

Melbourne Church of Christ

"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually while sharing Jesus and serving others."

It's Just Not Fair

by Kerry Duke

A question that has troubled mankind for thousands of years is this: Why is life so unfair? From start to finish the books of the Bible talk about it. Saints and sinners alike feel they have been wronged for no reason but want to know why, and both of them point their finger at God. The first thing Satan did in Genesis was to accuse God of being unfair. He insinuated that the Lord was being too hard on our first parents. He told Eve that God was trying to keep them from having something good. "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:5). Satan appealed to Eve's curiosity, selfish desires, and her finite sense of justice, and it worked for him.

When Cain killed his brother Abel out of envy and hate, God told him there would be a penalty. Cain responded with words that have been repeated times without number: "My punishment is greater than I can bear" (Gen. 4:13). He didn't think about how unjust he had been by murdering his brother. All he thought about was how excessive his punishment was in his eyes.

Then comes the book of Job. He was nothing like Cain; in fact, God said a better man couldn't be found (Job 1:8). When Job lost his Wealth and his ten children, he resigned himself to his tragedy and praised God (Job 1). But when the devil tormented him with a terrible disease, Job eventually complained and said that God was being unfair to him. He even told God, "You have become cruel to me" (Job 30:21). When God later addressed this charge against His character, Job was speechless and repented.

In the last book of the Bible the martyred saints want to know why God kept allowing the enemies of the church to persecute His people. "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:10). To this day we have the same thought. How much longer will God allow evil people to get away with what they are doing? Next Page.....

Dates to Remember

- ★ Ladies meet the 4th Monday of every month @ 6 p.m. bring a finger food
- Men meet the 4th Sunday of every month for breakfast @ 8 a.m.

Sermons and bulletins available @ Melbournechurchofchrist.com

Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Evening 6:00 p.m.



Melbourne Church of Christ
A Place to Belong

Elders

Danny Brightwell
291-3439

Shelby Qualls
346-5255

Deacons

Bryan Phillips 373-0546
 David Brightwell 307-5714

Alan Love 243-4608
 Joe Cooper 291-4653

Minister

Ryan Lloyd 368-7886
 Melbourne CoC
 Box 267
 Melbourne, AR 72556

Family News

- Ladies Christmas party is December 19 at 6pm. Please bring a pass around gift.
- The nursing home Christmas gift list is on the table in the foyer.
- Rachel Phillips Memorial Contributions: Shelby & Ramona Qualls, Danny & Betty Brightwell, Joyce Clark
- Madeline Sipe Memorial Contribution: Connie Jackson
- Son Lamb Memorial Contribution: Connie Jackson, Doug Sipe, Brad & Laura Sipe
- Sally Adkisson, Betty Brightwell, and Eula Fulbright are all at home and recovering well. Please keep them in your prayers.
- We will celebrate the birth of Christ with a special service on Dec. 25. There will be no classes and worship will begin at 10:15am.
- Cleve Weaver had a heart attack and is in the hospital at Searcy. Surgery is scheduled for Monday.

OPENING PRAYER Clay Goad

CLOSING PRAYER Shelby Qualls



JOE COOPER

Continued from front cover...

How easily We forget. How often we ignore the beam in our eyes. We are unjust and yet we question God? We expect God to execute justice with others but We want Him to be long-suffering and merciful to us. Is this just?

We forget the cross. No injustice done to us can compare to the injustice of the horrible death of the Son of God. He did absolutely nothing wrong ever and yet He willingly gave His life at the hands of evil men. It is hard to be obsessed with how unfair others are to us when We remember the crucifixion.

We are often so consumed with the injustices of the present that we forget that payday is coming—in this life and certainly in the world to come. Read Psalm 73 and the little book of Habakkuk. God takes care of sinners in His own time. Read 2 Thessalonians 1. A day is coming when God will set everything right. Until then, we must bear the pain of knowing that life can be very unfair. But recalling these profound themes will keep us from losing heart and will even give us the peace we crave.



Prayer List

Military: Derek Love, A.J. Talkington

Officers: Steve & Sherry Davidson, Josh Morehead, Jamie Irvin, Tyler Webb, Caeden Wolfe, Blake Johnson

Health: Ted Kidd	Richard Gunter	Donnie Vest	Joanna Smith
Joe Guiltner	Dan Clark	Wilma Cooper	Wayne Crosby
Tracy Thomas	Brooke Pritchard	Troy Gaston	James Nicholson
Bill Roland	Hayden Phillips	Donny Smith	Joanne Weston
Bill Wiseman	Debbie Nicholson	Helen King	Phil Haagenson
Mary Kosmitis	Dorothy Teague	Jim Fowler	Shirley Lewis
Diane Owens	Ivy Jo Slade	Jeff Young	Lynn Hicks
Justin Teague	Charlotte Cooper	Cecilia Broughton	Sue Campbell
Arlene Davidson		Chip & Regina Master	Deborah Halcom
Ted & Sanya Austin		J.B. & Wanda Dill	

Nursing Home: Debbie Hoskinds, Emma Jean Cooper

December Birthdays

Danny Brightwell 3 rd	Acy Beebe 4 th	Danny Runion 6 th
Peggy Beebe 8 th	Roger Humphrey 10 th	Katelyn Moser 12 th
Shelby Qualls 14 th	Paulette Jubela 14 th	Rachel Claxton 14 th
Kaden Williams 16 th	Tamra Brightwell 20 th	Shirley Guiltner 22 nd
Rose Irvin 24 th	Darla Weaver 24 th	Deedra Adkisson 28 th
Abby Everett 28 th	Lavonia Roland 28 th	Brandy Kelly 29 th

December Anniversaries

Bill & Lavonia Roland 2nd

Never ever give up!



Galatians 6:7-9, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."