

As we preach the gospel and suffer for Christ's sake, we are a kind of living picture of the grace of God in Christ. Some people will see this and rejoice, coming to faith in Jesus. Others will hate us and our message because it reminds them that they are under the wrath of God and unwilling to escape it by trusting in Jesus. When this happens, we should not be surprised but must continue telling the unvarnished truth of the gospel..

DAILY PRAYER POINTS

SUNDAY – There is a reason the Lord has brought you to this new week. Pray that He will shine brightly through you so that everyone that comes across you this week may know His presence in you and be blessed by your words and actions.

MONDAY – Thank God for the strength and ability to serve Him each day through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Spirit. Pray that we'll all know God's blessing and strength in serving the Lord with joy and thankfulness.

TUESDAY – Ask God to renew your attitude so that you meet with your church family not to be entertained but to be fed with God's word, and the intention of encouraging others. (Heb.10:24)

WEDNESDAY – Ask God to help Session and the Committee of Management as we prayerfully plan for the future of St Andrew's during an uncertain time within the PCQ and Australia, as a whole.

THURSDAY – Pray for **Glenys Perry & Alan and Leanne Thomas**

FRIDAY – **Continue to pray for those in need of God's healing and comforting hand:** Belinda Birch, Edith Collins, John Donnell, Kevin Petrofski Jr and Margaret Petrofski, and Dawn Robinson. **Pray also for blessings on those who can't get to church:** Audrey Armstrong, Del Finn, Carol Gillett, Joey Kelly, Gladys Marnock, Millie McCarthy, Heather McGaw, Marie McKee, Mavis Smith, and David Valentine.

SATURDAY – Give thanks that in all circumstances our Heavenly Father knows our needs and supplies them richly to us in His Son and His Spirit.

THE ANCHOR

NEWSLETTER OF THE ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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DAILY PRAYER POINTS

8 WAYS GOD TURNS TEMPTATIONS TO BLESSING

BY TIM CHALLIES

God promises that “all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). This gives us assurance that God can and will turn anything to our good. No situation is too grave, no enemy too strong, no temptation too great. Yes, God overrules even temptations so they benefit us instead of harming us. Just as a tree which is blown by the wind is settled and rooted deeper into the ground, the coming of a temptation



THE MORE
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simply settles the Christian deeper into divine grace. Here are eight ways God brings good from temptation.

TEMPTATION SENDS THE SOUL TO PRAYER. The more furiously Satan tempts, the more fervently the saint prays. A running deer sprints as soon as it discerns the presence of the hunter and, in the same way, the soul that comes under fire from Satan's darts runs faster to the throne of grace. When Paul was being harassed by the messenger of Satan, he said, "Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me" (2 Corinthians 12:8). Whatever makes us pray is used to bring about good.

TEMPTATION TRAINS US TO NOT COMMIT SIN. The more a child of God is tempted, the more he fights against the temptation. The more Satan tempts to blasphemy, the more a saint trembles at blasphemous thoughts and cries out, "Away from me, Satan!" When Potiphar's wife strengthened her temptations, Joseph strengthened his opposition. The temptation the devil uses as a spur to sin, God makes a bridle to keep back a Christian from sin!

TEMPTATION DECREASES PRIDE. Paul spoke of a "thorn in his flesh" that had been given to keep him from becoming conceited (2 Corinthians 12:7). This thorn in the flesh was to puncture the puffing up of pride! It is far better to be humbled by temptation than to become proud by success. To keep a Christian from becoming haughty, God may let him fall into the devil's hands until he is cured of his swelling pride.

TEMPTATION TRIES WHAT IS IN THE HEART. The devil tempts that he may deceive us, but God allows us to be tempted that he may try us. Temptation is a trial of our sincerity and maturity that displays whether or not our heart is loyal to Christ. The weak Christian will yield at Satan's first temptation just like the weak child hands over his lunch money as soon as the bully approaches. The strong Christian brandishes the sword of the Spirit and

Apostles, who spread the fragrance—the gospel—that announces Jesus' victory over the devil (2 Cor. 2:14).



Adding another layer to this image, Paul in today's passage says that he is the fragrance or "aroma of Christ to God" (v. 15). The picture is from sacrifices of the old covenant. When those sacrifices were offered rightly and burned, the scent of animal flesh on the altar was "a pleasing aroma to the LORD" (Lev. 1:9). Paul and the other Apostles in their preaching and suffering for the gospel are a pleasing fragrance to the Lord, an offering to Him connected to salvation. Of course, Paul does not mean that the Apostles' sacrifice supplements the sacrifice of Jesus that alone purchases our salvation. Instead, he is highlighting how the preaching of the crucified Christ creates servants who suffer, in a sense, for the sake of our salvation, and this suffering is pleasing to God. The sacrifice of the Apostles does not save, but it points us to Christ's sacrifice as a living picture of His travails.

Under the old covenant, the aroma of the sacrifices was a sweet smell of life for the repentant worshiper, for it signified divine forgiveness. But the only scent that the unrepentant experienced was the smell of death, for they did not know God's pardon. The fragrance of the Apostles and their message operated similarly, and even now the same is true of believers in general. The suffering heralds are a sweet smell to those who believe, for by their preaching the mercy of Christ is received. The message is a horrible smell of death to those who reject it, for the graciousness of God in Jesus is being spurned (2 Cor. 2:15–16). This reminds us that the gospel, when preached rightly, is not received the same by all. Some believe, and some do not, and we may not change the gospel to bring about the effect we desire. John



Calvin comments, "Whatever may be the issue of our preaching, it is, notwithstanding, well-pleasing to God, if the Gospel is preached, and our service will be acceptable to him; and also, that it does not detract in any degree from the dignity of the Gospel, that it does not do good to all; for God is glorified even in this, that the Gospel becomes an occasion of ruin to the wicked."

a number of the relationships we have now are with people we met before we had kids.

LEARNING TO WALK IN THE NOW

We are learning to walk in step with the Holy Spirit, praying before we go out and trusting God to bring people into our lives who he wants us to meet. We are learning to recognise there are seasons when we have more or less capacity to invest in different people or ministries.



We are also learning to recognise and accept our own limitations compared to God's limitlessness. He can still work in the lives of our friends even when we don't have as much capacity as we might like. And we have also been able to rejoice when God had brought people we had lost contact with back into our life again!

GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Bank: Bendigo Bank

Account Name: St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

BSB Number: 633000

A FRAGRANCE OF DEATH AND LIFE.

LIGIONEER.ORG

For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ. (2 Cor. 2:15-17 NIV).

PAUL LIKENS HIS APOSTOLIC MINISTRY TO THE VICTORY PARADES OF ROMAN GENERALS. After a triumph, these generals would take their captured prisoners of war through a city in a procession celebrating the win, and the prisoners scattered incense to draw attention to the victory. Similarly, Christ parades throughout the world Paul and the other

would rather die than succumb to the temptation. The Christian's valor is never shown more clearly than on the field of battle.

TEMPTATIONS EQUIP US TO COMFORT OTHERS. A Christian must endure Satan's temptations before he can "speak a word in due season" to someone who is wearily enduring similar temptations. A man who has navigated dangerous, winding roads is the one best equipped to guide others in the same way. Likewise, he who has felt Satan's claws and laid bleeding under the wounds is the one who can bring comfort to another of the devil's victims. No one can better spy out Satan's subtle devices than someone who has long learned lessons from his school of temptation.

TEMPTATIONS STIR UP GOD'S FATHERLY COMPASSION. The child who is sick or bruised is the one who receives the most attentive care. As a saint endures the brutality of temptations, Christ prays, and God the Father pities. When Satan infects the soul with his disease, God comes with a cure which is why Luther said that "temptations are Christ's embraces." It is in temptations that Christ is most present.

TEMPTATIONS MAKE US LONG FOR HEAVEN. Heaven is the place of final rest where we will be free of temptation. When the eagle soars in the air and sits high on its perch it is not troubled by its enemy the snake. Just so, when believers have ascended to heaven, we shall not be molested by that old serpent, the devil. In this life, when one temptation is over, another comes close behind it, and this weariness makes God's people long for heaven.



TEMPTATIONS ENGAGE CHRIST'S STRENGTH. Christ is our friend, and when we are tempted, he sets all his power to work for us. "Because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18). If a lone Christian was to battle the Goliath of hell, he would stand no chance. But Jesus Christ brings in auxiliary forces and fresh supplies of grace. "We are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

I love to plunder the Puritans! These eight points and much of the wording was drawn from **Thomas Watson's A Divine Cordial.**



MEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

TWO WEEKS ON... BIBLE READING PLAN

TWO WEEKS WITH MEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Called to lead his family, not as some sort of tyrant, instead, a man's leadership is modelled after Christ's leadership of His church. He leads by discerning the best interests of his family and pouring himself out for them. This headship is self-sacrificial.

WEEK 1 | Day 1, **Judges 6** - God calls Gideon to rescue his people. Day 2, **Judges 7** - Gideon conquers his fears—and his enemies. Day 3, **1 Samuel 3** - God calls young Samuel. Day 4, **1 Kings 3** - Solomon is given wisdom. Day 5, **1 Kings 19** - Elijah runs for his life. Day 6, **2 Kings 5** - Elisha heals a powerful foreign general. Day 7, **Isaiah 6** - God calls the prophet Isaiah.

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM
The Westminster catechisms begin with the language of glorifying and enjoying God. *These Standards exist to explain in doctrinal terms how Scripture directs us to glorify and enjoy God in all we think, do, and say.* - Burk Parsons

QUESTION 91.

How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?

A. The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them or in the one who administers them, but only by the blessing of Christ and the work of his Spirit in them who receive them by faith receive.

QUESTION 92.

What is a sacrament?

A. A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ in which, by perceivable signs, Christ and the benefits of the New Covenant are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

QUESTION 93.

Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?

A. The sacraments of the New Testament are baptism and the Lord's supper.

THE MYTH THAT THERE IS AN IDEAL LIFE STAGE FOR MISSION.

BY OMF-JAPAN

DON'T WANT TO GO TO THE MISSION FIELD UNLESS OR UNTIL I GET MARRIED. It seems like you have the most opportunity to meet people and be effective in ministry when you have kids." I remember being told this a lot before I had kids.

DIFFERENT LIFE STAGES BRING DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES

I have experienced missionary life as a single person, married without children, and then with children. It is a myth that you are more effective once you have children. It is also a myth that you are more effective when you are single! The reality is that there are different opportunities in each life stage.



When single, I felt free to go out and meet people whenever, and I had the opportunity to get to know other single people living in my share house. With kids, it has been more natural to meet other parents who take their children to the park, but I have found relationships develop more slowly. I need to invest more time and energy in meeting the needs of our family, and have at times struggled to find time and mental-space to message back and forth with people and prepare bible studies etc. I'm sure other people with families would agree that having no family or people who can help babysit or invest in our kids as they grow can be hard too.

As a married couple, before we had children, we arranged a lot of outreach activities together, and also met people individually. Even now we often invite single people or married couples to our home for a meal or catch up with people individually, as well as meeting up with other families. Actually,