

Blisters and Blessings – 11/21/21

TEXT- 2 Ti 2:1-10 *Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus*
Heb 6:15 *And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.*

INTRO – "Are blisters good or bad?" They are bad because of the pain, and even possible infection, but there are also some benefits.

- **Blisters are an indication of hard work** – Hard work provides for your family, yourself and perhaps others.
- **Blisters toughen your hands to do more difficult tasks** – Muscles are being strengthened and hands are getting hardened.
- **Blisters remind you that nothing comes easy in life**
- **Blisters help you appreciate others**

Exo 20:9 *Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:*

We live in a society where many men are soft. They have never had any blisters or callouses in their hands.

It's time to grow up. We are the most coddled generation in history and it is apparent in both our work ethic and our outlook on life. We expect things to be hand delivered to us and we love attention and praise for doing what is required of us.

One day of rest is preceded by six days of labor!

Paul had his thorn in the flesh

2 Co 12:7 *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

2 Co 11:23-30 *Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. 24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes*

1 Co 9:27 *But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

Parents should allow their children to learn the bumps and bruises of life are real. They should not endanger their welfare but they should not overly protect them either.

We must learn to be strong! It is a character trait.

Alaska – Where men are men and a woman wins the Iditarod.

Eph 6:10 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

I. Many of Our Greatest Servants Come From An Upbringing of Common Labor.

Farmers, factory workers, business men and janitors to name a few. I am amazed at how many young people surrender to the ministry whose father was a church janitor.

A. Parents can train their children to be strong

Pro 13:24 *He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.*

Pro 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

The disciples were mostly fishermen. A tough business. Remember when they stated they fished all night and caught nothing?

Lam 3:27 *It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.*

Paul labored as a tent maker and in addition faced many trials Jesus was the son of a carpenter.

1 Co 4:10-13 *We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised. 11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; 12 And labour, working with our own hands; being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: 13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.*

David was a shepherd and killed a lion and a bear before he slew Goliath.

2 Th 3:10 *For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*

1 Ti 5:8 *But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*

II. The Christian Life Will Involve Hardships

Salvation provides a home in heaven and is the most important decision any person will make. However discipleship is not free and often requires sacrifice and difficulty.

Luke 9:62 *And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*

A. We must learn to persevere in the Christian life

2 Ti 2:3 *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

2 Ti 4:5 *But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*

Jas 5:13 *Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.*

B. Be courageous

- **Commit your life to God and follow His will**

- **Lead your family**

Deu 31:6 *Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

Jos 1:6-7 *Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. 7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.*

C. Be faithful

2 Th 1:4 *So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:*

2 Ti 2:2 *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

1 Co 4:2 *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

III. Blessings Await Those That Persevere

A. We can help others

Rev 21:4 *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

Vernal E. Simms grew up in a rough Boston housing project in a family of nine children. Although he was a hard working student, paying for college seemed impossible.

But his mother used to say, "Pray, and the Lord will make a way somehow." He remembered his mother's advice and began to pray about being able to go to college. He also felt called by God to enter the pastoral ministry. Stepping out in faith, he packed for college and went to orientation but he still didn't have enough money to enroll. He was about to pack up and make the 100 mile trip back home.

And then something amazing happened. An heir to a corporate fortune heard about his plight and paid for his college education. After he graduated, he went to his donor's office to thank him for all he had done and asked him what he could to repay him. And the man responded with, "Help somebody." Vernal Simms went on to spend the next twenty years pastoring churches in the drug-ridden, crime-infested inner city as well as in well-manicured suburbs. He followed the advice of his benefactor by applying those two simple words, "help somebody."

B. We gain many victories

I heard about a mansion

He has built for me in glory.

And I heard about the streets of gold

Beyond the crystal sea;

About the angels singing,

And the old redemption story,

And some sweet day I'll sing up there

The song of victory.

C. God is honored

Col 3:23-24 *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*

CONCL – We don't want the blisters, we only want the blessing.

I fear that the American form of Christianity has become very anemic.

We want celebration not sacrifice.

We want the perks of comfort, but not the pricks of conscience.

We want peace without perseverance, and popularity without performance.

We want wealth without work.

We seek pleasure and do everything to avoid pain.

We want the rejoicing without the repentance, and expect perfection without practice.

We seek fulfillment without frustration.

We want to play now and - - - play later, too!

Psa 91:15 *He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.*

In the heat of the day, in the toil of life, blisters will come. However, if blisters do bring blessings, the best blessing of all will be when we look to God and hear His reassuring message, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."