

A Prayer for Memorial Day by Scotty Smith

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written: King of kings and Lord of lords. **Rev. 19:11–16**

Triumphant Jesus, on this Memorial Day we gladly stop to honor the men and women who have served our country in various branches of the armed forces. In a world filled with “wars and rumors of war,” we don’t take our servicemen and servicewomen for granted. There has never been more of a thankless, even despised job.

But on this particular Memorial Day, we stop to honor you as the ultimate servant-warrior—the quintessential man of service—the one who, on the cross, waged the war to end all wars.

No one hates warfare among vying nations more than you. No one is more offended even by the petty and pointless squabbles between spouses and friends (**James 4:1–2**). No one paid a greater price to bring the final and full peace for which we intensely long and hope.

Having defeated the prince of darkness on the cross, you’re now the rider on the white horse—alone worthy of the name Faithful and True, for you are the eternal and incarnate Word of God. You are faithful to fulfill *every* promise God made for the salvation of his people and the restoration of creation. Even in this very moment, you are actively bringing to completion this magnificent work of redemption, in every place and in all things.

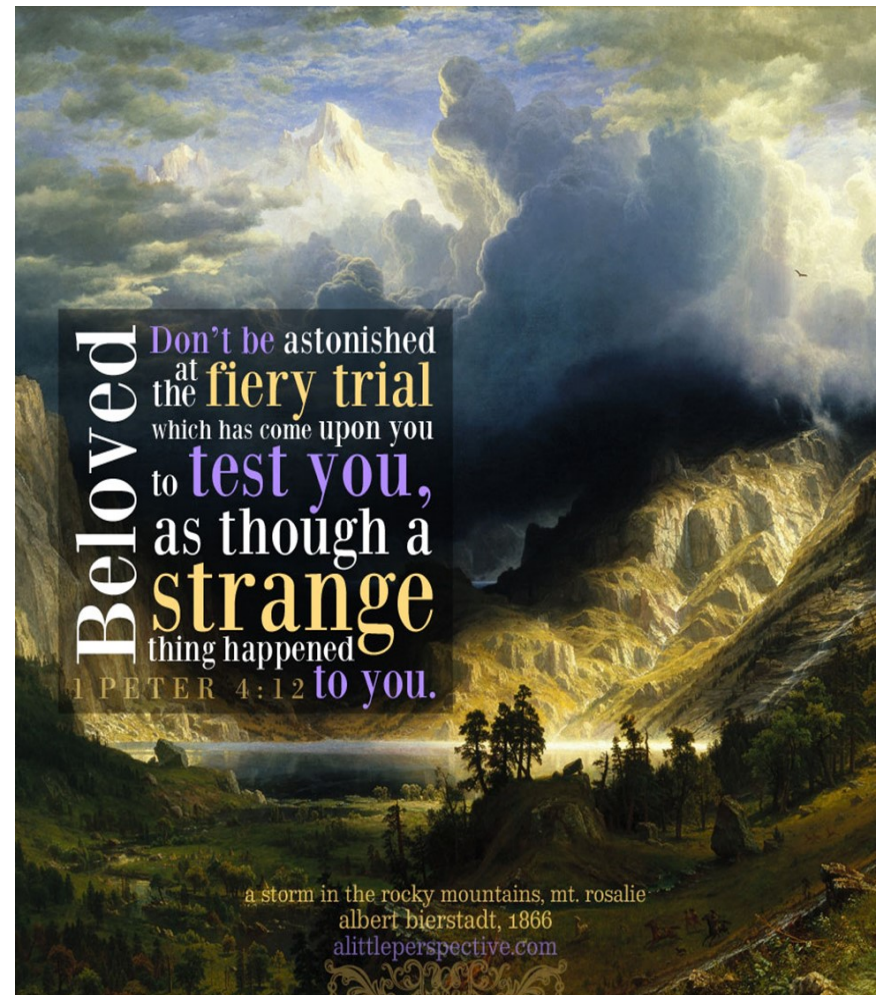
Though evil hates beauty, your love trumps *all* evil. Evil will *not* prevail. It has been powerfully defeated and it *will* be fully eradicated. You are *already* reigning as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, presently making all your enemies your footstool. We love your kingdom and long for the full manifestation of your reign of grace. Maranatha! Come quickly, Lord! We pray with gratitude, in the memory and victory of your matchless name. Amen.



May 30, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Embrace Your Call to Suffer



Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call to Worship

Hymn of Adoration

“Crown Him With Many Crowns/Rejoice the Lord is King”
..... Bridges/Thring/Elvey

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism* , Q. #1

Song of Praise: “Holiness”. Scott Underwood

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal-----

The Law of God

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Romans 6:5-7

Song of Renewal

“I Surrender”. Matt Crocker

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 4:1–6 (ESV)

Prayer

The Sermon: “Embrace Your Call to Suffer”

Words of Institution

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn

“The Lord is My Salvation”. Getty/Nockles/Myrin

Prayer of Approach

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

“There Will Be a Day”. Jeremy Camp

Benediction

Gaining and Maintaining a Gospel-Perspective on Suffering by Scotty Smith

*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. **Isa. 43:1-2** (NIV)*

*And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. **1 Pet. 5:10** (ESV)*

*I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. **Rom. 8:18** (NIV)*

Heavenly Father, thank you for parenting us so well through the Scriptures. You don't merely give us “verses to claim,” you reveal yourself as a Father to know—a Father who loves and cares for us with daily mercies and grace upon grace.

Today, in particular, thank you for validating our sufferings, and for pledging yourself to us in our hard places and broken stories. There is no name you call us more precious to us than, “*Mine*” (**Isa. 43:1**). We are thankful to be yours, and we relish everything that comes with belonging to you.

Father, you don't say to us “if” we pass through deep waters and rushing rivers, but “when” we do so, you will be with us. Thank you for being upfront about life between the resurrection and return of Jesus. There *will be* difficult seasons in this life, but you are just as sovereign over our sorrows as our joys.

Grant us the perspective Peter had. No matter how many years you give us in this world, suffering in this life is for “*a little while*” (**1 Pet. 5:10**). In the big scheme of things, it's only going to hurt for “*a little while*”. Thank you for your promise to “*restore, confirm, strengthen and establish us*”—in, through, and after our sufferings.

And grant us Paul's perspective too—his “gospel math.” The glorious things you've prepared for us in the future, far, far, far out value the present sufferings we're called to endure now. Father, grant us the grace we need to suffer to your glory; strength to trust you in hardships and with our heartaches; and wisdom and kindness to care for our fellow sufferers. So very Amen we pray, in Jesus' tender and triumphant name.

God's Gracious Provision 5/23/2021

Attendance: 54

Offering: \$2204.05

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

The Calling of Christlikeness

1 Peter 4:5–6 (ESV)

but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

Jesus has not yet come to judge the world, even though He is ready. People are dying before He returns, already. Peter is saying, because – what’s the delay? It’s because Jesus wants the Gospel to sound from this suffering church with such force and clarity and boldness that those who persecute and oppose and malign may have every opportunity instead to repent and believe the Gospel. Peter reassures us with one encouraging reminder: there will be a final accounting for everyone. As those who are in Christ, we shall live on in the Spirit forever.¹

Arm Yourselves

This is not going to last forever. Time is short. And so pour yourself out for the glory of King Jesus. Go and preach the Gospel across the street and around the world. Suffer for your Savior who calls you to walk in His steps. The day is at hand. So go with the good news to the ends of the earth while there’s yet time and rescue the perishing.

¹Helm, D. R. (2008). *1 & 2 Peter and Jude: sharing christ’s sufferings* (p. 134). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, June 1 6:00 –8:00 P.M. Youth(Grades 6-12) and Young Adults(under 30) meet at the Deicherts for supper, Bible Study (groups separated), Volleyball, and ice cream.

Saturday, June 5 6:00 P.M. Prayer Dinner at the home of Pastor Rick.

Sunday, June 13 10:30 A.M. Graduate Recognition Sunday

Saturday, June 19 8:00 A.M. Men’s Breakfast at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

Tuesday, June 22 7:00 P.M. Tactics Small Group will meet at the home of Karl and Cindy Yorgey

**Sunday, June 27 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer
GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults**
1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA

Monday, July 19-24 Youth Group goes to **Harvey Cedars Bible Conference Senior High Youth Week.**

Everyone is invited to join with the elders in prayer every Sunday from 9:30-10:00 in the back of the gym.

David and Mindy Nelson

India is the nation with the LARGEST number of unreached people groups. Many of these do not have a Bible in their language. There are very few churches. As an unreached people group, it has less than 2% of Evangelical followers of Christ. One new Indian people group we are praying to reach is the Odia people. They live in Odisha state, where 44 million souls reside. Ninety-four percent are Hindu, and 2.3% are Muslim. Our plan, with your help, is to translate our curricula into the Odia language and equip Bible-believing Christians to reach the rest of the state.



Tim and Holly Howden

- Pray for the opportunities that Tim and Holly will have this summer to work with interns that are coming into the media department. Their request is that the support raising will be finished so they can spend time with these young people. Their support is at 84%.
- Pray that students will attend the Bible Studies that are happening on the campuses where Disciple Makers are present.
- Pray for Disciple Makers staff as they prepare to minister on campuses where classes are returning to normal in the fall.

Prayer/Praise.May 30, 2021

- Pray for Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece. He is having a series of surgeries for severe burns over most of his body. Pray for his healing and for his family as they walk with him through this time.
- Pray for God's comfort for Lisa Frame's co-worker Kathleen and her husband. They lost their baby recently when Kathleen was 8 months pregnant.
- Pray for Steve Simons' brother, J.J., who was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Pray for God's strength for J.J.
- Pray for Christopher, son of Susan and Glen Williams. Pray for mental, physical, and spiritual well-being on his behalf.
- Pray for Deana Deichert's father, who is receiving a hormone treatment for his cancer. Pray for wisdom for his doctors and healing for Deana's father.
- Pray that a position will open for Jeremiah Mace to be employed at Teen Challenge. Pray for healing for Koreen's family.
- Pray for Rhonda Clark's father, Donald Mace, as he continues chemotherapy treatments.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak, friend of Barb Knarr. Pray for relief from pain and healing from his bladder surgery.
- Pray that God reveals Himself to Koreen's friend, Amanda and her husband, John. Amanda's father is dying. Pray for support from John and peace and God's presence for the situation and for the father who does not know the Lord.
- Pray for Ashley, the niece of Lisa Frame's friend, Denise, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatment. Pray for healing and salvation.
- Pray for Diane Ziegler, friend of Donna Jenkins, who had two surgeries and is doing better. Diane needs more chemotherapy treatments.
- Pray for Koreen Mace's brother-in-law, Jim, that God will speak to his heart and for salvation and healing for Jim.
- Pray for Tracy Spencer, niece of Donna Jenkins, and her baby boy, Evan, who was born on May 5th. Pray for improvement in Evan's lungs. Pray for wisdom for the doctors and healing for Evan.
- Pray for Donna Plowfield's son-in-law, David, who is seeking employment in this area.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker, mother of Renee Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment.

Message

Embrace Your Call to Suffer

The Character of Christlikeness

Peter is writing in anticipation of suffering he expects to come as a normal part of the average Christian life. He wants to forewarn us and forearm us, to prepare us, to get ready, because suffering is coming. "Arm yourselves," he says, "for the struggle of faith, for obedience in the battleground of suffering. Don't be surprised when it comes. To follow Christ is to take up your cross and to go in His footsteps to the place of crucifixion." Our purpose is to suffer with him.

The Cost of Christlikeness

Become a Person of Resolve

1 Peter 4:1-3 (ESV)

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. ³For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.

To embrace our calling in Christ initially requires the attention of our mind. We begin by thinking clearly.

Make three gospel commitments that tell the world you are prepared to embrace this aspect of your calling in Christ.

- Become a person of resolve.
- Live for the will of God.
- Leave human passions behind.