



Oologah  
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“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

**Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053**

## Does God Love You?

Chuck Northrop

While considering the vastness of the universe, a person is amazed at God’s creative power. A universe with such complexity and design cannot just happen. There must be a designer, and that designer is God. Upon contemplating God’s marvelous creation, David wrote, “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?” (Psalm 8:3-4). David was perplexed because mankind is such a small part of the universe, and yet God cares for humanity. Here in the vastness of the expanse is insignificant man. A mortal creature of whom God is mindful. Considering everything which God has majestically made, David asked, “what is man, that thou art mindful of him?” How is it possible for God who made and sustains the universe to ever have the time to consider man or to care for him?

In the second half of the eighth Psalm, David answered his own question. God created man with glory, honor, and dominion. God is mindful of man and cares for man because He created man with purpose. The human race was not an accident or freak of nature. Humanity was purposefully and meaningfully created. Just as we love the things we make, God loves mankind — the crowning act of His creation.

Not only did God create man, He provides for all men. He provided the universe as a place for man to dwell. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said God “maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:44-45). The sun and rain are part of God’s rich provisions for mankind. These and all the provisions of almighty God attests to His love for all men.

Though these provisions affirm the love of God toward mankind, the greatest affirmation of God’s love is the sending forth of His Son. John 3:16 declares, “For God so loved the world, that

he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Think of the tremendous sacrifice Christ made by coming into this world. He left the presence of almighty God to dwell with rebellious man. He gave up His spiritual nature to dwell in a physical form (Philippians 2:6-7). He gave up life without temptation to be tempted in every point like men are (Hebrews 4:15). He gave up His royalty to be born in a manger and to live as a servant (Philippians 2:5-7). He gave up His heavenly domain where there is no pain, no sorrow, and no death to live with the pains of this world and to suffer the death of this world. The sending forth of His Son most certainly testifies of the love of God for mankind.

It is one thing to send a Son, but all together another to sacrifice a Son, but this is what God did for all humanity. Paul wrote, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Jesus was perfect in every respect (Hebrews 5:9). He was without sin and without guile (2 Peter 2:22), but He bore the sins of mankind upon the cross, and He died “for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2). To remind the Christians in Corinth of His glorious sacrifice, Paul wrote, “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). Certainly, the sacrifice of the only begotten Son of God demonstrates the love of God. “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:9-10).

As noted, God demonstrated His love for mankind by His creation and the sending and sacrifice of His Son, but He also exhibited His love by giving us His plan of redemption whereby we might know how to be saved. God’s plan of salvation is “the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16). His plan of forgiveness must be obeyed for a person to inherit eternal life (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Have you obeyed it?

God loves you! He demonstrated His love in numerous ways. Therefore, the question is not whether or not God loves you, but whether or not you love God? Do you love Him? Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). What have you done to demonstrate your love for Him? Are you living according to His word? Are you walking in the light as He is in the light? (1 John 1:7). Are you His friend and can you be counted on as a friend? Jesus said, “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (John 15:14). Be a friend of Jesus and take courage in obeying His will.

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## Why Are Some Lives “Easy” and Others “Difficult”?

Skip Andrews

Literature is full of the cries of suffering people who wonder why they suffer so much while others seem to suffer so little. In the Psalms, for example, the question “How long?” is asked at least sixty times! Let us note some of the discrepancy is due to the fact that we do not always know what difficulties other people are having (especially when our real attention is on our own!).

The first answer to our question is to understand the power of **ignorance**. People who are ignorant of the Bible cannot answer spiritual questions properly. A life that may seem to be easy may be headed toward great trouble, and a life that may be difficult may be headed toward great happiness. Our human wisdom just is not sufficient to answer these things (Jeremiah 10:23). Proverbs 14:12 says, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

The second answer to our question is to understand the concept of **free will**. This is to say, God gave us the ability to make our own choices (Joshua 24:15). Our choices — informed and uninformed, good and bad — have consequences. When we make the choice to follow the ways of God, we are choosing a way that has restrictions that can make life difficult. On the other hand, when we make the choice to “go with the flow,” we have chosen a way that may appear to be fairly easy. Jesus described these choices in Matthew 7:13,14: “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

The third answer to our question is to learn how the **providence** of God uses “easy” and “difficult” things in various circumstances. The overall picture of God’s providence in the lives of those who love Him is for **good**. Note how this is stated in Romans 8:28: “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” God’s providence allowed Abraham to have things “easy” (in some ways) for a great deal of his life, while His providence allowed intense suffering to come upon Job (see Genesis 12-25; Job 1-42). The key for these men was **not** in whether life was easy or difficult, but whether they would continue to humbly obey Him!

The fourth answer to our question has to do with the concept of **dedication**. Jesus regularly taught that those who followed Him would suffer. His reasoning was very simple, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you” (John 15:18). Later, He said, “In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33b). The history of the early church shows this came true. Possibly the most severe persecution came upon Paul, whose writings frequently tell us of his trials. And it was Paul who wrote: “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12). Let us conclude this point by noting Matthew 5:10-12: “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

The fifth answer to our question is the Biblical principle of **sowing and reaping**. This principle is concisely stated in Galatians 6:7,8: “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” This one principle goes a long way in helping us to “get a grip” on the ups and downs of life. We reap **as** we sow, we reap **more** than we sow, we reap **longer** than we sow, and we reap what **others** sow.

God has allowed this world to be filled with pleasure and pain so that we can be tested — and so that we will be wise enough to look to His word for real answers. Not all pleasure is good (Genesis 3:6), and not all pain is bad (James 1:2-12).

Observations and Concerns

October 25, 2023

**Welcome Visitors!** It is our pleasure and honor to welcome you.  
**Praise in Psalm:** “Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious” (Psalm 66:2).  
**Declaration of Appreciation:** For the hope and support faithful brethren provide by teaching and preaching the truth in love and holding fast to sound doctrine.  
On Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, we need all who are available to stay after evening services and help **label literature** to be distributed at Boologah. Bring a brown bag supper.  
There will be a **youth devo** on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM at the church building in Ramona. Please bring a sweet or side to go with Italian food.  
Our sympathy is extended to the **Smith family** upon the passing of Vance Smith. Vance played an instrumental role in the planting of this congregation, and served as the full time minister here for 35 years.  
We extend our condolences to the **Denney family** upon the passing of Bonnie Denney. Bonnie is Denise Hall’s aunt.  
**Pat Taylor** responded to the Lord’s invitation this past Sunday asking for forgiveness and prayers. There is a **Thank You Note** on the bulletin board from Jeremy Northrop.

- Remember in Prayer:**
- ▶ **Caroline Swearingen** has a concussion due to an accident in gym class at school.
  - ▶ **Sammy Gray** is suffering with bursitis in his arm.
  - ▶ **Stephanie Huckleby** has had sickness in her family.
  - ▶ **Yvonne Hall** has been ill.
  - ▶ **Darla Smith** was not well this past Sunday.
  - ▶ **Sam Orr**, father of Kathy Orr, fell last week and had to have stitches in his head. In addition, he is now very ill with Covid.
  - ▶ **Sandra Rowell**, step mother of Landon Rowell, has lymphoma. She has started treatments and is doing well.

November Birthdays: **Kathy Orr** - 2; **Tia Swearingen** - 8; **Nelda Hudson** - 11; **Chuck Northrop** - 17; **Chelley Nelson** - 17; Anniversaries: **Jacksons** - 8; **Campbells** - 18.

Schedule of Services	Assignments			
		Wednesday, Oct. 25	Sunday, Oct. 29 AM	Sunday, Oct. 29 PM
	Announcements	Chris Nelson	Chuck Northrop	Ross Swearingen
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
	Prayer	Chuck Northrop	Chris Nelson	Bill Dilks
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen
	Lord's Supper		Chris Nelson	
	Lesson	Chris Nelson	Doyle Jackson	Chuck Northrop
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Ross Swearingen	Bill Dilks / Chris Nelson	Chris Nelson
Sundays				
Bible Classes. . . . .	9:30 AM			
Worship . . . . .	10:30 AM			
Worship . . . . .	5:00 PM			
Wednesdays				
Bible Classes. . . . .	7:00 PM			
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