



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

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Worship 9:30 AM
Bible Study 10:30 AM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Bible Call

(618) 667-9603

www.collinsvillecoc.org

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IT IS WORTH THE PAIN

The birth of a child is a joyous blessing from God that is anticipated for many months. That small baby is so precious and innocent. A baby brings out the love in people. Great joy comes into a home when a baby is born. Everyone wants to see the baby and hold the baby.

That precious gift, however, is the culmination of months that are not always so joyous and fun. Yes, there is excitement and joy at the first news. Then there is the first notice of movement in the womb. Baby showers are also highlights of enjoyment. There are many things that happen during the pregnancy that bring joy and anticipation. Yet, the pregnancy often brings morning sickness. There are also months of discomfort and aches. The final hours and minutes can bring much pain and suffering. Yet, when that bundle of love and joy is free from the womb, all that is soon forgotten. Most mothers will agree that the pain and discomfort are truly worth it all.

The birth of a child might well remind one of what Paul said of heaven when he wrote, *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us-ward"* (Romans 8:18).

Certainly this life is filled with joy and happiness. Yet, there is also much discomfort and pain. There are difficulties, disappointments, and misunderstandings. There is suffering and even death. All this and more must be faced in life, whether one lives to the glory of God or not. God never promised to relieve anyone of all pain and suffering on this earth. In fact, Jesus made the point in that magnificent sermon on the mount that both sunshine and rain come into the life of all, whether wicked or good, by the grace of God (Matthew 5:45). Peter, writing to Christians, wrote that they should prepare themselves with a mind toward suffering (1 Peter 4:1).

On the other hand, as a Christian, one should be

better prepared to deal with such suffering. Note that Paul had learned to deal with both being filled and being hungry, with both abounding and being in want. He could accept and deal with all situations with Christ, who gave him strength (Philippians 4:11-13). ***So can every Christian!*** And one of the greatest tools the Christian has in dealing with adversity is Romans 8:18, mentioned earlier.

The point is this. As one forgets the discomfort, pain, and suffering in childbirth after that precious gift is born, so the sufferings of this life will be easily forgotten when the precious blessing of heaven is attained. All suffering will cease. All hurt and sorrow will be gone. There will be no ravaged bodies. There will be no temptation, sin, and heartache. One will be in the presence of the Almighty God. There will be eternal light and no darkness where there is access to the tree of life and eternal life.

One can only observe the glimpse of eternity given by scripture in terms that the finite mind can understand. He must take that and try to visualize the wonderful inheritance reserved in heaven for the faithful child of God. As the song says, "Heaven will surely be worth it all."

TLM

"For our light affliction, which is for the moment, worketh for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

I Sing, Because...

Why do Christians sing? I ask this question to about twenty people, and anyone else that read the note, on Facebook. Based on their response and the scriptures, we can draw the following conclusions:

I sing because I am blessed! “Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise” (James 5:13). When Christians are asked why they sing a common response is, “God has given me so much, I cannot help but praise Him in song.” God deserves our praise and adoration. Singing is a form in which we express our appreciation for God. Consider your blessings. Does your singing reflect your thankfulness to God?

I sing because I need encouragement! “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (Colossians 3:16). Being from the heart, many songs we sing are designed to remind us of the promises of God. Hearing the multiplicity of voice joined together reminds the discouraged Christians they are not alone. The Lord is with you, and so is your Christian family. Singing in many ways seems to reflect the emotions of the soul. Do you sing out for your fellow Christians? They need your encouragement.

I sing because I am at home! There is a joy found by the one that comes home after a long trip. The feeling can only be expressed by the statement, “I am home.” When Christians gather together, we are with family. You are surrounded by those that love you (John 13:34-35) and as you lift your voices together in song you realize that you are closer to home. “In the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise” (Hebrews 2:12) Why? You are among family. You want your family to be encouraged and blessed, desiring them to have peace.

I sing to be at peace! “From the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach is satisfied; he is satisfied by the yield of his lips” (Proverbs 18:20). “Through him let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruits of lips that acknowledge his name” (Hebrews 13:15). There is an emotional release as one sings. When one is sad, they will sing “the blues.” When one is cheerful, they sing vibrantly. When one is focused on the word of our Lord, being filled with thankfulness, they allow their mouth and lips to acknowledge His name. Their stomach will be satisfied having tapped into the peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7). Be at peace when you sing.

Why do you sing? Are you merely going through motions? Are you blessed? Do you need encouragement? Are you in the family? Do you desire peace? If so, now is the time to sing.

- Robert E. Guinn -

**Mabery's
Minutes**



Remember to plan for the special contribution that will taken at the end of morning services Sunday, February 14. In anticipation of that contribution, four thousand dollars have already been sent to the Estes church of Christ to help with the work they are doing in the Haiti disaster relief effort. Anything collected above the four thousand dollars will be forwarded to the Estes church.

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