



Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM

7:00 PM

www.collinsvillecoc.org

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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Looking for the Good from the Bad

Usually, when we think about difficulty, tragedy, and calamity, we think to ourselves that nothing good could ever come from such negative occurrences. We must remember that we serve a God who can turn tragedy and calamity into good for His ultimate purpose.

The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to brethren at Philippi explaining how he was imprisoned because he preached the gospel of Christ. A person being imprisoned and separated from friends and family is always viewed from a negative point of view. Paul viewed it in another way. He said, *“But I would ye should understand brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel”* (Phil. 1:12). He continues by stating, *“And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear”* (Phil. 1:14). The tragedy of Paul’s imprisonment was a catalyst for the gospel to be spoken by others in a bold and confident way. Something good came out of something bad.

When tragedy happens in our lives, the devil is sure to do his best to keep us from having any positive outlook on the situation. He wants us to retreat inward, feel sorry for ourselves, and muddle in pity. Of course, tragedy and calamity can make us feel sad, and sorrowful, which are normal emotions to feel when they occur. We must not lose sight of our faith in God, that He will see us through and help us through any negative situation in life. When we have the proper outlook, we can then see (sometimes not until later) how God’s Providential Hand can turn a negative into a positive.

Our faith and trust must be completely in Christ and His word. Faith allows us to see beyond what is

in front of us no matter what the circumstance. The Hebrew’s writer said, *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”* (Heb. 11:1). Sometimes we cannot see the positive when difficulty happens in our lives, but with the eyes of faith, we can know that God loves us and is working to fulfill His will in our lives, even when we have difficult times. Developing a strong faith can help us find the good even when times are bad.

–K.A. Pugh

Some years ago, McDonald’s used the slogan, “Keep your eyes on your fries.” Their advertising campaign was to convince us that their fries were so good that others would try to steal them away if we were not watchful.

As Christians, we should be watchful, not regarding our fries, but regarding our souls. Satan is trying to steal away our souls.

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Matt 26:41 ESV

God is ever watching with you and will provide a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). Be alert and make the right choices. Pray for wisdom that you not be overcome.

TLM

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