

## It's All Good with the Lord

*“Jesus Christ, whom Silvanus, Timothy and I preached to you is not alternatively ‘yes’ and ‘no’. He is never anything but ‘yes.’”* With these words from our second reading for this Sunday, the *Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians*, we come to a fuller understanding of Christian optimism.

Perhaps using modern day terminology we can put it this way: it is all Good, all Good with the Lord.

The Gospel paints vivid scene of the all encompassing “yes” of the Lord. Jesus is in a house, probably with a thatched roof. Crowds are gathering around him. There are so many people that the number is spilling outside. Some are there to learn from him. Some are there to challenge him. Many are there to be healed by him. Four men came up to the house carrying their friend, a paralytic, on a stretcher. They couldn't possibly get through the door, but they look up and saw that the roof of the house was made of thatch. So they climbed up onto the roof, carried up their friend, then took the roof apart and lowered their friend in front of Jesus. Healing wasn't all the paralytic needed. He needed forgiveness of sins. He needed that more than anything else, so the first words the Lord has for him is, “Your sins are forgiven.” Only God, or perhaps the Messiah of God, the Christ, could possibly forgive sins. To demonstrate that he was the Messiah, Jesus then cures the man. Isaiah said that would be a sign of the Messiah, the blind will see, the deaf will hear, the crippled will walk and the poor will have the good news preached to them. It was all good with the Lord. The man was healed spiritually and physically.

I maintain this weekend that it is the same with us. It is all good with the Lord. When we commit ourselves to Him and continue to choose Him in our lives, it is all good.

“Well, that is certainly easy for you to say, Father.” You didn't have to get the kids dressed three times this morning. You don't have the financial worries we have. You are not concerned with finding money for

you children's education or for your retirement. You are healthy. It's easy for you to say, 'It's all good with the Lord, Father.'"

To all these points and the many more very valid objections anyone might bring up, I still say, "It is all good with the Lord." The struggles that people have being good Moms and Dads, good husbands and wives, your struggles, your financial struggles, health issues, marital issues, etc, all take on an infinite meaning when you united them to your commitment to the Lord. When we unite the struggles of our lives to the Lord's cross, when they become our personal expression of the sacrificial love of the Lord, then our struggles aren't negative, they are positive, expression of prayer and our real life union with Christ.

It is all good with the Lord. Tragedy strikes and a loved one dies. As Christians we believe in the existence of the spiritual. We believe that those who die will live forever in the love of the Lord. We may miss them terribly. We may grieve deeply. But we also know that they are in peace. We believe that the souls of the faithful departed, our loved ones, continue to love us and themselves guide us through their own prayers to the Divine Lover. We believe that a time will come when we will be with them again.

It's all good with the Lord. We follow our consciences. We choose that which is proper and moral, not that which is popular but immoral. We simplify our lives. Did you ever notice that chaos that comes into our lives when we sin? Well, maybe you don't because you are probably a lot better than me, but I can assure, when I sin, life get complicated. When I just stick to what my conscience is telling me, when I stick to the Lord, life is simple and I am happy. It's all good with the Lord.

Perhaps some of you returned to the Lord after having been away for a while. If this was your case, then I want you to think about your life before you made room for God. Were you happier then or are you happier now? I feel certain that you are much happier now, even if you have to struggle to get through the day.

Our troubles have meaning and worth because they are our sharing in the sacrifice of Christ. When you pray the Mass, give your struggles over to the Lord. Let God change difficulties into prayers.

Trust God. He is not alternatively yes and no. He is always yes.

It's all Good with the Lord.