

THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

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HARD TIMES

Life is not easy. We tend to fall into patterns of good times and then tough times. It seems to be a never-ending cycle, but we all know that one day life as we know it will end. How we choose to react to the hard times could make a big difference in showing whether you are truly following God or not.

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. (Rom. 5:3-5)

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Do you glory in tribulations? Can you see the positive aspects of hard times? As Paul points out, tribulation helps us to be more patient, and it gives us experience that we would not have without the tribulation. Our future decisions are based on experiences that we have had, both good and bad. How many times do we see parents trying to impart wisdom on their children based on experiences the parents have had? Children do not always listen to the experience and must learn it for themselves. The hard times work together to make us who we are and to make sure that we are truly following God in the right ways. The experience that we gain from hard times gives us hope that helps us to not be ashamed because we have the love of God in us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (Rom. 8:35)

Tribulation does not take the love from us, it makes it stronger if we handle it in the right ways.

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; (Heb. 11:24-25)

Choosing to suffer affliction rather than doing something that was easier, that may have felt better. Moses chose to have tribulation; he chose the hard times over sinning. Even though the sin was for a short period of time (a season), Moses knew what the choice should be that would be pleasing to God. We should all examine choices we make, to see if we make the decision because it is the easy way, or because it is the way that pleases God.

There are examples of hard times (tribulation) throughout the Bible. From the Old Testament through the New Testament you can see people living in and through hard times. The same advice is given in many places: trust God, go to God,

know that God will see you through.

When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them. (Deu. 4:30-31)

And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation. (1 Sam. 26:24)

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. (2 Cor. 1:4)

We need to remember that just like life on this Earth, hard times are temporary.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. (John 16:20-22)

If we handle the hard times in the right way, when our time here is done we will not remember the tribulations; we will have joy and happiness. We will have peace beyond understanding.

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

Tribulation is necessary, but we have hope through Christ.

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:22)

I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ... (Rev. 1:9a)

And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Rev. 7:14)

We do not have the ability to predict the future. We don't know what hard times are ahead of us and can't always predict how we will handle every situation. What we do know is that yes, there will be good times and there will be bad. We know how God would want us to confront both, with Him as our focus and the One who will get us through them. We should not go to God only when we have problems. Yes, it is important to cast our burdens on Him but we should also let Him know when we are thankful for the blessings that we have.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Mat. 11:28)

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. (Psa. 100:4)

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You can see examples of going to God with both the good and the bad, especially in the writings of David.

Do not let the hard times get you down. Know that there is something better for those who handle the tribulations in the right way, in a Godly way.

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. (John 14:1-7)

A. D.

HOW TO SPOT A CHRISTIAN

Hard as it may seem to believe, there are ways to look at a person and tell if he is a Christian. Here are some of the more obvious signs:

1. Starting at the top, look at the person's head. If it is "in the clouds", then this is a good sign that the person is a Christian. He is constantly seeking "*those things which are above*" and his affection has been set "*on things above not on things on the earth*" (Col. 3:1,2).
2. There is a certain "glow" in the eyes of a Christian. The Bible describes such a person as having eyes of "*understanding being enlightened*" or illuminated (Eph. 1:18).

3. Look at a person's cheeks to see how red they are. Because of his extreme patience, the disciple of Christ will not seek revenge but allows his enemies the privilege of hitting both cheeks (Mat. 5:39).
4. A Christian can also be spotted by the shape of his tongue. It appears like a sword because from his mouth flows the word of God, "*quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow*" (Heb. 4:12).
5. If a person has a strong chest or abdomen, he may certainly be considered a child of God. He undoubtedly is wearing the "*breastplate of righteousness*" as part of his armor (Eph. 6:14).
6. Take note of a person's hands. One sure sign of a Christian is that his right hand of fellowship is always extended to his brethren (Gal. 2:9).
7. The knees can also tell a lot about a person's character. The Lord's saints always have worn out knees, deteriorated from the hours spent bowing in humble prayer to God (Eph. 3:14).
8. Finally, watch the person's feet. A detection of several blisters usually means that this person has been busy preaching the gospel and spreading the word (Rom. 10:15), while also fleeing fornication (1 Cor. 6:18) and idolatry (1 Cor. 10:14).

HAVE YOU SPOTTED ANY CHRISTIANS LATELY?

RAY MCMANUS

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**SMALL DEEDS DONE ARE
BETTER THAN BIG DEEDS PLANNED**

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What relation to Abram was Lot?
2. What object did Elisha cause to float?
3. Which region was specially noted for its balm?
4. Who did Pilate send Jesus to after he had interrogated him?
5. By what name was the disciple Tabitha also known?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH...

And remember last month's questions?

1. What did God create on the fifth day?
UNDERWATER CREATURES AND BIRDS (Gen. 1:20-23)
2. What was Samson's offer of reward if the Philistines could solve his riddle?
GARMENTS (CLOTHING) (Jdg. 14:12)
3. How old was Josiah when he became king of Judah?
EIGHT (2 Ki. 22:1)
4. From which minor prophet is Jesus quoting when he says, "*I am come to set...the daughter against her mother*"?
MICAHAH (Mic. 7:6)
5. In a parable told by Jesus, two men went up to the temple to pray, a Pharisee and who else?
PUBLICAN (TAX COLLECTOR) (Luke 18:10)

FROM THE SCRIPTURES: FEAR

The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? (Psa. 118:6)

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Mat. 10:28)

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Due to COVID-19, many meetings have been postponed or cancelled. Please check the website calendar for the latest status of a meeting.

OTHER EVENTS

WHAT: Camp Meeting

WHEN: May 25-29, 2020

WHERE: Pine Springs Camp
132 Spring Canyon Rd
Sacramento, NM 88347

SPEAKER: Various Speakers

If you are interested, please contact Keith Moore at keithalanmoore@msn.com or (520) 456-9778. Cost is \$120 per person.

WHAT: Fellowship Conference

WHEN: July 9-10, 2020

WHERE: Oxford Civic Center
401 Mc Cullars Ln
Oxford, AL 36203

SPEAKER: Various Speakers

TOPIC: "Blessed Are The Pure in Heart" (Mat. 5:8)

This year's conference is being organized by Bro. Timothy Eldridge. If you would like more information about the topics and speakers at the conference, you can contact him directly at teldridge61@gmail.com or for general information, e-mail beams2009@gmail.com.
