



JOHNSON AVENUE
Church of Christ
WHERE *God's Family* BUILDS ETERNAL HOMES

A Spiritual Encouragement Message

April 3, 2020

What do you do when you don't like the circumstances of your life and it seems as if those circumstances aren't going to change anytime soon? We all know that life has a way of turning on a dime. You go to bed thinking all is well; but by the morning you are fighting for your life. Or perhaps a loved one leaves for work, but never makes it there, killed in a car accident or paralyzed for life. Or, in our case, how do we respond properly to a closing down of life as we know it? Against that backdrop we consider again the question we posed a moment ago. What do you do when you don't like the circumstances of your life and it seems as if those circumstances aren't going to change anytime soon?

There are perhaps many answers to that question, but one stands out as being of supreme importance. When you deal with bad circumstances that don't seem likely to change any time soon, there are many things you might do, but there is one thing you must do:

You must go back and find out where God is in the middle of all your frustration.

Good theology can save us when nothing else will help. This principle is becoming more and more important to us. We all know that good theology can save our souls, but in the time of trouble, if you know the truth and if you remember the truth, what you know and remember can save you from despair.

As a preacher and former elder, I am always in fear of a phone call or conversation where the situation is such that I cannot help. For instance, I once took a call from a woman who was going through a hard time in her marriage, with her health, and with some family relationships. As I listened, I realized she was indeed overwhelmed. I knew I couldn't solve her problems over the phone. I told her that she needed to go back to the first principles and remind herself of those things she knew to be true. What you know can save you when life tumbles in.

What things are we talking about? Here's a short list:

God is good

God is faithful

He is quick to forgive

He will never leave me

His mercy endures forever

He makes no mistakes

God still loves me

Jesus is alive today

He will return someday

Good theology saves you from despair. When difficult times come, it can literally save your life.

I (Randall) have submitted this article as an introduction of sorts to a series of articles wherein we are going to examine a situation in which the Jews found themselves. The circumstances they faced in that situation were not unlike the ones we now face. The advice God gave them at that time is sound advice for us. I hope our study over the next few Thursdays will be helpful to all of us. Please stay tuned! If you want to get a head start, read Jeremiah 29.

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