



LET'S VISIT

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THE VALLEY OF WEEPING

As children of God, we know that God is good and that God loves us. Yet, why does eternal sunshine not light our pathway? Why is the sunny day followed by the dark and gloomy night? Why is our pathway not always covered with roses? Where do the cruel thorns that block our path come from?

If God loves us, why are we not always surrounded by prosperity? Why does our neighbor count his fertile land in hundreds of acres and at the same time we have but a few or none at all? If God loves us, why is it that when fortune seems at last to smile upon us, and we are borne aloft on a tide of prosperity, something must always happen to turn our prosperity into dust and leave us with disappointed hopes and broken dreams?

Why is it that when we have almost ascended the hill, something always seems to overtake us and send us hurtling to the bottom? Why, if God loves us, we ask is that light at the end of the tunnel always an oncoming train?

If God desires our well-being, why do pain and sickness assail us? Why can't we be hale and healthy, full of vim, vigor and vitality? Then, when God blesses our lives with the precious gift of love, why is it ever blotted out? The little child that sums up our life-dreams is suddenly snatched back again into the unseen.

If no name is so dear and unforgettable as "mother", why does the day come when we look on the silent form and call her name in vain? Why does the time come when a husband and wife who are inseparable in devotion experience the anguish of parting? Why does our own youth vanish so quickly and old age creep on us so stealthily, until finally that which was once so precious is now but dust and ashes?

Every generation sooner or later comes face to face with this problem. Every preacher is forced to wrestle with it through the long night. Yet, listen to the words of the Psalmist in Psalms 84:5-6, "*Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.*" The valley of Baca is not a geographical location. Rather, it is the valley of weeping or lamentation. It is a picturesque expression for the experiences of those whose strength is in Jehovah and through his grace find their sorrows changed into blessings.

This text pictures for us the valley of weeping or lamentation. The imagery is that of a company of pilgrims on their way toward the holy city. In their path lies a desolate, sterile valley. In that dry and thirsty land many a traveler has fainted with thirst. Many a feeble or careless foot has slipped on those rugged rocks. Yet, no matter the trials, the pilgrims gird their loins. They pitch their tents and they dig deep. Their toil is rewarded with cool treasures of living water.

Our way to the better land lies through the valley of tears. Sometimes, either thoughtlessly or bitterly, this name is applied to human life as a whole. This is untrue and it is unreasonable. Granted, life does have

(Continued on page 2)

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 - Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Life Has Dark Valleys

**For The Pantry. . .
March 16 – Hamburger Helper**

Offering – March 9, 2025 . . \$ 2,692.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

The Valley of Weeping . . . - continued from page 1

its deserts and its dangers. Life has its weary wastes, gloomy gorges and perilous passages. But, life also has its sunny uplands, smiling valleys and fields of happy fruitful labor. Life also has quiet resting places cheered by bright hope, warm affections and pleasant memories.

It is just as untrue that life is all sorrow as it is that it is all joy. At some point, the valley of weeping has to be crossed. There are some lives whose whole course is within its shadow. You see, even the happiest path runs so near its border that at any moment we may enter the valley of weeping. Perhaps soon to emerge and perhaps not to emerge until the pilgrimage is over.

However, God provides wellsprings for his children when they are passing through the valley of weeping. God provides comfort under trial. He provides blessing through trial and hope beyond trial.

We can meet trouble in one of two ways. In the way of the flesh or the way of the spirit. The flesh anticipates troubles with terror. It prepares for them with trembling hands. It prays in a panic and cringes before the trials. This was Jacob when he bowed himself to the ground seven times before he came near his brother in Genesis chapter 33.

The way of faith is far better. Faith clings to God and listens to God. Faith hears God say "I am with thee and will keep thee." Faith believes that God will keep His word. Faith meets trouble not cringing and cowering but erect. Faith is certain that God has already been at work.

We must lift our eyes higher to the one from whom comes our strength. If our religious faith does not bring us greater strength in trials, then there is something seriously wrong with our faith. In order for the valley of weeping to become our well, we must have a full and complete trust in the providential care of God. This was the kind of faith that Job had. It was the confidence of Abraham and it was the faith of Paul. It must be our faith also.

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On The Lighter Side. . .



***Even the preacher finally conceded
that the sermon ran on much too long.***

***Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do
today, for there may be a government
regulation against it tomorrow.***

***Love never asks how much must I do
Or how much must I give, but
How much can I do and how much can I give.***

***Hardening of the heart ages people more
Quickly than hardening of the arteries.***



Area-Wide Singing And Gospel Meeting

April 25th, 26th and 27th

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR – NOW!

Area-wide Singing-Friday, April 25th - 7:00 P.M.

Refreshments following the singing

Gospel Preaching –Saturday April 26th - 7:00 P.M.

Covered Dish Luncheon following Sunday Morning Worship.

Phil Sanders, Guest Speaker

Norma Perkins, Sarah Fletcher, Jana O'Brien, Melonia Molloy and Marsha Bounds are in charge of the Hospitality for both the singing on Friday night and the Luncheon on Sunday.

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ATTENTION

It has been a year since we had our instructional course in how to use the defibrillator. If you would like a re-fresher course or if you have never been instructed in how to use the machine, Lisa Miller will be holding a brief class in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship services

March 23, 2025

Please make your plans to be there if you want to learn how to use the defibrillator.



**Wednesday
FELLOWSHIP MEAL**

Our next Wednesday Fellowship meal will be on Wednesday, March 26th. Make your plans to be here and meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 for our meal together followed by our monthly singing.



We extend our sympathy to **Gene Bradshaw** and his family in the passing of his brother Curtis Bradshaw. Services were held yesterday in Tyler.

Richard Barbee (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) with multiple health issues and facing more surgery.

Norma Magby (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) in rehab in Hemphill with multiple health issues.

Wynell Lawson (Diedra Hughes' aunt) in rehab following surgery for a broken hip.

Jane Adams Burkhalter (Diedra Hughes' cousin) a diabetic scheduled for heart by-pass surgery.

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) **David Bissett** (Mike O'Brien's brother in law, cancer) **Coleen Dickerson** (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Joyce Fontenot** (Debra Pate's mother) **Emily Heflin** (Mike Bostick's niece recovering from surgery) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle); **Heather Simmons Stewart** (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; **J. C. Tate** (Jana O'Brien's father)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

Make a note of the dates of these activities on the Calendar for 2025.

June 1, 2025 – Covered Dish Luncheon

September 7, 2025 – Friends & Family Day

December 7, 2025 – No Excuse Sunday

December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



Across The Preacher's Desk

Once upon a time, I thought I might like to take up the game of golf. I played a little for a few years, and then realized, golf was not my game. The men I played with (my grandfather and some of his friends) were guys that believed strongly in the mulligan. Truth be told, none of them was ever going to join the PGA. Now, to those unacquainted with the finer technical points of the game of golf, let's define what a mulligan is: "You are allowed a second drive, or a do-over on your drive off the first tee if your first drive is not good enough or not to your liking or satisfaction" That means that "first shot" doesn't count. You get a "do-over".

Wouldn't it be great if we could take a mulligan in life? Wouldn't it be great if God gave us a do-over?

Well, when we get to Isaiah's prophecy, we find that our God is the "God of the Mulligan". The faith and hope of God's people were at a low point during this period. They needed constant assurance that things would turn around. Isaiah repeats these assurances over and over. When you turn to Isaiah 43:18, you find a beautiful statement. "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old" When we come to God with a penitent heart, when we obey God's will, when we begin to live God's kind of life, God gives us a do-over. A mulligan!

it's something to think about.....tlp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
55 in '25!**