

The Robison Reminder

Robison Street church of Christ
Edna, Texas

Vol. XIV No. 50

December 20, 2009

The Trouble Tree

The carpenter I hired to help me restore an old farmhouse had just finished a rough first day on the job. A flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric saw quit, and now his ancient pickup truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door, he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

“Oh, that’s my trouble tree,” he replied. “I know I can’t help having troubles on the job, but one thing’s for sure, troubles don’t belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home. Then in the morning I pick them up again.”

“Funny thing is,” he smiled, “when I come out in the morning to pick ‘em up, there ain’t nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.”



- author unknown

Comfort

by Heath Rogers

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” (2 Cor. 1:3-4).

The word “comfort” is translated from a Greek word that means “to call to one’s side, to render aid to one.” This concept of comfort does not mean deliverance from pain and misery. Rather, it refers to strength and courage that one brings to us as we are enduring trials and tribulations. Comfort is a welcomed friend and companion to those who are suffering. Notice some things that this passage teaches us about comfort.

1. God is the source of comfort. Strength and comfort can come through different channels, but all these channels ultimately flow from one source – God. Our God is a merciful God. That is, He cares about His creation and is moved with pity for them. As such, He is ready, willing and able to impart His strength to those who call upon Him. This comfort can come in different ways. We can find strength and peace through prayer (Phil. 4:6-7). We can find comfort in the promises that are found in God’s Word. We are strengthened when we assemble to worship God in spirit and truth. We are encouraged by the love shown to us by others.

2. Godly people will need comfort. Some have the misconception that if they serve God faithfully, and if their faith is strong enough, then they will never have any problems. This simply is not true. Paul was a faithful minister of Jesus Christ, serving in the capacity of an apostle, yet he suffered terribly for the cause of Christ (2 Cor. 1:8-9, 4:8-10, 11:23-28). Paul did not blame God for these tribulations, nor did he abandon God because of them. Instead, he saw that God was a source of comfort during these tribulations.

3. God comforts us in all our tribulation. I have known of some Christians who have left the Lord and His church during times of trouble. When questioned about their absence, they replied, “I am just going through a tough time right now. When things get better I will be back at church.” How sad. Why do some Christians believe that they must look to someone other than God for their help? There is no problem too big for God. The apostle Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:13). As long as one is serving God faithfully,

there will never come a time in his life when God will abandon him. God's comfort is available and sufficient for any problem we will face.

4. Comfort is to be shared. God allows suffering in the lives of His children, not solely as a means of chastening, but also as a means of equipping them to be more compassionate servants. As recipients of God's mercy and comfort, we are obligated to extend these same blessings to others, and thus make ourselves a channel through which God's comfort can flow to others. For one to receive God's strength and comfort in their hour of need, but not share it with others, is a sign of unkindness and ingratitude. Such a person should no longer expect to receive God's comfort (Matt. 18:32-33).

Do you need comfort? God can give it. Are you burdened with the guilt of sin? Why not turn to God for forgiveness? When one repents of his sin (Acts 2:38), confesses his faith in Christ (Rom. 10:9-10), and is baptized, his sins are washed away (Acts 22:16). Such a cleansing will bring you comfort and peace with God. Do you know anyone who needs comfort? Share the comfort that you have received with someone else.

The Need To Be Loved

by Kyle Campbell

A teenager, tired of reading bedtime stories to his little sister, decided to record several of her favorite stories on tape. He told her, "Now you can hear your stories anytime you want. Isn't that great?" She looked at the machine for a moment and replied, "No. It hasn't got a lap."

We all need the closeness of relationship. Even Jesus needed the closeness of three of His followers. When He went into the garden to pray, He took Peter, James, and John with Him as He dealt with His heavy burden. Paul spoke fondly of his friends in various places; Luke, Barnabas, Silas and Timothy were close to him and he leaned on them for friendship and support.

We need to cultivate relationships. We need to show people who are close to us that we love them. Paul said, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love ..." (Romans 12:10). We can delegate some communication acts to machines, but the act of caring must have a personal touch. We all need a lap!

- *The Gospel Teacher*, 12/13/09

- News About Us -

Kyle Glover was baptized last Sunday morning. We rejoice in his decision to commit himself to the Lord.

Helen Long had knee replacement surgery on Tuesday. Keep her in your prayers as she continues her recovery and therapy.

Joe Maresh is scheduled to have a heart defibrillator implanted tomorrow morning at DeTar Hospital.

James Tompkins is fighting an infection in his arm.

Wayne Johnson is scheduled for cataract surgery on January 11th. He requests our prayers, as he is still recovering from an infection that he had a few months ago.

The **Wednesday Morning Bible Class** has been suspended for the holiday break. The class will resume on January 20th, at which time we will begin a study of Galatians.

Keep our shut-ins in your thoughts and prayers: **Stonewall Jackson, Wayne Johnson, Claford Smith, Tommy Smith, Jason Thompson, Herman Villarreal** and **Marie Wilkerson**.

Serving Next Sunday Dec. 27th

- Morning -

Announcements: **Gary Banning**
Song Leader: **David Sample**
Opening Prayer: **Wayne Crabb**
Closing Prayer: **Tony Kubenka**
Scripture Reading: **James Tompkins**

- Evening -

Announcements: **Gary Banning**
Song Leader: **David Sample**
Opening Prayer: **Steve Wilson**
Closing Prayer: **Maurice Glover**

Wednesday (Dec. 30th)

Song Leader: ***Singing Night***
Opening Prayer: **Preston Howell**
Closing Prayer: **Heath Rogers**
Invitation: **Jake Akin**

Robison Street church of Christ

301 Robison Street
Edna, TX 77957

361-782-5506

www.ykc.com/cofc/

- Sunday -

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning 10:30 AM
Evening 6:00 PM

- Wednesday -

Bible Study 7:30 PM

elders:

Sherrel Mercer - 782-5678
Steve Wilson - 782-2274

evangelist, editor:

Heath Rogers - 782-2844