

Stand

Hurts. Loss. Disappointment. They are part of life under the sun, but no less painful and no less life changing. The question is not, will they come, but what will be our response when they do.

Will we turn our back on everyone who has been part of our life up to that point? Will we turn our back on God? Will the world run over us? Will we shut down completely? Will we become vengeful or spiteful?

All these are possibilities and describe what some have done. Knowing what to do, then, is dependent on the faith and character we are building today. Rest assured, as surely as night follows day we will respond. If we wait until the time of crisis to develop our faith, we will respond emotionally and, most likely, wrong. On the other hand, if we are building our faith today for the crisis that will happen tomorrow, we will have the Lord to carry our load. Building our foundation on God every hour of every day cannot be over emphasized.


The reason Paul could say, *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"* was because he had been doing it all along. The reason young Daniel could say, *"I will not eat the king's meat nor drink the king's drink"* was because he had already settled this issue in his heart.

Peter failed in his moment of trial because he decided emotionally. The good news, however, is that Peter repented and turned again to the Lord. He used personal failure and disappointment as motivation to wake up to the need of having a stronger relationship with the Lord.

Often when life turns against us, people retreat into the world and leave God behind. Please understand that when we choose to do that, Satan wins. Every time. But every time we stand firm, moved by our faith in God, and refuse to give up or give in, Satan loses. Every time. We are made stronger and the roots of our faith grow deeper.

Paul challenges, *"Stand strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. And, having done all to stand, stand therefore..."* (Ephesians 6:10-13). When your moment of trial comes—will you stand?
--Rickie Jenkins

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

August 2, 2009

God Save The Family

The moral climate in our country has deteriorated steadily since the 1950's. The change from Father Knows Best to MTV is astounding. I'm not one to flaunt the "good old days." Our memories tend to tolerate only the good stuff anyhow; and we don't remember what was not good at all. Modern technology, communication, and medical advancements have made "the good old days" not so good by comparison. But the moral standards of that day make the "good ole todays" not so good, either.

The reasons for our modern immoral morass are complex and not easily understood. Just what happens is open for speculation by those who know more about culture, environment, psychology, and societal differentiations than do I. But one thing I know: the failure of the family unit has contributed more to the moral depletion in this country than any other single factor.

The family is the beginning place for society. If the family fails, so does society.. And I fear for the failure of the family unit. Now, don't take that statement lightly. To whatever extent the family is diluted, to that same extent society suffers. It's scary, folks—scary how the families of this day bear so little resemblance to the pattern first instigated by God.

For instance, the most basic part of the family unit is understood in two terms: headship and helpmeet. The Bible teaches that the husband is the spiritual mentor of the family (Eph. 5:22-25; 1 Cor. 11:1-3). That fact is fundamental. Furthermore, it is necessary to the proper function of the family. The wife is to submit to and honor her husband (Eph. 5:22; 1 Tim. 2: 9-15), and provide for him such help as will make his obligations easier. And children are to honor and obey their parents (Eph. 6:1-2). In all three cases, the failure to honor these commitments, all three of which were instituted by God, brings about ill-defined roles, poorly defined obligations and, as a result, an unsettled family.

Love is the mucilage, the glue if you please, that holds the whole fabric of marriage together. Now, I know you already know that. But I'm not talking about some sentimental

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attachment, or some erotic linkage. I'm not talking about emotional feelings, either. I'm talking about the kind of love that makes a hard day—one where things go wrong—easier to bear. I'm talking about one where a fuss disrupts the family, one where somebody in the family gets out of line, and love—real love—is required to solve the problem (see 1 Cor. 13). I'm talking about headship and helpmeet in regard to such matters, one where scripturally defined roles are used to solve the problems. That's real love—love for truth as well as love for one another.



Communication is the lifeline of a good family. It's necessary that wives and husbands learn—yes, I said learn—to talk to one another. Not only that, it's necessary that wives and husbands learn to listen to one another. That's the root of all communication—transmission and reception. When one or the other is impeded, there is a problem. I'm not a good counselor, but I have done enough of it through the years to know that a lack of sound communication skills, coupled with too much pride—is the cause of nearly every marital difficulty with which I have had to wrestle. And the simple fact is that talking when it's time to talk and listening when it's time to listen would solve nearly every marriage problem you can name.

And listen carefully. Families don't function well when God is left out. There's a void in the various relationships where God is not present. Please be clear about this: love is not love when truth is left out of it. True love has truth as its base, verity as its energy, and when those are not present, look out, because things are about to unravel. It may not be a bombastic explosion, but unravel they will. One day you'll wake up and there's no bond left in the relationship, no cement to hold it together. Why? Somebody—perhaps both somebodies, or perhaps even every somebody in the family—either darted off, or gradually drifted away from the truth of God that should characterize a good family. The father didn't do his job, the mother left the home, the kids got out of their place, and so it fragmented the family and distorted everyone's role in it. You can't have a good family that is not based on truth and righteousness. It won't work.

Like I said, I don't know all the answers necessary to ward off our headlong plunge into moral decadence. But I can read the Bible. I know what it says about families and how they are to function. And all the psychologists, sociologists, and human behavioral specialists, combined, are not going to solve the problems in our culture today until they return to the original pattern, the one ordained and commanded by the Creator—God Almighty.

Can you tell I'm serious about this?

--Dee Bowman

Remember in Prayer:

Continue to remember the following who have been suffering with physical infirmity for some time:

Lucille Hall, Ethel Wohlrabe's mother, continues to deal with difficulties including congestive heart failure.

Dennis Blanton, **Berta Davis**, Debra Baham's grandmother, and **Marymack German**, Martha Felker's sister, all continue rehabilitation and recovery after each had a stroke.

Xenna Gooch is able to be with us some, but she still struggles with blood pressure problems & difficulties with medication regulation.

Katherine Kenning continues to have trouble with her knee.

James Tanksley is recuperating after having a surgical wound debridement on his leg.

Carolyn Lowder continues to recover from surgery on her neck as well as difficulties with rheumatoid arthritis.

Ronald Miller, Larry's father, and **Burton Brown**, Bettye's brother, both continue to fight cancer.

Pansy Hensley was discharged from the nursing home back to her son's home. Her address is in the directory.

Verna Jacks, Brandon Graves' grandmother, continues recovery from a partial hip replacement.

Wayne Reeves, Debra Baham's father, continues his recovery after having an angioplasty.

News & Notes:



--We **welcome Johnny** home from his travel to Moldova where he has been working since July 13. If you've not yet read the journals of his travel, you can pick up copies in the lobby. **Thanks** to Doug, Mark, Stanton & Larry for filling in for Johnny while he was away!

--**Group 3** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.



--Lauren Mack, Betty Travis' granddaughter, gave birth after problems with preterm labor throughout her pregnancy. The baby girl, **Natalee Grace**, was born on July 7 and weighed 7 pounds, 1.3 ounces. Mother and baby are fine. Congratulations to Betty and Pam!!