



The Clock Of Life is wound but once  
 and no man has the power,  
 To say just when the hands will stop,  
 at late or early hour.  
 To lose one's wealth is sad indeed,  
 To lose one's health is more;  
 To lose one's soul is such a loss  
 That no man can restore.  
 Now is the only time you own,  
 So live and toil with will;  
 Place no faith in your tomorrow,  
 For the clock may then be still.

**NAVARRE NEWS AND NOTES:** We rejoice in the BAPTISM of Eunice Major here on Sunday, May 21. She has gone back to Texas for work. Her address: 6106 Linden Lane, Dallas, TX 75230  
 Please remember in your prayers: **Bill Sharp** recuperating from a back injury; **Jim Wetzstein, Debbie Kingsmill, Carrie Hare, Sister Gerry, Kenny Cauley** will be having back surgery. Cindy Perry's sister and Felis Larson's daughter - **Mary Garrett** in UAB Hospital.

We meet on James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre. Call us for directions and more information (850) 939-8109



Navarre church of Christ  
 8490 James M Harvell Rd  
 Navarre, FL 32566

Place Stamp Here

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
 Sunday

Bible Class for all ages.....9:00 AM  
 Morning Worship Service.....10:00 AM  
 Evening Worship Service ..... 6:00 PM

Wednesday  
 Bible Class for all ages.....7:00 PM

**VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

If you know of someone who would like to receive this publication, please let us know.

For a free Bible correspondence course by mail, call us.

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# Navarre Messenger

"Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee." Matthew 11:1

Volume 2 Issue 9

JUNE 4, 2006

**Thought To Ponder**

**Loneliness is being unaware of the One who is with us everywhere**

*"Let your conduct be without covetousness and be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not fear. What can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:5,6)*

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Jim Bell  
 Evangelist & Editor

## Vacation Bible School

**June 26 - 30**  
**Monday—Friday**  
**10:00 - 11:30 AM**



**Come join us each day for a time of singing, devotion, and Bible study**

**Call to pre-register**  
**(850) 939-8109**

**Or sign up on our web site at**  
**navarrechurchofchrist.com**

Check us out on the internet: [www.navarrechurchofchrist.com](http://www.navarrechurchofchrist.com)

## WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?

God is great; God is good; God is love (Psa. 48:1; 100:5; 1 Jn. 4:8). Still, suffering is rampant in the world. Because of this many come to doubt God's power, goodness and love.

We must recognize that God created an orderly universe (Gen. 1:2; Isa. 45:18). When one violates His natural laws, willfully or ignorantly, he must pay the penalty. If a man jumps from a high building, falls into deep water, or is trapped in a flaming house, God does not suspend His laws of nature to protect that person. If one's body is injured or diseased, it will naturally suffer. Children of God are not sheltered from suffering sickness and disease. Such is the common lot of mankind (Rom. 8:22; Job 14:1).

Many suffer because of their own sins (Psa. 38:3-8). They reap what they sow (Gal. 6:7-8; Prov. 2:21-22). Multitudes are afflicted with cancer, heart trouble, ulcers, emphysema, loss of limb, blindness, and mental disorders due to continued abuse of their bodies with alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, fornication, and other vices. Some are behind bars for their crimes (1 Pet. 4:15). God should not be blamed for this suffering. Innocent people may suffer because of the wrongs of others (2 Sam. 12:13ff). A drunken driver kills an entire family, a little child is battered by a cruel father, and helpless parents grieve over a wayward son. Even the Lord Jesus

suffered (1 Peter 4:1; 2:21). God did not spare His sinless Son, neither will we escape (Heb. 5:8; 2:9,18).

Many suffer because they are righteous (2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Thess. 3:3). Those who do evil often hate those who do good (Jn. 15:18-20). Disciples of Christ are called to daily cross bearing (Lk. 9:23). Yet they are to rejoice and be happy in such afflictions (1 Pet. 4:12-16; Mt. 5:10-12).

**"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."  
2 Timothy 3:12**

Suffering can work for good if it is used properly (2 Cor. 4:17-18; cf. Psa. 119:71; Job 23:10; Rom. 8:17; Jas. 1:2). Remember, Christ loves His elect and will comfort and give them strength to bear their load (Rom. 8:31-39; 2 Cor. 12:7-10; 13:3-4; 1 Pet. 5:17).

--- Jimmy Thomas

**"But let none of you suffer as a murderer, thief, an evil-doer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter."**

~ 1 Peter 4:15-16



## "When Thou Prayest..."

Thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. Matt. 6:5

When an article is written or a sermon on prayer is presented, it can result in someone being offended or being intimidated in to not leading a public prayer.

It is my hope and prayer that this article will do neither...in fact, my hope is that it will encourage all of us to better serve God and improve our prayers unto God.

However, it is clear from the bible that God has a standard for those who would come to Him in prayer....a high standard at that.

The following are a few thoughts from God's word about His expectations toward our prayers:

- Prayers are directed to God...not men – Mt. 6:9
- Public prayers can be a temptation for us to impress men. A time to show others our "spirituality" - Mt. 6:5
- To try and impress the preacher by repeating or summarizing his sermon in our prayers – Mk. 12:38-40
- A time to impress men with our long and detailed prayers. Mk 12:40
- Prayers Are Petitions To God...not men
- Public prayers should not be considered a preaching opportunity or a time for filibustering – Mt. 6:7; Mk 12:40

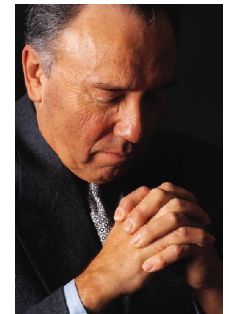
Note: Just because someone leads a long prayer, makes mention of a portion of a sermon, and/or mention details in their prayers does not necessarily mean their prayer was in vain or wrong.

Are we praying to God or Men? That is what determines when a prayer is right or wrong. We can not judge someone else's heart. Each individual must know their own heart and motivations.

God wants us to pray for one another publicly and in private and we should not be intimidated to do so.

Jas 5:16 "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

If we pray to God (not men) we will have no difficulty pleasing Him in our private or public prayers. All God requires is a pure heart. II Tim 2:22; I Tim 1:5; Ps 66:16-20



--- John Smith

