

December 10, 2020

DEALING WITH DESPAIR

At the beginning of the 20th century, John Singer Sargent was considered the “leading portrait painter of his generation.” However, he suffered often with doubts, discouragement, and despair. One painting that Sargent made was a panel of roses and it was well liked by many critics. It wasn’t a particularly large picture, but it was as close to perfect as you could get. Many collectors and critics alike offered large amounts of money for the small painting, but Sargent refused to sell it. You see, John Sargent found something he was proud of, and whenever he began to feel discouraged in any way he would look at that painting and remind himself, “I painted that.” Then his confidence and ability was restored and he was able to finish his work.

It is easy to get discouraged in this world. Especially as a child of God, but this is nothing new. Jesus said to His disciples in **John 15:19**, “I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” Even during the Old Testament we see the despair of God’s children through the prophets. Being a prophet was not easy. Most of the men that God called to be prophets were expected to boldly bear bad news about God’s displeasure with the sins and the mindset of the Israelite nation. Jeremiah found himself in such a pit of despair that he said in **Jeremiah 20:16-18**, “let him hear a cry in the morning and an alarm at noon, because he did not kill me in the womb; so my mother would have been my grave, and her womb forever great. Why did I come out from the womb to see toil and sorrow, and spend my days in shame?”

Jeremiah was so discouraged that he was wishing he died at birth. Now, we might say that is a little bit dramatic, or that maybe he is overreacting a little, but Jeremiah’s struggle was no laughing matter. Israel had been drifting away from God for a long time when Jeremiah showed up and he had the dreadful task of proclaiming God’s warning of judgment unless they repented. By understanding the true weight of his task, it becomes easy to see why he was in such agony. Unfortunately, he is not alone with those feelings. As children of God, we are tasked with the same job as the prophet Jeremiah to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation (**Mark 16:15**). To call all men everywhere to repent and to be baptized into Christ (**Acts 17:30**). To warn them of the final judgment day and how we will all be judged

based on our obedience to the word of God (**John 12:44-50**). And these are not easy tasks. It can be discouraging when you continue to preach and teach the importance of being obedient to God and His word and see so many ignore it, overlook it, or simply fall away.

But it’s exactly in times like that when we must remember God’s promise to deliver and to provide. To stand by our side and bring comfort to our troubled minds. Just as David wrote in **Psalms 34:17-18**, “When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” That is God’s way and it always has been. Just as we saw Jeremiah in so much despair, wishing he would have died in the womb even, just a few years later wrote some pretty great words of victory. In **Jeremiah 29:11** it says, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” His sorrow turned to joy when he realized the love of his creator.

Maybe you are feeling discouraged right now. Maybe you are struggling with recently losing a job or having a financial crisis. Remember that they are plans for your good and not for evil or disaster. Maybe you are feeling distressed because you are waiting for some results from a doctor. Remember that God knows the plans He has for you. Maybe you are feeling despair because you are struggling with the recent loss of a loved one. Remember that God wants to give you a future and a hope. We must remember that God is in control and that we shouldn’t let our faith struggle over what He has planned. Because, in the end, it is for our own good and His glory. David said in **Psalms 37:5**, “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act.” Let us remember to never become discouraged by the world but to be encouraged by the love of God and continue to do the work of an evangelist until we have finished our work and receive our eternal reward. **Andrew Spivey**

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – Matthew 3

Wednesday Read – Matthew 4:1-11; John 1:29-51

BIBLE STUDY

Questions for the Reading of last week; Luke 2:21-38; Matt. 2:1-12; Matt. 2:13-23; Luke 2:39-52

1. Who was in the temple when Joseph and Mary brought Jesus for the sacrifice?
2. Who came to see Jesus as a young child and what gifts did they bring?
3. What feast did Joseph, Mary and Jesus attend in Jerusalem and what did it mean?
4. Why did Joseph and Mary find Jesus in the temple when they returned to Jerusalem?
5. In what ways did Jesus grow and what does each area of growth mean?

REMINDER

If there is a time that services will be cancelled, due to the virus or weather conditions this winter, you should receive a call from the Calling Post service to alert you to the closure. Please make a note of the phone number so you will know that the call is an announcement from the church. Calling Post’s number is (405) 308-4474 and is from Oklahoma. Also, a newsletter may be sent if there is enough time to get it out and you may check the Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/nashvilleroadchurchofchrist>

THANK YOU

Dear Nashville Road, There is no way to say how much I appreciate and love my church family. The six months or more has been very difficult, a big part because of Covid-19 and because Robert was losing his battle with cancer. I want to thank my church family for the beautiful flowers, all the prayers, food, cards and every act of kindness. Thanks again,
Love, **JoAnn Williamson and Family**

SYMPATHY

Our Love and Sympathy to the family of **Bob Harris** who passed away on December 7th. Bob was a former elder here at Nashville Road. Please keep his wife Evelyn and family in your prayers. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

WORSHIP SERVICES

All services at Nashville Road have been suspended until further notice. The Elders

Because of the surge in the recent COVID-19 cases in the community and members, the elders at Nashville Road have decided to cancel in-person services until further notice. However, you will still be able to watch our services streaming live on the Nashville Road Church of Christ Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/nashvilleroadchurchofchrist> at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday. If you or anyone you know have needs during these troublesome times, be sure to notify us at 615-452-3431.

During this medical crisis, our financial obligations to mission work and etc... continues. Please consider mailing your contribution check to the church office at: 1883 Nashville Pike Gallatin TN 37066. Thank you. The Elders

Members of Nashville Road, we have individual communion available. Please call the office or Tim Strickland, 615-336-6039.

Nashville Road Church of Christ
 1883 Nashville Pike
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 Web Site: nashvilleroad.org
 E-mail: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sun. Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. & Sun. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Wed. Evening Bible Class 7:00

SICK LIST

Martin & Pauletta Hood have been diagnosed with Covid. Martin is in ICU with covid and pneumonia. **David & Sylvia Williams** continue recovering from covid. **Gerald Miles** is now at the Waters, Room 214. **Grace Bracey** is having significant health issues. **Jim Sweeney** is home now on home health. **Christy McManus** daughter of Tina Bailey, continues recovering from covid. **Terry Thompson**, brother of David Thompson, is in ICU with Covid. **Steven Burgess**, step-son of Pauletta Hood, is recovering from injuries from a car accident. **Cora Mayes-Barron**, daughter of Barry & Rachel Mayes has been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She has finished her second round of chemo. **Craig Sweeney**, son of James & Doris Sweeney, has been accepted into a new drug trial clinic. **John Arnold**, father of Brenda Veale is homebound and dealing with serious health issues.

CARE LINE: 615-452-2464



PRAYER LIST

Jan Fulford; J.H & Frances Catron; Melba Hill; William Dunn; Jean Deaton; Ron & Anna Radish; Delores Cushler, friend of Betty Buttrey; **Donna Holmes**, daughter of Eva Petty; **Ida Lou Sherrill**, mother of Alex Sherrill; **Will Flowers**, brother-in-law of Grace Bracey. **Dana Loveless**, friend of Jim & Linda Cherry; **Danny Lowe** cousin of Linda Cherry; **Zachery Simmons**, grandson of Charles & Fay Simmons; **Elias Benjamin Simmons**, great grandson of Charles & Fay Simmons; **Debbie Sparks**, sister of Rachel Mayes; **Lawrence Redding**, son-in-law of Betty Melcher; **Taylor Lackford**, niece of Brenda Veale; **Dustin Lackford**, nephew of Brenda Veale; **Janice Haskins**, sister of Jim Cherry; **Larry Conley**, friend of Wanda Proctor; **Wayne Holt**, nephew of Grace Bracey; **John Gregory**, brother of Bob Gregory; **Pam Flory**, friend of Sherry Sever;

(cont.)

Harold Cole, friend of Lena Baggett; **Bobbie Carter**, sister of Janice Johnson; **Betty Billingsley**, sister of Wanda Proctor; **Walter Wooten**, brother of Wanda Sherrill. **We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes**

SHUT-INS

Ilene Kinney; Jane Hughes, 126 Seabury Dr., Greenville, SC 29615; **Bill & Jane Dunn; Cathy Henderson; Penny Campbell**, The Village of Bellevue, Room 417, 8118 B Sawyer Brown Road, Nashville, TN 37221; **Dorothy Sullivan**, Front Porch Senior Living 115 Sunset Pl. Portland TN, 37148; **Jean Thurman**, mother-in-law of Myra Rasnick, Brookdale, Hendersonville.

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	N/A
Morning Worship 9am.....	N/A
Morning Worship 11am.	N/A
Sunday Evening.....	N/A
Wednesday Evening.....	N/A
Contributions.....	\$5,725.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$8,724.13

Elders

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621
Jerry Watson.....	615-461-8137

Deacons

Carl Newby	Brent Smith
Ken Veale	Adam Williamson



Nashville Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister