

## The Two Edges of Providence

A young man invested his savings in a peach orchard. He worked hard. The weather was favorable, he had a beautiful crop. Then, just before harvest, a blasting hail storm struck. In a matter of minutes everything he had worked for was ruined.

Embittered by the experience, he quit going to church. A Christian friend expressed his concern. The young man said, "I'm not going to church anymore because I can't love and worship a God who cares so little for me that He would let the hail destroy my crop."

All was silent for awhile. Then the friend said, "The Lord loves you more than your crop. He knows that fruit does better without storms, but He also knows it is impossible to produce Christian character without the storms of trial. God's primary concern is to develop strong men, not lovely peaches."

Many people equate God's providence with events that are favorable such as being spared from a near tragedy. But their confidence in the Lord is shaken when disaster strikes.

Providence has two edges. One edge brings protection from painful things. The other edge permits painful things to happen in order to build strong people.

Job's friend had a simplistic view of providence. He told Job his affliction was due to his sin. He knew that wasn't so. Yes, there were times he questioned the ways of God, but ultimately he knew he didn't have to comprehend God's ways—he only had to trust Him.

We cannot always understand why God allows problems to come. But one thing is sure—those problems can be used by our Father to promote our spiritual growth and development.

- Joe R. Barnett (*Bulletin Digest*) -

## Pursue Righteousness

Numerous times in Scripture the Lord encourages us to "pursue righteousness." The term righteousness is variously used, sometimes referring to virtuous or obedient living and other times referring to the condition of being made innocent by God and thus acceptable to Him.

The idea is this: The Lord expects us to live a life of obedience and virtue. Additionally, in His grace and mercy, the Lord offers us the only hope we have to be declared innocent. Thus, in a sense, to pursue righteousness is to pursue a life with God now and to dwell in His presence forever!

"The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but He loves him who pursues righteousness" (Prov. 15:9).

"Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor" (Prov. 21:21).

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Matt. 5:6).

- Bart Warren, South Green Street church of Christ, Glasgow, KY (*Bulletin Digest*) -

"If you would be loved, love and be lovable." — Benjamin Franklin

## News & Notes

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:** *Sunday:* Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m. *Wednesday:* Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

**FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED:** By request of our Elders, for **EVERYONE** in **ALL** of our assemblies regardless of where seated.

**SYMPATHY:** To Jason Akers & family at the recent passing of his uncle, Don Steele. God comfort this family.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To **Gerald Clutter** on his retirement from *Mon Power* after 42 years of service. Best wishes to Gerald for a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement.

**TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:** **Trisha Barile** (twin daughter of Jim & Linda Hall) from the Southern Hills Congregation. Trisha's husband, Josh and son, Brodi. Their contact information: 630 Knowles Lane, Chester, WV 26034, Phone: 304-218-9189. Update your directory accordingly. We welcome them to our church family.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Each **Tuesday** at **7:00 p.m.**

**TIME CHANGE:** Next **Saturday, March 12th**, before retiring for the night, **turn your clocks AHEAD one hour. Daylight Saving Time begins.**

**SECRET SISTER PROGRAM:** This is being started again for those sisters interested in participating. Application forms are on the desk in the foyer which need to be completed and returned in an envelope by **Wednesday, March 16th**. See Latisha Brown for information.

**OUR LADIES DAY:** Any of our sisters who desire or are willing to speak and have an active part in our **Ladies Day Program on Saturday, May 7th**, please see Latisha Brown.

**PANTRY:** Canned fruit

**PICTURE GALLERY OF PAST MEMBERS:** Submit pictures (black and white or color) to David Malcomson.

**REQUEST FOR PRAYERS & CARDS:** **Ethan Haught** (Skip & Sue's grandson), knee surgery. His address: 202 Rexroad Drive, Weston, WV 26452. **Catrina Wright** (roommate of Ella Haught at YSU), brain tumor. Her address: P. O. Box 164, Mesopotamia, OH 44439. **Lori Rowand** (John Sprout's niece), Stage 4 lung cancer. Her address: 305 Bentley Ave. Newell, WV 26050.

**SICK & SHUT-IN:** *Weirton Medical Center:* Becky McKitrick. *At Home:* Tim Adkins, Mike West, Barbara DeLong, David McCoy, Marlene Evans, Russell Martin, Claudette Miller, Jim & Linda Hall. *Weston, WV:* Rick Beck.

