

Does Jesus Care

By Jonathan McAnulty

There is a hymn, written by Frank Graeff, in 1901, which asks, the question, "does Jesus care?" Does Jesus care, when my heart is pained? Does Jesus care, when my way is dark? Does Jesus care, when I've tried and failed? Does Jesus care, when I've said good-bye. The scriptures answer this question in the affirmative: Yes, Jesus does care. God Loves you through the suffering.

The apostle Peter says concerning the care of God and the appropriate response to that divine care: "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:6-7; NKJV)

As the apostle penned those words, he was writing to Christians who might have reason to doubt that God cared for them. They were saints who were facing persecution and hardships because of their faith. Peter reminds them of the proper manner in which they should answer this persecution: with love and kindness. (cf. 1 Peter 3:13-17) He also reminds them that Christ suffered on our behalf. (eg. 1 Peter 3:18, 4:1). He says concerning their problems: "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy." (1 Peter 4:12-13; NKJV)

The example of Christ reminds us of several important things in relation to suffering and the love of God. Firstly, suffering does not preclude the love of God. Many think to themselves that if God really loved them then He would never allow them to feel pain. But God surely loved His Son, Jesus, and Jesus still suffered. He experienced abandonment by His friends and students. He experienced betrayal. He experienced beatings and torture. He experienced an excruciating, and public, death. There is no heart-ache, pain, or sorrow that Jesus cannot empathize with, having suffered similar in His own flesh.

But through it all, Jesus held to His faith in the love and mercy of God, the Father. He confessed this faith, saying to God in prayer, "for You loved Me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:25) With His final words He commended His soul into the Father's hands (cf. Luke 23:46). Jesus knew that God cared for Him, even in the midst of misery and sorrow, and that such suffering did not signify that God was uncaring.

The example of Christ also reminds us that good can come through suffering, if we face it with faith. The suffering of Christ was not without purpose. It served to bring salvation to a world which desperately needed it. As Peter reminds us, Jesus suffered for us. Elsewhere, we are reminded that no suffering is ever pleasant as we are going through it. But that does not mean we cannot grow through it, and even from it, nor does it preclude the possibility that the suffering might in some way prove beneficial. It is a rather short-sighted perspective which refuses to consider that sometimes God might allow us to experience grief because doing so, in one fashion or another, is good for us, leading to greater joy afterward, if we allow it to. (cf. Hebrews 12:3-11) That's not necessarily a message you want to hear in the middle of suffering, but that does not make it a false argument.

Finally, though, the suffering of Christ reminds us that Jesus cared enough about us to suffer on our behalf. When you find yourself doubting whether or not God cares for you, remember the counsel of the Bible, which reminds us "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:31-32; NKJV) Why would God care about us enough to allow Jesus to suffer for us, but not care enough about us to do more for us, when we turn to Him in faith, through Christ.

God does not promise to take away all of our cares and sorrows in this world. But He has promised to give His children strength to face those cares, if they trust Him and follow where He leads them.

When we find ourselves wondering, "Does Jesus care," we can answer with the old hymn-writer, "Oh yes, He cares. I know He cares." And in so knowing, let us follow the advice of the apostle, by humbling ourselves before God, and casting our cares upon Him.

Things you should know about!

We would like to send donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. If you want to contribute, mark it as "DRF" or give the money to Jason.

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Marjorie Seiber 5/1                      Ezra Rohr 5/9  
Mackenzie Cruze 5/9                      Doug Hoff 5/23

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Happy Anniversary
Doug & Marjorie Seiber 5/13

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There will not be a potluck lunch in May.

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Family Campout at Jerry & Carrie Thompson's on May 13th-14th.
Fish fry starts at 5:30... Kid's fishing derby begins around 7:00...
Adult fishing time, campfire/singing and outdoor movies to follow!

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*Spring work day at the church on May 28th*

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Mark your calendars for VBS on Saturday, June 25th.

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Please call John or email him at [jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com](mailto:jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you may have for the congregation.

### Serving today and next Sunday:

| Sunday AM Rotation           | May 1, 2022          | May 8, 2022      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Announcements                | Curt Thompson        | Tim Bang         |
| Song Leading                 | Owen Whittington     | Duane Kemp       |
| Opening Prayer/Greeter/Usher | Jerry Thompson ( L ) | Tom Muter        |
| Lord's Supper Comments       | Tim Bang             | Jason Bang       |
| Scripture Reading            | Chris McGiffin       | Owen Whittington |
| Sermon                       | John McGiffin        | John McGiffin    |
| Closing Prayer/Usher         | Jason Bang ( R )     | Curt Thompson    |

**Bible Verse of the Week**

“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.” Proverbs 8:13

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**Lord's Supper Reflection –Why Did Jesus Die?**

*You have been brought near by the Blood of Christ*

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." Ephesians 2:13

**Offering Meditation**

*Your Gift to God Ascribes Glory to the Lord*

"Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength. Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering and come into His courts. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth." Psalms 96:7-9

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**Remember in Prayer:**

- \*Our Country & leaders, Ukraine crisis
- \*Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement
- \*Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- \*Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- \*Larry Bey - asked for prayers for his Parkinson's
- \*Crew Neaves—heart surgery was cancelled as Doctor was unable to operate due to finding more complications
- \*Chuck Edwards (Judah Gasper's uncle) - has cancer and is not doing well
- \*Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - dealing with dementia and confusion

- \*Amy Chiappetta (Sharon Dissarro's aunt) - has breast cancer
- \*Heather Tremblett's mom, Karen Wilson (friends of McGiffin's) - needing a lung transplant
- \*Michelle Gasper's grandmother, Diane - recently diagnosed with colon cancer

**How can we be praying for YOU?**

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**Attendance and Contribution Record**

**Sunday, April 24**

Bible Classes 23  
AM Attendance 27  
PM Attendance 17

**Wednesday, April 27**

Bible Classes 23  
Contribution \$

# Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



**May 1, 2022**

**Worship Times:**

Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd

Greenville, OH 45331

[www.greenvillecoc.org](http://www.greenvillecoc.org)

We are happy that you have chosen to worship with us today. If you are visiting, you are our honored guests and we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.