



“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

Peace of Mind

Larry Yarber

“And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm” (Mark 4:37-39).

Many spend their entire time on earth in fear of the storms of life. Sometimes it is even said of them, “they have a troubled soul.” As our Lord calmed the Sea of Galilee, He alone can calm the soul of man and bring an end to his inner fears. As He faced the cross of Calvary, Jesus told His disciples, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid ... If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father...” (John 14:27-28).

Jesus assured His disciples He would triumph over the crucifixion and His death should not scare or trouble them. All would be well with Him and with them in the midst of the storm.

Our Lord offers us this same assurance of peace. There is no temptation so great, but with His help, we can overcome it, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but

will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

There is no need which He is not mindful of and which He is not able to supply, “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:31-33).

There is no anxiety that cannot be dealt with, “And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:41-42).

There is no foe who can conquer our soul, “And fear not them which kill the body but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28; also see and read Hebrews 13:5-6 and Romans 8:31). “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me” (John 14:1).

Men are often troubled and tossed about by the storms of life because they have no sure anchor for their souls, “...we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus,” (Hebrews 6:18-20). Thus, when the storms of life come, their faith fails and their hearts are filled with fear. However, God pleads with all, “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your cares on him; for he careth for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7). When we finally learn to do so, we will find that inner peace for which we all yearn, “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

What Does It Mean to Be “Born Again?”

Chad Dollahite

As recorded in John 3:1-21, a Pharisee named Nicodemus came to speak to Jesus. Jesus quickly turned the conversation with this declaration, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). Nicodemus expressed confusion at Jesus’ statement, to which Jesus replied, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). Since Jesus said very clearly that entrance into the heavenly kingdom is conditional upon being born again, this question is of extreme importance. What, then, does it mean to be “born again?”

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? ⁵Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

– John 3:3-5

During Jesus’ time on earth, the Jews placed heavy emphasis on their fleshly relationship to and descent from Abraham. Many Jews felt that their kinship with Abraham somehow guaranteed their salvation, regardless of how they lived their lives. This prompted John the Baptizer to say to some of the Jews who came to see him baptizing, “Do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones” (Matthew 3:9).

In His remarks on being born again, Jesus was foreshadowing to Nicodemus the impending change from the Law of Moses to the new law Jesus would establish. Under Jesus’ new law, covenant relationship would not be based on physical birth (as with the Law of Moses), but rather, on a rebirth (in other words, being “born again”).

In short, the concept of being “born again” refers to the baptism of penitent believers into Christ, where sins are washed away (Acts 2:38; 22:16) and one becomes a child of God (a Christian) and a new creation. A few parallel texts further confirm this:

- Paul establishes clearly in Galatians 3:26-29 that God’s children are those who have been “baptized into Christ,” further stating that those who have done so are “Abraham’s seed.”
- Peter speaks of Christians as those who have been “born again . . . through the word of God” (1 Peter 1:22,23). In other words, Christians are begotten through the teaching of God’s word (and this involves water, Ephesians 5:25,26).
- Paul says one who is “in Christ” is “a new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Galatians 3:27 and Romans 6:3 plainly teach that to be “in Christ” means to be “baptized into” Christ.

If we want to be saved, we must be “born again.” Jesus said so. Let us hear and obey the Master.

Second Fiddle

Someone asked a famous conductor of a great symphony orchestra which instrument he considered the most difficult to play. The conductor thought a moment then said, “Second fiddle. I can get plenty of first violinists, but to find one who will play second fiddle with enthusiasm — that’s a problem, and if we get no second fiddles, we have no harmony.”

Observations and Concerns

April 3, 2024

Welcome Visitors! To us, it is never a bother for you to be a part of our assembly.

Praise in Psalm: “Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty” (Psalm 104:1).

Declaration of Appreciation: Let us remember this week to thank God for the medical professionals who help us with our various health struggles and ailments.

Our **monthly youth devo** is scheduled for Friday, April 5th at 6:00 PM at the church building. Pizza will be provided. Please bring a favorite side or dessert.

The monthly **Men’s Business Meeting** is Sunday evening, April 7th, after services.

Weleetka Gospel Meeting: April 7-10; Mark Lance will be the speaker.

Azalea Gospel Meeting: April 14-17; Matt McBrayer will be the speaker.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ We are thankful the spot on **Pat Taylor’s** thyroid is benign. She is scheduled to have surgery on her carotid artery on May 14th.
- ▶ **Ed Carmona** is in the hospital under hospice care and is declining.
- ▶ **Glen Beaman**, brother of Dicie Jackson, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Extended Prayer List: **Joyce Cash** – health difficulties; **Dan & Marcella Dennis** – health issues; **Bill Dilks** – cancer; **Sammy Gray** – health concerns; **Andy & Nelda Hudson** – health struggles; **Dicie Jackson** – health difficulties; **Chuck Northrop** – blood disorder; **Darla Smith** – declining health; **Pat Taylor** – health issues; **Ed & Sherry Carmona** – health concerns; **Ed Dindy** – cancer; **Betty Jackson** – health struggles; **Sam Orr** – health difficulties.

There are no April birthdays and anniversaries within the congregation.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
	Wednesday, April 3	Sunday, April 7 AM	Sunday, April 7 PM
Sundays			
Bible Classes 9:30 AM	Chuck Northrop	Doyle Jackson	Chris Nelson
Worship 10:30 AM	Chuck Northrop	Doyle Jackson	Chris Nelson
Worship 5:00 PM (except 2 nd Sunday – 2 PM)	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen	Bill Dilks
Lord’s Supper (speaker)		Chris Nelson	Doyle Jackson
Lord’s Supper		Doyle Jackson	
Wednesdays			
Bible Classes 7:00 PM	Bill Dilks	Chuck Northrop	Chuck Northrop
Prayer	Chris Nelson	Bill Dilks	Ross Swearingen
Website: oologahcofc.org	Ross Swearingen	Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen