

A COME APART

Matthew 11:28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

A trauma is an injury to live tissue caused by an extrinsic agent or a disordered psychic or behavioral state resulting from mental or emotional stress or physical injury. In my family we call a traumatic experience having a “come apart.” Who hasn’t had a life-shaking, stress-producing time that has overwhelmed you, wounded you, and put you on the verge of losing it? Have you ever had a come apart when something traumatic occurred? Maybe you are in a place of mild stress right now or advanced tension or maybe you are having a full-blown come apart. Wherever you are, listen carefully to Jesus Christ who gently looks at you and says, “Come to me all ye who labor and are overburdened and I will cause you to rest. I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.” Nothing complicated, no big fanfare, no tricks, not hypnotic trance, no fee, no password. Just come. Meaning, unload; let go of all you are carrying and drop it in His lap. Does He know what trauma is all about? Remember Jesus is the one whose sweat became like drops of blood in the agony of Gethsemane. If anyone understands trauma, He does, and He is a master of turning devastation into restoration. Allow Him to take your stress as you take His rest.
- Dr. Tim Thompson

ISOLATED ISLANDS

Charles Swindoll wrote these words, “Nobody is a whole chain. Each one is a link, but take away one link and the chain is broken. Nobody is a whole team. Each one is a player, but take away one player and the game is forfeited. Nobody is a whole orchestra. Each one is a musician, but take away one musician and the symphony is incomplete. Nobody is a whole play. Each one is an actor, but take away one actor, and the performance suffers. Nobody is a whole hospital. Each one is a part of the staff, but take away any one person and it isn’t long before the patient can tell.” You guessed it. We need each other. You need someone. Someone needs you. Isolated islands we are not. To make this thing called life work, we have to lean and support, relate and respond, give and take, confess and forgive, reach out and embrace, and release and rely. Romans 12:10-13 says, “Let us love each other with a brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy in your work, but serve your Lord enthusiastically. Be patient in trouble and prayerful always. When God’s children are in need, you need to be one to help them out. Get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner, or if they need lodging, for the night.” None of us is a whole, independent, self-sufficient, super capable, all powerful hot shot. Let’s quit acting like we are. We need each other.
- Dr. Tim Thompson

A FRESH START

Revelation 21:5 “And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new!’”

The New Year always brings high hopes and dreams. I must admit, however, that I am pretty cynical when it comes to New Year resolutions. Let’s face it, most of us make these resolutions and then give up on them in a matter of weeks. I hear exercise gyms are absolutely packed in the month of January as people renew their commitment to fitness. Yet, by the end of February the gyms drop back to their normal attendance. While I am a cynic about resolutions, I appreciate that the New Year gives us the opportunity for a fresh start. God is the God of second chances who wants to make all things new. He promises us: a new heart (Ezekiel 36:2), a new birth (1 Peter 1:3), a new life (Romans 6:23), and a new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1). Dr. Kinlaw, former president of Asbury College, writes: “As we look into the year that opens before us, we would like to think that it could be better than the one behind us. That yearning for something better is a gift from God and a promise that the hope can be realized. God wants the year before you to be the best that you have ever had.” So, are you looking for a fresh start and a second chance? Good news! We worship a God who makes all things new!
- Rev. Brandon Dasinger/ Teaching Pastor and Director of Missions

ALL THINGS NEW

2 Corinthians 5:17 “What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!”

One thing that sets Christians apart from others is that we are a people of hope. We look toward the future with a sense of expectation and anticipation. We not only believe that God’s grace is sufficient for our past, but it will be sufficient for our future as well. We believe the promise that the best is yet to come. We believe this because this promise is seen throughout scripture.

We see it in the Old Testament: The Psalmist sings a new song that the Lord has given him (Psalm 42:8); Isaiah writes of new things to be learned and a new name (Isaiah 42 and 62); Jeremiah preaches about a new covenant and new mercies that come every morning (Jeremiah 31:31 and Lamentations 3:22-23); and Ezekiel promises a new spirit and a new heart (Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26).

The New Testament carries this same theme and promises: new birth (1 Peter 1:3); new life (Romans 6:23); new self (Ephesians 4:24); new attitude (Ephesians 4:23); new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17); and new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1).

So as we approach a new year, have faith and have hope in a God who makes all things new! The future is bright because our God is good!
- Rev. Brandon Dasinger/ Teaching Pastor and Director of Missions

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

WESLEY HALL - JANUARY 10, 2016

WORSHIP GUIDE & DAILY DEVOTIONS

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SET LIST

- “Only King Forever”..... by Elevation Worship
“In Christ Alone”by Kristian Stanfill
“You Never Change”by Austin Stone Worship
“Multiplied”..... arranged by Northpoint
“A Mighty Fortress” by Christy Nockels

SERMON NOTES

DEFENSE WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ephesians 6:10-18 “¹⁰⁻¹² And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we’ll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.

¹³⁻¹⁸ Be prepared. You’re up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it’s all over but the shouting you’ll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You’ll need them throughout your life. God’s Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other’s spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.” (The Message)

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

I Peter 5:8-9 “⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” (NIV)

— **Dr. Patrick M. Quinn**
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DAIRY

Matthew 19:26 “With God all things are possible.”

I have lots of favorite quotes. One of them is, “Never write in your diary on the day itself because it takes longer than a day to know what happened.” It’s easy to jump to conclusions, isn’t it? Sometimes we jump way too quickly. You know how something happened to you a year, five, ten, twenty years ago and at the time you thought it was the worst thing ever and that your life was completely over. Now when you look back from a distance, you have an entirely different perspective on those events. God brought some good out of those things that you thought nothing good could possibly come. You grew in ways that you could never imagine because of that event where you thought your life was over. We jump to conclusions way too soon. Israel stood before the Red Sea and concluded that it was over. They had no way to escape. It was hopeless. The little boy with the slingshot and a few rocks stood before a giant. There was no way he could win that battle. Jesus died on the cross. It was over. He was buried in a grave, and a stone was rolled over His tomb. When you are going through a tough time and you are up against it and you are thinking that life is over and that it’s done, don’t forget that we have a God who can do some incredible things. A giant was defeated, a sea was rolled back, a stone rolled away from the tomb, and a dead man came back to life. You see, never write in your diary on the day itself because it takes longer than a day to know what happened. Don’t jump to conclusions. Just wait and see what God can do. -
- Dr. Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

STRADIVARIUS

Romans 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Ephesians 1:7 “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.”

One of the greatest ambitions of any violinist is to play a Stradivarius. Stradivarius violins are unrivalled in their sound. You can imagine the excitement of acclaimed British violinist Peter Cropper when, in 1981, London’s Royal Academy of Music offered him a 258-year-old Stradivarius for a series of concerts. But then the unimaginable happened. When Peter entered the stage he tripped, landed on top of the violin, and he broke it. He snapped the neck off. A priceless masterpiece was destroyed! Cropper was inconsolable. He took the violin to a master craftsman in the hope he might be able to repair it. And repair it he did. So perfect was the repair that the break was undetectable, and, more important, the sound was exquisite. Night after night, as Peter drew his bow across those strings, he was reminded of the fact that what he once thought was irreparably damaged had been fully restored by the hand of a Master craftsman. Remember the Bible says, “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” That means all of us fall into sin, but the good news is that Jesus is the Master Craftsman who can make us whole again. He died on the cross for our sins so that we can be cleansed from sin and receive the gift of eternal life. - Dr. Tim