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# la Church of Christ

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## urd January 15, 2017

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Sunday: 9:30 AM Bible Class

10:30 AM Worship

Wednesday: 7 PM Bible Class

**Welcome to our Visitors.** You are our honored guests. Please fill out a visitor's card and let us know if you have any questions about our congregation.

### Serving Today

**Song Leader:** David West

**Opening Prayer:** Angelo Cusimano

**Scripture Reading:** Jay Polk

**Communion:**

- Lead: Troy Vargas
- Assisting: Ben Blaylock
- Side: McMorris Tater
- Side: Tom Lester

**Sermon:** David West

**Closing Prayer:** Roger Weaver

**Usher:** Roger Weaver

### Today's Service

- Song - Handouts
- Song- #463
- Opening Prayer
- **Scripture Reading: Acts 11:19-26**
- Song . #436
- Communion
- Song- #92
- **Sermon: Barnabas: Son of Encouragement**
- Invitation Song . #280
- Announcements
- Closing Prayer

### Prayer Requests

- **Tom Barker**, Pam Lester's Brother
- **Austin Bruce**
- **Elva Shade**
- **Suzy Wilkerson**
- **Paul Eldridge**
- **Donna Brown**
- **Yvonne Parker**
- **Tom Lester**
- **Iwana Smith**
- **Randy Blaylock**
- **Perry Dawkins**, Trudi Dawkins's Son
- **Kathy Eldridge**
- **Jerry Gialdella** - Tom Lester's Cousin
- **Joe Weathers** . Friend of the Lester's

### Event Calendar

- February 13<sup>th</sup> - Ladies Bible Class, 7 PM
- February 18<sup>th</sup> . Boyd's Scholarship Dinner

### Upcoming Birthdays

- January 16<sup>th</sup> . Pat Furin
- January 29<sup>th</sup> . Pat Miller
- January 29<sup>th</sup> . Robin Cusimano
- February 7<sup>th</sup> . Andrew Yoches
- February 13<sup>th</sup> . Jake Weaver
- February 16<sup>th</sup> . Trudy Dawkins
- February 20<sup>th</sup> . Alex Lopez
- February 27<sup>th</sup> . Charyl Cook

### Announcements

- A **Men's Business Meeting** is being planned for the near future. Please provide Roger Weaver with any agenda items you would like the men to discuss.
- The **Annual Boyd Scholarship Dinner** will be held at the Mount Dora Christian Academy & Children's Home on **Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6PM**. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer. **Please sign up no-later-than Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>** if you'd like to attend this event. More details will be provided once we know how many will be attending.
- **Doris Booth' daughter, Debra Urbin**, has been removed from the prayer list. She is doing well. Doris expresses her thanks for all the prayers on Debra's behalf.

### Today's Bible Question?

What caused a great conflict between Paul and Barnabas?

- A. Circumcision and keeping the Law of Moses
- B. Eating meat sacrificed to idols
- C. Preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles
- D. Taking John Mark on a missionary trip

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it+ ([Matthew 7:13,14](#)).

AS WE MAKE OUR WAY TOWARD BETTER THINGS, WE SHOULD EXPECT TO MEET DIFFICULTY.

Narrow is the gate,+ Jesus said, and difficult is the way which leads to life.+ If our main interest is in ease, we won't last long on this journey. Like many other good things, fellowship with God requires a serious investment. There is a price to be paid. There is an effort that must be exerted.

*We should not be surprised at difficulty.*  
The apostle Peter wrote, Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you+ ([1 Peter 4:12](#)). As long as the devil is on the loose, we need not expect the path to God to be unobstructed. And not only that, but we need not expect our bad habits to surrender without a fight. All things are difficult before they are easy+ (Sir Thomas Fuller).

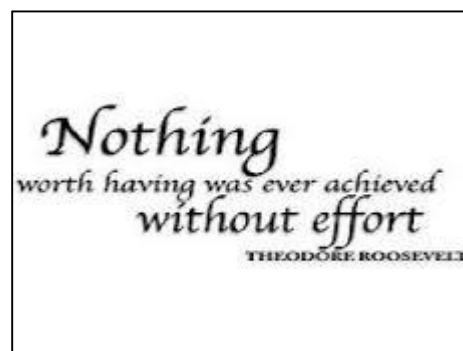
*We should not be resentful of difficulty.*  
As Paul and Barnabas returned from their first missionary journey, they revisited the congregations that had been established, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God'+ ([Acts 14:22](#)). Resistance is a fact of life for all who

would return to God's rule. This fact should not make us resentful or bitter. By the time we've finished our work, if not before, we'll see that hardships were not our foes but our friends. In the difficult are the friendly forces, the hands that work on us+ (Rainer Maria Rilke).

*We should not be defeated by difficulty.*  
We may be discouraged, but we need not be defeated. Being strong doesn't mean we never stumble, and as far as our emotions are concerned, we won't always feel courageous. Yet there is one thing we can always do: *we can refuse to give up*. When we fall, we can make the choice to get back up. Heaven is a place for those too stubborn to settle for the easier path, the one that Jesus said leads to destruction.

Does the road wind uphill all the way?  
Yes, to the very end.  
Will the journey take the whole long day?  
From morn to night, my friend.  
(Christina Georgina Rossetti)

**Gary Henry – Wordpoints.Com**



#### **Answer to Today's Bible Question**

Answer: D

Acts 15:36-40