



Light of Christ Anglican Church

THE BEACON

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The Rev. Mike Moffitt, Rector



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Let your light so shine be
fore men that they may see your
good deeds and praise your
Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16



Mike's Message

Why God Tests His Children- By John Owen

John Owen (1616-1683) was an English scholar, theologian, chaplain, tutor, pastor, vicar, dean of Christ Church College, and author.

GOD'S INSTRUMENTS OF TRIAL DIG RIGHT INTO THE DEPTHS AND INNERMOST PARTS OF THE SOUL.

The reasons for which God tests us:

1. He does it to show man what is in his heart. He would have us see either the grace or corruption that dwells there. (I am not now speaking of the place that testing may have in judicial hardening.) Grace and corruption lie deep in the heart, and man is often deceived in his evaluations of it. God comes to us with a gauge that can go right to the bottom. His instruments of trial dig right into the depths and innermost parts of the soul. This allows man to see clearly what is truly in him, and what type of metal is in his constitution. God tested Abraham to show him his faith. Abraham did not know what power and vigor was in his faith until God drew it out by that great trial and testing. God tried Hezekiah to discover his pride; he left him that he might see what was in his heart. Hezekiah did not know that he had such a proud heart, or one so prone to be lifted up into boasting, until he was tested. The testing revealed all the filth and poured it out before him. Trials can also reveal our thankfulness, our humility, etc. which we will not now consider.

WE WILL NOT KNOW THE POWER OF GRACE UNTIL WE FEEL THE POWER OF TESTING. WE MUST BE TRIED, TO REALIZE THE GLORY OF BEING PRESERVED.

2. God allows man to be tested to show himself to man. Until we are tested, we think that we are living on our own strength. It is however, God alone who keeps us from falling by his preventing grace. We might say, "All men may do this or that, but we will not!" When the trial comes, however, we quickly see that only God's preservation upholds us. So it was with Abimelech, God withheld him from sinning.

God also reveals his renewing grace through our testing. Paul, in his prayer for deliverance from the thorn in his flesh, found God's sufficiency and renewing grace. We do not realize the power and strength that God puts forth on our behalf, and the sufficiency of his grace, until we compare our trials with our weakness. God's power and grace are then clearly seen in our lives. The effectiveness of an antidote is not realized until one has been exposed to the

Continued

poison. The preciousness of medicine is revealed by the presence of the disease. We will not know the power of grace until we feel the power of testing. We must be tried, to realize the glory of being preserved. There are many other gracious ends that God has to accomplish in his saints by their trials which we will not consider now.

THE DUTIES THAT GOD HAS FOR US ALONG OUR ORDINARY PATH OF LIFE ARE NOT IN PROPORTION TO THE STRENGTH WE HAVE IN OURSELVES, BUT IN PROPORTION TO THE HELP AND RELIEF THAT IS LAID UP FOR US IN CHRIST.

Some of the ways that God accomplishes this:

1. God sets men to great tasks that are beyond their strength to accomplish. So he tested Abraham in the duty of sacrificing his son. It was a thing absurd to reason, bitter to nature, and grievous to him on all accounts whatsoever. Many men do not know what is in them, or rather what is available to them, until they are asked to do something utterly beyond their strength. The duties that God has for us along our ordinary path of life are not in proportion to the strength we have in ourselves, but in proportion to the help and relief that is laid up for us in Christ. By God's strength we are able to perform the most difficult tasks even though we only have the ability for the small ones. This is the law of grace. Few realize this important truth. Difficult and extraordinary duties appear before us as trials in our union with Christ, but his strength is able to overcome all.
2. A second way that God accomplishes this is by putting his people through great sufferings. How many have found strength to die at a stake, or to endure tortures for Christ! Victory comes by his grace, though at first it seems like a great trial. Peter reveals how we are tested. Our testing arrives as we pass through 'fiery trials', which are for the testing of our faith.

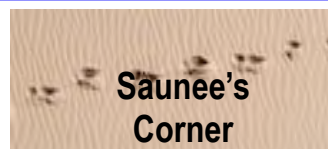
Most of you know that Teresa had a mild stroke on December 11th. As it turned out, the stroke was a blessing in that the MRI revealed that she had an aneurysm on the right side of her brain. Also, the stroke left no residual damage. This whole episode started back in August when Teresa's primary care physician tried to schedule an examination with a neurologist in order to find out why she has been having spells, often multiple times every day. The earliest appointment she could get was April 16, 2024, almost 8 months later.

While she was in the hospital for the stroke a neurologist saw her twice, once on video and then in person. As it ended up, this doctor was in practice with the doctor Teresa was supposed to see in April. God in his sovereignty arranged for Teresa to begin dealing with that office in December instead of April. Plus, the neurologist is married to a cardiologist who arranged for Teresa to wear a Holter monitor for 30 days, hoping to track the spells in order to find out if they were related to

the heart. This whole episode had God's fingerprints all over it. Praise the Lord! It reminded me of the words of Hagar, Sarah's Egyptian servant, who cried out to God after being sent away from Abraham. While she and her son Ishmael were alone in the wilderness the Angel of the Lord showed up and promised her that God saw her situation for what it was. The Lord told her that she and her son would be cared for and Ishmael would be the father of twelve princes, and the father of a great nation. I love the response of Hagar in Genesis 16: 13, ***"So she called on the name of the Lord who spoke to her, 'You are a God of seeing,' for she said, 'Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.'***"

There is nothing quite so comforting as experiencing God in such a way that you feel that he sees you and is with you. Throughout this whole episode, Teresa and I have also felt seen by the body of Christ at Light of Christ. Thank you for your cards, meals, and continual prayers. We love you and look forward to what God has in store for us in 2024.

Blessings!



Kindness goes a long way, so why do so many find it hard to speak kindly to others? The brash voice, the mean looks aren't we all guilty of this at one time or another. The second commandment says "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Matt. 22:39.

I have to admit that sometimes it is a hard thing to do. I realize that if I reflect on what I have been through in my life, it makes it easier to understand why others may act the way they do. Sometimes maybe not realizing how their actions or words truly affect another person. To this day, before I speak I have to remind myself of that verse. Sure there are times when what I think I speak, but afterwards the guilt of how I said it sets in. Advice to myself and others is before we speak to be aware of what we say and how we say it. If we look in the mirror and say those words how does it feel? There are so many ways that Matt. 22:39 verse can be used to show how we should treat others. Do you love yourself? Not always an easy answer. But that topic is for another month.

Here is a daily prayer that someone gave to me many years ago. I have it printed at home and at work, and have shared it with many.

Dear Lord,

Thank you for this new day. I commit this day and all that is in it. Help me to remember that there is nothing I will face that you and I can't handle together. Please fill me with your peace, love and joy. May I glorify you in all that I think, say and do today. In Jesus name I pray.

Amen



Northern Neck Christian School

A Lot Has Been Going On!!!



Breakfast Fellowship with Parents and Children

Happy Birthday to Jadelyn



Brice and Lorenzo get to keep the 100 pennies they successfully counted.



3-MONTH CALENDAR

****REMINDER: Every Thursday at 2 p.m.: Mike will be in Covenant Care Group meetings and unavailable.**

FEBRUARY

Tuesday - NO CLASSES	"Behold Your God: The Weight of Majesty"	NO CLASSES THIS MONTH
Tuesday - 6	RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE	12:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday - 14	Ash Wednesday Worship	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday - 20, 27	Lenten Soup Suppers	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday - 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	"Dust to Glory" Class	1:00 p.m.
Thursday - 4, 11, 18, 25	Todd Lewis Bible Study	1:00 p.m.

MARCH

Tuesday - 5, 12, 19	Lenten Soup Suppers	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday - 26 ONLY	"Behold Your God: The Weight of Majesty"	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday - 6, 13, 20, 27	"Dust to Glory" Class	1:00 p.m.
Sunday - 24	Palm Sunday Worship	10:00 a.m.
Thursday - 7, 14, 21, 28	Todd Lewis Bible Study	1:00 p.m.
Thursday - 28	Maundy Thursday	5:30 p.m.
Friday - 29	Good Friday	5:30 p.m.
Sunday - 31	Easter Worship	10:00 p.m.

APRIL

Tuesday - 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	"Behold Your God: The Weight of Majesty"	6:00 p.m. BACK IN SESSION
Wednesday - 3, 10, 17, 24	"Dust to Glory" Class	1:00 p.m.
Thursday - 4, 11, 18, 25	Todd Lewis Bible Study	1:00 p.m.

A House is Not a Home

A house is not a home; it is many things.
It is a kitchen stove on which a kettle sings.
It is a table set with care and loving thought
Where conversations dear and fellowships are wrought.
It is a well-worn chair beneath shaded light,
Or perhaps a cherished book by a log fire at night.
It is a quiet place for prayer or for rest,
Or just to be alone when aloneness is best.
A home is not a house, but it is several things
Within high walls of love where contentment clings.

Anonymous

Revelation

If all my days were summer, could I know
The meaning of my Lord's "made white as snow?"
If all my hours were joyous could I say,
"In His fair land, all tears are wiped away?"
If I were never weary could I keep
Close to my heart, "He gives His loved ones sleep?"
Were no graves mine could life eternal seem
Anything to me, but baseless dream?
My winters, my tears and my weariness,
Even my graves reveal His blessedness.
I call them ills, yet at rare times I see
That all is love which brings my Lord to me.

Warren Cook

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Acolytes

Feb 4 David Gwaltney
Feb 11 Marie Carstensen
Feb 14 Constance McDearmon (Ash Wed.)
Feb 18 Constance McDearmon
Feb 25 David Gwaltney

Lessons/Prayers

Feb 4 Charlaine Andrulot (L), Hoyt Wheeland (P)
Feb 11 Tony Blackstone (L), Joan Blackstone (P)
Feb 14 Marie Carstensen (L), Jim Conley (P)
Feb 18 Susan Read (L), Doug Ludeman (P)
Feb 25 Jeanne Hickey (L), Marie Carstensen (P)

Chalice Bearers

Feb 7 David Gwaltney
Feb 11 Marie Carstensen
Feb 14 Constance McDearmon
Feb 18 Constance McDearmon
Feb 25 David Gwaltney

Chiming of the Hour

Feb 4 Phyllis Parrish
Feb 11 Jim Conley
Feb 18 Elizabeth Lambertson, Pam Smith
Feb 25 Bill Andrulot

February Birthdays

Feb 4 Wayne Hamlett
Feb 11 Barbara Seed
Feb 12 Judy Raspberry, David Gwaltney
Feb 16 Randy Smith
Feb 21 George Beckett

*O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send your blessing upon these your servants as they begin another year, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

Altar Guild

Feb 4 Anna Brennan
Feb 11 Constance McDearmon
Feb 14 Constance
Feb 18 Anna Brennan
Feb 25 Elizabeth Lambertson

Tellers

Feb 4 Pam Smith, George Beckett
Feb 11 Pam Smith, Phyllis Parrish
Feb 14 Pam Smith
Feb 18 Pam Smith, Mickey Jennings
Feb 25 Pam Smith, Susan Read

Vestry Person on Duty

Feb 4 Doug Ludeman
Feb 11 Hoyt Wheeland
Feb 14 Pam Smith
Feb 18 Tom Sennott
Feb 25 Hoyt Wheeland

February Anniversaries

No anniversaries this month.

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants named above, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



LOC WORSHIP MINISTRIES NEED YOU!



We have people covering multiple duties during Sunday worship services, which makes scheduling very difficult. We also deal with the additional fifth Sundays, vacations, choir duties, coffee hour setups, etc., which only adds more to the stress for those that take their duties seriously.

We need the following: Acolytes, Lesson Readers, Prayer Readers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and Altar Guild.

Please think about helping out, if only as a substitute. You don't have to be a member of the church and you can set your own schedule. We can work around your availability. Training is available. Contact Mike Moffit or the office.

Thank you,
Joyce Williams

Those who leave
everything in
GOD'S HAND
will eventually see
God's hand in
everything.

The Beacon

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*The deadline for the Beacon is the
third Sunday of each month.*

hello
february

Quotes and Sayings

"Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do." - John Wooden

"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet." - Aristotle

Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel." - Socrates

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young." - Henry Ford

"Some books leave us free and some books make us free." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." Frances Bacon

"Every moment is a new beginning." Elie Wiesel

"The teacher is the one who gets the most out of the lessons, and the true teacher is the learner." Elbert Hubbard

"A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on cold iron." Horace Mann

"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It is already tomorrow in Australia." - Charles Schultz

"When I hear somebody sigh, 'Life is hard,' I am always tempted to ask, 'Compared to what?'" - Sydney Harris