

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

I was listening to a prayer in which God had been asked to help us through the trials and tribulations of life. Something that is very proper for us to pray for. In considering this, it occurred to me that as many times as I have heard this prayed for (and prayed for myself), I wasn't sure what the difference is between a trial and a tribulation. The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines a trial as a set of faith, patience and stamina through subjection to suffering or temptation. It defines a tribulation as distress or suffering resulting from oppression or persecution. Let's look at some Bible verses on each.

James 1: 2 – 4 tells us, “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.” A new runner doesn't start their first day with a marathon. They work and build until they are ready for the challenges of the marathon. In the Christian race, trials make us stronger and better equipped to handle future trials. Peter provides reassurance in 1 Peter 4: 12 & 13 saying, “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.” We may not feel like rejoicing when in the midst of a trial; but, we need to keep our eye on the prize and endure.

Paul speaks of tribulation in Romans 5:3, “And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance.” Paul wasn't just putting out good words. If you look at all the tribulations he endured to preach the gospel, his was the voice of hard won experience spoken from his heart. The description is too lengthy to include here but is found in 2 Corinthians 11: 21 – 33 if you would like to see what Paul endured for our Lord.

Trials and tribulations are very closely related. Indeed some trials may be tribulations. How do we get through trials and tribulations? Solomon has the answer for us in Proverbs 3: 5 & 6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your way acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Don't be like those who respond to trials and tribulations by blaming God and abandoning Him. Trust in Him and you will be rewarded beyond your comprehension with an eternal reward.

Larry Benson



We have some exciting news for the Salem Creek church of Christ! WE'RE GOING SOCIAL! Well, we've already been social, but we are hoping to grow our social media presence in several ways. Here's how you can help.

Our goal ever since we moved to this location has been to grow the kingdom of God and grow in our own faith. We have done many things to do this such as having our gospel meetings, vacation bible school, the family seminar, and fall festivals. These have been amazing opportunities for personal and community growth. We want more of that!

Social media will provide us with new opportunities to share the gospel with people who may have never heard of Jesus. Here's what we have in mind.

1. We have a YouTube channel called "Coffee and Christ." This is a casual conversation about eternal principles hosted by Ron Harper and myself. We need you to like and share these videos on your own social media platforms.
2. Blogs. Both Ron and myself post to a blog called "Time to Feed." These blogs are shared through Facebook, so don't be afraid to share them on your page!
3. Don't forget we have a Facebook page for our congregation as well as a page for our youth group. This is the best way to keep up-to-date on events and activities at the church.

We want to grow! We want to lead people to Christ! We now have new avenues to do this, but we need your help! Remember to like, subscribe, and share what you see so we can grow the kingdom of God and spread the news of Jesus with others around the world.

Joshua Houston

NEWS & NOTES

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Ken & Barbara McPeak, Hazel Carey, Selma Boyd, Pat Davidson, Nora Fann, Odell Grissom, Sue Reeves, Ernestine Taylor, Carolyn Thomas, Laura Wiser, Nell Jernigan, Narene Davidson, Mary Williams, Shirley Bibb,

SHUT INS:

Tommy Bibb, Oleta Bullard, Houston Henry, Dan Stephens, Richard Jones, Wayne Mobbs, Carolyn Thomas, Mabel Robertson, Louis Wilson, Melba & Jeanie Young

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

***MEMBERS**

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*, Shirley Bibb*

NHC: Lizzie Bush, Sue Reeves*, Ernestine Taylor*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Laura Wiser*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Lillian Whitworth

SMYRNA: Geri Melton*

WOODBURY: Jeweldean Hall*

TN VETERAN'S HOME: Edna Vance*

We are excited to announce **Matt and Andrea Brown** have placed membership with us. Their contact information is in the directory. Welcome to the family!

Dana Sweatt was restored last Sunday evening. Please keep her in prayer.

SYMPATHY

Our prayers continue to be with the family of Wendell Mingle. His funeral was on Tuesday at the Woodbury Funeral Home.

ACTIVITIES

- A youth singing is planned with the LaVergne youth group here on February 4 following evening services. Please bring finger foods and drinks.
- The Couple's Retreat is March 2-4 at Pigeon Forge. The speaker will be Dan Chambers. Please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. There will be a meeting today after PM services for those who plan to attend.
- Experience Day at Middle Tennessee Christian School is February 1. This is an opportunity to meet teachers, engage in classroom activities and learn about MTCS. Register online at mtcscougars.org.

Annie Holland, mother of Jon Holland has moved to Sunnington Assisted Living, Room 364.

Joyce Pulse had surgery on Tuesday to receive a pacemaker. She is recovering at home.

Ron Bowersock is in St Thomas Rutherford and will be there through the weekend.

Mollie Carver is in St Thomas Rutherford.

Salem Creek church of Christ
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Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2067

Email: office@salemcreekcoc.org

We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Morning Worship	9:00 am
Bible Classes	10:15 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm

Wednesday

Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May)	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
Jim Hatfield
Jon Holland
Andy Mitchell
Randall Phifer
Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Rick Acklin	Rick Corum
Larry Benson	Andy Melton
Michael Bowman	Brian Melton
Craig Buckner	Alan Pepper
Joe Byars	Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

January 21, 2018

Sunday	AM worship	264
	Bible classes	178
	PM worship	152
	Contribution	\$6854.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	120
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Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	15
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When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. Ladies class will be canceled

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity! We were honored by your presence!

GREETERS

*Please be at the door
30 minutes prior to service*

January 28

Jeff & Karen Milstead

February 4

Thomas & Connie Davis

