

Remember in Prayer:

The Sick:

Xenna Gooch is still having some problems with the regulation of medications being used to treat her arterial blockages and those being used to treat her blood pressure.

Richard Keller is being treated for pneumonia. It was good to have him out with us last week.

Burton Brown, Bettye's brother, is having difficulty with side effects of radiation treatment for cancer that has metastasized to his brain.

Lucy Karnes, Martha Felker's sister, has a perforated colon and is currently at home from the hospital.

Louis Mullen has been transferred to Mayfield Rehabilitation Center, 200 Mayfield Dr., Smyrna, TN 37167.

Roland Miller, Larry's father, was diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer. He is still being evaluated, but currently there are no plans for chemotherapy or radiation.

Johnnie Adams, Anita Carman's uncle, is experiencing weakness due to chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Cards can be sent to: Johnnie Adams, Room 4032, CTCA @ South Regional Medical Center, 10109 79th St., Tulsa, OK 74133.

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Lauren Mack, granddaughter of Betty Travis and niece of Pam Travis, is home from the hospital on bed rest after having problems with premature labor.

Continue to remember those recovering from sickness, surgery and those dealing with cancer or chronic illness: **Brownie Spicer, Karen Shelton, Carolyn Lowder and Neal Smith.**

News & Notes:

--**Group 2** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

--It was good to have **Cecelia O'Brien** out with us last Sunday after a prolonged illness.

--**Andrew Neville** was baptized last Sunday night. We are so happy over his decision to obey the gospel!

ELDERS: Doug Driver
Johnny Felker
DEACONS: Ralph Brown
Mark Claypool



Service Times

SUNDAY
Bible Study—9:00 am
Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 pm

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

Perry Heights church of Christ
423 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
(615) 883-3118

"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"
Heb. 10:24

May 3, 2009

Wisdom, the Key to Endurance (James 1:1-12)

Regardless of its source, suffering is never a pleasant experience. Yet it is a fact of life that all people will experience some kind of suffering. Whether from disease, death, financial pressures, discouragement, or the heartaches brought about by the stresses and difficulties of living, suffering is universal. And since it is such an unpleasant experience, we are always looking for ways to alleviate it. Even Jesus, the night before His crucifixion, prayed in the garden, *"Ob My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me"* (Matthew 26:39).

Many people turn to God when they are hurting, thinking that He will remove all of their difficulties. For those reasoning with human wisdom that probably seems logical. After all, they reason, shouldn't God remove most, if not all of the problems of His people, especially those things which cause them grief? And most assuredly, those serving God should be rewarded for doing good rather than caused to suffer for it.

But often that's not the way things work out. Christians must not only cope with all the problems of everyday living just like everyone else, in addition, we will also suffer persecution just because we are Christians. The world hates us because it hated our Lord. Satan will try to do everything possible to move us away from our faith in God. This is just part of serving God. God told His people to count it a joy when they are allowed to suffer for Him (James 1:2).

To the double minded man, the man who is trying to serve God but is still clinging to the world, that is a frustrating problem. Lacking wisdom from above, he is constantly wavering in his faith because life doesn't seem fair. By contrast, those who walk by faith look to God's word to understand life and all of its complexities. By Bible study and by prayer, we receive the wisdom to understand His revelation. We appreciate the grandeur of our Father's plan for saving us. And we know that God never promised us this life would be fair or free from trials. But then our hope is not in the things of this world in the first place.

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The Fruit of Knowledge



in your faith supply ... knowledge; (2 Pet. 1:5).

How important is knowledge?

"his divine power has granted unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness according to the ___ knowledge of ___ who called us to glory and virtue". (2 Pet. 1:4) Both ___ we know as well as ___ we know is important!

Where can we get this knowledge?

The source of this knowledge is the OT and NT _____.
This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy _____ and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your _____. (2 Pet. 3:1-2)

What can this knowledge do for us?

It can deliver us from a life of _____ (2 Pet. 1:-34; 2:20-21)
It assures us that our faith is _____ (2 Pet. 1:16; 20-21)
It protects us from false _____ (2 Pet. 2:1; 3:3-4; 3:17-18)
It makes us _____ and _____ to the Lord (2 Pet. 1:8)

How can we grow in our knowledge?

E _____
R _____
E _____
U ___ of information

Perhaps in every generation God's people have suffered from the problem of failure to grow in knowledge of God and His ways (Heb. 3:10; Hos. 4:6; Heb. 5:12). Let's make sure we are not in that category! Let's start growing, or keep growing in knowledge of God and His word! Only then can we truly live a fruitful life!

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Our hope is for a home in heaven, so we are not expecting a utopia upon this earth. Since our treasures are being laid up in heaven, we live as strangers and pilgrims in a foreign land. While we must live in this world, we are able to see more clearly each day that we do not belong here. Our faith enables us to keep on serving our Lord regardless of the circumstances surrounding us.

It is our understanding of God's word that enables us not only to endure such sufferings, but to do so patiently. And in patiently serving, we are brought to spiritual maturity and completeness. James said, *"But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing"* (James 1:4). Just like ore coming out of the ground is mixed with impurities and must be "tried by fire" to separate out that which is truly valuable, so our faith must be tested that it might be proven genuine. Through the trials of life, we patiently grow to be more like our Father. As we are brought closer to Him through each difficulty which we endure, we are also preparing ourselves for heaven.

Those who have their affections centered in the things of this world lack the wisdom to appreciate spiritual things. Since they do not value God's word, they will not endure the testing of their faith. For the end of such faithful endurance is a crown of life. James wrote, *"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him"* James 1:12. R.C. Trench said that the crown of life ". . . is the emblem, not of royalty, but of highest joy and gladness, of glory and immortality." It suggest the fullness of eternal life which God grants to those who endure the testing of their faith.

--Mike DuBose, Christianity Magazine, edited

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy"
James 3:17