

# Endurance And Training — Vital To Victory

By Mike Riley

The 1959 William Wyler film, Ben-Hur, tells the moving story of a Jewish aristocrat (Ben-Hur) betrayed by his best friend (Messala) and condemned to serve as a galley slave in the Roman navy. On a forced march to the ship, Judah Ben-Hur meets Jesus of Nazareth, who not only gives him water and motivation to live, but whose compassion fills him with hope.

Eventually, Ben-Hur saves the Roman commander Arrius during battle. In gratitude, the commander adopts Ben-Hur as his son, instantly elevating him from slave to heir.

That's what happens to us when God adopts us into His family (Romans 8:14-15; Gal. 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:5). However, great privilege brings great responsibility (Luke 12:48). Paul said that we become:

“heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him” (Romans 8:17).

The gospel never says that we'll live happily ever after when we become a Christian, but that our spiritual education includes training through difficulties and hardships (2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 1:3-9).

Ben-Hur's years of enduring hardship as a Roman slave strengthened him and increased his endurance. He eventually used that endurance, to defeat his betrayer in a chariot race.

As endurance and training were vital to Ben-Hur's victory, they are also essential to victory in the Christian's war with sin and evil (1 Peter 1:3-9; 1 Peter 4:1-7). The difficult times we endure are God's way of preparing us for greater service in His kingdom.



**STERLINGTON**  
Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82  
1095 Highway 2  
Sterlington, Louisiana 71280  
[www.sterlingtoncoc.com](http://www.sterlingtoncoc.com)

Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

1/19/25

## Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

## Those to Serve

### Today

**Announcements-** Travis Rogers      **Opening prayer-** John Chisley  
**Communion-** Lyle Russell      **Closing Prayer-** Gary Harris  
**Sermon-** Don DeLukie

### January 25th

**Announcements-** Wayne Fowler      **Opening prayer-** Lyle Russell  
**Communion-** Ronnie Hayes      **Closing Prayer-** Rick Cook  
**Sermon-** Don DeLukie

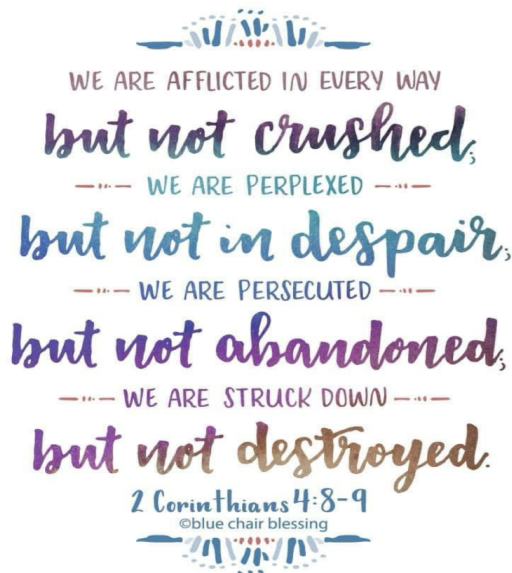
## Announcements

—**Question & Answer Series:** Our next Question & Answer Series will be when enough questions are collected. Give your questions to Don.

—**Children's Home Collection:** Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.



Scan the QR  
code to visit  
our website.



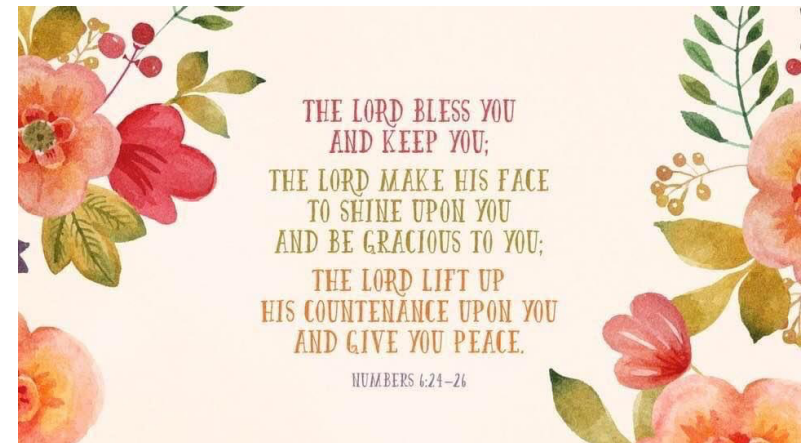
## Please Pray For:

Vee Boren, Pam Few, Carolyn Jones, Buck Rause, Paul & Wanda Simpson, Bob Mayfield, David & Elaine Reppond, Debbie Grice, Charles Jones, Christene Looney, Weils Family, Don Bell, Zion and Elianna Simmons, Linda Johnston, Susie McGough.

**Bereaved:** Family of Cliff Lawrence, Ernie Bruce.

## Needing Long-Term Prayers:

Melanie Christy, Leo & Shirley Goodwin, Tommy Franklin, Carol Granger, Arthur Binford, Dan Ross Jr, Ronnie & Dena White, Joanne Randolph, Bettye Flowers, Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, James Johnson, Bobby Barker, Cindy Smith, Bobby Simmons, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross.



### January Birthdays

1 - John Chisley  
6 - Carolyn Jones  
15 - Tommy Franklin  
21 - Gary Harris  
24 - Buck Raus  
26 - Arthur Binford

### January Anniversaries

6 - Debbie and Rick Cook  
7 - Charles and Brenda Fricke

