

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Ladies Bible study** is at the building on Sunday at 4:30 p.m., Lord willing.

**Work Day** at the church building next Saturday, March 4, Lord willing.

**Ted Martin** had successful cataract surgery on his right eye this past Tuesday, and is scheduled to have the same procedure on his left eye on March 7.

**Nicole Sheppard, Doris' granddaughter**, has been in the hospital with another diabetic wound on her foot.

**Samuel Glott** is undergoing more allergy tests.

**Arthur Gill** is in need of a car for transportation to work and for the church assemblies. If anyone finds out about a suitable vehicle, please let the elders and/or brother Arthur know.

## OTHERS IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

**Lexi Lowe, granddaughter of Gene & Evalina**, is on chemotherapy to shrink the mass in her chest.

**Joe Dailey, member of the Lord's church in Birmingham, England**, has cancer which is in his bowel and bones, and causes him a lot of pain.

**Kylie Cochran, cousin of Michael & Rebecca Stoyk**, and her husband Jeremy, need prayers for their housing situation, and also health issues.

**Mike Allen, brother of Frank Allen** (Thayer, Missouri), has ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), which is continuing to progress.

**Jean Stith, aunt of Frank Allen** (Thayer, Missouri), is recovering from a hip fracture.

**India work:** Let us pray for Dennis and Beth Johnson and also for the preachers and the work we are supporting in India.

# *North Columbia* Church of Christ

1211 Inland Drive  
Columbia, SC 29210  
<http://northcolumbiacofc.org/>

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith...unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph 4:13)

Elder/Preacher: Jon Macon (803) 606-7910  
Elder: Jan Glott (803) 345-6539  
Deacons: David Watkins, Peter Jackson, Jr.

Sunday morning Bible Study .....10:00 am  
Sunday morning Worship.....11:00 am  
Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 pm  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:00 pm

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Sunday, February 26, 2017

	<u>Sunday A.M.</u>	<u>Sunday P.M.</u>
<b>Sermon</b>	<b>Jon Macon</b> A Man of Sorrows (2)	<b>Jon Macon</b> God's Work With His Church (2)
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>Tom Rinehart</b>	<b>Tom Rinehart</b>
<b>Lord's Supper</b>	<b>Tom Rinehart</b> <b>Arthur Gill</b> <b>Michael Stoyk</b> <b>Samuel Glott</b>	<b>Steven Jackson</b>
<b>Song Leader</b>	<b>Ted Martin</b>	<b>Peter Jackson</b>
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	<b>Hugh Parks</b>	<b>Travis Macon</b>
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	<b>Ralph Garafano</b>	<b>Jan Glott</b>

Next week Communion Trays & Building Cleaning: Watkins family

Attendance last week: Sunday a.m. 47, Sunday p.m. 46, Wednesday 43

# SUFFERING FOR SINS (LAMENTATIONS 5)

Jon Macon

Lamentations 5:7 says, “Our fathers have sinned, and are not; and we have borne their iniquities,” and Lamentations 5:16 says, “The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!” At first glance, these two verses within the same chapter may not seem to fit together very well. However, these two passages are not contradictory. They speak of two very different principles about the nature of sin and the judgment of God.

## **Suffering consequences of others’ sins**

Lamentations 5:7 speaks about suffering the *consequences* of sins. People *do* suffer certain things as a result of the wrong actions of others. It is an inescapable fact that one man’s wrong choices will have a negative impact on others. The children of Judah certainly bore the consequences of their fathers’ wickedness. For example, God had sworn not to pardon the innocent blood that had filled the land of Judah in the days of king Manasseh. It had not even entered God’s mind that His people would commit such horrible deeds as they did when Manasseh was king of Judah (Jer 7:31; 19:5; 32:35; Ezek 16:20-21). God refused to pardon the shedding of this innocent blood (2 Kgs 21:10-16; 23:26-27; 24:3-4; Jer 2:34; 15:4; 19:2-7). In this respect, the people who were there when God used Babylon to destroy Judah and Jerusalem had suffered at last partly because of the iniquities of their fathers (Lam 5:7). They had suffered some of the consequences of the sinful actions of others. But we all do. God says that He *visits* the iniquities of the fathers on the children, even to the third and fourth generation of them that hate Him (Exod 20:5; 34:6-7; Num 14:18; Deut 5:9; Psa 109:9-13; Isa 14:21-22; Jer 32:18). The consequences of one’s sins may affect several generations to come, because his wrong actions will generally affect his family more than any other people. We still suffer certain hardships because of the sins of Adam and Eve. When they sinned, God told the woman, “I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return” (Gen 3:16-19). Men and women still bear these things today. Similarly, we all suffer certain consequences of the sins of the people at the time of the Flood. Prior to the flood, there was no rain on the earth (Gen 2:5-6; Heb 11:7). There was a canopy of water vapor above the earth (Gen 1:6-8). This fell to

# SUFFERING FOR SINS (LAMENTATIONS 5)

(continued)

the earth as rain (“the windows of heaven were opened,” Gen 7:11) when Noah and his family were in the ark. Along with this, “all the fountains of the great deep” were broken up. Continents moved, mountain ranges were formed, and the entire climate on earth changed permanently. Ever since, we have been subject to great thunderstorms, hail, lightning, localized flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, cyclones and many other kinds of severe weather and “natural disasters.” All of these things came about because of the sins of mankind over 4,000 years ago. But we still suffer for what they did. Murder, stealing, lying, and all other kinds of violence and wickedness “work ill” towards others (Rom 13:8-10). But suffering the evil effects of other people’s sins is not at all the same thing as being charged by God with the guilt of others’ sins. God does not do that.

## **Bearing guilt for only one’s own sins**

Lamentations 5:16 speaks about suffering the *guilt* of sins. Though we suffer because of what others do, we will *never* be charged by God with the guilt of someone else’s sins. There is a difference between someone’s iniquities being visited upon someone else and another person bearing the guilt of someone else’s iniquities. Many denominations wrongly teach that we all are born stained with the “original sin” of Adam. But Romans 5:12 says that (spiritual) death passed upon all men because all men have sinned, not because Adam did. Paul was born spiritually alive (Rom 7:9). He died (spiritually) when *he* sinned, not when Adam did. Nobody bears the guilt of another’s sin (Deut 24:16; Ezek 18:20). Sin is the transgression of God’s law, not something inherited from someone else (1 John 3:4). Ezekiel 18:20 says, “The soul that sins, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.” At first glance, it may appear that Judah was being charged with the guilt of the iniquities of their fathers, and that is what those very people were saying. But God did not appreciate this accusation (Jer 31:29-30; Ezek 18:1-4). A man is separated from God by his own sins, not someone else’s (Isa 59:2). Depravity and alienation from God comes by one’s own “wicked works,” not from inheriting Adam’s sin (Col 1:21). God will judge every man according to his own works, not someone else’s (Psa 28:4; Prov 24:12; Matt 16:27; John 5:28-29; Rom 2:5-11; 14:11-12; 2 Cor 5:10; 11:15; 2 Tim 4:14; 1 Pet 1:17; Rev 2:23; 22:12-13; 22:12). The children will not bear the guilt of the iniquity of the fathers but of their own sins (Lam 5:16), but the iniquity of the fathers will be *visited* upon the children in the form of adverse consequences, even for generations (Lam 5:7).