"and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

# Welcome Visitors

We are blessed by your attendance and worshipping with us.

### **Prayer Request**

Otwell Family
Jason Rowell
Teddy Cauthen
Maddox Willingham
Pete Bridges

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

•••••	
Amy Mallory	1
Hal Cash	2
Caden Mallory	18
Joyce Combs	31

Edward and Kitty Shaw

# Does Jesus Care 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



#### God's Plan of Salvation

- Hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17;
   Acts 16:32)
- 2. Believe what is taught (Mark 16:16; Heb 11:6)
- 3. Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30)
- 4. Confession (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:9-10)
- 5. Baptism (1Peter 3:21; Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Rom. 6:3-4)
- 6. After the above five steps, faithful

#### This Week Leading Worship:

Sunday Morning:



Announcements Alan Wilkerson

Scripture Tony Hotalen

Song Leader Harel Otwell

Opening Prayer Wayne Aldridge

Table Kelly Cauthen

Cody Payne

Assisting Troy Stapler

Steve Cole

Closing Prayer Jeremy Isabell

Sunday Evening:

Announcements Cory Payne

Scripture Cory Payne

Song Leader Brennan Mallory

Opening Prayer/Table Tony Hotalen

Closing Prayer Shane Buchanan

# **Next Week Leading Worship:**

Sunday Morning:



Scripture Brennan Mallory

Song Leader Cory Payne

Opening Prayer Alan Wilkerson

Table Joe Mallory

Tony Hotalen

Assisting Korbin Cauthen

Shane Buchanan

Closing Prayer Steve Cole

Sunday Evening:

Announcements Joe Mallory

Scripture Caden Mallory

Song Leader Harel Otwell

Opening Prayer/Table Carlos Payne

Closing Prayer Kenny Laminack

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. <u>1 Peter 3:13-17</u>) He also reminds them that Christ suffered on our behalf. (eg. <u>1 Peter 3:18</u>, <u>4:1</u>). 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." (<u>1 Peter 4:12-13</u>; NKJV)

The example of Christs 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. <u>Luke 23:46</u>). 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.

#### Reminders:

Check bulletin board in foyer or website

www.tallapoosacoc.com

facebook.com/tallapoosachurchofchrist

Sunday Bible study: 10AM Sunday Worship: 11AM Sunday Evening Worship: 5PM Wednesday Bible study: 7PM

Joe Mallory, Minister 770-597-5009 Cory Payne, Bulletin 770-328-1745

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 hymnwriter, "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.

