

Asking God

I asked God to take away my pain. God said, "No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up."

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. God said, "No. Her spirit was whole, her body was only temporary."

I asked God to grant me patience. God said, "No. Patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it isn't granted; it is earned."

I asked God to give me happiness. God said, "No. I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you."

I asked God to spare me pain. God said, "No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow. God said, "No. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful."

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life. God said, "No. I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things."

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as he loves me.

God said, "Ahhhh, finally you have the idea ..."

Author unknown



The Worker

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Would You Be Missed?

After completing many years as a journalist, Arthur Brisbane was offered six months of paid vacation time by William Randolph Hearst, the publisher of the San Francisco Examiner. Brisbane refused to accept the kind offer because of two reasons. He said, "If I quit writing my newspaper column for six months, it might affect the circulation of the newspaper. The second reason is that it might **not** affect the circulation of the newspaper."

Mr. Brisbane's answer was profound. In view of his answer, let's ask ourselves, "If I dropped out of sight for six months and did absolutely nothing for the Lord, would I be missed?" Would the Lord's work suffer or would there be no difference whatsoever? As members of the Lord's church, we each have a responsibility in doing the Lord's work and building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16; cf. 1 Corinthians 14:26; 2 Corinthians 12:19; Ephesians 4:12). We cannot hire someone else to fulfill our responsibility to the Lord (Gal. 6:4-5; cf. Romans 2:6; 1 Corinthians 3:8). We are individually accountable to God for what we do with the time He has blessed us with. Let us hear the inspired writer, Paul, as he wrote to the Ephesian brethren, "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16 – ESV).

Brethren, let us resolve from this day forward, that we will become more involved in the Lord's work, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24 – NIV). God has so richly blessed us with time, talent, vision, and financial means. Let's be willing to put these gifts to work for the Lord and His cause, "while it is yet day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

Mike Riley | August 14, 2005

<http://gewatkins.net/would-you-be-missed/>

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM

Morning Worship 11:00 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Email: Email Us!

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "The Temptation of Jesus" - Hebrew 4:14-16

Sunday Evening: "A Faith like Abraham"

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins

Opening Prayer Ethan Welch

Scripture Nathaniel Welch

Sermon Eric Welch

Lord's Supper

Message Eric Welch

Attendant Greg Blanton

Attendant Brandon Montgomery

Closing Prayer Jerry Casey

PM Service

Song Leader Matt Johnson

Bible Reading Clint Smith Jr

Selection 2

Prayer Ernie Marshall

Sermon Eric Welch

Closing Prayer Leon Stocksdale

If you are unable to serve, please

call Art Patrick 502-819-9481

or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511

AM & PM Services

Announcements Joe Sweeney

Lord's Supper Grover Blanton

Offering Rick Martin

Usher Jerry Montgomery

Count Offering Harold Tincher

Assist Count Marc Owens

Last Sunday

Contribution Attendance

\$2,892 85

Praying Scripture?

By Eric Welch

Have you ever heard of “praying Scripture?” In October 2005, while I was missionary-in-residence at Freed-Hardeman University, Ethan and I attended the World Mission Workshop hosted by Harding University that year. At the workshop, we attended a gathering meant for missionary kids. In one activity, we were split off into small groups. Each member of the group was given a sheet of paper entitled “Praying Scripture as a Group Exercise.” The following is exactly how the paper read:

IN SOME churches Christians pray scripture. A text from the Scriptures is pondered by Christians praying together in a group.

THE FIRST reading (the text is actually read twice on this occasion) is for the purpose of hearing a word or passage that touches the heart. When the word or phrase is found, it is silently taken in, and gently recited and pondered during the silence which follows. After the silence each person shares which word or phrase has touched his or her heart.

THE SECOND reading is for the purpose of “hearing” or “seeing” Christ in the text. Each ponders the word that has touched the heart and asks where the word or phrase touches his/her life that day. In other words, how is Christ the Word touching his/her own experience, his/her own life? How are the various members of the group seeing or hearing Christ reach out to them through the text? Then, after the silence, each member of the group shares what he or she has “heard” or “seen.”

THE THIRD and final reading is for the purpose of experiencing Christ “calling us forth” into doing or being. Members ask themselves what Christ in the text is calling them to do or to become today or this week. After the silence, each shares for the last time; and the exercise concludes with each person praying for the person on the right.

THOSE WHO who (sic) regularly practice this method of praying and sharing the Scriptures regularly find it to be an excellent way of developing trust within a group.

THE FIRST Scripture for today is: We regard no one from a worldly point of view (2 Cor. 5:16)

THE SECOND Scripture for today is: you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (Rev. 5:9b).

When I read the first verse, I felt uncomfortable about sharing with the group how the verse touched my heart. I wanted to say, “hold on, let’s study the immediate context and learn what the verse meant for the original readers so that we can be better equipped to understand what it means for us.” This “praying Scripture” method seemed to have the flavor of the New Hermeneutic approach to Scriptures that has swept our brotherhood in the last 25 years. I mentioned this in my sermon Sunday evening.

The assumption of the new hermeneutic is that we cannot truly know what the objective meaning was for the original readers. Therefore, we find the subjective meaning for each person. In other words, let’s skip the head and go straight to the heart. Behind the new hermeneutic is the post-modern assumption that absolute, objective truth is unattainable (except for that truth) and that each person has his or her own truth, even if they contradict. What may be true for one person, may not be true for the next. A Bible verse could then be twisted to mean anything to anybody. However, Peter says in 2 Peter 3:16 that people do twist Scripture to their own destruction (2 Peter 3:16). This idea implies that there is a standard or true objective meaning to be twisted or to stray from. Perhaps this “praying Scripture” approach (gimmick?) comes from people who have grown tired of the historical-grammatical and literary interpretation of Scripture in order to experience something new and different.

Prayer Requests

Prayer List: Paul Askew (Paula), MARTIN BONNEY, Dennis Broy (Inez), Candi Budy (Ashley), Kevin Budy (Ashley), JAYNE CRAVENS, Jerry Crick (Ann), Esther Davis (Marian), Annabelle Dawson (Ashley), JANICE DIMMITT, MYRNA DIMMITT, PATTY DIMMITT, MILDRED ELLIOTT, Zachary Ferguson, Elma Fielder (Marian), Lillian Foster, Diana Fulks, (Norma), Jerry Hill (Ashley), Pricilla Hudkins, ALLENE HUSTON, Elise Jackson (Christine), Alice Jenkins (Ann), Charles & Marlyn Jenkins (Ann), Arletha Kenty (Nathan), Josephine King (Polly), MERLE & JOYCE KNUCKLES, FRANCES LAWTON, Bobby Lenay (Ashley), SUE LINNE & Rhea, Shelly Marshall, Lilia McArthur (Debbie Smith), POLLY MCCLINTOCK, JERRY & SARA MONROE, JERRY & SONJA MONTGOMERY, CAROL MOUSTY, Jerrie Phillips, CHRISTINE RHOTON, Cindy Roeder (Christine), Wendell & Betty Smith (Polly), Lynn Sullivan (Ann), THRESA TEMPLE, ALICE TINCHER (Hank & Cassie), CASSIE TINCHER, FERN TINCHER, Kedza Turner (Jean)

Military Service: Stephen Blanton, Cody Felker, Scott Viers, Zach West

Hamburg Pike Happenings

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

Smith group	January 18 after AM service	Meal theme: Chili
Stocksdale group	January 25 after AM service	Meal theme: to be announced
Tincher group	January 25 after PM service	Meal theme: to be announced

The ladies of the congregation are invited to attend a ladies' Bible class Saturday morning, Jan. 31st from 10:00 - 11:00 A.M. at the church building. Stephanie Welch will be teaching. The plan is to have the class on the last Saturday of each month. We'll be studying about various ladies from the Gospel of Luke. If anyone would like more information about the class, see Stephanie.

The next meeting for the Monday Night for the Master group is Monday January 19th at 6:00 pm. We will enjoy pizza!

Volunteers are needed to prepare the communion trays. A sign-up sheet for the months of 2015 is posted on the bulletin board.

[Hamburg Pike church of Christ Home Page](#)