

Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem



America's Heartland
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band," he replied. Childbirth is one of those nerve-racking events in life that can cause otherwise intelligent men to become blithering idiots.

There will be times in all our lives when we're so nervous we won't be able to think straight. That's when we need a friend to come alongside us who can think rationally on our behalf.

That was the case for a jailer in the city of Philippi back in the days when the authorities had ordered the Apostle Paul locked up. That jailer had to be a bright man to run a correctional facility, to manage the books, to supervise the guards, to do all the things required to do the job well.

Then came the day when the Lord brought a crisis into the

jailer's life that sent adrenaline coursing through his body, that scared him half to death.

First, an earthquake jarred him out of bed in the middle of the night. That would be frightening in and of itself. He then rushed in to check on his prisoners and every door was open. He was absolutely beside himself with fear at that point, thinking that all of his prisoners had escaped. It was at that point that he desperately needed a friend.

"He drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, 'Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.' Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Si-

las, and brought them out, and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' And they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.' And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his straightway."

That jailer would have committed suicide if not for the Apostle Paul speaking into his situation at a time when he couldn't think clearly for himself. Paul was that friend the jailer desperately needed. He calmly offered his insights in the crisis. Yes, the jailer's world had been shaken, but, no, the situation wasn't as bad as it first appeared.

You've perhaps heard the saying that suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. What looked like the darkest possible moment in that jailer's life turned out not to be so bad after all.

Crises come and go in our lives. Often when we look back on what we initially thought were the darkest moments of our lives, we realize they just may have been the brightest. That's the way it was for the jailer, because his life was transformed in that crisis.

It's in those dark moments that we can best see the light of Christ. It's in the dark moments that we should draw close to Him, not push him away.

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Divas on a Dime by Patti Diamond Easy Melon Salsa Is Taste of Summer

Hello! I'm so happy to meet you. I'm Patti Diamond, AKA Diva Patti, the recipe developer and content creator for "Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal Meets Fabulous." I got the nickname Diva Patti in my former career as a musical theater professional. I was quite the soprano back in the day.

I believe everyone should live like a diva, even if they're living on a dime. My passion is finding inexpensive ways to make extraordinary things happen in the kitchen and in life. I love to help people save money on their food budget because I think we have better things to spend our money on, like paying off debt, saving for retirement or buying more shoes. If you agree, then we're going to be great friends! Let's get cookin'!

Don't you love it when something that costs as little as 20 cents per pound can be dressed up to take any occasion from everyday to elegant? Few things say "summer" like a big slice of cold, juicy melon. Watermelon, cantaloupe and honeydew melons exemplify the beautiful colors and sweet taste of summer. In season from June to September, choose melons without soft spots, heavy for their size and slightly sweet-smelling at the stem end. Here are some wonderful ways to make the most of your melon:



Melon salsa and chips

a lovely refreshing pairing. Just add chopped melon and a few sprigs of mint to a pitcher of water and let it chill for a few hours or overnight. In the summer months, it's nice to have infused water in beautiful glasses to offer as soon as guests arrive. It's a lovely way to say, "I've been expecting you." Add a splash of club soda just before serving for a little fizz.

Sweetly Savory Appetizer -- Want an irresistible hors d'oeuvre? Serve any melon sliced and wrapped with deli meat. Traditionally, you'd see cantaloupe with prosciutto, but that's rather expensive. Thinly sliced deli ham or smoked turkey give that same sweet, smoky, savory combination at a fraction of the cost.

Melon Salsa Fresca -- If you like your sweet with a little heat, you'll love this. In a mixing bowl, combine the zest and juice of 1 lime, 1/2 tablespoon honey and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Add 3 cups mixed melon, diced; 3/4 cup cucumber, diced; 1/2 cup any color bell pepper, minced; 1/4 cup red onion,

minced; 2 tablespoons cilantro, chopped; and one small jalapeno pepper, finely minced, with ribs and seeds removed. (Use caution when working with jalapenos.) Gently mix and chill. Serve with your favorite chips, over grilled chicken, in fish tacos or a grain bowl, or green salad, -- just put it on everything!

Photo Credit: www.Jason-Coblentz.com

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website "Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous!" Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at [DivasOnADimeDotCom](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com
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You are the Church

Wednesday, July 28th, 2021 Message
 Bro. Warren Rogers, Retired Baptist Minister

Based on 1 Corinthians 3:9-13

"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Christ the Only Foundation

"¹⁰According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. ¹¹For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

First of all, most people think of the church as that pretty building where we meet. They think it takes pews, pulpit furniture, a piano, etc. to make it complete.

Wrong . . . what makes it complete is you. You are the church. You are what outsiders see. You are God's tool to preaching the Gospel outside the building. The problem we have in today's society is that a lot of the churches have turned into nothing more than a country club for entertainment. Going to a church like that will not make you a Christian any more than standing in the garage will make you a car.

We often make church what we want it to be to fit our lifestyle, our schedule, etc.

The foundation was laid for the church in 1 Corinthians 3:10 (above).

Everyone has the same cornerstone when it comes to our church life. Christ is the only foundation and if you are trying to build on anything else you are building wrong.

The responsibility is yours when it comes to your salvation and your church life.

Here is a list of the things it takes to build on.

#1 Your conduct -- how people you meet hear or see you.

#2 Your character -- What people remember about you, how you represent Christ in your life.

#3 Communication -- how we reflect Christ in our lives.

#4 Commitment -- Faithfulness to attend church, to your time, and to tithes & offerings.

Your workmanship will be tried -- "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. ⁶Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: ⁷But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: ⁸Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." ²Corinthians 5:8-10

"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. ¹⁴If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward." ¹Corinthians 3:13-14

What you have built (your church life) will be truly revealed. Christ will examine your past and you will be rewarded depending on how or what you have done.

Let every man take heed on how he builds! See 1 Corinthians 3:10 (above).

Friends, we are living in a time when it is more important now than ever before that we build our church on the solid rock, Jesus Christ! I know we need a meeting place to worship with our Christian brothers and sisters, but our true church lies beyond the doors of the building.

Thank you for reading this, and if you have time, read it until you realize just how important that you are in God's plan. You are the only Jesus some people will ever see and how you present your life may just lead them to Christ. Be the person they would like to be.

Until next week, may God bless you. To get in touch with me about preaching or singing in your church, call or text me at 606-481-0444.

Bro. Warren Rogers, Baptist preacher

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO



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