

From The Minister's Pen



Comfort In Times of Crisis

These are times when men and women—including many Christians— need comforting. There is not one person who has lived to adulthood who has not, during their lifetime, had troubling and trying periods. Many Americans, and other people throughout the world, are currently dealing with a time that is producing fear, turmoil and anxiety. They are experiencing concern for their physical survival and well-being and that of those whom they love. They desire and seek comfort and assurance. What should they do? Where and from whom should they seek comfort?

In the fifteenth chapter of Romans, the Lord's church had to deal with numerous problems—false teachers, strife between brothers. How did God address such turmoil? In this chapter, Apostle Paul utters this prayer: "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another...that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (15:5-6). How did Paul see that turmoil coming to an end? He turned to God—the One who gives both comfort and patient endurance.

It is in God where true comfort is found. Paul described God as the God of all comfort (2 Cor. 1:3), and also said that He "...comforteth us in all our tribulation (2 Cor. 1:4). Give special attention to the three letter word in 2 Corinthians 1:3. God is not just the One who sometimes comforts us in certain situations—He is the God of comfort in **ALL** our trials.

How does God give us comfort? In Romans 15:5 Paul describes God as the God of comfort and patience. Verse four states: "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." We must read and remember the scriptures. Throughout His Word, God has given us His assurance of protection, which should give us comfort. In any time of crisis, we are strengthened by remembering His promises. Consider just a few:

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psa 46:1)

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will

fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. (Psa. 23:4)

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. (Psa. 27:1-2)

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness ... For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. (Isa. 41:10, 13)

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27)

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:6-7)

“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Tim. 1:7)

These are but a very few of the scriptures that validate the assurance and comfort that we have from God our Father.

To whom do we turn for comfort? It is to **God**. To where do we turn? It is to the **scriptures** that the God of comfort has given us. “Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thess. 4:18).

Consider the character and mindset of Apostle Paul when faced with great peril in the shipwreck of Acts 27. Words used to describe the other people and situation are: “difficulty” (16); “fearing” (17); “exceedingly tempest-tossed” (18); “beat on us” (20); and finally: “all hope that we would be saved was finally given up” (20).

Although Paul was “in the same boat” as they were, and was in the same storm as they were, and was facing the same life and death peril which they were, his perspective was completely opposite. His words reflected calm, faithful, and common-sense assurance. In verses 21-26, his calm and reasoned response are reflected in his words and phrases: “Ye should have hearkened unto me...” (21); “**be of good cheer,**” (22); “**there will be no loss of man’s life among you**” (22); “**Fear not,**” (23); “**be of good cheer,**” (25); “**for I believe God,**” (25).

Yes, we should take crises seriously. Our very lives and the lives of others can depend upon doing so. We should take heed to warnings and instructions carefully. In Acts 27:21, Paul said after the shipwreck, “Ye should have hearkened unto me”. We also must remember that God is with us and we must not be guided by a spirit of fear.

We CAN be prepared for and be comforted in the sure and certain crises of life. When clouds arise and darkness prevails, **pick up** your Bible, **read** the comforting words from the God of all comfort, and **meditate** on what He says to you. These words of comfort will bring solace and peace in the midst of the deepest despair.

Church News and Views

Welcome to the Church of Christ

We extend a very special welcome to each of today's visitors. We are delighted to have you in our worship service. You will find that the Bible is our source of absolute truth for all things pertaining to religion and righteousness. If you strive to please God, then New Golden Heights is the right place for you and your entire family. The minister is available to answer any Bible question you may have. Don't let this be your last visit. Plan to come again!!



Listen to SERMONS Online

Feeling burdened, confused, afraid, lonely??? Listening to a sermon will help. You can hear sound gospel preaching any time of the day and on any day of the week? A collection of Dr. Washington's sermons is available on the church's website. Simply go to the website and click "Sermons". Sermons also are available on YouTube. Share them with a friend who needs to hear the gospel. Also, Wednesday PM adult class lessons are **streamed live** on YouTube each week.



Our Alumni At Work!

Theme:
Tell Me Who You Loyal To!

When: Friday, March 20th
Where: West Suburban Church of Christ
Time: 7:00pm

Speaker:
Saquoya Stokes

Hostesses: Norman Webb, Ramona Blair & Melissa Clements

Scripture Text:
Matthew 6:24

WEST SUBURBAN CHURCH OF CHRIST
1745 St. Charles Road, Naperville, IL 60563

Reduce Your Risk of Acquiring Coronavirus

The CDC recommends the following preventive actions to reduce your chances of acquiring coronavirus and/or giving it to others.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, cough inside your elbow.



Practice social distance. Avoid close contact with people who may be sick and avoid large crowds.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces (door knob, telephone, steering wheel, etc.)



Stay home if you are sick.

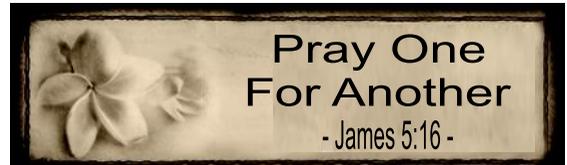
Be mindful that some members and visitors may have weakened or suppressed immune systems, because of medical conditions, age or medications that they take, which make them more susceptible to acquiring the virus. Please don't be offended if they ask for more distance from you.



Call 954-599-9195 (Elijah Thompson) or 954-591-3140 (James Franklin)



Bible Study (4:00PM) TODAY
 Sick Ministry (6:00PM)..... Mar. 23
 Midweek Bible Study (6:30PM) Mar. 25



“Lord, He Whom Thou Lovest Is Sick”
 (John 11:3)

Shut-In:

Charles Davis, Camille Ewers, Paul Frances, Martha Moore, Ermine Mullins, Joyce Parrish, Lillie Jackson

Prayer Requests:

Barbara Adams, Annie Albritton, Raf Campbell, Arnetta Cross, Thelma Daise, Brooklyn Delancy, Aletha Denmark, Kristin Dicks, Felisha Downer, Donna Eacho, Sharon Eason, Nelzene Edwards, Loerine Ellis, Destiny Eugene., Daniel Eugene, Bessie Everitt, Phillip Everett, Linda Frazier, Hanley Freeman, John-Billy Glover, Linda Green, Cora Hargrett, Dudley Hill, Joe Holland, Vernon Holland, Brad Johnson, Becky Johnson, Catie Johnson, Gloria Johnson, Louis Johnson, Chicago Jones, Brenda King, Annie Lee, Kevin Larkins, Nancy Logan, Mary Lyons, Isaac McDowell, Elouise Mash, Suzanna Middleton, Sidney Molines, Sharon Monroe, Willie Mae Morris, Derria Nelson, Rosie Newson, Dianjalo Parrish, Patricia Reeves, Shay Roache, Akiko Robinson, Peggy Rogers, Rachel Scoggins, Richard & Jean Sherman, Maxine Smith, Yvonne Stokes, Linda Stokes, Brandi Stroman, Morris Strong, Joe Sutton, Doretha Thompson, Samantha Tobias, Rolinne Trompe, Roosevelt Tukes, Lewis & Jean Truttling, Johnnie P. Walker, Lucille Walker, Ray Watson, Joshua Webb, Marie Webb, Ranspord Webley, Mary Wells, Annie Williams, Betty Williams, Harold Winley, Jackie Williams, Roberta Wilson

“We Come Into This House To Worship Him”

(John 4:24)

Month of MARCH

	<u>MORNING</u>	<u>EVENING</u>
<i>Announcements</i>	Reginald Johnson	Kevin Azille
<i>Song Leader</i>		
<i>Prayer</i>	Glenn Barbee	Glenn Barbee
<i>Scripture (Reading)</i>	Raymond Thompson	Raymond Thompson
<i>Song</i>		
<i>Sermon</i>	Dr. W. F. Washington	Dr. W. F. Washington
<i>Call To Obedience</i>	<u>Counselors:</u> K. Hutchison / C. Jean / W. Hamilton	
<i>Confessions /Prayer Petitions</i>	Keith Hutchison (Officiating)	Keith Hutchison (Officiating)
<i>Offering (1 Cor. 16:1,2)</i>	AM —Officiating: Keith Hutchison / Raymond Thompson	
<i>Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7)</i>	(1) Left, J. Franklin (2) Left, D. Stokes (3) Left, T. Harris (4) Left, M. Strong (1) Right, B. Byrd (2) Right, E. Holcombe (3) Right, M. Hughes (4) Right, D. Edwards <i>Alternates: G. Barbee,</i>	
	PM —Officiating: Keith Hutchison / Raymond Thompson	
	E. Thompson	C. Jean J. Franklin
	B. Davis	D. Stokes T. Harris
	<i>Alternates: G. Barbee, M. Strong</i>	
<i>Ministerial Announcements</i>		
<i>Doxology</i>	Dr. W. F. Washington	Dr. W. F. Washington
<i>Dismissal</i>	Tony Hugley	Tony Hugley
<i>Worship and Praise Leaders</i>	Keith Hutchison, Reginald Johnson, Lamont DeJarnett	
<i>Ushers</i>	Head Ushers: Booker Bess, Tony Hugley	
	Auditorium: Bros. T. Hugley, B. Bess, F. Williams, D. Adams, E. Thompson, R. Johnson, J. Outler, M. Jeanty, D. Gray, S. Wilson, D. Freeman, R. Rouse, C. Rouse	
	Lobby: I. Johnson, H. Penn Back Hall: D. Brooks	
<i>Hospitality Desk / Concierge</i>	Alice George, Sharon Evans	

