

TIME OF REFLECTION

“This hill, though high, I covet to ascend;
The difficulty will not me offend.
For I perceive the way to life lies here.
Come, pluck up, heart; let’s neither faint nor fear.
Better, though difficult, the right way to go,
Than wrong, though easy, where the end is woe.”
~*Pilgrim’s Progress*, John Bunyan, 17th Century English writer and preacher

“Everything is needful that He sends; nothing can be needful that He withholds.”
~John Newton, 18th Century English hymnwriter and preacher

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble.
But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
~John 16:33 (NIV)

“The Bible is profoundly realistic because it tells us suffering is inevitable. No one escapes it. We shouldn’t be surprised and shocked by it. The Bible is terribly matter-of-fact about the reality that the world is filled with misery. Yet, it offers not merely a spiritual afterlife but the hope of a renewed creation, the resurrection, and a material world wiped clean of decay and suffering and death. No other religion promises such a thing.”
~Tim Keller, 21st Century American pastor and author

“Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.”
~“It Is Well With My Soul,” Horatio Spafford,
19th Century American hymnwriter

SERMON – “Don’t Grow Weary or Lose Heart” – *Noah Crane*

SERMON PASSAGE – *Hebrews 12:3-17 (ESV)* – *Marsha Davidson*

³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly
the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a

short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.