

MAY 31ST, 2026

The Searcher



Published By



SOUTHAVEN
CHURCH of CHRIST

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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES AND SEEKING THE LOST

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WOE IS ME!

Chris Perry

I believe I can safely say that every one of us, at one time or another, has caught the dreaded "Woe is me!" disease. A hectic schedule, sickness, or the general hardships of life have caused us to throw ourselves a "pity party." To be sure, self-pity is a part of the human condition; it is certain to affect us all at some point. However, the "Woe is me!" syndrome can be extremely dangerous. It can cause us to lose sight of others' needs, and it can cause us to question God and challenge His authority. It would be valuable for us all, then, to consider for a moment how to overcome self-pity.

Remember: You are not the only one! One of the most dangerous attitudes that comes from self-pity is the belief that no one else has ever suffered the way we are. Statements such as, "You don't understand!" poison our outlooks, and can sever relationship and sour our spiritual lives. However, Paul makes an interesting statement in I Corinthians 10:13: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Noticed that first statement: our "temptations" [adversity] are "common to man" [literally, human, a part of the human condition]. Because adversity is a thread that runs through all humanity, James can say, "Take, my brethren, the prophets...for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience" (James 5:10).

Remember: You can change your perspective! Statements often emanate from our pity parties that sound much like these: "But it's not fair!...Why would God let this happen?" These attitudes represent a perspective of the world that should be different for a Christian. In Psalm 73, Asaph submitted his frustration at the state of the world: "For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked" (verse 3). However, he overcame this "Woe is me!" attitude by changing his perspective: "Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end" (verse 17). Likewise, when we approach God in worship, prayer, or bible study, our perspectives should change. Though things in this world often might seem unfair, God has stated, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7-8). A perspective that includes eternity and judgment can alleviate some of the self-pity that comes with the human condition.

I CRIED OUT TO GOD

Chad Ramsey

The individual who faces intense suffering, no matter the cause, often feels helpless. Personal struggles are amplified when we assume no one cares. Loneliness accompanies difficulty, and hope is lost. We wonder: How much more can we take? Why doesn't anyone seem to care?

God Heard Elijah's Cry. The prophet Elijah evidently felt this way in 1 Kings 19. After winning a great victory over the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (see 1 Kings 18:20-40), Elijah was forced to flee for his life from Queen Jezebel. Alone and in despair, he cried out to God: "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" (1 Kings 19:4). Although the prophet was ready to give up on that occasion, God would not allow him. He provided for Elijah's needs and eventually reminded him he was not alone (verse 18). God cared for Elijah continually, especially as he faced the trials of life.

God Hears Our Cry. As God cared for Elijah, He also cares for us. He is with us when we "walk through the valley of the shadow of death" (Psalm 23:4); He is with us when we seek to resolve problems with others (Matthew 18:20). His special care for us is best seen in His willingness to send Jesus to die in our place. Noting this, Paul wrote: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Because He lived on this earth, Jesus understands "our weaknesses" (Hebrews 4:15) and "is able to aid those who are tempted" (Hebrews 2:18).

No matter how bad things may seem, we are not alone. This is why Peter encouraged: "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your cares on Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7).

God Remains Faithful. In the 77th Psalm, the cares and concerns of the author take the center stage. Because of his problems, the psalmist could neither sleep nor speak (verse 4). He felt as if God had cast him aside (verse 7). In his despair, he wondered: "Has His mercy ceased forever? Has His promise failed forevermore? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies?" (verses 8-9). Thankfully, he concluded this was not the case. God's faithfulness in the past is proof He cares (verses 10-12).

Like the psalmist, we must avoid allowing the momentary trials of life to raise doubts about God. The trials we face do not indicate God has abandoned us. Instead, they remind us something much better awaits (see 2 Corinthians 4:16-18). Whether we experience relief from the present trials of life, whatever they may be, we long for the place where "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

DOES JESUS CARE?

Ross Haffner

One of the most amazing things about Jesus is that He describes Himself as the Son of Man and the Son of God (Luke 22:69-70). He is God and has always existed, yet He became a man and faced the same trials we do (Heb. 4:15, Phil. 2:7, John 1:14). Considering some of the emotional challenges Jesus endured reminds me that He cares when I suffer in similar ways.

Jesus was betrayed by a close friend. “Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me” (Ps. 41:9). It must have been so painful to be betrayed by one of His apostles (Matt. 26:48-49). If I feel betrayed I know my Savior cares.

Jesus lost a beloved friend in death. When Jesus saw the scene surrounding Lazarus’ death He wept (John 11:33-36). My suffering in tears at the grave of a loved one puts me in good company.

Jesus was let down by His family. It must have been difficult that His own brothers did not believe (John 7:1-5). We love our families but certainly they can disappoint us at times.

Jesus suffered humiliation and injustice. Many laws had to be broken to condemn an innocent man to the death of the cross. Furthermore execution by the cross was a humiliating process. Therefore the Scriptures say, “In His humiliation His justice was taken away” (Acts 8:32-33). When you feel wronged or humiliated the Savior understands.

Knowing that our Lord faced the same time of experiences does not take away the pain, but it does help us to see Who we should lean on in trials (Heb. 2:17-18, 4:14-15, 5:2, 7:25, 13:5-8). The church is the household (family) of God and the body of Christ (1 Tim. 3:15; Col. 1:24). If we are suffering we know we do not have to suffer alone.

Sunday Sermons

The More Excellent Way (AM)

To Be Determined (PM)

Bible Passages To Consider

"But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way" (1 Corinthians 12:31).

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Jerry Baird has been released from the hospital and is now at home.

Brenda Dreher has been released from the hospital and is now at home. She has been placed on Hospice Care.

Justin Camp, husband of Kim Camp, father of Lily, will be resuming cancer treatments.

Ronnie Sowell, father of Erin Sowell, has been released from the hospital and is now at home.

Vern Schrimsher has developed a closed pressure wound on the back of his heel.

Dorothy Butler is slowly making improvements.

Rannie Butler is taking therapy at Senatobia Healthcare and Rehab.

Jean Jones is taking physical therapy at Desoto Health.

Arcadio Acosta, father of Michel Reyes, remains in critical condition following recent stomach surgery and heart attack. He recently had a biopsy on his intestines and is awaiting those results.

Lawrence Rapp, father of Deke Rapp, has been released from the hospital and is now at home.

Please continue to remember the following: **Joyce Valentine, Don Sykes, Meredith Peek, Betty Culbreath, Barbara Day, Alan & Linda Stone, Debbie Shull, Pat Pierce, Beverly Parnell, Lucy Chamberlain, & Karen Oglesby** in your prayers.

BATTLING CANCER

Please remember those who are fighting, or recovering from cancer: **Alan Stone; Brenda Dreher; Pam Eaton; Charlene Farris; Justin Camp**, husband of Kim Camp; **Andrew Utz**, great nephew of Peggy Shull; **Varda Cole**, sister in law of Linda Davis; **Don Cheathour**, friend of the Sykes family; **Joe Daly**, online viewer in England; **Houston Hall**, great nephew of Karen Oglesby & Beth Roney; **David Taylor**, neighbors of the Sykes; **Dan Manuel**, friend of Tommy & Peggy Shull; **Heather Butler**, daughter of Lewis Dawson; **Vickie Parker**, sister of Nick Parker; **Kim Butler**, sister in law of Larry Butler; **Lily Jane Jordan**, neighbor's granddaughter of Terry & Brenda Harris; **Oakleigh Free**, great granddaughter of Alan &

Linda Stone; **Mandi Singer**, friend of Erica Stuckey; **Mandy Dunbar**, friend of Erica Stuckey; **TJ Holt**, cousin of Amber Wallis; **Margarito Zuniga**, father of former member Alan Zuniga; **Becca Reynolds**, niece of Anita Sanders; **Laura Sowell**, mother of Erin Sowell, **Doreen Harris**, former member, **Glenn Jenkins**, the husband of Bonnie Reid's niece, **Carol Tierce**, sister of Peggy Shull & **Whitley Joy**, great niece of Larry & Elaine Melton.

SHUT-INS/ NURSING HOME

Lucy Chamberlain; Debbie Shull; Brenda Dreher; Beverly Parnell; Pam Eaton; Phyllis Smith, The Goldton at Southaven Room #116.

RESPONSES

Frankie Hollingbird, frequent visitor, & Justin Camp, husband of Kim Camp, father or Lily and son in law of Con & Mina Lambert, were baptized into Christ recently. Please be sure to keep them in your prayers as they begin their new walk with Christ.

MEN TO SERVE - May 31st, 2026

Preside: Brian Williams

Serve: Allen Roberts, Coleman Simpson, Michael Agyemang, Tyler Williams, Carter Gahagan, Tyrone Willingham, Jarrett Roberts, Jason Griffin

AM Opening Prayer: David Rister

AM Closing Prayer: Nick Parker

PM Opening Prayer: Joe Ruiz

PM Closing Prayer: Larry Nagle

Wed. Opening Prayer: Tyler Williams

Wed. Closing Prayer: John S. Stubblefield

Announcements: Chris Tice

Song Leader: Michael Gahagan

Scripture Reading: Walter Warren

Security: Michael Gahagan

REMINDER:

If you are a song leader, scripture reader, or have opening prayer, you are asked to sit on the front pew when worship begins.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 12-13: Diana Singing in Diana, TN

June 14-20: Sardis Lake Christian Camp. If you would like to help send a child to camp or with camp expenses please see Vern Schrimsher. The cost per child is \$200 but any amount is greatly appreciated.

June 27: Vacation Bible School 9am-12pm: If you are willing to help in any way (teach, assist, crafts, decorate, snacks) please sign the sheet in the foyer.

JUNE FOOD TEAM

Captain: Christy Gahagan

Mary Barch, Lisa Craig, Missy Kelley, Jennifer Stubblefield

OUR RECORDS

Bible Study	221
A.M. Worship	288
P.M. Worship	182
P.M. Wed. Worship	230
Contribution	\$



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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Class.....	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....	10:00 a.m.
Sunday P.M. Worship.....	1:00 p.m.
Wednesday P.M. Service.....	7:00 p.m.

ELDERS

Gary Barch
Larry Everson
David Rister

DEACONS

Bruce Dunaway
Michael Gahagan
Aaron Gallagher
TJ Johnson
John Stubblefield
Chris Tice
Andy Young

MINISTERS

Robert Jefferies
Josh Walker