

Beauty That Is More Than Skin-Deep

Arthur Barry

Here is a story about the famous artist Auguste Renoir. One of his best friends, Henri Matisse, even though he was 30 years younger, was a constant companion of Renoir. During the last decade of the famous artist's life when he was confined to his home because of his crippling arthritis, Matisse visited him daily. In spite of his torturous pain Renoir kept painting. In fact, he did so almost to his dying day. On one occasion when Renoir was struggling with every brush stroke, his friend Matisse said to him, "Auguste, why do you continue to paint when you are in such agony?" To which Renoir replied, "The beauty remains: the pain passes."

A study of the book of Job will cause us to confront our own view of pain and suffering. Famous literary people, such as Tennyson, expressed a fondness for the book of Job because of its poetic beauty. The faithful heart will find a beauty much deeper in these words that were written so long ago, however. James speaks of that beauty in James 5:11:

As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered.

*You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen
what the Lord finally brought about.*

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

I am not really familiar with Renoir's paintings but I have to say that I have more of an appreciation of the man since I heard this story about his determination to keep painting even though painting caused him so much pain. Job was suffering because of his faith in God. All he had to do to be relieved of his pain was to deny God, but he could not bring himself to do that. He said:

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! Job 19:25-27

Life was hard enough for Renoir without painting, so why bother? Because, to him, he would not be living if he were not painting. Job, likewise, already had burdens because of his faith in God (Job 1:1-5), so why bother going through the intense personal suffering? Because to him he would not be living if he were not trusting God.

Later on Jesus validated Job's faith when He endured the cross for the sake of the joy. (Hebrews 12:2). He also knew that the pain would pass but the beauty would remain.



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February 5, 2023

All the Churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

Today's Sermon: Our God Remembers His Remnant

Arthur will be preaching today.

Scripture Reading: Romans 9:22-27

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

Notes for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available on the website.

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Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Arthur is teaching from Romans.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm February 8, on Zoom, Arthur is teaching from 1 Peter.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** - February 19.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class –Tuesday, January 7. Women of the Genesis, Chapter 6, Women in Lot's Family.**
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing – April 30.**
- ❖ **Ladies' Prayer Brunch and Devotional- March 25th** from 10:30-1 here at Valley Cities.



Our Valley Cities ladies will be hosting a **Ladies' Prayer Brunch and Devotional on Saturday, March 25th** here at the building from 10:30am – 1pm. The theme will be **God's Peace and Hope**. Please join us in helping to prepare for this outreach activity and encouragement to ladies of neighboring congregations. See flier posted in foyer.



MAGI boxes –

Think about toys...we would like to put a light-up bouncing ball in each of the 80 boxes, plus a jump rope in each girl's box and a yo-yo for each boy. Low on toothpaste, boys' deodorant, underwear for all (size 12-14). Boys' T shirts size Men's S or Youth XL, girls' knit tops size Ladies S. Check in supply room for other needs. Thank you for donating money!

PRAYERS

- **We are thankful that Jackie** arrived safely home from OK on Tuesday.
- **Pray for Vicki Joice's brother-in-law, Jim Joice**, as he had quintuple bypass surgery last week in OK.
- **Robin Barry's wife Katie**, of Lake Charles, LA, is recovering well from the mild heart attack she suffered a week ago Monday. Prayers of thanks.
- **Mike and Carrie Walls** were in L.A. again for a last attempt surgery to support his brain. The trips are very stressful and tiring for Carrie and it could be 6 weeks before they see results if the dementia is diminishing. Pray for healing for Mike and peace for Carrie.
- **Arthur** will be seeing his cardiologist on Wednesday to discuss his latest lab results. Pray that his heart failure is improving.
- **Prayers of praise for the healing of Dan Myers' aneurism!** Doctors said it has apparently healed itself, which sometimes happens.
- **Ruthie has been without heat** during this freezing cold weather. Prayers that she will get government help paying for the new furnace she needs.

Pray for these people:

- **Pat Gutherie**, lung cancer, chemo
- **Jerry Lowe**, knee surgery, church connection
- **Darlene's friend Connie**, stage 4 lung cancer
- **Jim Sexton**, esophageal cancer
- **Tresa Shirrell's mom, April**, terminal cancer, salvation
- **Ladies' Prayer Brunch**, local outreach, regional encouragement
- **Pray for the people of Ukraine.**

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.