

# Good News

*From Getwell*

Published by  
Getwell Church of Christ

1511 Getwell Road  
Memphis, Tennessee 38111-7299

Phone: (901) 743-0464

Fax: (901) 743-2197

E-Mail: mail@getwellchurchofchrist.org

Website: www.getwellchurchofchrist.org

#### ELDERS

Dewey Murray  
Daniel P. Phillips  
Ron Wallace

#### MINISTERS

Ron Wallace, Assoc. Minister  
Daniel P. Phillips

Publishers of  
**THE SPIRITUAL SWORD**

Alan E. Highers, Editor

Home of  
*The Spiritual Sword Lectureship*

Radio Program  
***The Truth in Love***  
WHBQ-AM 560 / FM 98.5  
Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

#### SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

##### SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship.....10:20 a.m.  
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

Volume LXIII

May 29, 2022

Number 22

## ON THE HOME FRONT

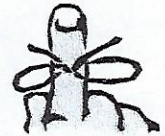
I have been asked to begin as the part-time minister for the Getwell church of Christ starting June 5th. Back in February I saw in a publication that this congregation was looking for a part-time minister. Susie and I had just moved into the area of Memphis about a year before to be near our kids and grandkids for the first time. When I saw the advertisement I immediately called and mentioned that I would be able to fill in for them whenever they didn't have a preacher and I was asked to preach the month of February. We were gone during March, but the call came to see if I was available for April, and I was happy to fill the pulpit. Then I was asked to fill in for the month of May, again I was happy for the opportunity. Within the thirteen weeks Susie and I have been here we have fallen in love with the members. When asked if I would accept the position of part-time preacher Susie and I were happy to be added to the church here and work to help build up the body. My duties will be to bring the Bible class lesson and both sermons for Sunday, host the radio program, this page of the bulletin, and beginning next year direct the lectureship.

Susie and I have done the majority of our preaching work in Texas. I graduated from Brown Trail School of Preaching in 1978, Susie, a few years later from the ladies program. We started out preaching in Texas, spent two years in Louisiana and then asked by a congregation to come back to Texas. Both our son and daughter went to school at Freed-Hardeman, married and stayed in Tennessee. So when grandkids came along Susie and I knew we had to move to Tennessee. We had a wonderful work with the Adams Avenue church in Lebanon, TN for 9 years. We moved to Missouri and then back to Tennessee, as kind of a semi-retirement, hoping to fill-in for congregations that needed a preacher. This was the opportunity I was looking for because, as many as you preachers know, it's hard to be put out to pasture. I want to be of help as long as have a voice to preach, a clear mind, and physically able. We are so happy for this opportunity, and we pray that it works well for all of us. We pray that God will be glorified in the church at Getwell.

If you are visiting our area in Memphis, please join us for Bible class and worship on Sunday, 9:30, 10:20 a.m. and 5 p.m. Wednesday class and devotional at 7 p.m. If you are looking for a church home, please consider Getwell church of Christ. We certainly can use the help from some sound families or retirees looking for a place to worship and build. And we ask for your prayers as we strive to continue the great work this congregation has done over the many years of its existence.

Michael Wyatt

# RON'S REMINDERS



## Enough & To Spare

The prodigal boy in the pigpen saw things a little differently than he had when wanderlust first pulled him from his father's farm. Hungry, lonely, tired, and ashamed, he now wanted nothing more than to go home. He thought, "I'm hungry, but my father has plenty. Even his servants leave bread on the table when they finish eating." He had good memories of home—and they led him back where he needed to be. (Stop and read Luke 15:11-24.)

What about you? Have you left a Father who loves you? Did the devil's playpen turn out to be more like a pigpen for you, too? You can come home. There is still "bread" enough and to spare. What does today's returning prodigal find at the Father's house?

### STRENGTH ENOUGH AND TO SPARE

Many would return, but they just don't know if they have enough strength to endure. Perhaps you have not completely given up on God but have said, "I just don't know where I'll find the strength to go on." We sometimes feel like David<sup>1</sup> our "strength is dried up like a potsherd" (Psalm 22:15)—that is, our reserves are as depleted of energy as kiln-dried pottery is empty of moisture.

Age (Psalm 71:9, 18; 90:10), carrying a sin burden (Psalm 31:10), discouragement (Psalm 39:12-13; 88:3-4), persecution (2 Corinthians 1:8), adversity (Proverbs 24:10), and depression (Psalm 38:9-10) all have the capacity to rob us of spiritual strength. Some will miss heaven, not so much because of a love of sin, but just because they got tired and quit trying hard to follow God. (Hence the frequent admonitions not to "lose heart" — Luke 18:1; 2 Corinthians 4:1, 16; Galatians 6:9; Ephesians 3:13.)

How can we find the strength to go on? We can "go in the strength of the Lord God (Psalm 71:16). Since both the Father and Son are almighty, they have strength enough and to spare (Genesis 17:1; Revelation 1:8). They have promised to share their strength with us (Psalm 68:35). A great Bible paradox is that if we will give God all our strength, He will make us stronger (Mark 12:30). His strength is made perfect in our weakness (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:9). Paul wrote, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Paul also spoke of "the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power . . . Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" (Ephesians 1:19; 3:20). God arms His people with strength (Psalm 18:32); He gives strength through wisdom (Proverbs 8:14) and knowledge (Proverbs 24:5). He gives strength for the battle (Psalm 18:39), to conceive seed (Hebrews 11:11), to keep our words and meditations acceptable to Him (Psalm 19:14), and for trouble (Psalm 37:39). He makes us bold "with strength in my soul" (cf. Psalm 138:3). Yes, there is strength enough and to spare with God.

### COMFORT ENOUGH AND TO SPARE

When Mr. and Mrs. Lamach had a son, they named him Noah, for, they reasoned, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands" (Genesis 5:29). Jesus is our "Noah." He once turned about, looked at a woman and said, "Be of good cheer, daughter" (Matthew 9:22; cf. Mark 10:49). Symbolically, He

has done the same to each of us. He comforts us in all the uncomfortable parts of life—uncertainty, loneliness, sickness, poverty, ostracism, grief, embarrassment, rejection, victimization, loss, and death. In the most famous chapter of the Old Testament, David wrote, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4).

Jehovah was once described as the “God of all comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:3). He comforts us “on every side” (Psalm 71:21). Paul said he was “filled with comfort” in all tribulation (2 Corinthians 7:4). The Holy Spirit comforted the early disciples (Acts 9:31), and He uses His Word to comfort us today (cf. Romans 15:4; Ephesians 6:17; 1 Thessalonians 4:18). God even uses us to comfort each other: “‘Comfort, yes, comfort My people!’ says your God” (Isaiah 40:1; cf. 2 Corinthians 1:3–4; 2:7;<sup>2</sup> Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 6:22). Need heartening? Come to God—He has comfort and to spare.

### BLESSINGS ENOUGH AND TO SPARE

God can open “the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing” so that there is not “room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:10). Just as He once gave fisherman enough fish to fill their boat (153 by count) (John 21:6, 11), so He can give us more blessings than we have capacity to enjoy. The Almighty can “bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb” (Genesis 49:25).

When, in the general course of life, His children enter upon new paths, His providence goes before them (Romans 8:28; Philemon 1:15). That is, He anticipates the blessings we will require and puts them in our path (Psalm 21:3<sup>3</sup>). He knows what we need before we ask Him (Matthew 6:8). Expecting parents enjoy fixing up the baby’s room during the forty weeks it takes the child to arrive. They know the little fellow will need diapers, so they get some. They know he’ll need to eat, so they buy formula and baby food. They know she’ll sleep a lot, so they put together a baby bed. God goes before us like that. Think of how God has preceded us with blessings:

- Before we came into the world, He made it habitable (Genesis 1; cf. Isaiah 45:18).
- Before we needed salvation (Romans 3:23; 6:23), He made it possible (John 3:16; Romans 5:8–10).
- Before we needed instruction and guidance, He wrote the Bible (e.g., 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:3).
- Before Abraham knew he needed one, God had a ram available to substitute for Isaac (Genesis 22:13). Similarly, when we offer our bodies as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1–2), and temptation gets too strong for us, He has “the way of escape” ready for us (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- Before we have to go through the dark “valley of the shadow of death,” He prepares us a way (Psalm 23)
- Before we enter into eternity, He opened the gate to heaven (John 14:1–8).<sup>4</sup>

If we look back, we will find goodness and mercy following us (Psalm 23:6), and if we look ahead, we will find God meeting us with His goodness. Further, God’s giving is just beginning. John writes, “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son” (Revelation 21:7). We’re not sure what “all things” includes, but, like Paul, we can hardly wait to find out! (Philippians 1:23).

Come to the table. There is plenty and to spare.

Endnotes: 1 And Jesus, too, since this is a prophecy of His dying hours on the cross.

2 Comfort is one of the key words of 2 Corinthians. It is found seven times in the book.

3 “Preventest” or “meet” (qadam) means “to anticipate, meet for help.”

4 Adapted from Samuel Martin (quoted by Charles Spurgeon in *The Treasury of David*)