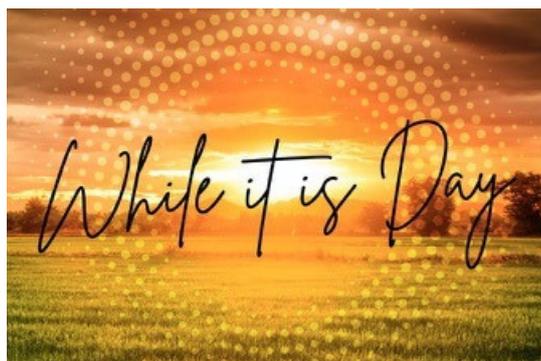


While It Is Day

Have you ever questioned, “*Why would God allow this to happen to me?*” Or, “*Why is God letting me suffer so?*” Maybe it was a health diagnosis, a broken relationship, or a situation that felt totally unfair. When something affects us negatively, we often want someone or something to blame. We want reasons. We want to be able to pinpoint exactly what is causing our suffering.

The disciples thought that way as they came upon a man born blind. In Matthew 9.1, 2, the disciples saw a blind man and asked Jesus, “***Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?***” The disciples assumed that since the man was born blind, there had to be a reason. Someone had to have done something sinful, and the consequence of that sin was the man’s loss of vision. Have you ever looked for something to blame? Have you ever thought, “*If I had just prayed more...?*” “*If I had been a better parent...?*” “*If I had stronger faith...?*” We want to explain it away whether our conclusion is rational or not. I was in the hospital late one night with a young woman who had just miscarried her first child. She was crying and kept saying, “*God is punishing me for being so wicked when I was younger.*” She wanted to blame herself for what had just occurred.

In the situation of the blind man, Jesus responded, “***It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him***” (Matthew 9.3). Jesus was telling them to stop focusing on the question about sin and start focusing on the opportunity for God to be glorified. Jesus did not deny the existence of sin. He did not deny the reality of suffering. But He completely rejected the idea that every hardship is a punishment. Jesus totally reframed the situation: The man’s blindness is not a punishment; it is an



opportunity for God’s presence to be revealed. Instead of the question, “*Who is to blame?*” Jesus changed it to “*What is God about to do?*” How do you think your life would change if you adopted that same view?

Jesus continued to say, “***We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work***” (Mt. 5.4). There is a window of opportunity to do the work of God. An opportunity for God’s glory to be revealed. We must take advantage of opportunities as we have them; otherwise, the occasion may pass. Am I striving to make the most of situations by bringing glory to God? There are people you can encourage today that you may not see tomorrow. There are acts of compassion you can offer now that won’t always be possible. There are opportunities to shine the light of Christ that won’t wait for a more convenient season. What about you? Will you take time to glorify God today?

Gary

It Has Always Been About The Sheep

I Peter 5.1-5

- 1) What kind of leadership does a group of people need who have been called out of darkness to a worldwide mission?
- 2) How do you lead people who have as their major purpose the glorification of God?

The Work Of An Elder Includes...

I) Being _____ (Acts 20.28).

A) What is the first thing Paul told the Ephesian elders to do?

- 1) _____.
- 2) The same principle is given to all Christians (2 Corinthians 13.5).

B) Elders have the responsibility to take care of themselves spiritually and to discipline themselves accordingly.

II) _____ Others.

A) If the elders watch over us, what does that make them?

B) Elders are to...

- 1) _____ the flock—
- 2) _____ the flock—
- 3) _____ for lost sheep—
- 4) _____ the sheep—
- 5) Be an _____ to the sheep.

C) God's leadership has always been about caring for and feeding the sheep.

- 1) It has always been about the sheep.
- 2) It has not been about budgets, programs, attendance, inspirational services, correct music, or a host of other issues to which we give emphasis today.

D) You need to ask yourself—

- 1) Do I feel confident that this man will be concerned about my soul?
- 2) Do I think this man will be sure I am being fed spiritually?
- 3) Do I believe this man will come looking for me if I were to drift away from God?

III) Being the Administrators of _____.

A) How are the elders to nourish the flock of God?

B) In the administration of spiritual food, one of the qualifications of an elder is to be "*able to teach*" (I Timothy 3.12).

IV) _____ The House Of God.

A) Are elders rulers? (I Timothy 5.17; I Thessalonians 5.12).

B) How are they to rule?

Conclusion: *Are you living faithfully before God today?*

CONNECTION

O Good morning WH! It is so good to be all back together. I've heard from several people that there were more than just a few of us going stir crazy during the ice storm. Below zero chill factor and 10 days later we hit 70 degrees. Welcome to Texas!

R Deatra and I have a family member that is a professional drummer and a self-proclaimed audiophile. He loves music of many varieties and is an exceptionally talented musician in his own right. What fascinates me most is not his musical talent and skill, but his deep love for original LP vinyl albums. Jazz, rock and especially the Beatles original albums.

N Not reprints. Not remasters. Not digital downloads. He wants the original pressing.

E He explains that every time music is copied, compressed, digitized, filtered, remixed, and "improved," something is lost. The warmth changes. The depth fades. The texture thins. The sound the artist originally created slowly gets replaced with a version that is cleaner... but not truer. He says that he loves that original sound.

R That got me thinking about our Bibles.



Over time, people have a way of "remastering" God's Word. We filter it through culture, tradition, preference, opinion, commentary, and convenience. We soften difficult commands and emphasize comfortable verses until what we hear sounds pleasant—but may not be true to the original. Commentaries, online lessons and devotional thoughts, while they may be good, offer only clips of the original word. Additionally, they may be tainted or skewed by human opinions or agendas.

Like a remastered album, it may sound polished, but it's no longer the original.

Proverbs 30:6 warns: "Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar."

Paul warned in 2 Timothy 4:3–4 that people would not endure sound doctrine but would gather teachers to suit their own desires.

The solution is simple: *go back to the source*. Open the Word. Read it plainly. Let Scripture speak before commentary does. Let God's voice be heard before culture's noise. If we want to hear the true voice of God, we must return to the original sound. Better yet, find a family member or friend to read together with — You'll be blessed!

— Les Keele

SHEPHERDS

*Greg Ball	214-801-7375
Russ Bartee	817-938-5825
Dan Kille	817-793-7493
Chuck Meyer	682-553-5444
Ross Tomlinson	682-429-1983
John Walton	817-441-0000

*Shepherd of the month

MINISTERS

Gary Williams	662-321-3208
Pulpit Minister	
Les Keele	817-808-0566
Associate Minister	
James Bowie	817-944-4492

THAI-LAOTIAN MINISTERS

Jeffery Lertboonpadong	206-819-9109
John Boudtaroth	817-891-2132

DEACONS

Jonathan Bartee	817-889-2686
David Birdow	970-310-1143
James Bowie	817-944-4492
Zach Brookshire	817-296-9918
Brandon Duncan	903-603-1059
Jay Garner	817-205-2070
Ben Meyer	817-673-8557
Robert Scott	817-246-0911
Matt Sloan	405-471-3404
Steve Taylor	817-291-2065
Buck Thomas	817-733-2620
Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome - Stephen Johnson

Song Leader - Matthew Sloan

Song - Hear O Israel

Song - You're the One

Song - I Want to Know Christ

Song - As the Deer, Thirst

Opening Prayer - Steve Taylor

Scripture - I Peter 5:1-5

Song - By Christ Redeemed

Lord's Supper - Rob Donahue

Prayer For Contribution - Rob Donahue

Song - Ten Thousand Reasons

It Has Always Been About The Sheep - Gary Williams

Song - Mighty to Save

Announcements - Les Keele

Shepherd's Prayer and Dismissal - Greg Ball

Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

Our Code For Tithley Giving



Our Code For Attendance



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, February 9

Exodus 21-22; I Peter 3

Tuesday, February 10

Exodus 23-24; I Peter 4

Wednesday, February 11

Exodus 25-26; I Peter 5

Thursday, February 12

Psalms 96; Exodus 27-28

Friday, February 13

Exodus 29-30; 2 Corinthians 1

Saturday, February 14

Exodus 31-32; 2 Corinthians 2

LAST WEEK

Bible Class	109	On-Line	4
Worship	216	Wednesday	87
Thai-Lao	30	Contribution	\$14,398.12
On-Line Sunday	37	Budget	\$15,372.28

TIMES OF ASSEMBLIES

Bible Class	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening	7:00 PM