

## OUR AFFLICTION

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor. 4:17).

### Our Affliction

Paul writing to the Corinthian brethren made the point that affliction, or suffering is something we all share: “our affliction.” It is so easy when suffering to feel, and falsely conclude that it is just me. When Jezebel had ordered that all the prophets of the Lord be slain (1 Kgs. 18:4,13), Elijah concluded that he alone was in trouble, fleeing for his life (1 Kgs. 18:22; 19:14). But God said, “Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him” (1 Kgs. 19:18). There is comfort and encouragement in knowing that others suffer faithfully the same afflictions that we do (1 Pet. 5:9; Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 3:12). For if they with God’s help can overcome, so can we!

### Our Affliction Is Light

Paul saying light, means suffering is not heavy. I know that you are asking what type of suffering is light? Understand, Paul is somewhat of an expert on the subject of suffering (2 Cor. 4:8-12; 11:23-28), and he not only calls his suffering light, but ours also. The late Thomas B. Warren, faithful Gospel preacher, writer, debater, and defender of the Truth once made a few inspiring observations under this point: He said suffering is light compared to what Jesus endured, suffering is light compared to what we really deserve, and suffering is light compared to the glories of heaven. So true, suffering really is light if we give it spiritual thought. Never forget that suffering has the inclination of driving us in the

direction of our Lord (2 Cor. 12:7-10). That benefit alone minimizes our affliction as a “light thing.”

### Our Affliction Is Just For A Moment

All suffering seems like an eternity, like it just drags on forever and ever. But all suffering is just for a moment, or a very short time. Job said, “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble” (Job14:1). Even though life is full of affliction, it is just for a little while. “For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (Jas. 4:14). As a result, if we live for 250 years and suffer every single day, our suffering would have only been for a short time, because life on earth is only for a short time. What is a lifetime in the realm of eternity? Just a moment. So what is the length of our suffering during our lifetime to gain eternity? Just a moment.

### Our Affliction Works For Us An Eternal Weight of Glory

It is so hard to see the bright side of suffering, and I doubt if anyone could without the Word of God. But through God’s Word we see the importance, necessity, and benefits of suffering. Our Lord suffered faithfully (Heb. 5:8; 1 Pet. 2:21), and its important for us to also learn how. Suffering through things faithfully makes us stronger, molding our character in the likeness of our Savior (1 Pet. 2:20-21; 4:16). “It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes” (Psa. 119:71). Suffering is the reason why many wayward brethren are restored. Was not suffering the fundamental reason why the prodigal son came to himself, and eventually back home? (Lk. 15:11-24). Suffering also reminds us that this world is not our home and intensifies our longing for heaven (2 Cor. 4:18-5:1; Heb. 13:14)! Our affliction really is beneficial to us all!

**Richard Stevens III** from *Eastside Edifier*

## UPWARD AND ONWARD

Christians are challenged at every stage of our development to move ever upward and onward. From the very beginning, the Christian journey is one of actively seeking improvement and growth. “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection” (Rom. 6:3-5). Paul’s clear teaching that as we rise from the watery grave of baptism we are to live a new life, one totally different from before.

As we grow in Christ, our journey is also a forward one. “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 8:13-14). Our upward journey requires us to constantly press forward, toward new challenges and experiences within the body of Christ.

The ultimate goal of course, is heaven. The only way to reach heaven is by moving upward and onward. We cannot afford to remain satisfied with past accomplishments, nor with present conditions. “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God” (Heb. 6:1).

An old song that is favored by many, is titled “Higher Ground.” It says, “I’m pressing on the upward way, new heights I’m gaining every day. Still praying as I onward bound, Lord plant my feet on higher ground.”

Is that your prayer for your life today?

**Tony Boyd** from *Eastside Edifier*

## ANNIVERSARIES

Bo and Tammy Marcum, 06-02;  
Curtis and Paula Stillwell, 06-09.

## ILL

**Sunday:** Chris Edwards (AM), Allen Scott (PM).  
**Wednesday:** Steve Brown. Helen Franklin was admitted to the hospital in Louisiana on Tuesday.

**Those battling cancer:** Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

## HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## OUT OF TOWN

Many were away last Sunday, among them were: Robin Brown; John, Janice, John Cody, Jessica and Jennifer Carter; Melissa Cole (PM); Tim Dillingham; Wilba Hopkins; Jeremy Keifer; Don and Jodie Lycan; Bo, Tammy, Sarah, and Jillian Marcum; Jeff, Monica, Taylor and Brooke Nemechek; Linda Thomas; Trent Thrasher; Wanda and Derek Wilson. Ed and Verna Hanson left for their summer stay in Canada last week.

## PHOTO DIRECTORY

If you have not had your picture taken yet, please see Steve Brown as soon as possible!

## POT LUCK DINNER

Our Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday.

## MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

The Men's Business Meeting will be held on June 10 following our AM worship.

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 37; Sunday PM, 31; Wednesday PM, 30.

## Those To Serve

June 3, 2007

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson**

### MORNING WORSHIP

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson**  
**SONG LEADER..... George Thomas**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jared Nelson**  
**PRESIDE..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**ASSIST..... John James**  
**ASSIST..... David Parish**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Steve Brown**

### EVENING WORSHIP

**OPENING PRAYER ..... John Carter**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Gary Cole**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Jeff Nemechek**

### WEDNESDAY 6th

**SONG LEADER..... Ted Thrasher**  
**INVITATION ..... George Thomas**

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday

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

### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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