggins; John Cole; Barbara Crowder; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Urisonya Flunder; John Ford; Shane Ford; Marjorie Foster; Melida Frazier; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Lon Howard; Charles Jones; Janis Laminack; Jody Langford; Elder & Glenna McCarty; Jason Moore; Russ Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Carolyn Morrison; Rudy Ochoa; Trina Plyler; Ivan Rigsby; Cynthia Schulze; Andrew Schwarz; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; James Stephens; Marilyn Upshaw; James Weaver; Judy Wells; Lisa Wells; Ann Wilson; John Wood; Jack Wright; Paula Wyatt; Toya Zambelli.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Who anointed Solomon to be king?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

You would associate the word "Euroclydon" in Acts 27:14 with a tempestuous wind.

Wedding Shower...

Hannah Weakland's "**Wedding Shower**" is at 6:30 p.m., Monday, 27th at Bonnie Sorenson's home. Her selections are at Bed, Bath and Beyond, Amazon and Walmart. All the ladies are invited.

Events

Watch "***In Search of the Lord's Way***" every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the "**Speaking the Truth in Love**" program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Office News

NOTE: Odessa Christian School has a position open for school secretary. The position is a 12 month hourly. If interested pick up an application from the front office. They will be accepting applications through tomorrow.

Thank you,
Nancy Campbell

STF—Group #4 will have their luncheon today following our morning service. All our visitors are invited to join them.

March 19, 2017

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer
Lord's Supper
West...

A.M.

Jeff Wesson
Rudy Ochoa
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
Bill Ryan
Charles Wood
George Warren

P.M.

Jeff Wesson
Cody Wesson
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
Dylan Straw
Rudy Ochoa
Craig Wesson

East...

Bill Brown
Trini Wood
Josh Wells
Richard Siler
Josh Weakland
Bill Butler

Bill Butler
Communion
(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: **Elder:** Jeff Wesson 561-5302 **Deacon:** Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 **Pulpit:** Scot Straw 368-7852 **Table:** Chris Butler 362-7486 **Song Leaders:** Denny Wilson 325-340-2291 **Recording Duties:** Tony Marrs 553-7349 **Collections:** Scot Straw & Chris Butler

Sunday AM

"Nature of Faith"
(Romans 4:1-8)

Sunday PM

"Danger of Traditions"
(Matthew 15:1-9)

Our Records

Bible Class... 48
*Morning Worship...*103
*Evening Worship...*51
*Wednesday...*78
Contribution...\$4,236.18