

DOME

AUGUST 2016

THE TEACHING OF ADVERSITY

“IN THE WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TRIBULATION; BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD” (JOHN 16:33). THE TYPICAL VIEW OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS THAT IT MEANS BEING DELIVERED FROM ALL ADVERSITY. BUT IT ACTUALLY MEANS BEING DELIVERED IN ADVERSITY, WHICH IS SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT. “HE WHO DWELLS IN THE SECRET PLACE OF THE MOST HIGH SHALL ABIDE UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY. NO EVIL SHALL BEFALL YOU, NOR SHALL ANY PLAGUE COME NEAR YOUR DWELLING ...” (PSALM 91:1, 10)—THE PLACE WHERE WE ARE AT ONE WITH GOD. IF WE ARE A CHILD OF GOD, WE WILL CERTAINLY ENCOUNTER ADVERSITIES, BUT JESUS SAYS WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED WHEN THEY COME. “IN THE WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TRIBULATION; BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.” HE IS SAYING, “THERE IS NOTHING FOR US TO FEAR.” THE SAME PEOPLE WHO REFUSED TO TALK ABOUT THEIR ADVERSITIES BEFORE THEY WERE SAVED OFTEN COMPLAIN AND WORRY AFTER BEING BORN AGAIN BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE WRONG IDEA OF WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE THE LIFE OF A SAINT. GOD DOES NOT GIVE US OVERCOMING LIFE—HE GIVES US LIFE AS WE OVERCOME. THE STRAIN OF LIFE IS WHAT BUILDS OUR STRENGTH. IF THERE IS NO STRAIN, THERE WILL BE NO STRENGTH. ARE WE ASKING GOD TO GIVE US LIFE, LIBERTY, AND JOY? HE CANNOT, UNLESS WE ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE STRAIN. AND ONCE WE FACE THE STRAIN, WE IMMEDIATELY GET THE STRENGTH. WHEN WE OVERCOME OUR OWN TIMIDITY AND TAKE THE FIRST STEP, THEN GOD GIVES US NOURISHMENT—“TO HIM WHO OVERCOMES I WILL GIVE TO EAT FROM THE TREE OF LIFE ...” (REVELATION 2:7). IF WE COMPLETELY GIVE OF OURSELF PHYSICALLY, WE BECOME EXHAUSTED. BUT WHEN WE GIVE OF OURSELF SPIRITUALLY, WE GET MORE STRENGTH. GOD NEVER GIVES US STRENGTH FOR TOMORROW, OR FOR THE NEXT HOUR, BUT ONLY FOR THE STRAIN OF THE MOMENT. OUR TEMPTATION IS TO FACE ADVERSITIES FROM THE STANDPOINT OF OUR OWN COMMON SENSE. BUT A SAINT CAN “BE OF GOOD CHEER” EVEN WHEN SEEMINGLY DEFEATED BY ADVERSITIES, BECAUSE VICTORY IS ABSURDLY IMPOSSIBLE TO EVERYONE, EXCEPT GOD.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

Bill Stallsmith

EVENTS (August 2016)

WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAYS - 9:30AM PRAYER TIME
SUNDAYS - 9:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUNDAYS - 11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY - 8/14 DEACONS MEETING
TUES, 7PM WOMEN'S COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY
WED.-8/17, 6:30PM. . . COVERED DISH DINNER
THURS, 7AM. . MEN'S COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY
SUNDAY, 8/21 . . WOMEN'S MINISTRY MEETING
MONDAY-8/22, 7PM SESSION MEETING
SUNDAY-8/28 COMMUNION

FLOWERS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7 MERLYN JONES
SUNDAY, AUGUST 14 ANNE PRICHARD
SUNDAY, AUGUST 21 ANNE PRICHARD
SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 PATRICIA JOHNSON

HOSPITALITY CHAIR

CHERYL SANFORD

ELDER OF THE MONTH

PHIL PRICHARD . . . HOME PHONE: 478-552-5487
CELL PHONE: 478-657-2073

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

PRIMARY ANNE PRICHARD
SECONDARY MIKE SANFORD

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JOHN T. WATSON AUGUST 6
MAURA DUDLEY AUGUST 11
WIN SCOTT AUGUST 18
RACHEL WATSON AUGUST 26

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

JOE AND ALICE GORE AUGUST 2
PHIL AND ANNE PRICHARD AUGUST 6

A HOMEMAKER'S PRAYER

OH LORD, AS I RUSH AT A DIZZY PACE
AND TRY TO KEEP UP WITH THE HUMAN RACE,
AT TIMES, IT MIGHT SEEM I FORGET YOU'RE THERE
BECAUSE I'M NOT PRAYING A STRUCTURED PRAYER.
AND YET, AS I WORK WITH MY LOVING SPOUSE
WHILE TENDING THE NEEDS OF A BUSY HOUSE,
EMBRACING A CHILD OR ERASING A TEAR,
WHEN TELLING A STORY, DISPELLING A FEAR...
COMPLETING A LETTER OR GREETING A GUEST,
ATTENDING A MEETING OR MENDING A VEST,
WHILE CLEANING THE TABLE OR CHEERING THE ILL,
I'M HOPING, GOD, THAT I'M DOING YOUR WILL.
THOUGH POLISHING SHOES OR STIRRING A STEW,
WHATEVER I'M DOING, IT'S THE BEST I CAN DO.
MY CHORES MIGHT SEEM BORING OR EVEN MUNDANE
BUT I HARDLY THINK THAT MY WORK IS IN VAIN.
I'VE A SPECIAL MISSION WITH A HUNDRED ROLES
AS I'M SHAPING VALUES, ACHIEVING GOALS-
HOMEMAKING - HOPING TO MAKE THIS EARTH
A LITTLE NICER, WHILE PROVING MY WORTH.
LEST YOU MIGHT THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN TO PRAY
AS I RUSH ABOUT IN MY BUSY DAY,
MY HOMEMAKER'S PRAYER IS MY WHOLE LIFE THRU,
MY WORDS AND MY DEEDS ARE MY GIFT TO YOU.

POLLY THORTON

THEREFORE, YOU SHALL LOVE
THE LORD, YOUR GOD, WITH
ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH
ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH
ALL YOUR STRENGTH.
DEUTERONOMY 6:5