First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 April 21, 2019

Theme for 2019

'The God of Another Year, is a God of Wonderful and Amazing Grace. He is the God of Forgiveness and He is the God of Beginning Again.'

365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES!

"O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High."

Psalm 51:15 (ESV); Lamentations 3:22-23 (NKJV); Psalm 9:1-2 (NKJV)



This Week's Thought – April 21, 2019 Happy Resurrection Sunday!!

"Yet it was our grief he bore, our sorrows that weighed him down...he was wounded and bruised for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace; he was lashed—and we were healed!" Isaiah 53:4-5 Living Bible (TLB)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>— The sufferings of Jesus cannot be totally comprehended, but one thing is clear: Jesus experienced voluntary suffering for all mankind! He offered Himself as a sacrifice on behalf of all humanity, and it was a volitional act on His part. He willfully submitted to the will of His Heavenly Father, which meant suffering. His heartache and mistreatment were the will of His Heavenly Father. (Mark 8:31-33)

This principle is hard to process for those who want to enjoy problem-free living. The way of the cross is not always a smooth road, for it is marked with its own bumps along the way.

Jesus suffered for the sake of others, and He calls His followers to be willing to do the same. The Bible says, "For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him..." (Philippians 1:29) Suffering leads you to your Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Jesus carried this burden on our behalf, and that of all mankind. It was not an exercise in how much pain could be endured by one person. It was pure love, as Jesus loved you all the way to the cross. "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) Without the love of God, the events at the cross would not have happened. The dreadful day's activities would have culminated in the death of just another good man. Death would have been the end.

But Jesus conquered death, sin, and Satan so that you and I could do the same! His pain was our gain. He bore the cross, so we could bear our cross. The way of the cross is the path to redemption. He bought you and me from the servitude of sin. No longer are you bound up in yourself and others, for He has set you free. He has set us free! We are exonerated by faith because He endured the cross, despised its shame, and is now interceding on our behalf at the right hand of His Heavenly Father. (Hebrews 12:2)

This is cause for celebration. God really does use all things for His good on behalf of those who love Him. (Romans 8:28) Therefore, allow gratitude to well up and burst forth from your heart. You can because of the great love of God exhibited in the sufferings of Christ Jesus. He suffered for you. Can you do any less? You serve a suffering Savior. You worship a suffering Savior who rose from the dead, so He could save you from the uttermost punishment. He lives!

On today, may the blessing of peace rest upon you...the blessing of joy abide within you...the blessing of success and favor surround you...the blessing of love flow out through you. May all the Blessings of the Lord be yours in abundance as you 'Encounter the Possibilities' this day will bring!!

Application: Are your priorities a reflection of your anticipation of Christ's Second Coming? Wait on the Lord's second return with active love and obedience to His commands.

<u>Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:</u> "Dear God, I give You my full attention in this moment, and I see the result of Your love and compassion towards me. He is risen! I know my Redeemer lives! I give You my undivided attention as I come to You this day, seeking to abide in You and consciously let You perform Your work in me. through me and all around me...freeing me to live a fuller, happier, more useful and more satisfying life through You. I pray that my life will forever be a sign of Your love and of my gratefulness throughout this day, this week and all year – <u>365 Days of Possibilities</u>. I await Your Voice. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus. Amen!"

"And then God answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time." Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King