



The Sentinel

of the

Southern Ridge Church of Christ

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Lookin' for the Good

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” - Romans 8:28

Some verses of scripture are just plain scary. We might think of the passages depicting the condemnation of the unrighteous. Really, any teaching that has to do with a judgment might get our knees shaking, at least a bit. Yes, I think we can relate to Felix and his trembling at Paul’s teaching of *“righteous, temperance, and the judgement to come”* (Acts 24:25). There are plenty of passages that tell of God’s coming judgment. We benefit from the warnings. We even sing songs to highlight the power of them. “Almost persuaded ... almost, but lost.” “When the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be ...” where? Enough of that business, It is not those passages on judgment that cause concern. They are just the end of the matter.

It is those challenging verses of expectation that may generate the greater amount of nervous disruption. Maybe it is statements of providence, and the wonder about it that draws the greater concern. Obvious miracles don’t seem to unsettle us much. Parting waters, manna from heaven, and a multitude of other miracles were simply accepted by those wandering Israelites. Even in the ministry of Jesus, the providing of miraculous events were points of amazement, but it is the messages pointing to the less obvious providence that generally brought and still bring more questions. For, the question of direct and readily recognizable providence is not always an easy one. Yes, in one sense, all things are by the providence of God. All creation is generated and maintained by Him. It is in the “extras” that we question whether a thing is simply an unusual circumstance of life, or a special movement of God.

Perception may be the pivotal matter for clarity of seeing and understanding. For example: As we look at the life of Samson, we can see a man who was

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amazing, and yet despicably human. It is easy to denounce some of his behaviors as being from a man who succumbed to his base desires. Still, there is an almost overlooked verse that helps see another side. "*But his father and mother did not know that **it was of the Lord** — that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel*" (Judges 14:4). God had His hand in the matter. Whether in the time of Samson or of our own, the extraordinary hand of God's providence is at work.

We may tend to think of providence as being a dramatically obvious miracle; something well beyond the ordinary. The raising of a dead person, or the healing of someone who is desperately ill may come to mind. Those cases are more of the exception. God's providence is more often worked through what may appear to be ordinary and easily explainable circumstances. From a purely human mind, it can be a little bit hard to determine the providential hand of God.

So, saying that "*all things work together for good*" may be a tough one to fully see. It may be in the longer, broader view of living that the application of providence may be seen. After all, it took Joseph many years to reunite with his father and brothers. He ultimately saw it as God preserving hand. Trust the long view and let God's work have its way. - - - Russ

Keep In Prayer

- ◆ **Roger Scott** had surgery, last Thursday, to replace a rod in his lower leg. He is now home.
- ◆ **George King** is undergoing tests for enlarged lymph nodes.
- ◆ **George Holmes** has improved well and is at home to complete his recovery.
- ◆ **Linda Marcom** is undergoing chemotherapy treatment following surgery for breast cancer.
- ◆ **Delynne Dunn, friend of Bill Fleming** had another heart attack, is home, but interested in prayers.
- ◆ **Ginny Baldwin, Larry's sister-in-law** - being treated for cancer.
- ◆ **Anna Ruminer's daughter, Theresa**, - undergoing chemotherapy.
- ◆ **Riley Baldwin** - had another throat surgery a few days ago, and all went well.

In Assisted Living:
Aline McDaniel
Ella McKeel
Marguriete Shobert

Children are among the most precious gifts we have in this world. They represent hope. They live in innocence. They are opportunity. Jesus said it, "*Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven*" (Matthew 19:14).

News That Is of Interest to You

Events and Reminders

Back to School Bash

August 19

All Church Dinner



- The **All Church Dinner** will be next Sunday, **August 19**, following morning worship. This will also be our **“Back to School Bash”** (sorry kids) as the children will be back in the books again. If you would like to help purchase **gift cards** for our young students, please see **Lindsay MacDonald**.
- **The Ladies' Coffee**— The coffee will be each Friday of August (10 a.m.), and will continue to study “Women of the Bible”.
- **Men’s Breakfast:** The next men’s breakfast will be on Saturday, August 25, at 8 a.m. Come and share some food and fellowship.
- **The Labor Day Picnic** is scheduled for Monday, September 3, at Noon. Details later.

♦ **Who said:** - *“These daughters are my daughters, and these children are my children, and this flock is my flock; all that you see is mine.”*

♦ **Answer next week**

♦ **Last Week:** Rachel, speaking to Jacob—Genesis 30:1

Happy Anniversary

| | | |
|------------------------|------|------|
| Jerry & Joretta Doyle | - | 8/12 |
| Brian & Emily Jaworsky | 8/13 | |
| Keith & Becky McDougal | 8/14 | |
| Layne & Donna Adams | 8/19 | |

Happy Birthday

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|------|
| Floyd Marshall | - - - | 8/13 |
| Joan Keenan | - - - | 8/14 |
| Ryker Lowrance | - - - | 8/16 |
| Coen Henderson | - - - | 8/19 |
| Mattie Ruble | - - - | 8/22 |
| Melanie Shelton | - - - | 8/23 |
| Fred Jones | - - - - | 8/26 |
| Tres Lowrance | - - - | 8/29 |

August - Daily Bible Reading

12. Psalms 84-86; 1 Peter 2
13. Psalms 87-88; 1 Peter 3
14. Psalms 89-90; 1 Peter 4
15. Psalms 91-93; 1 Peter 5
16. Psalms 94-96; Galatians 1
17. Psalms 97-99; Galatians 2
18. Psalms 100-102; Galatians 3
19. Psalms 103-104; Galatians 4

