

# *Los Altos Church of Christ*

*"...being of the same mind, maintaining the same love,  
united in spirit, intent on one purpose." Philippians 2:2*

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## **This Sunday...Hard Faith: How Long**

We learned last week that Habakkuk was the only prophet not to address himself to the people of Israel. Instead, he directed his comments to God. Habakkuk believed in the sovereignty of God. He trusted God even though things didn't make sense. He knew God could put an end to the evil around him, but evil was still there. So he asked God "How long?".



**Wednesday Night Fellowship**...Dinner at Terrie's 6:30 and at 7:00 new series, "Shoes".

**PRAYERS** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

- Praise Sue Collins is home from the hospital.

**Continue to pray** for Terry Shipp...Lu...Marge Shipp...Mike and Sharon...John and Jennifer...Abbie...Jocelyn's mother...Christine's mother...the Gordon family...Walter Grove... Tim's recovery... Roger Townsend... Berry... The Britton Family ... Barbara... Gwen and her son Caleb... City of Children... Healing Hands International... Japhet's work in Zimbabwe...and New Hope Uganda.

## **Thoughts for the week...**

*God didn't promise day without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain. But He did promise strength for the day, comfort for tears and light for the way." - Annie J. Flint*

## **Pavement Perpetuity**

by Joe Chmiel

C.W. Holeman has his name appear some 28 times along a large city block in Lakewood, California. But does anyone remember him or even know who he was? No. He is all but forgotten. C.W. Holeman was a cement contractor in the '40s and '50s. He put in many of Lakewood's sidewalks as the city was being developed, stamping his name into concrete panels along Clark Ave. Over the years some of those panels have been replaced, while others have been shaved down after being lifted by tree roots. Many instances of Mr. Holeman's name were thereby eliminated or obscured, yet 28 survived. Only, nobody knows of this man 70 years later.

Other people have tried making longer lasting marks in history by creating endowments, having landmarks named after them, becoming rich and famous, or setting sports records. Discouragingly, memory lane is paved with their faded and forgotten names. In a few short years it will make no difference how much money you made, how good you looked, how fast you ran, or even that you made a lasting impression in concrete. All that you are and all that you achieve is destined to dissolve into history. Depressing? Hardly. The human side of history is only half the story. There is another more enduring side in which to make your mark—God’s side. God’s history eclipses ours in that it spans eternity. The Bible paints the picture of our short life and accomplishments when pitted against God’s timelessness this way:

*“All flesh is as grass,  
And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass.  
The grass withers,  
And its flower falls away,  
But the word of the Lord endures forever”* (1 Peter 1:24-25)

How then, with our time on Earth fleeting, do we escape the constraints of this age and become part of God’s eternal story? We follow Jesus’ example of being a servant. Jesus declares of himself in Mark 10:45, *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many”*. Jesus looked outside himself while being about His Father’s business. We, too, can put aside efforts aimed only at ourselves—efforts which may benefit us, but also end with us. Instead, our actions should stem from loving our neighbor as ourselves, as Jesus emphasizes in Mark 12:31; and from thinking of others more highly than ourselves, as the apostle Paul directs in Philippians 2:3. When we do this, we are fulfilling the purpose for which God created us—*“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”* (Ephesians 2:10). We are also establishing our legacy, because deeds we do for others reverberate throughout time, like seeds that continue to grow long after the sower has departed. Sharing a word of encouragement, showing an act of kindness, or offering a shoulder to lean on—these types of practices have staying power, as do the people who perform them. Jesus teaches this truth when He says, *“Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me”*, with His promise of *“eternal life”* to the righteous who show such compassion (Matthew 25:40,46). Paul echoes, “God ‘will repay each person according to what they have done.’ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.” (Romans 2:6-7). By focusing our capabilities away from ourselves and onto others, our lives transition from limited to everlasting!

And because doing good is a lifelong endeavor, Paul exhorts us, *“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith”* (Galatians 6:9-10).

So go ahead, make your mark in history—do it by continuously doing good and faithfully serving others. Soon enough your temporary street of stone will be transformed into a permanent street of gold!