



The Rear View

I am getting quite used to attending weddings. Hollie and I are at that age where all of our friends are either newly married or will be getting married soon. With our own wedding only eight months behind us, we have become very familiar with the wedding scene.

At any wedding there is one word which is used over and over again, and rightfully so – LOVE. While attending a wedding recently I got to thinking about the subject of love and, in particular, the love the Lord has exhibited to us. John summarizes it very well by saying, “God is love” (I John 4:8). God’s love for us is the foundation of our love for Him as well as our love for one another.

With this in mind, consider some thoughts on one of the most famous passages on love – First Corinthians 13. “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends” (I Cor 13:4-8). Within each of these great characteristics we can certainly see God’s immeasurable love for us. We can see them demonstrated, not only through the way Jesus came to this earth, but also through the way He lived while here. It’s no wonder John wrote that God is love! The next time you think or read 1 Corinthians 13, remember that the Lord has defined what love is and how love behaves through the way He has dealt with each one of us. Paul writes, “that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph 3:17-19).

Serving This Month

Lead Singing:

- 5th & 19th AM – Jim Campbell
- 12th & 26th AM – Steve Waid
- 5th PM – Neal Wood
- 9th PM – Ralph Lyles
- 12th PM – Beau Yarbrough

Wednesday Night Talks:

- 8th – Ralph Lyles
- 15th – Steve Waid
- 22nd – Terrell Armstrong
- 29th – Bob Mitchell

Fourth Sunday Talk:

- 26th – Butch Mitchell

Visitor Greeters:

- 5th – Steve and Debbie
- 12th – Robert and Esther
- 19th – Sandra and Heidi
- 26th – Matt and Heidi

Announcements: Beau Yarbrough
Duty Coordinator: Dale Marbut

News And Notes

- **Singing:** There will be a singing at Aaron and Hollie’s home on Saturday, October 18th, at 5pm.
- **October 26th:** Song leader’s class at 5pm & singing at 6pm.



“Nourished in the words of faith... exercise yourself toward godliness.”
(1 Tim 4:6-7)

A Simple Word About Us

- We’re simply Christians and Christ’s name is the only name we wear.

- We follow only God’s word. We do not adhere to any doctrines, creeds or traditions of men.

- We seek to establish Bible authority in both our daily lives and in the work and worship of the church.

- We welcome an open discussion for all the things we teach & practice.

- We would love to study with you individually.

The Gospel Nourisher

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HE LEADETH ME

By Jeremiah “Josh” Burttram

We all go through trials and hard times. That is no question. The Christians will sometimes suffer more than the non-Christian. Sometimes God will send us the long way through difficult times in order to reveal His glory through us. He knows what we need. He does this so we look back at the end of our trails and realize that God brought us through and that it came not by our own strength or abilities. He wants to reveal His glory to us and if you are willing to humble yourselves and look for it, you will see God’s glory. Then you will be able to give credit where credit is due.

For example, when Aaron, Moses, and the Israelites were freed from the bondage of Pharaoh, God sent them the long way. He send them around by the desert toward the Red Sea. There was a much shorter route which would have taken them through the Philistine country. The problem was they would have had to face war with the Philistines. In Exodus 13:17 God said, “Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.” God could have easily sent them through the Philistine country and had them defeat the Philistines, since with God all things are possible. Perhaps God knew their faith was not strong enough yet. Maybe God knew if

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He helped the Israelites defeat the Philistines that they would not give God the glory or would even claim the victory for themselves.

We are part on this earth to glorify God, not ourselves, therefore, when you are called by God the road can be long and tough at times. This is true especially while our faith is weak. When our faith is built up, the troubles will no longer seem as long, big, or difficult. Then we will know without a doubt that God is in complete control. If God be for us, who can be against us?

So God sent the Israelites the long way to the Red Sea. He did this so He could reveal His glory to the Israelites and to the Egyptians. When they reached the edge of the Red Sea and saw the Egyptians approaching they cried out to the Lord. Next they complained to Moses. The entire time they were led by a pillar of clouds by day and a pillar of fire by night. Even with that sign right in front of their eyes day and night their faith still was not where it should have been.

In contrast, Moses has the faith that we all should have. Even though we have not seen God lead us with a pillar of clouds or fire, we have all seen God at work in various ways in our lives. Seeing that should strengthen our faith to a level that is unshakable by fear or doubt. When we reach what seems to be a dead end or when we feel the enemy marching up behind us, remember God's sovereignty and strength. Do as the Israelites did and cry out to God. He is our only hope. Remember all the Red Seas He has parted in our lives. Remember how many

victories He has brought to pass in our lives. As Moses told the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today" (Exodus 14:13).

At this point in the account the Lord says to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward" (Exodus 14:15). When we reach a point in life where we feel we cannot move on, we often cry out to God. Then He gives us the instruction and the strength to move on. The enemy is sure to raise doubts, but trust me brethren, with God and only with God we can move on and conquer any mountain or sea which the devil places in our path.

After telling the Israelites to move on, God instructs Moses to raise his staff and stretch out his hand over the sea (Exodus 14:16-18). This would divide the water so the Israelites could go through on dry ground. Then God told Moses, "I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen." That is the point my friends... when the Lord gains the glory. All of this took place to glorify the Lord.

Remember how throughout all of the plagues the Egyptians did not believe that they were up against the undefeatable Lord God Almighty. God did harden their hearts, but it was because of their unbelief. Do not let that be us.

The Lord drove back the sea with a strong East wind. The waters were divided and the Israelites went through on dry ground. Next, the Egyptians followed them into the divided sea. The Lord looked down through the pillar of cloud and fire and threw the army into confusion. He caused the wheels to fall off the chariots. Then the Egyptians finally realized that God was fighting for the Israelites. If you keep strong in your faith the enemy will also see that the Lord is fighting for you as well.

Then the Lord told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians. The entire Egyptian army drowned. That day the Lord saved them from the hand of the Egyptians. The Israelites saw the Egyptian army washing up dead on the shore. When they saw the great power the Lord displayed the people feared the Lord and put their trust in Him.

How we need to apply these lessons to our own lives! When God brings us through something tough, make sure to give Him the glory. It may be a long and hard road, but it may be that is what it takes to strengthen your faith to an unshakable condition. Do not forget what God has brought you through already. Know that whatever you may be

facing right now, God is very much in control. Do not let hard times or time in general take away the value of the glory God has already revealed in your life. Be strong in tough times my friends. Keep your eyes open and looking for God's glory. He is sure to reveal it to strengthen your faith. When this happens, be sure you give God the credit He is due. I'm sure He has brought us all through something which seemed impossible. Glory be to God! Amen?

Those Needing Prayers

- **Howard Jones** has an inoperable brain disease & is slowly getting worse.
- **Lindy Jones** received a heart transplant last night. The doctors have said that everything appears good.
- **Martha Carter**, Lisa Lyle's mother, is recovering from breast cancer surgery. Also, her father, **Jimmy Carter**, is recovering from a stroke.
- **June Barlow** has had more panic attacks lately & a decline in health.
- **Robert McNeil**, Bruce McNeil's father, is fighting cancer.
- Lisa McNeil's mother & father** both have severe health problems
- **Bryan Allen II** for further progress
- **Glenda Marbut** as she continues to battle against cancer.
- **Jeanie O'Brien** as she is fighting cancer along with other difficulties.
- **Ruth Bibb** (Johnnie's sister), **Barbara White** (Willette's sister), and **Edna Cluck** (Sue's mother) all suffer from Alzheimer's disease.
- **Rip & Wilma Baker**, Jenny's brother and sister-in-law, face health problems.
- **Josh Burtram**, who is away from us and Laurie at this time.
- **Shut-ins: Pearl Lloyd, Tom Farley, Hester Stein, Clara Gaston, George Stacey & June Barlow**

I love and miss you all! Your brother Josh.