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Romans 8:28 is a verse that gives us assurance and comfort. "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." It's been at the heart of our Sunday morning studies for the past couple of weeks, and I've tried to make it clear that not everything that happens to us is God's will for us. The promise is that He can take anything that happens to us in a fallen world, and make something good out of it; if we love Him, and are seeking to live out His purposes in our life. Having hopefully made that clear, I hope I haven't given you the idea that God's activity in our life is limited to a clean-up operation.

Duane gave me another book by his second favorite preacher, Alistair Begg, several months ago. It's on the life of Joseph, and it ended up at the bottom of the stack because I know the story. Or so I thought.

When I finally started reading *The Hand of God*, I not only realized how much of the story I had overlooked, but I was reminded again that God doesn't just make good come out of the bad things that happen to us. He providentially, and even directly, causes some things to happen to us. Both good and bad.

Alistair began his first chapter by noting: "The story of Joseph is a tale of jealousy, deceit, slavery, misrepresentation, injustice, lust, rivalry, and forgiveness. It pits brother against brother. We encounter imprisonment and deep trials that do not produce self-pity, and prosperity that does not bring the accompanying pride.

Joseph's life encompasses all of this and more—and in it all, the overarching theme is that of the sovereign hand of God manifesting itself in His providential care over His dearly loved children and bringing about all that He has purposed in the affairs of time."

I don't think we can discern what God actually caused to happen to Joseph, or what He simply allowed. But it didn't matter to Joseph. For as he told his brothers: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good."

If that's good enough for Joseph, it's good enough for me. God Bless, Rick



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A COMMUNION MEDITATION BY JONATHAN SPERRY

In James 4:7, we read "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." The people of Israel were also promised that those who were against them would flee from them. The Israelites were chosen by God to be a holy people, a treasured possession. (Deut. 7:6) They were instructed to drive out the evil and the idols from the Promised Land, to drive out that which could corrupt them and turn them away from God. For if they would fail, the inhabitants of that land would give them trouble, being barbs in their eyes and thorns in their side. (Num. 33:55) In Deut. 28, Moses tells the people, "If you obey the Lord your God, ... [then] the Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven."

Jesus tells a similar story about the way we live. We are to drive out of our lives that which would make us unclean. And he adds a warning, saying, "Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came'; and when it comes, it finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first." (Matthew 12:43-45, Luke 11:24-26) So we see that through obedience to God, evil can flee in seven directions. But if we are not vigilant, it can come back seven times worse.

The rest is adapted from "How can a demon, driven out, return with seven more? A meditation on a puzzling parable" by Charles Pope, blog.adw.org, 3/8/2015

A house swept and clean seems like a good thing, one that would discourage a demon from coming back rather than to return with a gang of fellow demons! That the house (or soul) is **Empty** is its chief problem. An empty house is a vulnerable house, because empty things need filling. Sadly, if *good* things do not fill empty spaces, *evil* things do. From the standpoint of grace, an empty house, devoid of the presence of God, is a vacuum ready to be filled with every form of human sin, pride, and confusion. And this seems to be at the heart of Jesus' warning. Emptiness is too easily filled with many evil things! Let the Lord and the good things of the Kingdom of God fill every void, every empty space! The house (or soul) that is **Swept** and in good order must also be filled with humble gratitude to God. It's not by our own power, but by God's grace, that sin is swept from our lives. There's no room for our own ugly pride.

In the context of this story in both Matthew and Luke, the gospel writers tell of Jesus actually casting out a demon. Some of those who witnessed this miracle proudly rebuked Jesus, attributing it to an evil power. These religious people had allowed their lives, all swept and clean, but **EMPTY**, to be filled with doubt, scorn, and pride. That they followed the Law was a good thing. Their lives were swept clean and ornate, but empty. And the emptiness was filled with pride and cynicism.

Has sin been removed from your life? If so, you do well. But let us not be worse than before. Be sure that the space opened, all swept and ordered, is filled with God, with humility, and with gratitude. Let us "escape the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 2:20)

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM
Bible School 10:45 AM

STATISTICS

Worship 110
Offering \$3,963.48

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-6/2/19

Greeters Beryl & Jamella Reese
Visitors' Stand Chuck & Jan McLaughlin
Communion Meditation Paul Hunley
Doug Marlow
Ushers Rick Polley
Will Bartels
Duane Carrell
Chad Formea
Gary Gredzieleski
Chuck McLaughlin

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers Karen & Kaelyn Mann
Infants Janet Polley
Rebecca Smith
Grace Hunley
Sunday School
Toddlers Julie Divjak
Infants Vicki Small
Nicole Moore



--Jonathan & Jeni as they celebrate their 25th in Europe and the Donaldsons as they take care of the four Sperry girls.

--Alex Fahnders in hospital with continuing physical problems and in need of spiritual health.

--Rick Sanner having eye surgery.

The Hidden Word

PSALM 95:1-2

"O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms."



Congratulations to Jackson Edmiston, our only graduating senior this year.



JUNE SERVERS

6/9: Doug Marlow, Paul Hunley
6/16 & 6/23: Otto Huber, Paul Hunley
6/30: Jack Stucki, Paul Hunley

JUNE PROJECTIONIST

Kirk Polley

JUNE GREETERS

6/9 Bonnie Ruebush
6/16 Will & Sara Bartels
6/23 Duane Carrell
6/30 Rhonda Luzio

JUNE VISITORS' STAND

6/9 Rich & Karen Mann
6/16 Gary & Lori Gredzieleski
6/23 Chris & Rhonda Luzio
6/30 Rick & Janet Polley

JUNE NURSERY

Worship - 6/9

Toddlers: Rhonda Luzio
Jake Divjak
Infants: Marilyn Wenneborg
Stacey Cantrell
Emma Warwick
Sunday School

Infants: Dixie Williamson
Elizabeth Wright

Worship - 6/16

Toddlers: Nikki & Anna Hunley
Infants: Kristin Polley
Sara & Reagan Bartels
Sunday School

Infants: Erica Blakley
Kileen Huber

Worship - 6/23

Toddlers: Vicki Small
Kate Sperry
Infants: Dixie Williamson
Nicole Moore
Courtney Bales
Sunday School

Infants: Kristin Polley
Rebecca Smith

Worship - 6/30

Toddlers: Renee & Madison Bales
Infants: Shannon Higgins
Janice McLaughlin
Reagan Formea
Sunday School

Toddlers: Jonathan & Jeni Sperry



Our High School Conference is three weeks away! After a long year of school, I know the last thing you want to do is keep studying. But, I would encourage you to read through 1 Kings 17-19 and 2 Kings 1-2 before our trip. During MOVE, we will be examining the life of Elijah to look for principles we can apply to our story as well.

Also, keep looking for something fun to do around Indianapolis for our free afternoon. The best option discussed so far is Top Golf. Recently, the Bales had a great time playing this as well as my sister in Nashville. My sister can hardly hit the ball yet had a great time due to the way they set up the facility. Of course, the group will still entertain all ideas. I am looking forward to a great trip with you all!



There is still time to register for the Trail Race this Saturday to support LSCA. Feel free to run or walk, that is totally up to you. Just think of it as an excuse to get out and enjoy God's magnificent creation. It looks like it will be a beautiful morning, but in Central Illinois that forecast can change quickly. If you would like more information, it can be found on the LSCA website.



High School Girls

Don't forget to mark down Tuesday, June 4th as Huber pool time just for you from 1-3 that afternoon. I'll be sure to warm up the water so it is perfect for you!



Thank you to all the volunteers for this year's VBS! If your schedule didn't allow you to participate in a specific role, feel free to come by the church anytime and experience some of this year's program.

Remember, VBS will run nightly at the church from June 10th through June 13th. We will begin each evening at 6:15pm and wrap up around 8:30pm. I can't stress enough how important it is that we all reach out to a few people and invite their children to VBS. We want to plant seeds for the kingdom in as many hearts as possible. In case they ask, in addition to all the activities, below is a brief breakdown of the daily themes.

Monday: When life is unfair... God is good! The Bible story of the day will center around the time of slavery for the Israelites in Egypt. Kids will look at their "unfair" circumstances and refocus to the thought that throughout everything, God is good!

Tuesday: When life is scary... God is good! The Bible story of the day will highlight the plagues in Egypt. Kids will have the opportunity to come to the realization that God is always in control and that God is always good.

Wednesday: When life changes... God is good! The Bible story of the day will focus on the Israelites time in the wilderness. As they experienced change and when change occurs in our kids lives, we can always rest on a God who doesn't change.

Thursday: When life is sad... God is good! The Bible fact of the day will be on the resurrection of Jesus. Kids will learn we all have moments of sadness, like the disciples, but the happiness found in the resurrection of Jesus can overcome the sad times in our lives.