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the *GOOD News*

SPRING WARRIOR CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Why Lord?

Fred Newman

This past Tuesday, tornadoes, with estimated winds of 175 mph, ripped across central Tennessee in the early hours of the morning. The storm left a path of cataclysmic destruction which included 24 fatalities, 88 persons injured and 3 individuals still missing. Five children under the age of 13 died in this horrific storm. Among the dead are several from God's family. An entire family of three was killed, including this couple's two-year-old son. Another family lost their young daughter while her one-year-old sister lies critically injured in the hospital. At least one other sister in Christ was also killed in this disaster. I'm sure that these families are grappling with the question, "Why, Lord?" Why should our family who is faithfully serving You be struck with such tragic loss? Calamities such as this challenge our faith and our understanding of God. Why does God allow catastrophes such as this to touch the lives of His people? The book of Job addresses the human plight of those who suffer. Job was a blameless and upright man who feared God and turned away from evil. We can read of the tragedies that befell him and the personal suffering which he endured. Job sought the answer to this same question,

"Why, Lord?" Jehovah never gave His servant a direct answer to his question. However, the Lord's response indirectly challenged Job to regard God's unfathomable power and understanding. What Job took away from his exchange with Jehovah was that God is in total control and that His understanding far surpassed that of Job's. Job learned that he needed to commit not only his life and the lives of his loved ones to the Almighty, but his soul as well. It is impossible for us to grasp all of the reasons why terrible things happen to godly people. We agonize in pain and grief as our hearts raise the question, "Why, Lord?" Perhaps, if we were to alter our perspective when examining such paradoxes then we would find more comfort and peace. How then should one view such tragedies? Paul assured the Roman Christians that God will take everything that happens to His children and bring something good from it ([Romans 8:28](#)). An individual who suffers pain, illness or loss while maintaining their faith, peace and confidence in God has the opportunity to exert a positive influence by showing those around them their unflinching trust in God.

In addition, suffering offers an occasion for individuals to draw closer to God and to reaffirm their total dependence upon Him to provide for their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

God promises that those who die in the Lord will rest from their labors ([Revelation 14:13](#)). The Holy Spirit assures us that God's children have an incorruptible inheritance reserved for them in heaven ([1 Peter 1:3-5](#)). Infants and young children are innocent and have not been stained by sin; therefore their souls are not in jeopardy if they are taken from this life. Though taken away at a young age, these have been spared the heartaches and tears of this world.

Perhaps, if our perspective were more like that of the apostle Paul such losses would not dishearten us as readily. *"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better"* ([Philippians 1:21-23](#)). Those who are faithful and those of the tender years of innocence have shed this veil of tears and gone on to their eternal reward.

It is unpleasant and heart wrenching to let go and say goodbye to those whom we love so dearly. Such losses, especially sudden ones as occurred this past week, are not easy to deal with. We must cling ever closer to the One who holds our lives and souls in His loving hands.

Changing our perspective might also help us to better cope with such pain and loss and allow us to shine our light even brighter among those of the world who, too, are asking the question, "Why?"

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To have integrity is to be good when nobody is looking!

Be careful of your thoughts; they may become words at any moment!

True thanksgiving is a cultivated habit rather than an occasional emphasis!

Speak kind words and you will hear kind echoes!

An admission of error is a sign of strength rather than a weakness!

Activities & Prayer Needs

Sunday May 21, 2023

10:30 AM Worship Service

Announcements: *Jonathan Baker*

Scripture Reading: *Kim Howell*

1 Peter 2:21-25

Song Leader: *Philip Richardson*

Memorial Leader: *James Bethea*

Memorial Ass.: *Ryan Baker*

Memorial Ass.: *Ben Richardson*

Memorial Ass.: *Ralph Sadler*

Lesson: *Chuck Richardson*

God, Man, & Man's Sin

6:00 PM Worship Service

Announcement: *Jonathan Baker*

Scripture Reading: *Ryan Baker*

Ephesians 6:10-17

Song Leader: *Ben Richardson*

Lesson: *Chuck Richardson*

Grant Your Servants Boldness

Acts 4:24-30

Memorial Leader: *Philip Richardson*

Wednesday May 24, 2023

7:00 PM Bible Study/Worship

Announcement: *Chuck Richardson*

Auditorium Teacher: *Scott Mixon*

Song Leader: *James Bethea*

Lesson & Invitation: *Philip Richardson*

Special Studies

Prayer Study at Richardson

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

"A Prayer Of The Lord Being Glorified In Us"

7PM TUESDAY MAY 23

Ladies Class

"Look Into Your Heart" (Lesson 7)

Jessie Baker ~ Teacher

May 21 at building 4:30PM

Special Works

Memory Work, Faith Builders, & Defense Builders

Drill Class Sunday's at 5:20pm [for all ages]

Scripture For The Week

Matthew 11:25-30 (NASB) At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. 26 Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. 27 All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. 28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Request A Bible Study: (662) 212-3883

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