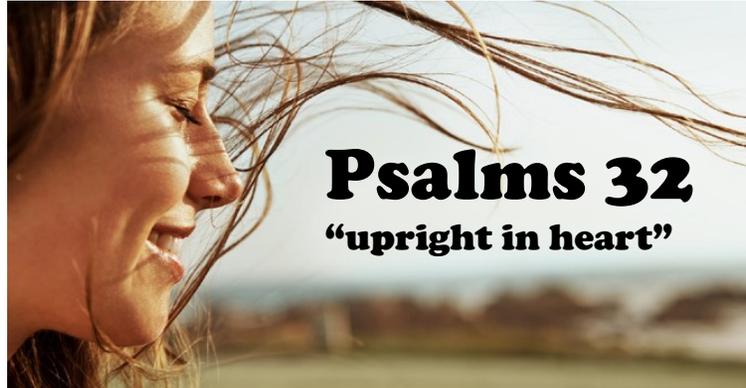


“...strengthen thy brethren”

Luke 22:32



CHURCH OF CHRIST
of Genesee County
5284 Fenton Road, Flint, Michigan 48507

February 23, 2020

Schedule of Services

Worship...	Sunday	11:00 a.m.
	Sunday	6:00 p.m.
Bible Study...	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.

Website: www.coc-gc.org

TRYING TIMES

In 1776, in a pamphlet that he titled *Crisis*, Thomas Paine wrote, “These are the times that try men’s souls.” Paine’s description was accurate. Those who opposed the English king and his invading army were severely tried, and in some cases killed.

For example, Joseph Warren, an American patriot, courageously spoke out for freedom and was beheaded by British officers at Bunker Hill. The British officers presented Warren’s head as a gift to their commanding general. No doubt, Bible students are reminded of John the Baptist, a far greater patriot who lost his head for courageously declaring the truth. John rebuked Herod for his adulterous marriage to Herodias (Matthew 14:4). Herodias, the wife that Herod had stolen from his brother Philip, did not appreciate John’s assessment.

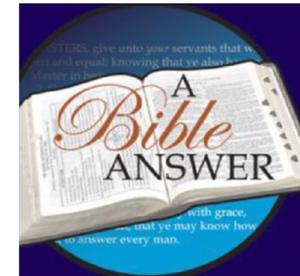
In fact, when the opportunity presented itself for her to get even with John, she wasted no time in doing so. Through The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot. Compassionately, he said, “As we return to the master’s house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path.”

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the cracked pot noticed the sun warming the beautiful wildflowers along the path. This cheered it some, but it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load again. So, again, it apologized.

The water bearer said, “Did you notice the flowers were only on your side of the path? That is because I knew about your flaw and took advantage of it. I planted flowers, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you water them. For two years I have picked beautiful flowers to decorate the master’s table. Without you being just as you are, he would not have this beauty in his house.”

The moral of this story: Each of us has unique flaws. We are all cracked pots. But it is the cracks and flaws that make our lives together so interesting and rewarding. Consider each person individually and look for his or her good traits. There is a lot of good out there. There is a lot of good in you!

“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well” (Psalm 139:14). —Author Unknown



SEVEN GREAT OBJECTIVES OF LOVE

Love for God (1 John 4:7–8).

Love for Christ (1 Peter 1:8).

Love for God’s commands (1 John 5:3).

Love for the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10).

Love for brethren (1 John 3:14, 23; 4:11).

Love for souls (1 Peter 4:8).

Love for His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8).

—Stauffer,

