

Life's Burdens

There is no question that many people in this world, ourselves included, get weighed down with the daily cares and burdens of life. Burdens first entered with the sin of Adam and Eve and they have been with us ever since (Genesis 3:14-24).

There are the burdens of sickness, sin, job loss, divorce, death, mental illness, war, etc. So, what are we to do with life's burdens?

Some burdens are to be shouldered. Paul wrote: "each man shall bear his own burden" (Galatians 6:5). For example, we have the responsibility to work and to care for our own (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12).

Some burdens are to be shared. Paul wrote again: "bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2). There are some burdens in life that we need help with like sickness, suffering, and personal strains.

Some burdens are to be shared. David wrote: "mine iniquities are ... as a heavy burden" (Psalm 38:4). The burden of sin weighs down the sinner (Matthew 11:28-29) and the saint (Hebrews 12:1-2) and it needs to be forgiven through Jesus.

When we have burdens to be *shouldered*, let's be responsible to carry them. When we have burdens to be *shared*, let's be humble so that we can get help. When we have the burden of sin to be *shifted*, let's be obedient to Jesus' gospel so that we can be forgiven. — *Chris Reeves*

Up-Coming Events

- We are studying 1 Corinthians in January. We have great Bible classes. Come check them out!
- Next Sunday's Sermons: Making the Most of Your Church Membership (AM) and What God Has Joined Together (PM)

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

“Be of Good Cheer”: *Why Christians Are Happy*

It seems like there is a lot of depressing news today. Because sin is in the world, life is not as it should be. There are troubles, trials, and tribulations everywhere. Just listen to the evening news or read the morning newspaper.

However, Christians have much to be happy about. True happiness comes from being in a right relationship with God. A genuine Christian will attract more people to Christ with cheerfulness than with gloom. Are you cheerful? Do you light up a room when you walk in?

Five times during the earthly ministry of Jesus we hear, “Be of good cheer”. Let’s explore these occasions and gain some encouragement from it. What occasion in the life of a Christian causes him to be cheerful? Why are Christians happy?

First, “Be of good cheer” ... **YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN**. When some people brought a man sick of the palsy to Jesus, he said to the man: “Son, be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven” (Matthew 9:2). Sin separates a man from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). However, forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus is a matter of great rejoicing (Luke 15:7; 10:32; Acts 8:39). You need to be a forgiven Christian to share this same cheerfulness.

Second, “Be of good cheer” ... **YOUR FAITH HAS MADE YOU WELL**. When Jesus healed a woman with a flow of blood, he said to her: “Daughter,

be of good cheer, your faith has made you well” (Matthew 9:22). This woman was active and persistent in her desire to get to Jesus. As a result of her active faith, she was rewarded with healing and she had a reason to be of good cheer. A faith that is active and working in obedience will be rewarded and cheerful (Galatians 5:6; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; 2 Thessalonians 1:11; James 2:14-26; Revelation 2:19).

Third, “Be of good cheer” ... **JESUS CALLS YOU**. When the blind man Bartimaeus wanted Jesus to have mercy upon him and heal him, he came to Jesus and cried for help. When Jesus heard Bartimaeus crying, he said, “Call him”. His friends then said, “Be of good cheer, rise, he calls you” (Mark 10:49). Jesus was willing to associate with a blind beggar then and he is willing to associate with all mankind today. Today, Jesus calls you and the rest of mankind through his gospel to come follow him (2 Thessalonians 2:14).

Fourth, “Be of good cheer” ... **JESUS IS NEAR YOU**. When Jesus’ disciples were troubled because of a storm on the sea and they saw Jesus walking on the water, they cried out in fear. When Jesus heard them, he said, “Be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid” (Matthew 14:27; Mark 6:50). Just like the disciples, many things can trouble us, but Jesus is near us and can calm our fears.

Jesus can calm us with his word. Paul writes: “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope” (Romans

15:4). Jesus can calm us with answered prayers. The author of Hebrews writes: “Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help us in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). Jesus can calm us with his brethren. Paul writes: “Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:11).

Fifth, “Be of good cheer” ... **YOU ARE VICTORIOUS**. When Jesus was about to go to the cross, he told his disciples that he was victorious. He looked beyond death to see the victory that would be accomplished through his dying. He said to them, “These things have I spoken unto you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Like Jesus, you too can overcome (be victorious over) the world if you will have a strong faith in the Lord (1 John 5:4-5).

“Be of good cheer” are words of encouragement. Are you a faithful Christian who is cheerful? True Christians show mercy with cheerfulness (Romans 12:8). True Christians contribute generously because they know that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). True Christians sing praises when they are cheerful (James 5:13).

Yes, many in the world today are sad. But, you don’t have to be that way. “Be of good cheer”! - *Chris Reeves*