



May 23

S
U
N
D
A
Y

2
0
2
1

On the Outside Looking In

by Tim Tripp

I recently read through the last chapter of the New Testament book of Hebrews. In this closing chapter, the author is trying to bring home the fact that his audience should not be surprised that they are rejected and persecuted in the world. Jesus had been subjected to the same. The audience was comprised of Jewish people who had become Christians. Being a Christian Jew and living among traditional Jews had been a breeze at first but then the traditional Jews began to see the real differences between them and those who had chosen to follow Jesus. They began to put Christians out of their synagogues, their workplaces and even out of their families. Some were even punished and imprisoned. Many Christian Jews were finding it easier just to slip back into Judaism. Most still believed in Jesus but they wanted to do so quietly. Believe, but blend in.

The author of Hebrews warned that this was not a good choice. Rejecting God's son could not result in blessings, not in this life, or the next. In chapter 13, he reminds them that they may have to be content with being on the outside looking in. He says, *"The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come."* (13:11-14).

When the Jews made animal sacrifices, some of the blood from the slaughtered animal was carried into the temple and splashed against the altar. Once a year it was carried into the Most Holy Place where the Ark of the Covenant had at one time been kept and splashed on the atonement cover of the ark. God would forgive what he held against them at that point. The meat of the animal was taken and used by those who worked at the temple. It was also used for religious feasts when those were going on. The unused parts of the animal were taken outside the city and burned. The author compares Jesus, who was sacrificed outside of the city to the discarded parts of the sacrificial animal. He was rejected, discarded and put out.

The author is saying that since Jesus was the sacrifice taken outside of the city, the audience should join him there; rejected by the people and put out. But while they should endure living outside the earthly Jerusalem, they would be on the inside in the heavenly one. They should follow Jesus in rejection and persecution and endure living on the outside looking in.

Some parallels could be drawn to today. We have a culture that calls to us to accept what they accept and reject what they reject. When we as Christians refuse to comply, we get rejected and put out too. Like the audience of Hebrews, we should not be surprised if we are on the outside looking in here in the world. They rejected Jesus; they will reject his followers. But in the heavenly city, Jesus followers will be on the inside. We need to remember that it is not the perspective here that is most important, it is the perspective from that "city that is to come" that really matters.

DIOS LE BENDIGA! (God Bless You!)

by Aris Ortiz

Let's celebrate Life!!

Life is a gift from the Lord, and every time you receive a gift, it brings happiness. That "Present" that God gives, we are supposed to celebrate every day of our life. The Apostle Paul writes: "Rejoice always." That means all the time, (well, also Ecclesiastes 3.1, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens": and he gives a list of those times in life.) Even when we are in tribulations, Peter instructs us to rejoice: "But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed". Yes, there is suffering that we need to endure; pain that we need to go thru or we will affront in any given moment in our life, but even those moments are essential part of the gift of life to us, because we need to grow, to mature, to understand, to be merciful, with the purpose to teach others to use better that gift that God is giving to every single person to live. So, let's celebrate life!!

Blessings, my West Side Family.

Gathering Times

Sunday Morning 10 Am Worship
& Kids for Christ
ages 1yr-5th grade

WSYM meets 6:30 pm Wednesdays

Online Bible Study
Sunday 6:30pm
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Additional resources such as classes on Spritual
Formation and a series on John
available on westsidear.org

West Side News

Mark your calendars now for June 11th!

Robyn Richardson will be recognized for 50 years of service with a party in his honor at 2pm, June 11th on the second floor at the Courthouse. All are invited to attend. If you get a chance, please stop by and congratulate Robyn and celebrate this great milestone with him!

WS KIDS

KFC will take a break for the summer, but we still have great things planned for our WS Kids!

New classes will meet during the regularly scheduled KFC time. beginning June 6th.

1-2 year olds - Nursery area with Beth Sorrells

3-4 year olds - Room 16 with Jamie Bates/ Tami Robinson and Jen Wortham

5yr old Pre-K - Room 12 with Susan Taylor

K-1st grade - HW Studios Room with Chris & Elizabeth Ratliff

2nd & 3rd grade - Creator's Canvas room with Lisa Rentfro

4th & 5th grade - Museum room with Jessica Davis

**Thank you to all who volunteer to teach and help with our
WS KIDS! It takes a village!**

Sign up for WS emails at
westsidear.org/subscribe

Week of: 5-16-2021

Weekly Giving: \$ 10,544

Attendance

Weekly Budget:\$ 13,820

266

YTD Giving: \$ 271,250

YTD Budget: \$ 276,395

Family Illness and Recovery

Amanda Williams is currently undergoing radiation treatments for breast cancer. Please keep her in your prayers for strength, stamina, and complete healing.

Linda Harrell is recovering from gallbladder surgery. Please keep Larry and Linda in your prayers as she recovers and they make decisions regarding relocation to be closer to family.

Bill Irving is in Hospice care at home and Eloise is having some health issues as well. Please keep Bill and Eloise and their family in your prayers during this time.

Please continue to keep Eli Thomas in your prayers for a full and rapid recovery.

Sonny George is back home! Please keep him in your prayers for continued improvement.

Love. Share. Disciple.