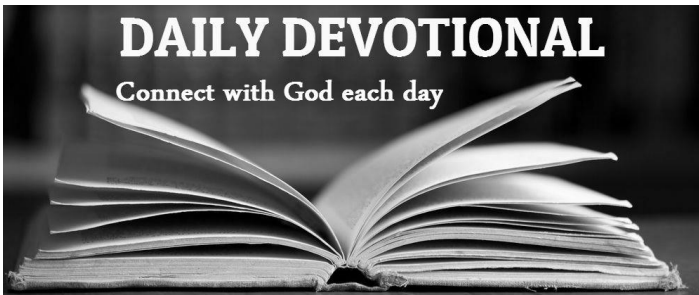


*South Burlington  
Church of Christ*



**September 21-27**

**2020**



Monday  
September 21, 2020

## All is Well

Horatio Spafford (1828-1888), a prominent, wealthy Chicago lawyer, is remembered for writing the beloved hymn “It Is Well With My Soul.” It seems such lyrics would come naturally to someone so successful. But Spafford didn’t pen the hymn during life’s high points. Instead, the words poured forth amid tragedy.

In 1871, the Great Chicago Fire wiped out Spafford’s life savings. Two years later, his wife, Anna, and their four daughters headed to Europe on the SS Ville Du Havre, with Spafford to follow a few days later. The boat was struck by another vessel and sank, killing 226 of the 313 people onboard. Although Anna survived, the Spafford girls didn’t. After receiving the news, Spafford went to England to get Anna. While sailing over the spot where his daughters had died, he wrote the lyrics to “It Is Well With My Soul.” They’re a reminder that no matter what life brings, our souls can be at rest in God.

*“When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.”*

Tuesday  
September 22, 2020

## **Cooler Heads Prevail**

A woman was often annoyed by a male coworker. One day he had harassed her so much that she was about to explode. She decided to confront him while her blood still boiled.

The woman began walking to the man's desk. Before reaching his cubicle, she saw a packing case with some computer equipment in it. On the side of the box were the words "Do not get overheated."

The woman took those words as a message from God. She calmed herself down and returned to her desk. Later, she told her children that instead of doing something wrong when their anger gets out of control, their prayer should be "O God, remind me that I am a Christian."

James 3:1-12

Wednesday  
September 23, 2020

# **Weathering the Stormy Seas**

Storms at sea have a way of sneaking up too quickly, without any warning. Just when the waters look calm and tranquil, and we are drifting along peacefully, the blue sky suddenly fills with dark, ominous clouds, and we are taken into the throes of a typhoon.

Jesus and His disciples were once caught in a terrible storm at sea. And while the disciples cringed in fear and trembled, Jesus slept and when aroused by His desperate disciples, commanded the storm to cease.

Jesus still commands the storms. And He still causes them to cease. Even when our confidence in our own navigational skills has dwindled, we can still find comfort within the storm.

Storms pass. They don't last forever. Getting through them can be tough, but never impossible. And once you're through, you can get back on course.

Even ... if it's a different direction.

Thursday  
September 24, 2020

# Taming the Monsters

Children know a lot about monsters. Although opinion varies on what the creatures look like, consensus exists on several points. Monsters lurk under the bed, are nocturnal, are frightening beyond reason and disappear in the presence of light.

I think kids might be onto something. You see, grownups have their own “monsters” to face. They don’t match up with our childhood fears but can be just as terrifying. Ordinary problems that seem manageable during the daytime can become monstrous at night.

When fear and worry rob us of our sleep, we can tell them we’re in no shape to deal with them. We can trust God to handle our concerns. He’s more than capable of dealing with the monsters under every bed.

*“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”*

1 Peter 5:6-7

Friday  
September 25, 2020

# **Giving Thanks for All Things**

It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or "unanswered" prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to Him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?

Ephesians 5:20

Saturday  
September 26, 2020

## **God's Precious Saints**

A man mourning the sudden death of his young wife wondered, "Where was God when Jenny died?" Unable to sleep one night, he turned to Scripture and read Psalm 116:3 (NIV): "The anguish of the grave came upon me: I was overcome by trouble and sorrow." The man's anguish echoed the psalmist's.

Reading on, he discovered verse 15: "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."

"What does it mean by precious?" the man wondered. The footnote proved helpful: "Not in the sense of highly valued, but of that which is carefully watched over." The widower pictured God watching over his wife in her last moments. "That's where God was," the man thought with relief, "with Jenny the whole time."

May we, too, be assured that God truly cares for his saints — not only at death but also in life, through grief and into healing.



Sunday  
September 27, 2020

## Where Was I?

Our young children often ask where they were when something significant happened before they were born. “Where was I when you and mommy got married?” “Where was I when Nana died?” And even, “Where was I before I was inside mommy’s body?”

My response is always “You were in God’s heart.” God said as much to Jeremiah: “*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you*” (Jeremiah 1:5).

A song we sometimes sing asks the question, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” Clearly none of us was present when Jesus died. Yet as we gather for worship tomorrow and gather around the Lord’s Table, we place ourselves at the cross, where Jesus bore our sins.

“Where was I,” we might ask our heavenly Father, “when they crucified Jesus?” I’m confident that God’s tender answer is, “You were in my heart.”

Indeed, only because of our place there did Jesus go willingly to the cross — and rise to assure us of everlasting life.





Daily Devotionals  
Provided by the

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