

# The Good News

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**The purpose of University Baptist Church is, through guidance of the Holy Spirit, to assemble and worship God, to love and encourage one another, to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to minister to all people, and to live in peace.**

**In a world where difficult issues remain, University Baptist Church continues its commitment to be a church where “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female, for (we) are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)**

### *Why Do They Curse You*

Luke 6:28 “Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.”

As children of our Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ the scripture said that to bless them that curse you and pray for them that despitefully use you. Sometimes we don't bless them that curses us and we don't pray for them that despitefully use us. But we say that we will get even with those that curse us and will get even with those that despitefully use us. But that is what the devil and his demons want from the beginning and they want us to curse them that curses us and not pray for them at all. But in Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.” And they parted his raiment and cast lots. And in Acts we see the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7:60 “and he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, 'Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.' And when he had said this he fell asleep.” You can see in Luke 23:34 and Acts 7:60 that our Heavenly Father and His Son hear and bless us when we bless those who curse us and bless us when we pray for those who despitefully use us. In Christ's name we pray Amen and Amen.

-Brother Stephen E.P.

(The above piece was inspired by the word of God through Stephen Powers and written by a fellow brother in Christ. Stephen Powers has suffered two strokes and currently has a bleeding aneurysm in his brain).

*I'm An Underdog*

When I was a kid, I remember a guy named Jim Dixon who would always call me and my older sister "Underdog." I can't remember him ever calling me by my actual name. I experienced the same thing while in prison on death row when one of the prison guards (Lt. Mitchell) would always call me the same thing—Underdog. He would even say the catchphrase: "Have no fear, underdog is here!" (For those that don't know, Underdog was a popular cartoon show when I was growing up, but like most cartoons, they are soon replaced by other ones.

I have no clue though why the name "Underwood" would convert in some peoples' minds to the name Underdog. Many people see it that way, so who am I to argue? To each their own.

I have come to realized that I am an underdog but I am not alone in that. We are all underdogs in our fight every day against sin. It is only through Christ that we have victory over sin. --1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 15: 54-57; 1<sup>st</sup> John 5: 4-5.

There's something about being an underdog that draws a much bigger attention to whatever may be going on. In sports, most people root for the underdog to win unless they are fans of the team the underdog plays. It makes for a bigger headline for all of the sports channels when the underdog upsets the favored team and there's talk for days about it whenever it happens.

In the Bible there are plenty of underdog stories that draw the attention away from man and shines the spotlight directly on the Lord. I'm reminded of David versus Goliath in the book of 1 Samuel 17. David was the youngest son of Jesse and had never fought or proved himself in battle and Goliath was a man brought up in war from his youth. -1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 17:33.

Many look through their own eyes and see a disadvantage of proportion between David and Goliath. We've all looked at things throughout life like that instead of putting our faith and truth in the hands of God. There's a saying: "You can't judge a book by its cover," and that was definitely the case here. Many of the men of Israel looked at Goliath and fled in fear. -1<sup>st</sup> Sam. 17:24.

David though was a man of faith and had favor in the eyes of God (1 Sam. 16:7), who poured His Spirit upon him. (1 Sam. 16:13). David is a perfect example of someone who believes that he can do all things through Him who strengthens him. -Phil. 4:13

We may be an underdog when we look through our own eyes but we may become a victor by the hands of God and through the eyes of all that are spiritually enlightened. We are called to renew our minds so that our train of thought may reflect the new man in Christ all-the-while leaving behind the old man and his carnal intellect. We must be spiritual and see spiritually. - Rom. 8:4-6; 12:2; Gal. 5:22-25 and Eph. 4:23-24.

When we follow His lead, we have power over any and all of the obstacles, roadblocks, stumbling blocks and detours in life that try and steal our peace in God. Our mighty God tends to do his best work when the odds are stacked so that all will know and be a witness to His power and His glory-- Sam. 17:47, Psalm 44:6-8.

Thank God all day every day for being awesome and be a victorious underdog though Christ-- God Bless Everyone!

- Justin U.

*UNDERDOG*

Ever since I can remember, I've been fighting  
against the seen and unseen  
Darkness surrounds me so His light is  
shining on triple beam  
I'm just a man standing tall with His  
hand on my shoulder  
I ain't never scared; His strength has  
enabled me to be bolder--  
As I travel these roads aware of the  
looming fog  
With Christ in my corner, I'm a  
triumphant underdog

Everywhere I go, I've got the devil's  
underlings trying to test me  
All day every day harassing and nagging  
me aggressively  
I'm just a sheep in His pasture grazing  
on nourished grass  
Getting my strength up to fight temptations  
that come as the hours pass  
The devil knows all my weaknesses and  
browses through them like a catalog  
When it comes to fighting sin, through Christ  
I'm a victorious underdog

Now humbled as a champion only to direct  
attention to the real victor-  
The resurrected Jesus; He's my only  
approved visitor  
Entering in my heart and residing there  
for an eternity  
His fame will increase as He's heralded  
within and throughout me  
The world remains hidden behind the  
irreligious smog  
But I remain confident and poised as  
God's faithful underdog

--Justin U.

2 Corinthians 7:10

For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Godly sorrow and conviction are most often the “push” that leads us to repentance. Sometimes, we make it way harder than what it has to be because of foolish pride and ego. Although I make it sound easier than what it is, these two barriers I just mentioned must be broken in order to go through with true repentance. As Christians, we have to make sure our hearts are right and we are truly sorry for sins that have been committed. We are to turn from our sin and go the opposite direction. True repentance involves confession, sorrow for sin, and pledge to live an obedient life. Therefore, I will judge you, O house of Israel, everyone according to this ways, says the Lord God. Repent, and turn away from your transgressions so that iniquity will not be your ruin. (Ezekiel 18:30) Every person will face a final judgment in which obedience to God's commands will be justly and fairly evaluated. “None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him, because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live.” (Ezekiel 18:22) In Second Samuel chapter eleven, the story between David and Bathsheba is an example of true repentance on David's part. After Nathan the prophet confronted David on his actions, David affectionately repented to the Lord God. He truly knew the importance of repentance when he wrote Psalm 51. Matthew 3:2, “Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” The call to repent means we must abandon sinful lifestyles and express sorrow for sins. Repentance is a true act of humility and sets a great example for those around us, also an act that glorifies God's name in the highest. Love and peace that surpasses all understanding will keep us rooted in Christ by repenting. Luke 13: 1-5 states that “Unless we repent, we will likewise perish.” Jesus emphasized in this verse the importance of repentance and the severity if we don't. Every person must repent or perish spiritually for eternity. I hope what I've written will keep us grounded in Christ and know that without a doubt, is a necessity in our daily walk of Christian living.

In Christian love,

Brother Josh M.

## *Obedience*

What does obedience mean to you? Webster's Dictionary defines obedience as: "submissive to the restraint or command of authority." Contrary to popular belief we are called to obey, not forced to do so. The life of a disciple should be summed up in a single word – Obedience.

We are called to obey our Lord as He guides us through life. There is work to be done and if we are to accomplish it in the ways that the most effective for bringing God glory and souls to salvation, then we must be submissive to our Lord's authority. Obedience is a matter of the will. We must choose to obey because God is love and love does not force its will on others.

The scary thing about obedience is that we all obey something. What are you obedient to? Is it self, pride, money, social expectations...? Or are you obedient to our Savior in spite of self...society, etc.? Who or what is in charge of your life? Is it God and His Word? If so, I wonder if you obey the Word of God when it is convenient and doesn't cause any friction or do you humbly obey even when there is painful opposition from our fleshly pride and no-, or worldly, believers? Do you stand by the Words of God when you are presented with tough social issues, or do you try to squeeze scripture to conform to the position you choose, or do you misinterpret the Word so that it agrees with the least controversial opinion of today's society? Are you practicing safe, worldly "Christianity" or are you obeying with the true boldness of a disciple of Jesus Christ? Beware of yourself before answering these questions because it will only compound the errors of disobedience to answer untruthfully.

Do you struggle with the tasks that God has given you to do? I do, quite often actually, because I can't see the entire plan. I have no real idea why God leads me into a particular situation or tests me in a certain way. I don't know why I feel called to talk to "that" person, you know that one. I think "Really God? You want me to talk to them? You want me to go where and do what?" (Acts 9:10-19) We are told that God's thoughts are not our thoughts (sadly) nor are His ways our ways (tragically) and as the heavens are higher than the earth His thoughts and ways are higher than ours. (Isaiah 55: 8-9). So what do we do? We trust Him. (John 10:34-38; Psalms 20,84:12; Proverbs 3:5-8, 16:20; Jeremiah 17:5-8; Hebrews 2:13a). We don't need to see the over-all plan or even fully understand our role in it but we must trust God and obey Him.

Why is it so hard to trust and obey One who loves us, who is the epitome of love? Is it hard to practice obedience because we are self-centered? Is it hard to obey unless we are getting the glory? Do we obey the Word of God only when it suits us? I cringe at the thought! This isn't loving obedience at all, but a pharisaic, religious front. (Luke 12:1-3). So I ask with fear for our futures in mind; Who or what do you obey and why? I can guess the why nots. Do you know why you don't obey? Does it matter to you and others? What are you going to do now?

Obey. Don't obey. The choice is yours to make and you will be held to that choice when you finally behold our Savior. I choose obedience and I pray that you do too. (Joshua 1: 5-9).  
Have a blessed month, a productive month, in Jesus

Roger G.  
Parchman DR