



August- September 2020

CW Church

The Grapevine



This has been a difficult and strange few months. It's hard to realize that it only has been a few months because the whole world has changed. Nothing that we took for granted as being normal works anymore. Millions have gotten sick and many have died. Many have lost jobs and or businesses. Many people wear masks and gloves to go outside, social distancing is the new norm. There is no hugging or handshakes there is no touching except those you live with. You order groceries on line and pick them up curbside. The delivery companies can't keep up with the orders for home delivery. People don't feel safe going to the store, or parks, or out to eat. Yet everyone craves the way it used to be. We want to go back to normal only there is no normal anymore.

Now there are riots in the streets to protest racial violence sparked by a man who was killed by a police officer. That action merely lit the match to the social unrest that has been going on for years. The National Guard has been called out in our city, there is a 10:00 curfew in place. People are scared and people are angry.

What do you do when it all feels like it is too much? How do you cope? Where is our safety? Psalm 18:2 says, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." We need God to lean on, we need to know that He is the only stable in this world gone crazy. He is there to hold us up because He loves us.

Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." We may not see the what, the where, and the why but God is in control. Never doubt that He is there, He is working for our good. It may not feel like it or look like it but ultimately whatever happens will be for the glory of God and for our best interests, according to God not us.

Look at the songs that have come out this year, "Jesus Is There" and "Always Be Humble and Kind" just to name two. Look at how the community pulled together to help everyone get the essentials that they needed. People who could sew and some businesses started making face

masks and full gowns for protection, distillers and some bathing suppliers started producing sanitizer. Neighbors made grocery runs for others who couldn't get out. Everyone worked to help each other. If that's not Christian action I don't know what is.

Now let's go back to the protests. It's been a week since I wrote the first part of this article and in that time the violence has gone away in most communities. The protesters and the police have started talking, community leaders are getting involved. A dialogue has begun where before there was only pain, anger and distrust.

Although horrible things have happened this year, good has come out of it in unexpected ways. Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." God shows up in the least likely places. We need to always be on the lookout for Him.

God Bless,
Regina Sampson

**From the desk of
Pastor Ralph Watts**

As a part of the "Lord's Prayer", which is a part of many church services every Sunday, Jesus taught His disciples to pray "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." That's not only a prayer for Sundays, it's a secret to living every day – every moment – victoriously in God.

The key is to live your life on earth as it is in heaven. Most of us live on earth as it is on earth. If we're having troubles on earth, we live troubled. If we're having setbacks on earth, we live discouraged. If we're having people trespassing against us on earth, we live in anger or bitterness, or unforgiveness. We let our peace, our well-being, and our joy go up and down - all because we're living on earth as it is on earth. Don't live in your situation as it is in your situation, or in your emotions as it is in your emotions. That's all on earth as it is on earth. What matters is how it is in heaven. Stop living an "on earth as it is on earth" life, and start living an "on earth as it is in heaven life."

In heaven, it's blessed. Your life will be blessed when you start living on earth as it is in heaven. In what ways are you living your life "from earth?" Are you handling your problems the "earthly way," or the heavenly way? Are you handling your circumstances the "earthly way," or the heavenly way? Are you handling your-self the earthly way, or the heavenly way? Start changing that. Start seeking to live your life in every way - from above – the heavenly way. *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, His good, pleasing, and perfect will."* Romans 12:2

WRITE

-a-

VERSE

-a-

DAY

A COPYWORK CALENDAR



NAME:

INTRODUCTION

What better way to know your Bible scriptures than by writing out one verse a day for a year! This calendar of verses contains 365 Bible scriptures on 12 wonderful themes. Just write out a verse each day and you'll draw near to God in a special way—by knowing his word! Write out a scripture a day with your children and watch the whole family grow in faith and wisdom. Use whatever Bible translation is your favorite. Then do things like post them in special places around the house where family members will be sure to bump into them. Put them in lunch boxes or give them to friends who could be blessed by that particular scripture. Each month begins a different theme including the following: Joy, Faith, Wisdom, Unity, Perseverance, Honesty, Courage, Understanding, Hopefulness, Rewards, Patience, and God's Kindness.



At the end of each month, you will know about 30 famous scriptures on each theme. And at a year's end, you will be well-equipped to know God's choices of behaviors for any given situation.

- August 1: Proverbs 3:5
- August 2: 2 Timothy 3:15
- August 3: Ephesians 1:7-9
- August 4: Colossians 1:9
- August 5: 2 Peter 3:18
- August 6: Luke 2:52
- August 7: 1 Corinthians 2:14
- August 8: 1 Corinthians 1:10
- August 9: James 3:13
- August 10: Proverbs 9:10
- August 11: Isaiah 40:28
- August 12: Job 38:4
- August 13: Philipplians 4:7
- August 14: 1 John 5:20
- August 15: Psalm 111:10
- August 16: 2 Corinthians 10:12
- August 17: Ephesians 1:18
- August 18: Romans 13:11
- August 19: Luke 24:45
- August 20: Luke 10:21
- August 21: Hebrews 8:10
- August 22: Proverbs 4:7
- August 23: Proverbs 4:5
- August 24: Isaiah 11:2
- August 25: 1 Timothy 1:7
- August 26: Proverbs 2:3-5
- August 27: Proverbs 11:12
- August 28: Deuteronomy 4:5-6
- August 29: Colossians 2:2
- August 30: 1 Corinthians 2:0
- August 31: Philemon 1:6



Understanding: aware of other people's feelings, tolerant and forgiving



A Look Back

In the 1960's a group of people were called to start a new church, Earl and Isabella Ball, Richard and Bonnie Neff, and Lee and Betty Schaffer were among this group. They began by meeting in The Ball's basement in Valleyview and as the group grew they moved to the Valleyview Elementary school. Pastor Orville W. Cunningham was called to be our first Pastor. The church found a field on Gladys and Palmetto and construction started in 1963.



Most of the work was completed by the congregation from drawing up the plans to the stucco on the outside and all the interior work except electrical and plumbing on the inside. Richard Neff talks about at least six months of working in the church in the evenings with his Father George after putting in a full day of work. Pastor Cunningham personally stained the ceiling in the chapel. He was very impressed by the dedication of this group. Pastor Cunningham remained Pastor until around 1972 when he retired. Stay tuned for part 2 in our next edition.



JOYFULNESS

It is understandable that people who need the Gospel will expect those who bring it to pass their most rigid test—the ability to rejoice when everyone else would become discouraged. Who in Scripture brought a cynical bystander to salvation because they passed this kind of test?

Several men sprang out of their hiding places and rushed upon two surprised travelers. They caught hold of them and dragged them into the town court. First, the two men were falsely accused. Then they were brought before the village rulers and magistrates. Again, false statements and accusations were hurled against them.

The magistrates were easily swayed. The coats and shirts of the two men were ripped off. Guards were commanded to beat them. The two men knew that these magistrates were violating the law, because it was unlawful for any Roman citizen to be whipped before he was found guilty by trial.

The muscles tightened in the backs and arms of the guards as they lifted the leather thongs with their metal balls high into the air and then brought them down with great force upon the backs of these two men. The crowd grew. Shouting increased as the mob urged on the guards in their bloody ordeal. First the metal balls produced large welts. Then the strips of leather cut into the skin and tore the flesh away.

When the guards saw that the prisoners were nearing death, they stopped the whipping. Then the men were cast into prison. A startled jailer was given strict instructions not to let them escape. Having received such a charge, he thrust them into the inner prison and locked their feet into heavy wooden stocks.

The two men had been falsely accused, denied fair trial, illegally beaten, and unlawfully imprisoned. Their backs were bleeding; their ankles were in pain. They were tired and hungry, separated from their friends, and suffered the sting of public humiliation.

What did they do next? They rejoiced in the Lord with singing and prayer. The other prisoners marveled at what they heard. Such a response deeply impressed the jailer. He found himself considering the possibility of becoming a Christian himself. Obviously these men had something he and his family needed.

Later that night an earthquake rocked the prison, springing open the doors and chains. The jailer thought his prisoners had escaped, and he was going to kill himself. But they cried out in a loud voice, “Do yourself no harm. We are all here.” The jailer called for a light, ran in and fell down before these two prisoners. He brought them out of their cell and asked, “What must I do to be saved?”

They replied, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house.” That very night the jailer and his family believed and were baptized. They washed the wounds of the prisoners, set food before them, and rejoiced together at their new fellowship in Christ. Paul and Silas produced joy in the lives of others because they were able to rejoice in the cruelest possible circumstances. Acts 16:11-34

Is God Listening????

2 “How long, O Lord, am I to cry for help, but you will not listen? I cry out to you, “There’s violence!” yet you will not come to the rescue. 3 Why do you make me see wrongdoing? And why do you watch wickedness? Destruction and violence are in front of me. Quarrels and disputes arise. 4 That is why your teaching is numbed, and justice is never carried out. Wicked people surround righteous people so that when justice is carried out, it’s perverted.” Habakkuk 1:2-4

Why does evil exist? How can a loving God, a God who is all-powerful and all-wise, tolerate evil and suffering? These are questions that keep swimming around in my head and in the heads of several that I talk to lately. Actually, if you really think about it, these are questions that have swam around in the heads of mankind since the beginning of time. Why didn’t God take care of evil right after Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden? After all He’s God.

These questions aren’t abstract. They deal with real, everyday life. They arise because the world is not as it should be. Rather, the world is sinful and corrupt. Something has gone terrible wrong. Evil seems to be prospering and virtue (good) goes unrewarded. The guilty often go free while the innocent suffer. Such observations have caused all of us to ask down through generation after generation; “When will justice ever be achieved? Why does God at times seem indifferent? Does the Lord not hear our prayers? Why does God tolerate injustice and evil? Why does God allow suffering, especially of the righteous and faithful?”

There have been hundreds, if not thousands of books written and dedicated to these subjects. Entire branches of philosophy and religions have been devoted to it. Yet, few people turn to God’s Word for help, the one place that provides the answers. Thousands of years ago, the prophet Habakkuk confronted the very same issues and was deeply plagued by them. However, instead of looking to the world for answers, he looked and had a conversation with the Lord. I think we need to do the same in this “dark time.”

Here in these opening verses, he doesn’t waste any time. He comes straight to the point. He raises a question about God’s *apparent* indifference. In fact, his initial series of questions shows that he was a careful observer of society and that he knew God’s righteous requirements for His people. He knew how God’s people were supposed to live. But as he surveyed his nation and society, Habakkuk was greatly upset. He was burdened. He was grieved. He was disturbed by all the corruption and injustice he witnessed. I wonder if he looked at our nation what he would have to say. The nation was full of strife and lawlessness, greed and oppression. More and more the wicked prospered while the righteous suffered at their hands. God’s servant was genuinely puzzled by the rampaging evil and the fact that the Lord seemed to do nothing about it. Why was God silent in the face of such evil and suffering? “GOD, WHERE ARE YOU???”

Have you ever stood in your prayer closet and asked that question? I know I have. That’s what we’re going to look into over the next several issues of the Grapevine. I would encourage you to take a look at Habakkuk and let’s see where the Lord takes us as we seek His face in prayer. God bless,

Pastor Rob