



PLANO CHURCH OF CHRIST

406 Lew Street Plano, IL 60545

Facebook Plano IL Church of Christ

"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matt 9:38)

SUNDAY

Bible Study 10:00 am
Worship - 10:50 am
Worship - 4:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study - 7:00 pm
Evangelist & Editor:
Bryan Bickford

The Plano Harvest

Sept, 4 2016

Vol. 4 No. 20

EVERYBODY HURTS, EVERYBODY CRIES... HOLD ON

Everybody Hurts, lyrics by REM.

When the day is long and the night
The night is yours alone
When you're sure you've had enough
Of this life, well hang on
Don't let yourself go
Cause everybody cries
And everybody hurts sometimes

Sometimes everything is wrong
Now it's time to sing along
When your day is night alone (hold on)
If you feel like letting go (hold on)
When you think you've had too much
Of this life, well hang on
Cause everybody hurts
Take comfort in your friends
Everybody hurts
Don't throw your hand
Oh, no
Don't throw your hand
If you feel like you're alone
No, no, no, you are not alone

If you're on your own in this life
The days and nights are long
When you think you've had too much
Of this life to hang on

Well, everybody hurts sometimes
Everybody cries
And everybody hurts sometimes
And everybody hurts sometimes
So, hold on, hold on
Hold on, hold on
Hold on, hold on
Hold on, hold on
Everybody hurts
No, no, no, you are not alone

We live in a world where everyone hurts and everyone cries, sometimes. And if you haven't, you will, it's only a matter of time. We live in a broken world. If it were entirely in Satan's hands this world would be far worse than you or I could or want to imagine! So as the songs goes we need to realize that we are not alone, and that we need to hang on. **But hang onto what?** Why are we not alone, or are we alone? We are to "Take comfort in your friends," **who are your friends?** "If you're on your own in this life, the days and nights are long, when you think you've had too much, of this life to hang on. If you feel like letting go (hold on)." **What are we to hold onto?**

Friends can let us down, preachers and even elders can lead us down the wrong path, sometimes! Spouses break their oath to their loved ones, sometimes! So maybe you "feel like letting go," maybe you "think you had too much of this life," because now "you're on your own in this life, the days and nights are long," sometimes.

Even when you are not betrayed, sometimes sickness and unexpected death takes a loved one! The one that you had that you could sing along with and say, "I am not alone," is now no longer there. "Sometimes everything is wrong!" So everybody hurts, everybody cries, but hang on. **What are we to hang onto?** The answer seems so obvious to us, doesn't it? **But how many times do we look straight past the obvious and bury ourselves in our hurt and tears?**

There is a friend – *John 15:12-15* "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. **"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.** **"You are My friends if you do what I command you. "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you**

friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. Do not ignore that powerful little word **“IF!”** That action on our part will make all the difference between being a “friend” of Jesus, or an “enemy” of God (James 4:4-10).

There is One who understands our hurts and tears

– Heb 2:18 *For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.* Heb 4: 5 *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.* Heb 5:7-9 ***In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.*** 8 *Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.* 9 *And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,*

So hold onto Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the One who said you are “My friend IF you do what I command you,” the One who gave up His life for you, for me!

With that said we will continue to be hurt and have tears, *“He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”* (Matt 5:45), because as I mentioned before we live in a broken, sin soaked world, but hold on, there is hope! We have something to hold onto that will not fail – *“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast”* (Heb 6:19). **We have the promise that our hurt, tears, being alone, and when we think we’ve had too much...this will all be done away with!**

Rev 21:3-5 *And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”* 5 *And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”* And He said, *“Write, for these words are faithful and true.”*

All tears will be in the past.

All death will be in the past.

All mourning will be in past.

All pain will be in the past.

All loneliness will in the past

But right now, you are never alone – Heb 13:5-6
For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” 6 *So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”* **So hold on...TO HIM!**

Bryan Bickford

Are We Able to be Admonished?

Rom 15:14 Paul is convinced that the brethren in Rome are able to admonish one another. What does the word “admonish” mean? 1828 Noah Webster’s Dictionary, 1) To warn or notify of a fault; to reprove with mildness (2 Thess 3:15). 2) To counsel against wrong practices; to caution or advise (Col 3:16). 3) To instruct or direct (Heb 8:5). So can it be said of you or me that are we able to receive counsel or be told of a fault?

1) Watch out for pride. John tells us that pride is one of the ways through which Satan tempts us (1 Jn 2:16). We tend to make it a personal attack. Our pride is at stake, and our immediate reaction is to defend ourselves! When being admonished, don’t make a hard situation worse by thinking you have to defend your pride.

2) Never misuse the Scriptures. We are Christians. We believe the Bible is our guide in all matters. So when we are being challenged, we naturally want to get our Bible and defend ourselves. But we need to be careful that we are not looking to find a verse that will justify ourselves, instead of learning the truth! The Scriptures were meant to equip us for every good work, not excuse us from questionable ones (2 Tim 3:16-17).

3) It is not important that you be right, but that you be right with God. If the brother challenging you is sincere and their concern is for your soul, then listen, instead of trying to shoot down their charges. If they are misunderstanding you and a discussion causes them to change their mind, you haven’t won an argument, you have *“gained your brother”* (Matt 18:15). This goes back to pride. Pride tells us that it is important to be right. If we aren’t careful it will cause us to try to justify ourselves just to defeat our argument. What matters is that we are right with God. Resolving disagreements depends on how criticism is received as much as on how it is delivered (Rom 14:9).

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The Dark Side of the Moon



Thursday, August 06, 2015 GREENBELT, Md. (WPVI)
 -- A satellite caught this stunning view of the Earth and the dark side of the moon from a million miles out in space. NASA released this photo from the Deep Space Climate Observatory (DSCOVR) as it passed in front of the sunlit side of the Earth in July. "It is surprising how much brighter Earth is than the moon," DSCOVR project scientist Adam Szabo told NASA. "Our planet is a truly brilliant object in dark space compared to the lunar surface." **The moon's far side wasn't seen until 1959**

when the Soviet Luna 3 spacecraft took its first photos, though it was explored extensively through the Apollo missions and beyond. (<http://6abc.com/science/nasa-releases-photo-of-earth-and-moon-from-1-million-miles-away/907187/>)

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. V:16 God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. God created the world with wisdom. We need to take the time to look and see it: The magnificence of a mountain. The deep, powerful majesty of the ocean. The beauty of the leaves as they turn to bright orange, burnt brown and soft yellow all at once during this time of the year. The limits of our atmosphere and the seemingly limitlessness of space. And on a clear night, there is nothing more breath taking than seeing the moon shining so bright in the night sky! But how awesome is it to actually see the dark side of the moon!? All these examples and countless more points us heavenward like a steeple's spire.

The wisdom of creation that we see is explained in the Bible that we read. Wisdom played such a vital role in creation that the author of *Proverbs 8* personifies it as a person present with God: "**Before the hills I was brought forth . . . When He established the heavens, I was there . . . When He marked out the foundations of the earth; then I was beside Him, as a master workman.**" (*Proverbs 8:25-33*). The wisdom of creation points to the Creator and specifically to His wisdom in all areas of life. God used this precise argument centuries earlier to convince a miserable and confused Job of a wisdom that surpassed all human understanding—and one that justified even the suffering we experience in this life (*Job 38:1-38; 40:1-5*). Paul would use this argument centuries later to teach that the creation we see points to the invisible attributes of God, namely "*His eternal power and divine nature*" (*Romans 1:20*).

His eternal power and divine nature are clearly seen in *Psalms 89: V:34-37* "**My covenant I will not violate, Nor will I alter the utterance of My lips. 35 "Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. 36 "His descendants shall endure forever And his throne as the sun before Me. 37 "It shall be established forever like the moon, And the witness in the sky is faithful." Selah.** The reference is to the moon, regarded as a witness for God (v:37). His great promises to David have their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ, the Son

of David (*Lk 1:26-38, 68-79*). This same covenant and His mighty creation is spoken again in *Jeremiah 31:31-37* "**Behold, days are coming,**" declares the LORD, "**when I will make a new covenant ... I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people... for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.**" 35 Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day And the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name: 36 "**If this fixed order departs From before Me,**" declares the LORD, "**Then the offspring of Israel also will cease From being a nation before Me forever.**" 37 Thus says the LORD, "**If the heavens above can be measured And the foundations of the earth searched out below, Then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel For all that they have done,**" declares the LORD.

God who is faithful made a covenant with Israel at Mt. Sinai (*Ex 19; Jer 11:1-8*), which becomes the old (1ST), giving way to the new or (2ND) under the Messiah (*Heb 8:13, 9:15, 10:9*). The new covenant, "**I will be their God, and they shall be My people**" is a blessed faithful promise of God that looks to the Messiah (*Jer 24:7, 30:22, 23:38; Ezek 11:20, 14:11; Hosea 1:10; Zech 8:8*). "**For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.**" The sins and iniquities would be remembered "no more" as there would be a "once for all" sacrifice to "put away sin" "for all time" (*Heb 9:23-10:18*).

Once again see the powerful Almighty God being true and faithful in His works, words and promises in *Jer 31:35-36!* (see above). As long as the earth stands, there will be the sun by day, the moon the starry heavens by night! Therefore, as long as the earth remains, there will always be God's spiritual Israel, His faithful remnant (*Jer 31:1, 7; Amos 9:8; Joel 2:32; Micah 4:7; Isa 9:6-7; Dan 2:44*). If man could fully measure the expanse of space (so far they can't come close), and search through the fiery center of the earth, THEN God will break His promise of preserving the seed of Israel. But the promise stands – *Gal 3:26-29* **For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ... for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.**

Apply what you see to what you don't see. The Wisdom we see points to the unseen! The awesomeness of creation exists as more than beauty for us to observe. In spite of the chaos in our culture, the **universe screams order in its origin**. Our moon and its dark side is in order as God spoke it to be, which should speak peace to us in our moments of struggle. God is faithful, He gave us His creation to see His order but also to see His faithfulness in the church purchased with His Son's blood (*Acts 20:38*)! Our faith is built in His Word! (*Rom 10:17*). **So whatever struggles this life throws at us, our sun, stars and even the dark side of the moon should build our faith! We are never alone, we have God, His Son, the Holy Spirit and our brethren!**



Ps 8:3-6 **When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; 4 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? 5 Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! 6 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.** BB