

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1518

March 24, 2024

Exodus 13:17, *“And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not [through] the way of the land of the Philistines, although that [was] near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt.”*

There are often shorter and quicker ways to get somewhere or to accomplish a task. It seems that most of the time, a shortcut just takes more time than it saves. We even have a saying, “Haste makes waste.” To cut corners often brings additional problems. Even electrical problems are often called a “short” because of a “shortcut” across circuits that can easily destroy equipment.

As the children of Israel were leaving Egypt there was a way that was nearer for them to travel, but God did not lead them that way. There was war on the shorter way. God knew they would see the war, and be discouraged, and return to Egypt.

I know that we all sometimes wonder why something is happening in our lives. We might even ask something like, “Why did the LORD let this happen to me.” There are things that if removed from our

lives we feel would make life easier and even provide a “shortcut.”

We might be burdened with a serious illness or the tragic death of a loved one. Surely life would have been smoother, and had a “shorter way” if this was not part of our lives. It’s hard to see at the time, but such makes us better and stronger people.

Such burdens let us help others. If not for some sickness and tragedy we could never relate to and help others. We are told in Galatians 6:2, *“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”*

It would be hard to talk to someone about the death of a child if we had not experienced it. How can you begin to relate to someone who has had a suicide in their family unless you have experienced it? An illness can help others know what to expect.

Some situations just make our life smoother even if we can’t see it at the time. So many feel life would be much better if they had more money. They feel that being “rich” would solve so many problems and provide a “shortcut.”

With much wealth comes it’s own problems that can be much worse than not having much. If your wealth is known, and it’s hard to hide, you will have thieves constantly trying to steal either in person or online scams. You will have constant calls for help, which are good to do, but it would become hard to determine which ones to help and which you would have to pass up, etc. Wealth can bring a “shortcut” but the way it leads can be even worse.

Even those things that seem to be a burden to us, can provide a better path. It might be hard to see at the time, but we need to remember the words of 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.”*

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Sunday 9am,10am,12pm; 6pm (Online) — Wednesday 6pm (Online)

News

—Continue to remember **Steve Seaton, Brad Terry, Enola Zigler, Ken & Erin Davis, Becky Hatcher, Joanna Locke, Richard Connolly, Larry Compton, Linda Terry, Lauren Candela, Rick Gibbs, Sandy Duncan, Jerry Reynolds** and **Alice**

Vanderstoep. Sandy Duncan, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery, fell and broke her pelvis bone in two place. **L. C. Duncan**, father of Mitch Duncan, fell this past week and had bleeding on the brain. Surgery was done in Louisville and he is doing much better.

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There is nothing wrong with praying that burdens will be removed or that we have an easier path. Let's just keep in mind that no matter what path we are on, the LORD will help us. I Peter 5:7, "*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*" We have each other, and we have the LORD.

Though it's a hard state to obtain, we need to work and pray to be like Paul in Philippians 4:11, "*Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, [therewith] to be content.*" It's hard to be content when things are not going well. It's hard to be patient when we are suffering or others about us are. There is a way that could have been easier, but like the Israelites of old, that way might possibly be a much harder way. The way we are on is the way the LORD wants us on. No matter our path in life, we all have one final destination—our eternal home in Heaven.

Let's not be discouraged and try for shortcuts and ways that cause even more problems. Let's stay on the path we are on and pray that if it's the LORD's will, burdens will be lifted. Even Jesus prayed that if it was the will of the Father, He would remove the cup of which Jesus was about to drink—His suffering and death upon the cross.

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| Sunday, March 17, 2024 | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Classes | 10 | Luke 8:1-15 |
| Preaching | 16 | Proverbs 31:10-31 |
| Contribution | \$6918.00 | |
| Evening | 13 | Genesis 3:1-24 |

Bible Quiz

What turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life?

Last Week's Answer— Tree of Life (Genesis 2:9)

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It was not the will of the Father. If Jesus had gone a way that was shorter and easier, we could not be saved. There would be no hope. I'm thankful Jesus took the longer and harder way. It was the way for us to have everlasting life. The easy way is often not the best way.

—Marty Edwards❖

—Just a reminder that in two weeks, our Sunday evening devotional will be 5:00 Central Time at the LaRue County Church of Christ. We will be there visiting for their first-Sunday singing.

—God's Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)