

Heat

Joe Slater

El Nino is supposedly fizzling, but weather prognosticators are still saying we are in for another record-breaking hot summer. We shall see. Meanwhile let's be thankful for air conditioning!

Heat shows us the frailty of life. James 1:11 compares the hot sun's effect on green grass and beautiful flowers to the temporary and fading glory even of rich people. Abundant rain has made our area lush and beautiful, but that is likely to change as the summer progresses. As it does, let's remember that even in our prime we're temporary; this world is not our home.

Leaving aside the political debate over global warming, God's word warns of a day that will make the worst heat wave anyone has ever experienced seem like nothing. *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up"* (2 Peter 3:10). In view of this Peter asked, *"what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conduct and godliness?"* (3:11). Let today's heat remind us of what is yet to come!

For the faithful who stand before God's heavenly throne, *"They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat"* (Revelation 7:16). During the heat of summer these symbols of safety, protection, and comfort should make us yearn to be at home with the Lord!

Heat shows that life is frail. One day the material creation will be consumed in flames. But faithful children of God will live with Him in complete safety, protection, and comfort. May God help us to be in that happy multitude!

Weebles Wobble, But They Don't Fall Down

"Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall" (I Corinthians 10:12, ESV).

I saw a post, recently, with a picture of Weebles and the caption, "Weebles' wobble but they don't fall down."

Weebles are children's egg-shaped roly-poly toys rounded at the bottom. The object is to push on them but instead of toppling over they will upright themselves again. Christians should be like Weebles and bounce back again when we get knocked down, or when we fall.

Even the strongest of Christians will sometimes fall. It could be from self-weakness. It could be from being pushed by someone. Either way, we should not stay down. Rather we should bounce back up again.

We're not built on a rounded foundation so a bounce back, or rebound, is not automatic. It takes effort and help. We can, and hopefully we do, receive help from our fellow Christians. James says, *"My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins"* (James 5:19-20).

We must make every effort to upright ourselves. We can do that by looking to Jesus and following His

example and teachings, making every effort to do His will, not our own. We must recognize, as did Paul, the issue of the battle between the fleshly self and the spiritual self (Romans 7:15-20). His solution is to serve the will of God, not the fleshly desires (Romans 7:24-25).

John assures us that by walking in the light our sins will be forgiven if we confess them (I John 1). We will sin. We will fall down. But we must not stay down. We must be a Weeble Christian and bounce back, refusing to stay down.

--Roy Allen Crutcher (Mt. Carmel, IL)

DEALING WITH DIFFICULTIES

Everyone has troubles and difficulties to deal with in life. Even Jesus was not exempt. Noticing how Jesus dealt with the difficult circumstance of His upcoming crucifixion can help us to cope, as well. These are taken from His time in the garden in Mark 14:32-42.

* **He sought the comfort of His close friends** (v.33). He strategically placed Peter, James, and John where He could access them when needed.

* **He prayed to God** (multiple times, v.35, 39, 41). He not only prayed to God, but He expressed His innermost emotions and feelings (v.34, 36).

* **He put His full trust in God** (v.36). He knew the Father's will was best and was willing to accept it.

* **He got up and faced the situation** (v.42). He met His difficulty straight on. He didn't avoid it.

--Edd Sterchi (Campbellsville, KY)

Do Good

"Depart from evil and do good" (Psalm 34:14)

"Trust in the LORD, and do good" (Psalm 37:3)

"... nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good" (Ecclesiastes 3:12)

"Learn to do good" (Isaiah 1:17)

"... do good to those who hate you" (Matthew 5:44)

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all" (Galatians 6:10)

"But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." (Hebrews. 13:16)

"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." (James. 4:17)

-- compiled by Edd Sterchi (Campbellsville, KY)