

Good News From Chardon Church of Christ

128 Maple Ave., Chardon, Oh 44024

March 10, 2024

Issue 10

Schedule of Services

Greeting: Tom

Song Leader: Dale

Opening Hymn:

59—Holy, Holy, Holy

Opening Prayer: Dale

Hymn:

2—We're Marching To Zion

Scripture Reading: Larry

Luke 18:11-14

Hymn:

322—The Old Rugged Cross

Lord's Supper: Robert

Hymn:

459—The Glory-land Way

Sermon: Tom

Invitation Hymn:

644—Trust And Obey

Closing Hymn:

53—Purer In Heart, O God

Closing Prayer: Ryan

♪♪ Be with me, Lord, I cannot live
without Thee, I dare not try to take
one step alone; I cannot bear the loads
of life unaided, I need Thy strength to
lean myself upon. ♪

CALENDAR

Mar. 10 TURN CLOCK FORWARD ONE HOUR

Mar. 10 Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker Tom

Mar. 15—(b) Jackson

Mar.17—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker Mark

Mar.17—(b) Christopher

Mar.17—(b) Dorene

Mar.21—(b) Jerad

Mar.21—(b) Mary

Mar.24—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker

Mar.25—(b) Justin

Frustration and Faith

We can learn something about faith if we see the full dimensions of the emphasis on "things not seen." This is not a very popular part of Christianity because we would like to have assurances each day that faith "works." Some people seek these assurances in the form of economic benefits. Thus, we are told that faith produces dividends in the form of new jobs, great bargains, and improved social life. For others, the constant assurances come in the form of peace of mind and in the absence of frustration and suffering. While it is true that there is "joy in believing" there is something very faithless about building our faith on tangible assurances.

In Hebrews, faith can involve both frustration and suffering because it rests on "things not seen." The author indicates the frustration of faith twice in chapter 11. In verse 13, he summarizes the experience of all of the heroes of faith. "All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, . ." In verse 39, after surveying history, the author says, "And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised."

Faith, as these examples suggest, does not receive instantaneous reassurance. The believer has to endure frustration and agony all while wondering why God's promises do not seem fulfilled. Perhaps our struggles with faithfulness is, in part, the result of our being unprepared for frustration. We may be unprepared for the problems of the local church. The tragedy that strikes us or our closest friends may appear to make a mockery of God's promises.

If we believe that Christianity involves an endless succession of victories, frustration will result in our "shrinking back" from the demands of commitment. The promise of God may lead us to dream impossible dreams. But in reality, we may not "receive what is promised" in a whole lifetime on earth. What can the Christian do with frustration?

Hebrews says we must learn to live with it. The Christian does not give up at the first sign of despair. He must accept the frustration and keep the faith. George Buttrick said that "our lives will experience all of the tension of a cello string which sings only when it is taut. This string is stretched between the infinite hope and the finite limitations of our lives. Life can produce its best music only when it lives with this kind of tension. We purchase a false "peace of mind," which is eagerly sought, only at the price of giving up on these promises which sustain us."

(continued on back)

PRAYER LIST

Mynda as she travels. **Caleb's** upcoming shoulder surgery
Cason's upcoming eye surgery
Tom & Nina health issues.
Their son-in-law **Chris** lost his job
Mark and **Debbie** as they travel.
Tom's Bible Study with **Roberta, Channing,**
and **Kris.**
Bonnie's feet, grandsons **Devin, Dakota & Dillon, Rhonda**
Wanda's migraines; son **Allen,** sisters **Lorraine &**
Joyce. Her niece **Nikki** in bad accident
Her niece **Lorrie** had a heart attack
Mary, Carl and family.
Kathy's foot healing and lung infection
Linda's health, 2 1/2 year old baby with terminal cancer.
Zarna and her family
Juanita, is at Briar Hill rehab room 100, and the rest of
her family.
Ray and **Barbara** and their family.
Dale's health issues, headaches and his family. His **Mothers**
medical procedure.. 7 year old girl, **Lucie,** with
Leukemia. Cousin **Kenny** hernia, Cousin **Joshua**
heart Issues, Cousin **Randal** physical & mental
health Cousin **Roosevelt** with nerve pain
Ray's health and his family. **Rebecca's** knee & illness
Steven health
Pat and her family
Robert's friend **Freeman** with cancer,
Sara's father **Jeff 's** surgery recovery
Brenda's health, her sister **Linda** with shingles and
sister-in-law **Linda** as they struggle with cancer.
Her son **Mark** surgery recovery, granddaughter
Amanda. Her **brother** passed away
Lenise—knee problems.
Larry and Ruth, she is at Briar Hill rehab
Mike & Debra as they lead Bryce back to Christ.
Randy's foot pain
Miyapur Church of Christ in Hyderabad, South India
Les Cayes Church of Christ in southeast Haiti

(continued from front)

Jesus taught us to believe in the promises, but He also prepared us for frustration. He tells the parable of the sower, whose work consisted mainly in sowing seed which did not produce (Mark 4:3-9). He knew that His disciples would sometimes be like a helpless widow making her appeal before an unjust judge (Luke 18: Iff.) Such stories indicate that Jesus anticipated the frustration of the Christian life.

As we follow the biblical record, we observe that the men of faith experienced deep frustration and despair. Job struggled with the questions of faith. Jeremiah lived in anguish over his calling. These people believed in "things not seen." What does the church do with its frustration? We surrender to our own temporary values when we "shrink back." Faith involves holding on when our only source of security is found in "things not seen."

The faith that began many centuries ago has survived, not because all of the faithful lived with constant victory, but because they held on in the presence of adversity. The church of today faces the same task and our heroes from the past can help us to do so.

Brian Mitchell serves as a minister with the Jackson Church of Christ in Jackson, MO

WHERE IS IT WRITTEN?

What shall we then say to these things?
If God be for us, who can be against us?

Answer: Romans 8:31

Luke 18:11-14

¹⁰ Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹² I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. ¹³ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

SUNDAY: Bible Study—10:00 am, Worship—11:00 am

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