

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“The Difficult Moments”

By T. Sean Sullivan



Difficult times of life: Everybody has them. Difficult moments are part of participating in this mortal world. Sometimes it is hard to see past the moments in which we live.

Several times in the New Testament, we are admonished to “overcome” the obstacles that confront us. God wants us to know there is no challenge that is not worth the effort it requires to overcome, to make Heaven your own.

Our “overcoming of life's difficulties” is included in the words of Hebrews 10:35-39 when it says, *“Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ‘For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.’ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”*

Let's find the reason, the courage, and the zeal to overcome, endure, and be prepared for the Day of our Lord and Savior. Let's find renewed hope in these points.

We Are Not Alone

There are so many ways in which we fail ourselves when we are in difficult spots. We convince ourselves, “I am alone; nobody cares”. We believe, “I am facing hardships that nobody understands.” And, “I have it so hard, and everyone else has it easy.” These thoughts will defeat us, and not one of them is true.

Here is the truth. Our Father in Heaven and our Savior care and provide refuge (Psalm 59:1-17; Matthew 11:28). Consider Paul, and his many trials of life, what was his attitude? Contentment (Philippians 4:11-13). Determination (Philippians 3:13-14). All of us understand temptations. All of us are tempted, and your temptations are no different (1 John 2:15-17). No one's temptations are impossible to overcome (1 Corinthians 10:13). When we overcome, we will have a crown of life (James 1:12-15). All of us have challenges we must overcome! Trials make us stronger (Romans 5:3-5; 1 Peter 1:6-9). Our troubles are not worthy to be compared to our reward (Romans 8:16-18). In Christ, we are never alone. God is with you (Romans 8:31-39), and we are with you (Romans 12:9-13).

We Can Overcome

Trust God. God has promised you His care (1 Peter 5:7). God has promised you that His way is the way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). God has promised you that nothing can separate you from His love--nothing, except you (Romans 8:31-39). Decide, “I will look for the way of escape, I will go to God, I will trust God.” Become committed, purify your heart; focus on the goal (James 4:7-8).

Trust God's offer of help. His word is His help. In James 1:13-15, we are told we sin by giving in to temptation. In James 1:17-18, we are told God has provided help. In James 1:19-25, we are told we must accept and apply the help. This spiritual family is also part of God's help. We will love you: 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 *"Brotherly love never fails"*. We will be patient with you: 1 Thessalonians 5:14 *"Brethren...be patient with all"*. We will pray with you and for you: James 5:16 *"Pray for one another"*.

Difficult Moments in Hindsight

If we walk in integrity, we will gain the victory over life's trouble-God will vindicate us (Psalm 26). When we "stay the course" through whatever trouble we face, we will be able to look back at it, not as "the mountain" that it seemed while crossing it, but more of a "speed-bump" that we travelled over. God will meet our needs if we find our courage in Him (Matthew 6:25-33).

We can change our perspective; we can see beyond the horizon of today, and set our focus on our everlasting tomorrow. In truth and righteousness, we have the hope of betterment here and the beautiful promise of Heaven. Beyond this life, awaits an endless eternity of joy for those who "overcome" this world (Revelation 3:5)

Conclusion:

There are times when life is tough, and the bumps in the road seem to rise like mountains. These are times to remember that God has called us to "overcome life's difficult moments."

God cares, always. He has provided guidance and hope through His word. He has also encouraged us with this spiritual family, which is the reason we should never avoid this place; we need to be here, especially when difficulties arise. We will gain the victory if we stay with God.

Perhaps you have not embraced the hope of victory yet-you are still living outside of Christ. You can overcome your past sins and find freedom in Christ through obedience to the gospel. The opportunity to begin is yours, right now.

"THREE CROSSES"

By Kyle Campbell

The cross of Christ is the only power that has ever made men forsake their sins. If it won't, nothing will. Teaching regarding the cross of Christ is teaching that honors God. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross is the foundation of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). However, the crucifixion of Jesus tells the narrative of three crosses.

The first cross is THE CROSS OF REDEMPTION. This man died FOR sins. He was a dying Savior. He died as a sacrifice for our sins (Isaiah 53:10). Paul said that "you were bought at a price" (1 Corinthians 6:18). That "price" was His blood. This price is made even more astounding because He died even though He had no sin (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18). This cross is the wonder of all time.

The second cross is THE CROSS OF REJECTION. This man died IN sin. He was a dying sinner. He died rejecting Jesus (Luke 23:39). This man died rejecting the only one who could've saved his soul (John 3:36). This man's rejection reminds us of the people of Nazareth (Luke 4:28-30; cp. John 1:11), the religious leaders (Matthew 12:24; John 11:53), and Judas Iscariot (Matthew 26:14-16). This thief wanted to be saved, but not by Jesus.

The third cross is THE CROSS OF RECEPTION. This man died TO sin. He was a dying saint. He died forgiven of his sins (Luke 23:43). He became a believer under the Law of Moses during the time Jesus could say, *"Your faith has saved you. Go in peace"* (Luke 7:47-50). Many use him as an example that you don't have to be baptized, but this is incorrect. Jesus dying on the cross gave all of us a New Covenant to follow. That covenant says that baptism saves a person; it turns them from spiritually dead to alive in Christ because it forgives sins.

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, LuAnne Parrish, Billie Grisham, B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Stacy & Annette Meeks, Anita Harris' mother: Hillard Switcher, Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Danny Briggs (cancer), Kelcy Whittemore, Cameron Hutchins, the McCarthy family in Baldwyn (two men have cancer, one is terminal), Karen Kennemur, Dianne Johnson, Randy Ferrell (diagnosed with Parkinson's disease), & Greg Fields (Brandi Meade's uncle with Pancreatic cancer).

Updates: Billie Grisham is in Dogwood Assisted Living, here in Corinth.

Sherry Fuqua Doles is home and doing some better, still needs our prayers.

Russell Briggs is doing well with his recovery.

LuAnne Parrish is planned to come home Saturday from Tishomingo Manor.

Lynlie Cottrell is doing well with her recovery.

Randall Oliver (Lynlie's dad) is doing well with his recovery.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Tim Harris Sr.
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"When The Faithless Want To Give Us Honor"</i>

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook:	Jerry Kennemur
Author:	Passing The Torch
	Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page 24, Question #16</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Dan Cottrell
Scripture Reading:	<i>Daniel 6:10-13</i>
Song Leader:	Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper:	Paul Busby
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"When The World Throws You To The Lions"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Lee Busby

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.

July 1, 2026

Auditorium Bible Class:	Brian Meade
Workbook:	The Book Of Mark
Author:	By Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #6, Question #16</i>
Invitation:	Paul Busby
Song Leader:	Jerry Kennemur
Closing Prayer:	Russell Briggs



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And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“When The Faithless Want To Give Us Honor”

Lesson Text: **Daniel 5:1-31.**

I. The Faithless Often Seek God’s People Only In Their Crisis.

— Daniel 5:1-12.

- Belshazzar Felt Secure & Confident, Despite The Danger Outside His Walls.
- The Persian Army Surrounded The City & Instead of Humbling Himself—He Mocked God.
- He Drank Wine From God’s Holy Vessels, All While Praising Idol Gods.
- Then Suddenly:
 - His Confidence Disappeared, His Color Changed, His Knees Knocked Together, His Fear Replaced His Pride.
- The King Called:
 - His Astrologers, His Wise Men, & His Magicians— But None Could Help.
 - Only Then Then Someone Remember Daniel.
- Once Again, The Faithful Are Called As A Last Resort.

II. The Faithful Cannot Be Bought.

— Daniel 5:13-17.

- King Belshazzar Offered Daniel Incredible Rewards:
 - Purple Robe, Gold Chain, & Third Ruler In The Kingdom.
 - Daniel Basically Said, “Keep Your Gifts.” (See **Verse 17**).
 - The Difference Between Daniel (**Daniel 5:17**) And Gehazi (**2 Kings 5:20**).
- But The Faithful Refuse To Compromise For Reward- Not Like Balaam, **2 Peter 2:15-16**.

III. The Faithful Must Always Speak Truth.

— Daniel 5:18-28.

- Daniel Could Have Just Translated The Words, But He Also Preached:
 - God’s Blessings, Nebuchadnezzar’s Pride, God’s Judgment, & His Repentance.
 - One Of The Saddest Statements In **Verse 22**.
 - Then Came The Interpretation:
 - **MENE**- “God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it.”
 - **TEKEL**- “You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting.”
 - **PERES**- “Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.”

IV. The Faithful Accept Honor Without Being Controlled By It.

— Daniel 5:29.

- Is It Wrong To Accept Rewards From The Faithless?
 - Daniel Only Accepted The Honor After Giving The Message First.
 - He Made It Clear He Wasn’t Motivated By The Reward.
 - Application: Can Christians Receive Honor From The World?
 - Joseph Received Honor (**Genesis 41:39-43**).
 - Mordecai Received Honor (**Esther 6:6-11**).
 - Esther Received Honor (**Esther 2:18**).
 - It Is Only Wrong If It Changes Us Or Our Message.

V. Worldly Honors Never Last.

— Daniel 5:29-31.

- Babylon Fell That Night, A New Kingdom Took Control.
- How Long Was Daniel Third Ruler?
- Worldly Crowns, Honors & Riches Never Last- **1 Corinthians 9:25**.

“When The World Throws You To The Lions”

Lesson Text: **Daniel 6:1-28.**

I. Faithfulness Will Often Produce Jealous Enemies.

- **Daniel 6:1-5.**
- What Produced This Jealousy?
 - Daniel's Excellent Spirit, His Integrity, His Faithfulness....
 - They Used His Faithfulness To His God Against Him.
 - So They Conspired Against Daniel To Destroy Him.
 - Jealousy Often Leads To Malicious Acts Against The Faithful-
Genesis 27:41; 37:4; 1 Samuel 18:8; 1 John 3:12.

II. Faithfulness Doesn't Change When Laws Change.

- **Daniel 6:6-10.**
- The Decree Changed, But Daniel Didn't.
 - He Didn't Make A Show It, But He Didn't Hide It Either.
 - That's How Much He Believed In Prayer!
 - That's How Devoted He Was To God!

III. Faithfulness May Cost Us Everything.

- **Daniel 6:11-17.**
- While In The Lion's Den, He Seemed To Lose:
 - All His Freedom, His Position, His Reputation, & Even His Life....
 - At Times, The World May Throw Us To The Lions!
 - Will Daniel Be Our Hero & Example To Us?

IV. Lions Are Never Bigger Than God.

- **Daniel 6:18-23.**
- But What Foiled Their Plan Against Daniel? God Did!
- Someone Has Truly Said, “Whatever God Doesn't Save Us From, He Helps Us Through.”
- God Met Daniel In The Lion's Den- **Daniel 6:22.**
- Faithfulness Or “Faith” Stopped The Lion's Mouths- **Hebrews 11:33.**
- There Are Times We Are Surrounded By Lions- **Psalms 57:4; 2 Timothy 4:17.**

V. God Honors Those Who Honor Him.

- **Daniel 6:24-28.**
- Notice The Reversal:
 - Daniel Survives & His Enemies Fall.
 - The King Glorifies God.
 - Daniel Prospers Again In The Kingdom.
 - Once Again Faithfulness Wins.
- Faithfulness Will Lead Us To Glory In Jesus! **Revelation 2:10.**