

Christian Fellowship
 Is Essential To Spiritual Growth!
 We Invite You To Come Fellowship With Us & Be
 Blessed By The Word!
 Pastor Robert W. Trice, Jr.
 4705 Addison Road
 Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743
 E-mail address: abyssiniabaptist@comcast.net
 Website: www.abyssiniabaptistonline.org
 Church: (301) 773-4712 - Fax: (301) 773-4636

THE BEAUTICIAN

A lady went to a beauty shop to have her hair cut and her nails painted and trimmed. As the beautician began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the beautician said, "I don't believe that God exists." "Why do you say that?" asked Sherry who has. "Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things." Then Sherry thought for a moment, but didn't respond because she didn't want to start an argument. The beautician just finished her job and the Sherry left the shop. Just after she left the beauty shop, she saw a woman in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and not groomed at all. She looked dirty and unkempt. Then Sherry turned back and entered the beauty shop again and she said to the beautician, "You know what? Beauticians do not exist." "How can you say that?" asked the surprised beautician. "I am here, and I am a beautician. And I just worked on you!" "No!" Sherry exclaimed. "Beauticians don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and be very unkempt, like that woman outside." "Ah, but beauticians DO exist! What happens is; people do not come to me." "Exactly!"- affirmed Sherry. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! What happens, is, people do not go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world!" She turned and walked out the door.

Old Testament

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy
6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles
14. 2 Chronicles
15. Ezra
16. Nehemiah
17. Esther
18. Job
19. Psalms
20. Proverbs
21. Ecclesiastes
22. Song of Solomon
23. Isaiah
24. Jeremiah
25. Lamentations
26. Ezekiel
27. Daniel
28. Hosea
29. Joel
30. Amos
31. Obadiah
32. Jonah
33. Micah
34. Nahum
35. Habakkuk
36. Zephaniah
37. Haggai
38. Zechariah
39. Malachi

New Testament

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John
5. Acts
6. Romans
7. 1 Corinthians
8. 2 Corinthians
9. Galatians
10. Ephesians
11. Philippians
12. Colossians
13. 1 Thessalonians
14. 2 Thessalonians
15. 1 Timothy
16. 2 Timothy
17. Titus
18. Philemon
19. Hebrews
20. James
21. 1 Peter
22. 2 Peter
23. 1 John
24. 2 John
25. 3 John
26. Jude
27. Revelation

I am an imperfect being,
 living in an
 imperfect world,
 Loved by a perfect God,
 Who sees me
 as complete in Him!
 How can I go wrong!

I am just a Body,
 Trying to tell Everybody
 About Somebody
 Who can Save Anybody!



An atheist was walking through the woods. "What majestic trees"! "What powerful rivers"! "What beautiful animals"! He said to himself. As he was walking alongside the river, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot grizzly charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder & saw that the bear was closing in on him. He looked over his shoulder again, & the bear was even closer. He tripped & fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw that the bear was right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw & raising his right paw to strike him. At that instant the Atheist cried out, "Oh my God!" Time Stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent. As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky. "You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to cosmic accident." "Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer"? The atheist looked directly into the light, "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask You to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps You could make the BEAR a Christian"? "Very Well," said the voice. The light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed. And the bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together, bowed his head & spoke: "Lord bless this food, which I am about to receive from thy bounty through Christ our Lord, Amen.

SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS

**It is good for me that I have been afflicted,
that I may learn Your statutes.**

Psalm 119:71

During the Depression era in the 1930s, Little Orphan Annie was a popular comic strip and radio program. Years later, it was the basis for the musical comedy Annie. The opening scene shows Annie in an orphanage where the girls are forced to clean and scrub in the middle of the night. Expressing their feelings of helplessness, they sing: "It's the hard-knock life for us. No one cares for you a smidge when you are in an orphanage. It's the hard-knock life."

When we talk about "the school of hard knocks," we are referring to the difficult experiences in life that have instructed us. Although it is part of human nature to avoid pain, the believer can learn from painful circumstances.

The psalmist wisely said, "**It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes**" (119:71). His particular heartache was the slander of his good name (vv.69-70) "Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart. Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law." Yet even in this, the psalmist realized that his circumstances could teach him to value the Word of God.

What problems are you facing today? Hand it over to the Lord in prayer. Then meditate on Scripture and thank God for the life lessons you are about to learn. The Lord of Heaven and Earth Is Sovereign—even over "The School of Hard Knocks."

God is still on the throne, He never forsaketh His own; His promise is true, He will not forget you, God is still on the throne.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6) "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."

(Revelation 21:3)

***OUR AFFLICTIONS ARE NOT DESIGNED TO
BREAK US BUT TO BRING US TO GOD.***

"Do good to your servant according to your word, O LORD. Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in your commands. Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees. Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart. Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law. It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold."

Psalm 119:65-72

THINKING IT OVER

Why does God give us spiritual gifts?

Ephesians 4:11-16.

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their

deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

On what are we to build our works?

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

"By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work."

What is the result of our work?

1 Corinthians 3:14 & Jeremiah 17:10

"If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames."

"I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."

A Selfless Life Reaps An Eternal Harvest.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
August Saints!