

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"How Can I Help"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry L. Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

We live in a sinned cursed world (Genesis 3:16-19; Job 5:7; Psalm 34:19) where bad things happen, where it is often a struggle to achieve the desires God has placed within our hearts and where questions about life too often go unanswered. The great news is that the Word of God has answers for those who will seek God with all their hearts and are willing to receive spiritual ears to hear (Psalm 119; Matthew 4:4; Hebrews 4:12) what God desires from people when bad things happen. It is true, bad things happen as the result of continued sin (1 Corinthians 10:11; John 5:14; Psalm 107:17-18), because the Lord wants to be glorified in and through a person's life (2 Corinthians 12:7-10; John 9:2-3; Luke 13:11-13) or especially because the Lord wants to give people an opportunity to minister unto Him. Jesus taught, "Then [the Lord] will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and

clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The [Lord] will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:34-40)

Jesus identifies Himself here with the human family. This includes the Christians who are poor, persecuted, and compan-

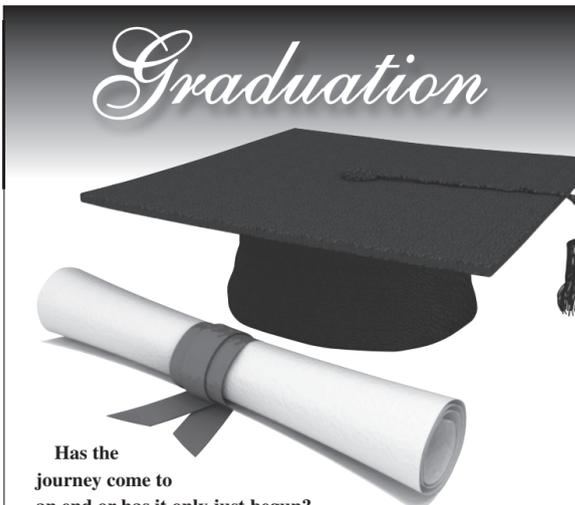
ions in suffering. "...The least of these..." here is like the answer Jesus gave the expert of the law when he asked, "who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus spoke the parable of the "Good Samaritan." Our neighbor is whoever needs the ministry of mercy and helps. "The least of these" includes the poorest, the most despised and afflicted.

True ministry involves a whole lot more than just shouting, raising hands, dancing, singing and preaching God's Word in beautiful buildings. It involves getting your hands dirty, sweating a little, spending some money, giving some time and taking some risks.

The story has often been told of the man who was at a prayer meeting. He was praying asking God to show His hand upon a man who had a great need. He soon stopped, stood up and left the prayer meeting. Later, one of the deacons asked him if he was ill. The brother who left said, "No, I felt in my spirit that someone said, You go and be My hand." So he went and did his part to meeting the need of the man he was praying for.

It does no good for us to pray for a man to have food, clothing, and shelter, if we have the means to help him and do nothing to provide for him. (James 2:15-16; Galatians 6:10). If we have the means to provide, God gave it to us and He expects us to use it for His glory. The best way to overcome a judgmental heart and to honor God with what He has given us is to see the afflicted as opportunities to minister to Christ. Whether a person is afflicted because of continual sin or because the Lord wants to glorify Himself in and through a person's life, we are to see them as instruments God is using to enable us to minister to Jesus Christ in practical ways.

Let the Holy Spirit lead you to see the afflicted as God-given opportunities to minister unto Jesus Christ.



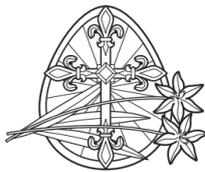
Has the journey come to an end or has it only just begun? Every graduate will answer that question in their own way.

A diploma is the key to advancement, either through further education or the pursuit of a chosen career. That piece of parchment representing sleepless nights, perspiration, and perseverance can open endless doors...doors leading to discoveries that may help our world. What you do with it counts!

Most importantly, include God in your endeavors, for Proverbs 16:20 says, "Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord."

Sunday Acts	Monday Acts	Tuesday Acts	Wednesday Acts	Thursday Acts	Friday Acts	Saturday Acts
2.1-13	2.14-28	2.29-47	6.1-15	7.1-22	7.23-53	7.54-8.3

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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what the government is doing in your community and how elected officials are spending your tax dollars.

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PUBLIC NOTICES IN NEWSPAPERS.
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