

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

***“Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he will
teach sinners in the way”***

(Psalms 25:8)

I was scheduled to be at a church meeting this past Sunday, which is a 100-mile drive one way to the meeting house. I am often afflicted with migraines that are “wake up” headaches which often keep me from traveling, and even working, from time to time. I prayed, “Lord, I am scheduled to be at a meeting in an attempt to feed your lambs and sheep; may I be able to arise free from the affliction of a headache that would hinder my travels and keep me from attending.”

I awoke on Sunday morning around 6:00 AM, free from a headache and well-rested. I thanked our Lord for his abundant mercy in enabling me to prepare to travel and thought, Oh, how merciful God is. As I left my home on my journey and was driving down the Interstate on my 100-mile jaunt, I thought Oh, how “GOOD” my God is to allow me to be on my way to gather with God’s people.

As I pondered these grateful thoughts, I was brought to the revelation that even if God had desired to cause me NOT to be traveling by the affliction of a bad headache as I arose, does not negate the fact that GOD IS GOOD.

I was overwhelmed by the fact that all that God does is GOOD and magnifies his Praise worthy character, whether I (we) are blessed to be free from affliction or afflicted according to his divine purpose. The Psalmist, David, penned these words, “Before I was AFFLICTED I went astray; but now have I kept thy word” (Psa.119:67). “It was good for me that I have been AFFLICTED; that I might learn thy statutes” (Psa.119:71). “I know, Oh Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness has AFFLICTED me” (Psa. 119:75). “I am AFFLICTED very much: quicken me, Oh Lord, according unto thy word” (Psa. 119:107).

Dearly beloved, if God be pleased to give us a glimpse of the purpose of our AFFLICTIONS and cause us to be reconciled to his determined will, peace shall accompany this revelation that only grace alone can provide. Even a peace that is past understanding with the addition of joy unspeakable of which the world knows nothing about neither shall they perceive this supernatural operation of divine love and mercy. Paul admonishes us to “GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THINGS” (even our afflictions).