

When the waters' eyeball high and still rising

or

Help and encouragement in times of trials and adversity

The Doctor is talking to the patient and says: "I have bad news and worse news."

The Patient says: "So let's have it."

The Doctor replied: "The bad news is that you only have 24 hours to live."

The Patient said: "I can't imagine what could be worse than that!"

The Doctor answered : "I forgot to tell you yesterday."

One of the most difficult parts of the Christian life is the fact that becoming a disciple of Christ does not make us immune to life's bad news, its trials and tribulations. You know, that deep water stuff.

We wonder, Why would a good and loving God allow us to go through such things as the death of a child, a disease or injury to ourselves and our loved ones, financial hardships, worry and fear?

Surely, if He loved us, He would take all these things away from us. After all, doesn't loving us mean He wants our lives to be easy and comfortable? Well, no, it doesn't mean that at all.

Henry Ward Beecher noted "When we borrow trouble, and look forward into the future and see what storms are coming, and distress ourselves before they come, as to how we shall avoid them if they ever do come, we lose our proper trustfulness in God. When we torment ourselves with made-up dangers, or trials, or reverses, we have already parted with that perfect love which casteth out fear."

Question: *When trials and adversity do come upon us what should we do?*
Lets think about it a while

I. Definition of trouble

Trouble is defined as a state of distress, affliction, difficulty, or need: A difficult circumstance or situation:

II. A verse of encouragement

Isaiah 43:2

Sometimes we get into what we could call "deep water" We can't touch bottom. It seems like we are about to sink once and for all. It seems like we might not make it back to safety this time.

III. The verse examined

A. We have the assurance that God is with us.

The verse says, *When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you.* God intervenes and delivers us.

It does not say, "*When **SOME** pass through the waters...*" Everyone will pass through deep waters at some time.

It does not say, "*When **SINNERS** pass through the waters...*" Deep water is not just something that happens because of sin.

Thought: So mark it, and mark it well. All of us, sinners and saints alike, will go through the deep waters of life.

- Consider these verses for example

Job 14:1

I Thessalonians 3:3

Acts 14:22

Thought: Today there's a tendency to try to escape from our problems.

People would rather run away from their problems than to face them. Some try escaping through drugs alcohol or divorce

Some just avoid confronting their troubles They are always on the run They just close their eyes and plug their ears. **Is that you??**

But, after a while, we find out that our troubles follow us.

But the good news is, as we pass through the flood, we can be comforted by the thought that God is with us.

B . The Devil Wants Us To Be Afraid

John 14:27 "...*Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*"

Thought: If Jesus says, "Don't be afraid," then what do you think the devil is going to want you to do? Be afraid

God wants us to swim in faith 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us that *God has not given us a spirit of fear.*

The devil wants us to go under in fear. The devil wants us to think that what we're going through is so big, not even God can get us out of it.

TS Now another interesting fact when in deep water is

C. God saves in the midst of the flood

God doesn't save from the shore.

He doesn't say, "I'll be watching from the shore while you get washed down stream."

He doesn't say, "If you find yourself in the flood, it's already too late, I don't leave the shore."

- NO! Our verse, and God himself, says, "When you walk through the waters, I will be in there with you!"

Andrew Murray, in the book entitled Though the Mountains Shake said

" First, He brought me here, it is by His will I am in this strait place: in that fact I will rest.

Next, He will keep me here in His love, and give me grace to behave as His child.

Then, He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me the lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the grace He means to bestow.

Last, In His good time He can bring me out again--how and when He knows.

Let me say I am here, (1) By God's appointment, (2) In His keeping, (3) Under His training, (4) For His time."

So lets look at the verse one more time *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you.*

He will be with us

We will learn to swim

And no matter how hot the situation gets, or how deep the water rises, we will survive and we have his word on it

TS Finally

Lets remember the chorus of the old hymn ***God Leads Us Along***

Some through the waters, some through the flood,

Some through the fire, but all through the blood;

Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,

In the night season and all the day long.

Remember these words. Read **or** sing them often, when feeling overwhelmed by troubles and raging waters

Final thoughts: Although there are many believers who have problems and adversity at least they have hope in Christ during those times, for He never forsakes his own.

But if you have never accepted the invitation to join his family so you can anchor your hope in Him, you can do that today. All you need to do is read the following few lines, do want they say.

If you do, the next time you go through deep water you can go through it with the hope that the family patriarch Jesus Himself will be right there with you. Like I said He never forsakes his own.

Why not let him be the owner of your life today? How?

Realize you are a sinner Rom. 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Rom. 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Rom. 6:23b and Jn. 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)