



THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

Brooksville church of Christ
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

July 25, 2021

The Challenge Of Growing In Grace (Jamey Hinds)

“You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:17–18).

Growing in God’s grace does not mean that everything in our walk of faith will get easier. As a matter of experience, and from reading the letters of the apostle Paul, we learn that sometimes growing up spiritually means things in life can become more challenging. As Paul writes to Timothy: “But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—

what persecutions I endured. And out of them all, the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:10–12).

Paul’s life did not become easier as he lived as a Christian. The modern concepts of health and



wealth connected directly to one’s obedience to the gospel are clearly way off target—not only in regard to the apostle Paul but throughout Old and

New Testaments alike, we find many who were righteous and yet oppressed (e.g., Joseph, Moses, Elijah, Daniel, the Son of God, etc.).

Paul’s faith in Christ brought along a multitude of challenges that would have probably not happened at all to him otherwise. The primary point of proof would be his imprisonment. But even with his imprisonment, God was able to open doors for the furtherance and spread of the gospel: “But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the

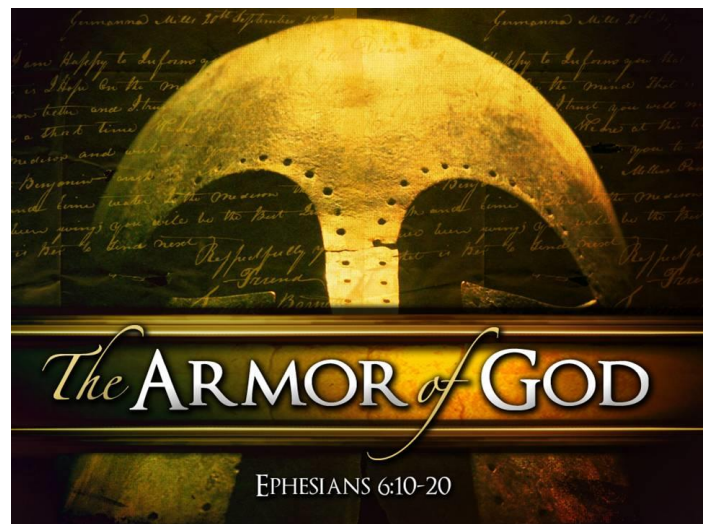
furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much bolder to speak the word without fear” (Philippians 1:12–14).

In my opinion, modernity has not helped us very much. We are technically advanced in so many things and are surprised when things don't go well for us. Peter wrote to encourage the saints in modern-day Turkey: “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you” (1 Peter 4:12–14).

Thankfully, we are not yet enduring a fiery trial, but if we were, or if we saw it coming our way, how would we react? I'm not asking this flippantly—this isn't an easy question to think through. When James and John wanted high recognition and special placement from the Lord in his kingdom, Jesus' reply was: “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to

drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” (Mark 10:38) I'd suggest that they didn't have much of a clue, but after they reply to him saying, “We are able,” Jesus confirmed that they would.

I have sometimes thought how wonderful it would have been to be an apostle, but after reading about their difficult lives through what the Holy Spirit reveals to us in his word, I'm definitely rethinking the proposition. Consider everything the apostle Paul reports in 2 Corinthians 11:21–29. The apostle



uses the word danger eight times in just verse 26 alone. In Romans 8:35, Paul asks: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor



powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35–39).

The world is not a friend to Jesus, nor his followers. “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12)” Jesus said to his apostles the night he was betrayed, “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (John 15:18–19).

And, finally, as the beloved John wrote: “Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you” (1 John 3:13). Are we surprised? Are we growing in God’s grace? I believe that the more we grow, the more difficult it can be to continue following. But the reward! “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the

kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matthew 5:10–12).

Questions On The Lighter Side

Q: How do we know that cars are in the New Testament?

A: Because Jesus was a car painter! (Carpenter)

Q: How do you study the Bible?

A: You Luke into it.

Q: How do we know that Jesus raised cattle?

A: Because he had a pair 'o' bulls (Parables).

Q: How do we know that Jesus raised vegetables?

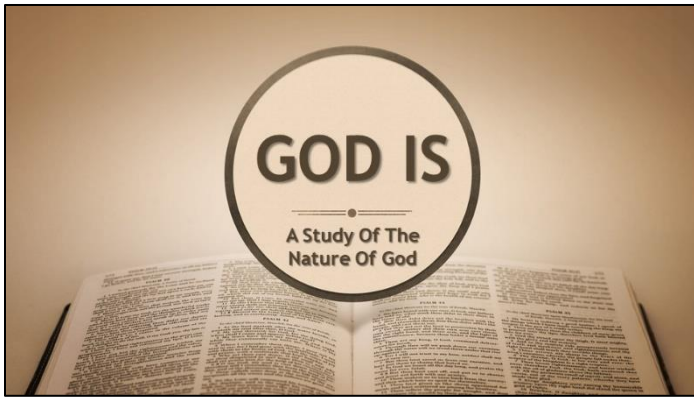
A: Because he said. "Peas be upon you." (Peace be upon you).

Q: How do we know that Jesus made coffee?

A: It says so in the book of He Brews. (Hebrews).

Q: Who were the three shortest men in the Bible?

A: Bildad the shoe-height, Knee-high Miah, and the man who fell asleep on his watch.



July 28 – Paul Blake
“God Is God Of Gods”

What Can I Do? **(Kent Heaton)**

- ✓ A boy gave his lunch to Jesus – and five thousand people were fed.
- ✓ A slave girl spoke to her mistress about God – and her master, healed of his leprosy, became a believer in God.
- ✓ Andrew told Peter about Jesus – and three years later Peter preached a sermon that was instrumental in bringing three thousand people to Christ.
- ✓ Esther took courage to face an uncertain future – and saved the people of God.

- ✓ Daniel purposed in his heart – and along with his three friends became examples of faith that changed a nation.
- ✓ Dorcas made some tunics and garments – and was raised from dead through the love from her brethren.
- ✓ There are many things that I can do that will change the life of another person – and it only takes believing that I can change the world.

CAUTION

WATCH YOUR STEP

**WITH REGARD TO THE WORKS OF MAN,
BY THE WORD OF YOUR LIPS I HAVE
AVOIDED THE WAYS OF THE VIOLENT. MY
STEPS HAVE HELD FAST TO YOUR PATHS;
MY FEET HAVE NOT SLIPPED.**

(PSALM 17:4-5)

Brooksville Church of Christ

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Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)

Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)

Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:

☞ Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida

☞ Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; The saints in Nicaragua

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