

Eisenhower Church of Christ

When Bad Things Happen to Good People

It seems that nearly every week we hear of another tragedy in which innocent lives have been taken in a senseless attack. Whether the attacker wields a gun, a knife, a bomb, a motor vehicle, or some other weapon, innocent people end up wounded or dead. Not so long ago most of these attacks occurred in other countries and in areas that have long been subject to such things. Today, however, it seems that people are not even safe in places of worship in the backwaters of our land. The pointless loss of life is heart-rending, and the physical and emotional scars borne by the survivors will linger for years.

We wonder why such terrible things happen, but we are shaken to the core when these things happen to good and innocent people. It is not uncommon to hear people ask, "Where was God when this happened?" Or, to ask, "Why did God allow this to happen?" Others may even go so far as to blame God for the tragedy simply because He did not intervene to keep it from happening. None of these views reflects a proper understanding of God or of how He deals with the world. Neither do they reflect an understanding of the presence and effects of sin in the world.

When we search the scriptures we find nowhere a promise from God that He will intervene in the day to day affairs of mankind. Nowhere do we find an indication that those who belong to Him will be miraculously spared from suffering, injury or death. Instead, the scriptures warn us not to place stock in the world or the things in it, because this world is not our goal and everything in it will one day pass away (1 John 2:15-17). In fact, our Lord promised us that while we are in the world we will suffer tribulation (John 16:33)

The bad things that happen to good people are not the work of God. Neither are they due to His negligence. They are the result of the presence of sin in the world and the source of sin is Satan (cf. Gen. 3:1-7). From the time he deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit, the world has been cursed by sin. The perfect world that God created became marred and will remain so until the physical realm is destroyed when the Lord returns (2 Peter 3:10-13). Until that time, all who live on the earth will suffer the effects of sin.

Those who are believers will not be deterred by this fact of life. This is because they understand that something far better awaits them on the other side of life. The Lord promised the apostles that He was going away to prepare a place for them and that He would return one day to bring them to that place (John 14:1-3). All believers share in this promise and therefore can cheerfully sing. "This world is not my home I'm just a-passing through."

Even so, our faith is sorely tested when bad things happen to good people, and we struggle with how to deal with it. When all is said and done, there is only one solution to this dilemma and that is for each of us to make sure we are right with God at all times. If we obey the gospel and live faithfully for the Lord each day, we can say as Paul did, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18). We also can look forward to the promise that in heaven, God, the father, will wipe away every tear and there will no longer be any death, mourning, or crying (Revelations 21:1-4).

Satan wants us to blame God for the bad things that happen, but his goal is to keep us out of our eternal reward. Let us not lose hope, though, but continue to trust God, because heaven will certainly be worth it.

—Fred Dominguez

Prayer Request

Lee Roy Bell had an angiogram done Friday, November 10th at MCH. The test showed that he had several blockages, but none of them qualified for stents. The two arteries that were 100% blocked were making little veins to re-route the blood flow which was encouraging. Continue to keep Lee Roy in your prayers.

Betty Branson is having a rough time. She is unable to drive and hard for her to get around much because of the boot she has to wear to help her foot heal. Betty misses everyone. Keep her in your prayers.

Concerns Update

Glenna McCarty was moved to the “Post Surgery” floor at Midland Memorial Hospital – Room #704. Glenna has fluid on her lungs and was given Lasix and potassium thru an IV to help with the fluid. She is experiencing severe pain in the stomach area. Continue to keep Glenna in your prayers.

Dennis Dillon (Minister at the Parkview Church of Christ) was admitted into the hospital last week. He is battling throat cancer. Dennis is in need of prayers at this time.

Prayer List

Tom Bauer; Lee Roy Bell, Elsie Bradford; Bill & Mary Brown; Jane Burroughs; Bill Butler; Harold Carrigan; David Castor; Sue Dahlen; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Glenda Driver; John Ford; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Winford Hambright; Glenda Hillis; Janis Laminack; Betty Leeth; Kristen Limb; Eliseo Lopez; Larry May; Glenna McCarty; Russ Montgomery; Tanya Nichols; Curtis Parum; Trina Plyler; Russel Rosser; Elvia Ruckman; Charles Simmons; Matthew Simmons; Clay Stanton; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Jurlean Warren; Jimmy Weaver; Lisa Wells; Ann Wilson; Glenda Winkley; Charles Wood; John Wood; Jack Wright.

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...

What was it that stood in the way of a young man who came to Jesus and said, “Good Master, what good thing must I do to inherit eternal life”?

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...

“But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our father first.” In Acts 7:12, the Apostle Stephen was relating to a time of drought in Canaan.

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.

There will be a “**Holiday Party**” for all the ladies on Monday, December 4th at Bonnie Sorenson home. Please bring a snack food to share and also a gift for the exchange. Ladies, please come join the fun!

Thank You

...To the young Brothers of the Church for the pretty card; their prayer and concern for my welfare. Your thoughtfulness certainly made a difference in my day and days ahead. God bless and keep you all safe. "Stay on the Lord's side and you'll stay out of trouble. Now, no talking back to your elders, just say thanks, Ms. Hattie, we will, ok? That wasn't so hard to say, right?" (smile) Thanks again!

Love you in Christ,

Ms. Hattie Gilmore

Office News

The "New Mexico Children's Home" will be in Odessa Tuesday, December 5th, 2017. They are requesting **Crackers and Pineapples**. Monetary donations also accepted. Also they will be picking up the holiday gifts for the children at that time.

We will have a "Sing and Praise" service on Wednesday, November 22nd (day before Thanksgiving) and regular classes on the 29th.

There will be a short "Deacon's Meeting", Wednesday, November 22nd following our service.

Thoughts to Remember...

Don't worry about the *Far Left* or *Far Right*; Worry about the *High Above* and the *Way Below*.

Everything in the world can be endured except continual prosperity.

November 19, 2017 A.M.

Announcements	Larry May
Song Leader	Craig Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Larry May
Scripture	Trinidad Wood
Second Prayer	George Warren
Closing Prayer	Tom Sorenson
Lord's Supper	
West...	Jeff Wesson
	Denny Wilson
	Tommy Garcia
East...	Mike Roemisch
	John Wood
	Bill Ryan

P.M.

Larry May
Dex Dennard
Larry May
Larry May
Josh Weakland
Scot Straw
Cody Wesson
Josh Wells
Communion
(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Larry May 638-3990 *Deacon*: Richard Siler 556-2151 *Pulpit*: Chris Butler 362-7486; *Table*: Josh Wells 770-6753; *Song Leaders*: Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties*: Rudy Ochoa 214-0398; *Collections*: Rudy Ochoa 214-0398

Sunday AM

"Highway of Holiness"
(Isaiah 35:8-10))

Sunday PM

"Have You Ever Been Wrong?"
(Mark 16:15-16)

Our Records

Bible Class... 67
Morning Worship...126
Evening Worship...64