



THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 19, 2021

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting
TBD

Weekly Bible Studies
Tuesdays on Zoom

Times of Service
Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM
(Immediately followed by a
short worship service)

First Friday of Month
Singing

September 3, 7:30

Address and Contact

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Christ
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I CHOOSE TRUST

The hardest questions often begin with the word, “why.” This is especially true after disasters and things that bring about great pain. Many people are asking a lot of “why” questions right now as a significant portion of Western Kentucky lies in ruins. “Why did that tornado hit here?” “Why is everything I worked for gone in an instant?” “Why were my loved ones taken from me?” “Why did God allow this to happen?”

It’s that last question that is especially troublesome for Christians because many times, even if we’d never say it out loud, we’re asking the same question within our heart. “Why, God, did you let that thing happen?” The wife of one Christian man I know walked out on him and took their children with her. He hardly ever sees them now. He blames God for letting it happen and has left the faith. Another Christian was recently diagnosed with ALS and is expected to go downhill quickly. Rather than blaming God for letting it occur, he has seen his faith and zeal abound as he clings to God more closely than ever. The “why” questions occur to Christians as much as anyone else. Reactions to such questions vary as widely as the two examples above.

The “why” questions tend to come from places of deep emotional and spiritual anguish. They tend to be the heaviest questions one can ask and cannot be answered well without sober contemplation. Yet even with such contemplation, often no soothing answer is to be found. Sometimes, there is no answer at all.

The thing about sovereignty is that the one who possesses it always has veto power. That one can simply say, “No. I’m not letting that happen.” With human beings such sovereignty is restricted for obvious reasons. There are innumerable things we simply cannot prevent, such as a tornado ripping through leaving death and devastation in its wake. God is not so limited. God’s veto power extends to “acts of nature” (Matthew 8:23-27), diseases, (2 Kings 20:1-7) and far beyond. *So why doesn’t He veto more?*

That’s really what it finally comes down to, isn’t it? Why let these things happen? I suppose we could tackle this in a number of ways. We could rightly point out the effects of sin upon what was once a

Members Needing Our Prayers

The Powell family, Rick Small, Ralph Fox, Benny Poynter, Janet Brundige, Joyce Bolton and family, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayers

Allison Walker, Randy Cates, Larry McTeer, Charlene Michael, Ann Little, Mary Jean Snyder, Mark Nickles, Dale Lyons, Adam Fusco, Rachel and Sarah White, Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry Daniels, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Debbie Lanphear, Veronica Bowman

To Our Guests

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“very good” world. (Genesis 1:31; 3:17-19; Romans 8:18-22) We could remind ourselves that we’re all sinners and don’t actually deserve any good from God. (Romans 3:23; Psalm 103:1-12) We could contemplate how many times God has used His veto power and we’ll never know about it. Honestly, though, in the moment of great pain and anguish, are such truths really that comforting?

As it relates to the tornadoes that have devastated so many families in our state, I have no idea why God permitted it to happen. I’ve got my own fair share of “why” questions as I write this and I wouldn’t be a bit surprised to learn that you do, too. Such questions are not sinful, nor are they evidence of weak faith. They are the questions of immensely limited human minds struggling to comprehend things far beyond them. Such questions are common amongst the psalmists and prophets. Their faith in the midst of not understanding some of God’s actions and decisions is especially striking.

That’s ultimately what it comes down to, isn’t it? Faith in the midst of the questions? Trust while not understanding God’s actions and decisions? This is a choice and it’s one set before us all. It is not always an easy choice, but then God never promised it would be. Perhaps one day a tornado, frightening diagnosis, or tragedy will devastate my life. If so, I will look to my Father and ask, “why?” I will try to understand but may not be able. Nevertheless, I *will* choose to trust. I pray that you will, as well.

Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
John Thompson	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

