

COMFORT FOR TROUBLED HEARTS

Terry Joe Kee

Everyone has troubles. Not everyone has the same troubles, but everyone will have troubles as we travel through life. It does not matter if you are rich or poor; educated or uneducated; prominent or totally obscure, you will have troubles along the way. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once wrote, "Into each life some rain must fall, Some days must be dark and dreary." Not because Longfellow said it, but it is true.

Many things can cause us to be troubled. The first, of course is sin (cf. 2 Samuel 12:1-15; Proverbs 13:15; Matthew 27:3-10). Sometimes it is the death of a family member or a friend, like with Lazarus in John 11. My troubles may not be your troubles. Whatever my troubles are, they always seem greater than anyone else is experiencing. Often as we look at others, we long to have their life because we do not know their troubles. Every life is filled with perplexing problems because such is life. But when we are experiencing our troubles we often cannot see beyond our own. God uses troubles as a refiner's fire to prove us and make us into a better image of our Maker (cf. Mal. 3:3).

Jesus is the Great Physician (Matt. 9:12,13) and He gives us the remedy for all our troubles. A doctor's remedy is only good if and when we take what He prescribes. Jesus prescribes **faith** to overcome our troubled hearts (John 14:1). He said "ye believe in God, believe also in me." A true confident lasting faith will give us the strength to overcome our troubled hearts. Could my troubles be caused because I lack the faith, trust and confidence I need to overcome my trials? When have you ever rejoiced because you were being troubled? Did not James say to rejoice when we are being tried (James 1:2)? Is my trouble the trouble or is it a lack of faith to deal with my troubles?

Jesus prescribes **hope** for all our troubles. When Jesus was helping them with their troubled hearts, He prescribed for them hope, a heavenly hope (John 14:2,3). We should be comforted because Jesus is our hope (I Timothy 1:1). We live daily with the hope of eternal life (I John 2:25; Titus 1:1; Titus 3:7). Hope is a steadfast anchor for our souls and gives us lasting security (Hebrews 6:18-20). Paul even told the Thessalonians not to sorrow over those who had died, because the righteous dead have died in hope (I Thess. 4:13-18). Hope sees us through our troubles.

The Great Physician prescribes for us **knowledge** (John 14:6). Many hearts are troubled because they lack knowledge. Jacob was troubled for years because he did not know what had happened to Joseph (Genesis 37:29-36). A knowledge of the saving gospel of Christ can help us face our troubles (cf. Hebrews 5:8,9; I John 2:3-6). We must know the truth to enjoy freedom (John 8:32). Our knowledge of the truth can help us by knowing we have been freed from sin and by His grace we can be kept pure and upright. The best word to be remembered by when we are gone is "forgiven." That word is what gives us peace in times of trouble and helps others to not be troubled when we are gone.

Another prescription given by the Great Physician is **prayer**. In John 14, after Jesus told the apostles he would be dying on Calvary, they were very troubled. He then promised them that if they would ask anything in His name, He would do it (John 14:13,14). Surely this is referring to the miraculous age, but is deity not always here for us when we are crying out, needing help? Our God is able to do above anything we may ever ask (Eph. 3:20). What is too great for Him? Nothing! He knows our needs and He knows how to fulfill our needs (Matt. 6:32; Matt. 7:7-11). Prayer is one of the most powerful tools we possess, and we should not be afraid to use it often (James 5:16). The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous is powerful.

Try using these prescriptions when troubles come and see what happens to your troubles. Maybe they won't all disappear, but maybe you can be better prepared to deal with them.

The Master Teacher Taught Masterfully!

He taught publicly.	Matthew 23:1-39
He taught privately.	Matthew 24:3-25:6
He taught during the day.	Luke 21:38
He taught during the night.	John 3:1-21
He taught in cities.	John 7:14-29
He taught in the countryside.	Matthew 5:1
He taught his own people.	Matthew 13:54-58
He taught people of other races.	John 4:4-42
He taught his friends.	Matthew 13:36-43
He taught strangers.	Matthew 15:21-28
He taught the rich.	Luke 8:18-23
He taught the poor.	Luke 4:18
He taught public officials.	Luke 19:1-27
He taught private citizens.	Luke 23:27-31
He taught military personnel.	Matthew 8:5-13
He taught civilians.	Luke 8:34-38
He taught religious leaders.	Matthew 9:11-13
He taught religious followers.	Matthew 11:1-6
He taught in his hometown.	Luke 4:16-30
He taught in neighboring communities.	Luke 4:32

The Master Teacher Masterfully Taught!

The truth of God	John 8:32
The words of God	John 11:24
The love of God	John 3:16
The will of God	John 6:38
The way of God	John 14:6
The doctrine of God	John 7:16
The promises of God	Luke 24:49
With power	Luke 4:32
With authority	Matthew 7:29

Author: Donnie S. Barnes, Bible Charts

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Remember in Prayer:

Virginia London will have her surgery this Wednesday, October 14th.
Darlene Felts is now in *The Springs*, Room 220, for further care and rehab.
Wil Sadler was able to go home but is still very weak.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists. Please update us if needed.

Also please pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.
Jason Garland and family

In Other News:

Bible classes began again with a good start at 9:00 a.m. last Sunday. Be sure to join us each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. as we grow in our knowledge of God’s Word. Don’t forget that Wednesday night our classes will begin again after our devotional in the auditorium.

Ladies’ Night Out will be this Tuesday, October 13th, 6:30 p.m. in the basement.
 (Ladies, please bring finger foods.)

Copies of *Seek the Old Paths* for October are on the tables in the foyer.

Those Privileged To Serve October 11, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING
 Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
 Opening Prayer: Hal Baugh
 Closing Prayer: Mitch Mosley
 Bible Reading: Craig Nelson
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

SUNDAY EVENING
 Song Leader: Ben Johns
 Opening Prayer: Logan Snyder
 Closing Prayer: J. L. May
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD’S TABLE
 Presiding: Randy Oden
 Hillard Holcomb Kevin Roush
 Jeff Presley Mike Felts
 Donnie Gilliland Carlos Wood

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
 October 14, 2020
 Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
 Opening Prayer: Jason Garland
 Closing Prayer: Carlos Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS
 Randy Oden

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER
 October 14, 2020

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK Week Of October 4, 2020

Sunday Bible Study	80
Sunday AM Worship	106
Sunday PM Worship	88
Wednesday Bible Study	73
Contribution	\$6379

“He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.”

Proverbs 20:19

The Friend of Truth



Greensboro Road church of Christ
 Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870) 932-3920

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

Vol. XXVIII, No. 41

October 11, 2020

Keep Notes

We are so very blessed as the children of God. Every day we have a new day and additional blessing for which we should be thankful. The blessings offered and extended to the righteous and obedient are beyond compare to anything we suffer in this life. So rejoice daily!

Rejoice because we have the blessing of forgiveness. Forgiveness is a wonderful word and should have such great and lasting meaning in our lives. It is a powerful word, but it is much more than a word. The writer of Hebrews says, “*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him*” (Hebrews 5:8,9). And Paul told the Romans, “*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*” And all of this is in harmony with what Peter promised in Acts 2:38, when he said, “*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.*” So rejoice, because we have forgiveness!

Rejoice because we have the promise of God’s presence in our lives. Jesus promised that, “*I am with you always, even unto the end of the world*” (Matt. 20:28). God has promised never to leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5,6). God is always watching out for us. Notice what Solomon said, “*The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good*” (Prov. 15:3). He watches out for His children. What a rich blessing that is.

Rejoice because you do not have to fear death and dying. Death is real and we are reminded of how real it is everywhere we turn today. Friends and family members of all ages and circumstances die. From the young to the very old, we lose those we love and are acquainted with. But for the Christian death is not something we must fear. We have One walking with us through the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23:4). Our deaths should be “precious” in the sight of God (Psalm 116:15). Paul said death for a Christian is a gain (Phil. 1:21,23). Rejoice because we are gaining heaven and do not sit fearing we will lose anything. Anything we lose in death is something we did not need to begin with.

Rejoice because we are awaiting a victory. This is a victory we win because we have overcome the world. After all, we can do all things through Christ. He gives us our strength (Phil. 4:13). Read and study over and over the seven churches of Asia and the promises they have waiting if they will fight faithfully and overcome (Rev. 2,3).

So, laugh, smile, rejoice! We may have had good days that are now behind us, but the best days are ahead. So, rejoice! And again I say rejoice (Phil. 4:4). Do not ever stop rejoicing!

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
 Randy Oden
 Jody Pickens

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
 Jerry Dodson
 Mike Felts

Jason Garland
 Marshall Lands

Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes
 Samrit Kammanee
 Arnold Kelley

Guyana, South America
 Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
 Worship 10:00 a.m.
 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God
John 8:24

Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the remission of your sins
Acts 2:38

Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

“Where there is no vision, the people perish...”
Proverbs 29:18

God Give Us 2020 Vision in 2020