

The Arrows of God's Wrath

"I will heap misfortunes on them; I will use My arrows on them" (Deut. 32:23). This "song of Moses" (Deut. 31:30-32:47) recites the history of Israel and warns of God's judgment on the nation's unfaithfulness. God sometimes used suffering as a national punishment on Israel (Deut. 28:49-52), as well as using calamity on wicked nations (Isa. 13:5).

Jeremiah tells the people of Jerusalem that Babylon is preparing an attack against Jerusalem (Jer. 6:4-6). Jeremiah was denounced as a traitor and discourager of the people, but he was simply telling the truth of God's justice. His warning against their wickedness came true (Lam. 1-5).

The Babylonian attack was awful. Most of the Jews in Jerusalem were slaughtered, if they hadn't already died of pestilence and famine, in its siege (Ezek. 5:1-17). Archaeologists have recently found bronze arrowheads from excavating the walls of Jerusalem, dating from the time of the King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, who besieged the city in 587/586 BC. These arrows were sent from God. "He makes His arrows fiery shafts" (Psa. 7:13).

"I Myself will war against you with an outstretched hand

and a mighty arm, even in anger and wrath and great indignation" (Jer 21:5). Those arrows of the invading Babylonians were actually God's arrows of judicial wrath. God providentially raised up the Babylonians, as instruments of His discipline (Jer 25:9). These arrows show that God rules in the affairs of men, as the righteous Sovereign of all. He used their weapons of war as His weapons to physically punish the Jews. God is a holy God of justice. If man resists, he destroys himself.

In the end, judgment will surely come to us all. On that Last Great Day, each of us will be held accountable. Condemnation of the unforgiven will be severe and pitiless. So, this should awaken us the sobering fact of God's judgment, and to "work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12).

Yet, this makes the gospel of God's grace so precious. Jesus propitiated our sins, absorbing the fierce, holy wrath of God, as He was punished in our place (Rom. 3:25). Our Lord took the blow of justice by His vicarious suffering. If we are in Him, we are shielded from the spiritual arrows of justice.



Hebrews 10:32-36 (NKJV) But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ³³partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; ³⁴for you had compassion on ³⁵me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves ³⁶in heaven. ³⁷Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁸For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

News and Notes

- Let's remember our expectant mothers: BJ Winslett, Joy Liu, and Amanda Stephens .
- Sheryl Fowler's friend lost a 5 yr old son. Amber and Lori Adams lost a 20 yr. old cousin in an auto accident. Please pray for the families.
- Sheryl Fowler's friend lost a 5 yr old son.
- Kaylee West's brother, Stuart, is having tests run next week.
- Larry will be away in a meeting next weekend at the church in LaGrange, Georgia.
- Christy (Crow) Whitehead is having to deliver her twin babies at 30 Wks due to high blood pressure. She is a friend of Leslie Freeman.
- Let us pray for those who are traveling during thanksgiving.

Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade	Sandlyn Fultz (David Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Jared Nixon	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Ross Folmar	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)	Toni Herd
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Kenn and Ellen Smith (Ken Sullivanne's Parents)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Daphene Whatley (Lisa Lanier's Mom)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Mike Reed (Friend of the Long's)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Herbert Missildine (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Jo Faust Williams (Manna Jones' friend)

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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Don't Quit

By Bubba Carrier



Thought to Ponder

Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did.

The first time I tried to march and play drums at the same time, I was terrible. When I concentrated on playing a steady beat, I marched out of step; when I focused on marching in line, I played off beat. After the first week, I went to the band director and told him that marching band was not for me and that he shouldn't expect me at any more of the rehearsals. I'll never forget what he said to me "Bubba, I didn't think you were a quitter." That cut through me like a knife.

We don't like to be called quitters, but we sure act like them. We try various hobbies and crafts for a while, and if we don't enjoy them as much as we originally thought we would, we toss them aside and move on to something else. How many have picked up the game of golf only to throw it back down a couple of weeks later? What about attempting to learn a musical instrument? Even those who make a substantial investment in their potential interest - equipment, lessons, accessories - give up after their initial failure.

Remember where you're going. It's easy to get distracted by the temporal things that this life has to offer; they cause us worry and tempt us to throw in the towel and quit. They make service to God seem less important and perseverance impossible.

If we're not careful, we allow this mentality to carry over into our spiritual thinking. With high ambitions and fiery spirits, we march into the battlefield of life full of vigor and ready to conquer anything that crosses our path. Yet the first time our courage is demanded because of some obstacle or hurdle that lies in front of us, we abandon the Lord and run the other way. The excitement that fueled us at first is lost because we recognize that some exertion is required of us or an unanticipated conflict must be resolved. Even those who

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

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make a considerable investment in the Lord's work -time, energy, resources drop out long before the race is won.

Quitting is easy because it involves no effort, no commitment. The world convinces us that life is self-centered and that we must do anything and everything to make ourselves comfortable and content. This philosophy implies eliminating that which causes discomfort and discord; things like our marriage, our religion, even our own life.

Please reflect on these simple suggestions the next time you encounter the temptation to quit the Lord.

1. Trust in God. Faith is not simply believing in the existence of God, it involves putting your complete confidence and trust in Him. He has promised, "I will never leave you, nor will I ever forsake you" (**Heb. 13:5**). Even in your darkest hour, when it seems that all hope is gone, He is standing by your side, ready to help you overcome your adversaries. Those who abandon Him have not totally surrendered their fears and worries and are attempting to live life on their own. Place your confidence in God that He will lead you through the difficult times and build you up so that you can endure them. If you never forsake Him, He has promised that He will never leave you. Trust Him.

2. Finish what you start. Jesus did. He came to this earth with a mission, to fulfill an incredible plan to save men from their sins, and He did not allow one thing to step in His way not the devil, not the apostles, not the scribes and Pharisees.

Paul told Timothy to 'be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry" (**2 Tim. 4:5**). The young preacher was to expect trials and set-

backs, frustrations and anxieties, but he was to endure them with patience and persistence and not give up. Paul knew about hardships; "five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes, three times was I beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times was I shipwrecked... " (**2 Cor. 11:24-27**). Do you think he considered calling it quits a time or two? Yet through it all, he continued to trust in God and that allowed him to finish what he started.

3. Remember the big picture. Heaven is for those who have endured and those who have conquered, not for those who have given up. Since Paul had fought the fight and kept the faith, he was confident in his eternal destiny - "in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but to all those who have loved his appearing" (**2 Tim. 4:8**).

Remember where you're going. It's easy to get distracted by the temporal things that this life has to offer; they cause us worry and tempt us to throw in the towel and quit. They make service to God seem less important and perseverance impossible. At the judgment, those who have endured and those who have given up will be separated, and the ones who have kept the faith will receive their crown of life. Won't the temporal things seem so insignificant then?

Consider the poem of Jill Wolf. 'Don't quit when the tide is the lowest, for it's just about to turn, don't quit over doubts and questions, for there's something you may learn. Don't quit when the night is darkest, for it's just a while till dawn; don't quit when you've run the farthest, for the race is almost won. Don't quit when the hill is steepest; for your goal is almost nigh; don't quit, for you're not a failure until you fail to try."

Fight the good fight, finish the course, keep the faith, and whatever you do, don't quit.



Is There a Basis for Your Joy?

By Stan Cox

Do you feel good about yourself? Your relationship with God? Do you feel good about those with whom you have spiritual fellowship? Do you have joy without measure? A peace which passes understanding? Does a smile invariably crease your face when you contemplate your eternal welfare? It does? Good!...Now for the most important question. Upon what do you base all of these positive emotions?

Why is it so many can not see how unreasonable it is to base their salvation upon a "feeling in my heart." There is a popular notion that the facts don't matter.

Hopefully, you have a ready answer to this last question. The proper answer would be, "From a study of God's word, I recognize that I have been obedient to His will, and am a partaker of the blessings that are reserved for His children." Now, you might not word it in exactly the same way, but the point is that your good feelings, your emotions, are based upon an intellectual recognition. You know you have been obedient to God. You know that God has promised blessings to those who are obedient. You know that God keeps His promises. Therefore you are happy. However, many experience that same happiness without that intellectual foundation.

Emotions are peculiar in that respect. You can be happy, sad, peaceful, worried, etc., without a proper foundation. A mother can be worried about the safety of her child, when in reality the child is perfectly safe. A city can sleep peacefully in the supposed safety of its beds, not knowing an earthquake is imminent. A follower of Mohammed can glory in his certainty of an eternal reward, not knowing that salvation is to be found only through Jesus (**cf. John 14:6**). An emotion is valid only if it is based on fact. Worry is appropriate only if there is the potential of harm; a feeling of peacefulness only if there is actual safety; spiritual joy

only if a relationship with God actually exists.

Herein resides the problem with the emotionalism prevalent among religious people today. Too many believe themselves saved, not because they have the facts, but rather because they feel good about themselves. We see that it would be unreasonable for a mother to fret about the safety of her child when she sees and knows her child is safe.

Why is it so many can not see

how unreasonable it is to base their salvation upon a "feeling in my heart." There is a popular notion that the facts don't matter. That we should stop emphasizing the scripture, and just love one another. That we should emphasize the Man instead of the plan. That it does not matter what you believe, so long as you are sincere. This is simply not so.

I feel good about myself and my eternal destiny because I have obeyed the gospel of Christ. I have heard the saving gospel, and have believed it (**John 3:16**). I have repented of my sins, and have been baptized to have them washed away (**Acts 2:38**). I have confessed and am willing to confess the Lordship of Jesus before men (**Romans 10:9-10**). As such, I know that I have the hope of heaven. I worship and work with Christians who follow God's word in matters of worship, work, and daily living. We have a "thus saith the Lord" for all of our practices, and are willing always to defend what we teach and do for God.

Are you happy? It is an important question. But the second is more important. WHY? Upon what do you base that happiness? Think about it.

