

OUR CURRENT SUFFERING AND THE GLORY TO COME...

Pedro Gelabert

Romans 8:18 (NIV) “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”

During my life on this earth seldom there are good things revealed in me (**Rom 7:18**). As the Spirit spoke through Paul in Romans chapter 7, there is nothing good in the flesh. In order for good things to be revealed in me they must come from the source of righteousness which is Jesus in me, the hope of glory (**Col 1:27**). Whatever good is manifested in me is because of that glorious hope that transforms (**Rom 12:2; 2 Co 3:18; Titus 3:5**), by the Spirit. Other than that what is currently manifested are the sins that rise up from a wicked heart (**Jer 17:9**), which Jesus says is revealed by what we speak or the things we do or don't do (**Mat 15:19**).

Also, at times, as the Spirit expressed through Solomon, the joy we may have seldom felt in this life will evaporate as the hardship of ailing and decaying flesh sets in (**Ecc 12**). The only thing that counteracts that and preserves our true joy is having true hope - one that goes beyond the flesh in Jesus Christ. What else is there to look forward to as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death? What looms over us as we age, as we continually hear about the way sins are manifested in ourselves, those we love and throughout the world? We must have the Gospel ever present on our lips as a reminder of where we are going, what our mission is and how much souls need to be saved. Suffering is what is ever present before us - in our flesh and in the world.

There is no denying it and the topic, suffering, has become the favorite excuse of the godless and the selfish as to why they don't find hope in Jesus. Their godless question, “If God is good then why is there suffering in the world?” is an ignorant one at best. Studying Romans chapters 1 - 7 reveals suffering comes because of sin, and sin because of disobedience. God is good and gave us a good law, the 10 commandments, but we are unable to even obey them and that highlights God's goodness and our own wickedness.

But God, in His infinite goodness and unending mercy has already pulled that rug of excuses out from under so that we don't become needless victims of an imaginary and temporary problem. I say imaginary since suffering, death and the fruit of sin don't need to continue in you or in anyone else. Jesus, the last Adam (**1 Co 15:21-24, 45-49**), has already undone all that our disobedience did by living a perfect life and becoming the substitute of sin, appeasing God's wrath that stood against us. So we no longer are victims of sin and suffering in the long run. We now have the new life in Jesus to look forward to.

This is why the Spirit, through Paul, teaches us the mindset to have concerning the sufferings we presently experience since we still are in the flesh. Just remember, they don't amount to anything worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in us. As many sufferings and sin you see revealed in you right now, it is not worth comparing with the glory that will be evident at the revealing of Jesus on the last day. So much so you will completely forget you were acquainted with such sufferings in this present life. Now that is Good News!

The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:

Evangelist
Robert Carr

Associate Evangelist
Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Evangelist
Charlie Gómez

Campus Minister
Ladipo Davies

Family Minister
Robert Young

Worship Directors
David Luhrs
George Bullinger

Minister of Finance
Arthur Shlesinger

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“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” Joshua 24:15

FAMILY MATTERS

BULLETIN ARTICLE – CLEANING THE INSIDE OF THE CUP

Kevin Booker

One of the things that I always have to remind myself is that, as a Christian, who I am on the inside is more important than what I do. Sometimes I can be so focused on doing things that I may forget that what I do is not necessarily a reflection of ‘who I am’ but instead ‘who I am’ should be reflected by what I do. Jesus made this fact abundantly clear when he told the Pharisees in **Matt 23:25-28 (ESV): “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”** The Jews who lived by the Law were often so focused on what they did and how they looked on the outside to others that they let their hearts become corrupt and rotten.

Brothers and sisters, we can do all kinds of wonderful things such as helping give out food in the Rockaways, teaching a great lesson, praying with a brother or sister, helping someone move, sharing the gospel with the lost, or even just cooking a meal for our family, etc. However if inside our hearts there is bitterness, envy, greed, hatred, malice, selfishness, or any other kind of impurity, then no matter how godly our actions may appear, the work that we do will not be acceptable to God, and more than that He will look at us as hypocrites!

So family, although we can be very busy working and serving, let us remember to take the time to clean out those spots and blemishes that can dirty the inside of our cup. That way the inside (our hearts) and the outside (our actions) will both be clean! Although we cannot see what is going on in each other’s hearts, God does see. We have to be careful that we don’t focus on the outside of the cup while neglecting the inside.

“And the Lord added to their number” Acts 2:47

BAPTISMS

Joshua Araya	December, 2012	Taonga Mubebo	May, 2012
Ruhan Feng	October, 2012	Yolanda Caban	April, 2012
Kyle Watkins	July, 2012	Marie Michel	April, 2012
Dwight Thomas	June, 2012	Ken Begin	February, 2012
Lahsann Rogers	May, 2012	Rhonda Washington	January, 2012

“They gave themselves first to the Lord” 2 Corinthians 8:5

CONTRIBUTIONS

Time Period	Weekly Attendance (Average)	Weekly Contribution (Average)
January 2013	279	\$8,460
February 2013	289	\$12,354
March 2013	279	\$9,806
Weekly Averages for Q3	281	\$9,226

Weekly Budget: \$9,000

A GODLY WOMAN'S INFLUENCE

Carolyn Shlesinger

There must be unity for anything to function successfully and to thrive—whether a corporation in the world, our marriages, or our congregation. Jesus prayed for our unity, while Satan works relentlessly to divide us.

As wives and mothers and sisters we play a huge role in helping and promoting unity in our homes and in the church. As you may have heard the saying, “strong families, strong congregations”. We can have tremendous influence for good (promoting unity) or for bad (promoting division) over our husbands and households.

We are helpful to our husbands when we are good listeners, attentive and caring about his concerns, and his challenges. We can be sympathetic to his struggles, but when you see your husband moving in the direction of taking offense or being suspicious of the motives of those around him, never be sympathetic and supportive of his hurts. Make your life's verse **Philippians 4:8**. Do not allow your mind to think critical and judgmental thoughts about others. Love “thinks no evil” (**1 Corinthians 13:5**). When he feels knocked down or offended, give him the encouragement he needs to get back up. **1 Peter 3** says that a chaste conversation (chaste=pure in thought and word) has greater power with a man than does sympathy. My husband needs me to disagree if he is off track in his thinking, and encourage (spur) him on to love and good works. Help him put the focus back on God, not people. I know that I have been a positive influence for my husband in these times.

The Bible provides a vivid illustration of being the wrong kind of help to our husbands. In **1 Kings 21** we read about Ahab and his wife Jezebel. When Ahab couldn't get what he wanted, he sulked on his bed. Jezebel did not encourage him (promote God's way), but indulged his hurt feelings. She fed into his pride and passion (promoted Satan's way)—with disastrous results. Ahab did finally humble himself, (**v27**) but no thanks to his wife. There are also excellent examples of women in the Bible using their influence for good. Study the positive influence that Queen Esther, Abigail and Ruth had on the men in their lives.

Being the best help mate, which we all desire, includes promoting unity in your home and being a godly influence, especially when your husband is struggling. That is how you build your house, making it strong!

“Good works, which God prepared beforehand” Eph. 2:10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † Off Bible Class Dates: April 10th, May 15th, June 5th
- † Devotional Service Dates: April 5th, 19th, May 10th, 24th, June 14th, 28th
- † Women’s Fellowship: April 13th from 10am – 12pm at The Young’s Home
- † Suffolk Ministry Ladies Life Talks Spring 2013: May 4th from 11am – 1pm at Natasha Jules Home.
- † Men’s Order of Service Meetings: April 21st, May 19th, June 16th at 3:45 PM
- † Children’s Ministry Meeting: May 5th at 3:45 PM
- † Keep up with all church events by joining LIChurch Space! Go to www.licoc.org and click the LIChurch Space link!
- † If you would like to order a CD of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- † All announcements should be submitted to David Luhrs.
- † Address/telephone changes can be sent to directory@licoc.org or posted in the Directory Group on LIChurch Space.
- † **Parking reminder** - Public Safety has issued a statement requesting that all church members and visitors **refrain** from parking on any **grass areas** beyond the parking lots surrounding the chapel. Thank you for your cooperation!

“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel” Mark 16:15

MISSION WORK

- † Apologetics Press.....International
- † We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- † Ron Clayton.....India
- † Queens & Long Island Harvest Campaigns.....Central Islip, NY

“Watch your life and doctrine closely” 1 Timothy 4:16

BIBLE CLASSES

Long Island Ministry

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Robert Carr (631) 348-7322
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.

City Ministry

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Pedro Gelabert (347) 732-2101
St Luke’s Baptist Church Laurelton Sr Center
133-21 232nd Street
Jamaica, NY 11413

College Ministry

Thursdays 7:20pm-8:20pm

Ladi Davies (631) 413-5863
SAC Room 308 at Stony Brook University
100 Nicolls Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790

Spanish Ministry

Tuesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Charlie Gómez (631) 772-2889
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.

Sunday Bible Classes

Grades 2-12 and Adults

Sundays 12:30pm-1:15pm

Pedro Gelabert, Robert Young
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.