

- **Apr 10—Good Friday**
- **Apr 12—Easter Sunday**
- Volunteers Needed
- To clean the church—see Dora for details
- For Sunday School teaching rotation—see Gean or Amity
- For table decorations—sign up sheet
- **DONATE ONLINE @ vccloveland.com**

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Corner

Bearing One Another's Burdens

by John MacArthur

The troubles of this world are manifold and relentless. It's not easy to stay so focused on heaven that we remain unperturbed by the afflictions of earthly life. We're commanded, of course, to set our minds on things above, not on earthly things ([Col. 3:2](#)), but even the most committed believer will testify that earthly trials sometimes obscure the heavenly perspective.

We worry. We grieve. We stumble. We strain under the toil of our daily labors. We feel the guilt of our fallen condition. Meanwhile, we are assaulted with adversities of various kinds. Those are just a few of the many worldly burdens that frequently keep our thoughts from rising to heaven.

And yet we are commanded repeatedly to "seek the things that are above" ([Col. 3:1](#)). We are instructed to "look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen" ([2 Cor. 4:18](#)). We must not allow the burdens of this life to divert our hearts from heaven.

How is that possible? When the load weighs us down and the troubles become too much for one person to bear, pie-in-the-sky sentiments can sound very hollow.

But that is precisely why the church is so important. It is our duty as believers to help bear one another's burdens ([Gal. 6:2](#)). When someone staggers, we help steady the load. If he is straining, we help bear the burden. And if he stumbles, we lift him up. Helping fellow believers carry the weight of their worldly troubles is one of the chief practical duties that ought to consume every Christian.

Of course, that concept is contrary to the drift of our culture, with secular society's tendency to foster self-absorption. Our generation has developed an unhealthy obsession with entertainment; we are daily assaulted with a plethora of trivial diversions; and we tend to interact with one another in sound-bites or through faceless media. We live in crowded cities and over-populated neighborhoods; yet most individuals are more isolated than ever.

And let's be honest — Reformed and

(Continued on page 2)

His Agony and Our Access

Oswald Chambers

We can never fathom the agony in Gethsemane, but at least we need not misunderstand it. It is the agony of God and Man in one, face to face with sin. We know nothing about Gethsemane in personal experience. Gethsemane and Calvary stand for something unique; they are the gateway into Life for us.

It was not the death on the cross that Jesus feared in Gethsemane; He stated most emphatically that He came on purpose to die. In Gethsemane He feared lest He might not get through as Son of Man. He would get through as Son of God — Satan could not touch Him there; but Satan's onslaught

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“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me”

Psalm 23:4

Matthew 6:34

“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you”
Deuteronomy 31:6

Burdens

(Continued from page 1)

evangelical churches nowadays often imitate the culture precisely where we most need to confront and counteract its influence. As churches seek to become bigger, flashier, and more technologically savvy, they usually tend to become more cold and impersonal. Contemporary churches sometimes even seem to encourage the “me first” agenda of self-love rather than the “one another” commands of Scripture. As a result, we don’t bear one another’s burdens as we should.

Yet Paul made this duty a high priority. It was the centerpiece of his admonitions to the Galatian churches. The first half (or more) of Galatians is a defense of justification by faith and a series of arguments against the false teaching that threatened to place those churches in bondage to the Law. In [Galatians 5:14](#) he reminded them: “The whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

How is that love best manifest? “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (6:2).

The first and preeminent example of burden-bearing Paul mentions involves dealing with the burden of another Christian’s sin. “If anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness” (v. 1). That, of course, isn’t a different approach from the steps of church discipline Jesus outlined in [Matthew 18:15–17](#). It merely explains how that process is to be carried out (gently and meekly), and it underscores the true goal (restoration, not punishment or public rebuke per se).

In other words, the person restoring the sinning brother isn’t to approach him as if he were a master over him but meekly — as one who is willing to help shoulder the burden so that the one who has stumbled can get to his feet again.

Verse 2 then simply states the underlying principle as an imperative (“Bear one another’s burdens”). Obviously, the precept applies to all kinds of burdens — not merely the burdens of those who stumble into sin. When Paul suggests that burden-bearing “fulfill[s] the law of Christ,” he makes it clear that he has the whole moral law in view. Every act of compassion and self-sacrifice on behalf of our brethren is a practical means of displaying the love of Christ and thereby fulfilling the moral demands of His law.

But the apostle clearly has in mind spiritual, emotional, and temperamental encumbrances — not physical freight only. The burdens we need to help carry for one another include guilt, worry, sorrow, anxiety, and all other similar loads.

Do you want to fulfill the moral requirements of the Law? Love your neighbor. How do you love him? By bearing his burdens.

It’s interesting that Paul would emphasize this theme in an epistle written to confront people who were falling into legalism. It’s as if he were saying, “You want to observe a law? Let it be the law of Christ. If you have to impose burdens on yourselves, let it be through acts of love toward your neighbor.”

If you will do that faithfully, your own burden won’t seem so heavy. Best of all, you will find it easier to keep your focus heavenward, regardless of the trials you suffer in this life.

Bible Study & Fellowship Groups

Day	Time	Contact	Contact Info	Location	Current Study
Mondays	5:30 pm	Young Adult Ladies Hannah Zentz	970-593-8762 hannahhardy3@hotmail.com	Hannah’s virtual house	How to be a woman of God
	6:30 pm	Young Adult Guys Jared Zentz	970-218-1358 jaredz11@gmail.com	Jared’s parents’ house	Fellowship
Tuesdays	6:00 pm	Women Laura Cormos	970-214-6500 laura6823@gmail.com	Zoom online	Romans
	6:00 pm	Men Ken Hettinger	970-222-7722 hettingers1@comcast.net	Zoom online	Sunday Sermons

Bible in a Year - Reading Plan

April

1: Judges 8-9	11: I Samuel 15-17	21: Psalms 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21
2: Judges 10-12	12: I Samuel 18-20 & Psalms 11, 59	22: I Chronicles 1-2
3: Judges 13-15	13: I Samuel 21-24	23: Psalms 43-45, 49, 84-85, 87
4: Judges 16-18	14: Psalms 7, 27, 31, 34, 52	24: I Chronicles 3-5
5: Judges 19-21	15: Psalms 56, 120, 140, 142	25: Psalms 73, 77-78
6: Ruth 1-3	16: I Samuel 25-27	26: I Chronicles 6
7: I Samuel 1-3	17: Psalms 17, 35, 54, 63	27: Psalms 81, 88, 92-93
8: I Samuel 4-8	18: I Samuel 28-31 & Psalms 18	28: I Chronicles 7-10
9: I Samuel 9-12	19: Psalms 121, 123-125, 128-130	29: Psalms 102-104
10: I Samuel 13-14	20: 2 Samuel 1-4	30: 2 Samuel 5 & I Chronicles 11-12

But he said, Yes rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

—Luke 11:28

Also found in the YouVersion Bible App as the Blue Letter Bible "Chronological" plan.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Danny Bias	4/10	Robert & Diane Dickerson	4/20
Emily & Kirk	4/12	Pansy Shaffer	4/22
Jesse Dobson	4/14	Terri Barth	4/25

Agony to Access

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was that He would get through as an isolated Figure only; and that would mean that He could be no Saviour. Read the record of the agony in the light of the temptation: Then the devil "departed from Him for a season." In Gethsemane Satan came back and was again overthrown. Satan's final onslaught against our Lord as Son of Man is in Gethsemane.

The agony in Gethsemane is the agony of the Son

of God in fulfilling His destiny as the Saviour of the world. The veil is drawn aside to reveal all it cost Him to make it possible for us to become sons of God. His agony is the basis of the simplicity of our salvation. The Cross of Christ is a triumph for the Son of Man. It was not only a sign that Our Lord had triumphed, but that He had triumphed to save the human race. Every human being can get through into the presence of God now because of what the Son of Man went through.

Do you shop at King Soopers? Now you can help raise funds for Valley Christian Church and the Youth Group/Children's Ministry by linking your King Soopers card to the church's account. Please follow the directions attached to this newsletter. Laura Cormos is more than happy to help answer any questions you might have. Many thanks for your support! You are a blessing!

Valley

...personal
...practical
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VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Youth Pastor Sam Hardy

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Meeting above The Garden Room
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At Valley we won't bore, bribe or badger you - we just want to communicate to you that God is real, and very present in your life. So we speak in terms that everyone can understand and tackle issues that everyone can relate to.

Our pastor is an exciting and energetic speaker who is able to develop messages that are personal, practical and positive. Lane clearly believes the things he tells us and you can see how God's principles for life put into practice provide us with a fulfilling life.

When you first visit Valley, we want you to be able to experience an uplifting time of worship, encouraging messages, friendly people and enjoyable atmosphere.

We're on the Web:

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Most of all, let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony.
Colossians 3:14

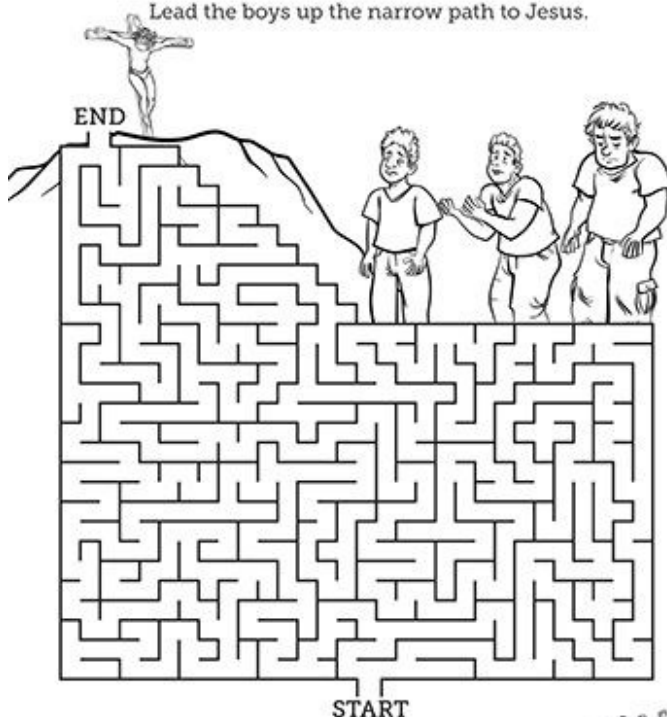
March
Puzzle
Solution

3	7	4	1	5	6	9	2	8
1	8	5	9	4	2	7	6	3
9	6	2	8	3	7	4	1	5
4	9	6	2	8	3	1	5	7
7	5	3	6	1	9	2	8	4
2	1	8	5	7	4	3	9	6
5	3	1	4	9	8	6	7	2
8	2	7	3	6	1	5	4	9
6	4	9	7	2	5	8	3	1

Brain Workout Corner

ROMANS ROAD

Lead the boys up the narrow path to Jesus.



Find the narrow road

