

THE HARVESTER

"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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DON'T FORGET GOD

We lead busy lives. Many of us wake up, eat breakfast, get ready for work, go to work, come home, eat dinner, spend a little time with family, sleep, and then repeat. Day after day, we keep the cycle going. After the Israelites fled Egypt they went through times when things were going well or they got very busy and they forgot God. They were going through times where they forgot the one true God and served other gods. Look at this excerpt from Deuteronomy:

Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his

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statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God. (Deu. 8:11-20)

We can relate to some things in this excerpt. Often you hear of someone saying that their talent or abilities has gotten them a job or a promotion, but they did not think that these things came from God and give Him the glory. This type of thinking was obviously a problem back then as well: “*And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth*” (vs. 17). No matter what, God wants us to remember Him.

That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God. (Num. 15:40)

God wants us to always remember and to be thankful for all that we have. We should continuously be in prayer and should praise God for all that we have, always remembering and seeking God in all that we do.

Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually. Remember his marvellous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;...Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations; Even of the covenant which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac; And hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant...(1 Chr. 16:8-17)

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; (Col. 4:2)

Being thankful is shown in word and deed. All should be done for God because we are thankful to Him for the blessings that we have. This means we do not let outside things affect how we act and react to people and things around us. We should let the peace of God direct us and be thankful for all that we have.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (Col. 3:15)

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Php. 4:6-7)

We should also make sure that we put God in our daily and weekly routine. This could be as simple as setting aside a certain time to pray or study on a regular basis as Daniel did:

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. (Dan. 6:10)

God gave us commandments and His word so that we can live in a way that is pleasing to Him.

All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers. And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. (Deu. 8:1-2)

We might be tested if God feels that is what we need to see if our heart is in the right place. We should always be thankful to God and keep Him in our hearts and minds no matter the situation, knowing that He is in control and that all our blessings come from Him.

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years. Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee. Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him. For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey;

A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. (Deu. 8:3-10)

We have been given a lot: some things that were unimaginable even a few years ago with technology. Let's not forget why we have what we have and where everything--from the weather to our job, the people around us, and so many other things--comes from. David constantly praised and was thankful to God, and we should be too. Think about this as you go through each day and make sure that no matter what, you don't forget God.

A. D.

ENDURANCE

What kind of person are you? Once you make a commitment, do you keep your commitment through good times and bad? When you start a job, do you continue working until it is finished? Or do you give up when you face difficulties and discouragements? Jesus told the parable of the farmer that sowed seed. Some seed fell on the wayside or by the road, some on the rocks, some among thorns and some on good ground. Jesus explained the parable in Luke 8:11-15:

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart,

having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

I especially want to concentrate on the seed sown on the rock as opposed to those sown on good ground. Those sown on the rocks believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Whereas those sown on good ground keep the word and bear fruit with patience.

As a Christian, you made a commitment to God. When trials and temptations come into your life, you have to decide whether you are going to keep your commitment to God or you are going to fall away.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Cor. 10:13)

God provides a way of escape so that you can endure and keep your commitment to Him. You have to make the choice. James even taught us to have joy during trials.

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. (Jas. 1:2-4)

If you keep your commitment to God you will develop patience and the character God wants you to have.

When you are tempted to fall away, you need to be reminded of the reasons why you made your commitment to God in the first place.

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

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For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (Heb. 6:10-12)

God has given you many promises to include eternal life. Through faith, patience and diligence you will inherit the promises.

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (Mat. 24:12-13)

We need to remind ourselves that Jesus is coming back to receive us. We need to endure and be patient until He comes.

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. (Heb. 10:35-39)

You are not alone in experiencing temptations and trials in your life. Your brothers and sisters in Christ also have trials. We have many examples in the Bible of those who experienced trials and yet remained faithful to God.

Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. (Jas. 5:10-11)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
October 2 - 5	Waynesburg Waynesburg, KY	Timothy Lewis (Eubank, KY)

We have the story about Job recorded in the book of Job. He experienced trials far worse than any trial you will endure, and yet he persevered. He lost all of his possessions, all of his children and had terrible pain and suffering in his body. Eventually, God relieved Job of his trials and greatly blessed him.

My encouragement to you is to be patient, endure the trials that come into your life and remain faithful.

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.
(2 Tim. 2:11-13)

Endure and don't give up.

ED ANDERSON
Sierra Vista, AZ

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Remember last month's questions?

1. On what day of creation were dry land and seas created?
THIRD (Gen. 1:9-13)
2. Who was the father of Saul? KISH (1 Sam. 14:51)
3. Which Psalm is entitled "A Prayer of Moses"?
PSALM 90 (Psa. 90:1)
4. Wisdom is "more precious" than which gems?
RUBIES (Pro. 8:11)
5. How did Paul escape from Damascus?
IN A BASKET DOWN THE CITY WALL (Acts 9:23-25)