

## BLESSINGS IN SUFFERING

David McPherson

Suffering is not something most people hope for. There are however blessings that result from it. Notice a few:

1) Suffering keeps this world from becoming too attractive. As "sojourners and pilgrims" (1 Peter 2:11), Christians seek a better home. If all was pleasant with no pain, heartache, sickness, etc., few would want to leave this earth. But suffering reveals the ugliness of this world. It gets people excited about an eternal home of bliss.

2) Suffering makes us more

appreciative. It's no surprise how grateful one is for good health following an illness. Go with an arm in a cast and you'll have a greater appreciation for it when it is healed. Paul understood this. Suffering in bonds gave him extreme gratefulness for those with whom he had labored (see Philippians 1:3-8).

3) Suffering makes us dependent upon God. Suffering tells the self-sufficient, "you can't do it alone." Suffering reminds us "...in Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). -

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don't hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Training Class, 4:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." -Acts 17:11

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## CLEANSING A LEPER

Michael Pickford

Leprosy was around long before the Lord walked the earth as a man, but it was there during His time. In Mark 1:40-45 (and Luke 5:12-14) we read a beautiful story about how our Lord cleansed a man of this dreaded, deadly disease. Let's consider three teaching points from this story...

**The Lord's Compassion.** The leper came to Jesus imploring Him to heal him. Mark tells us that Jesus was "*Moved with compassion*" (Mark 1:41). Jesus was often moved with compassion over the plight of the people around Him. Significantly, He was moved with compassion over the lost condition of the crowd (Matthew 9:35-38). He told His disciples to pray that the Lord would send laborers into the field. God is not willing that any perish, but desires that all come to a knowledge of the truth and be saved (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:3-4). Like Jesus, we must harbor in our hearts a deep compassion and concern for the sick, the hungry, the naked, the imprisoned, etc. Our actions or inaction towards those less fortunate will be a significant determinant as to where we will spend eternity, whether it be eternal life or eternal punishment (Matthew 25:35-46).

**The Lord's Cleansing.** Leprosy was a highly contagious, often deadly disease. When one suffered from it, not only was he dying painfully, but he was also a social outcast, one who was required to keep his hair unkempt, cover the lower part of his face, and scream out "Unclean" whenever people were near. Jesus did the unthinkable; He reached out and touched this leper! Hopelessness is a given with leprosy. Many feel hopeless in their sin; But the Lord will forgive the vilest of sinners (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). No one has been so sinful that he cannot come to Christ. Jesus cleansed the leper with His touch, He will cleanse our sin with His blood when we obey (Heb. 5:8-9; 1 Pt. 1:19; Eph. 1:7; Revelation 1:5). Baptism is clearly the point at which the blood of Christ touches our sins and cleanses them (Acts 22:16; Mark 16:16).

**The Lord's Command.** Jesus "Strictly warned" the leper to tell no one what He had done for Him. Yet the leper went out and told everyone (Mark 1:45). It's ironic, Jesus cleansed the leper from his leprosy and commanded him to tell no one, yet he told everyone. Jesus cleansed us from our sin and commanded us to tell everyone, and we often tell no one. Heed Mark 16:15! 🔍

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**COME WORSHIP  
WITH US!**

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00  
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

# Gospel Meeting

October 19-24

## Southside church of Christ

1167 S. Lowry Street, Smyrna, TN 37167

(Located on Murfreesboro Rd. Right next to the Nissan Fitness Center)

For Directions Call (615) 785-0646

### Meeting Times & Topics

#### Preaching

David

McPherson

Everyone

Welcome!

Sunday-9 am..... I Have Sinned  
Sunday-10 am..... Some Who Appreciate The Gospel  
Sunday-6 pm..... Dying Gracefully  
Monday-7 pm..... Does It Matter What I Did To Be Saved?  
Tuesday-7 pm..... What's The Truth About Homosexuality?  
Wednesday-7 pm... Overcoming Depression  
Thursday-7 pm..... Learning Obedience  
Friday-7 pm..... Asa, He Weakened Before The Finish Line

*Bring A Bible! Bring A Friend!*

VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE

[www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)



### SERMON NOTES

*Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.*

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### Some Who Appreciate The Gospel

Introduction:

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Frank Anderson  
Reading: Colossians 1:3-8
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Ben Green
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Johnson  
Serve.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Ben Reagh
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

##### MEETING SONG LEADERS

- Monday.....Ben Green
- Tuesday.....Ben Reagh
- Wednesday.....Kenny Todd
- Thursday.....Michael Pickford
- Friday.....Ben Green

##### GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

***Obey Today!***