



The weekly newsletter article of Parkside Chapel

LIFE NEWS

by Ron Story, Community Life Pastor

parksidevisalia.org



‘Tis the season for graduations. From early May through mid-June, we regularly receive announcements, posts, and invitations regarding graduations and celebratory parties for family and friends. Preschool, Kindergarten, 6th grade, middle school, high school, college, and post-graduate, are all special opportunities to recognize major accomplishments in life.

At Parkside, we have had more than our fair share of graduations this year. When I say “graduation,” I am talking about the ultimate graduation of a Christ follower from this life on earth to our eternal home in Heaven. And just like school graduations, these Celebration of Life graduations have proven to be a special time of recognizing a person’s accomplishments over their lifetime. For those who have been serious about loving God and following Jesus, their “living a life that matters” has been a tremendous testimony to fellow believers and a convicting witness to family and friends in attendance who are not committed to a life that glorifies God. These services have proved to be an excellent evangelism outreach to a captive audience who might not regularly attend church or have heard the Gospel.

With school graduations, there is often a speech from a popular student, teacher, or outside person of influence to give those in attendance a “takeaway” to apply to their lives. In a Celebration of Life service, the Christ follower’s life is

the speech that proves to be a dynamic and hopefully convicting nugget that those attending can take to heart. As we hear a summary of a life whose priority involves loving God, loving family, pursuing holiness, and sharing God’s love and truth with others, we as believers can’t help but be encouraged and challenged to continue our own race of life with perseverance and eyes on Jesus.

In Ron Hunnicutt’s recent Celebration of Life service, beyond the testimony of a life that prioritized God and family in an amazing way, Ron also left a true statement of his own, posted on the large video screen during the slide presentation of his life that I don’t believe I will ever forget.

God is Good.

Life is Hard.

Don’t get the two confused.

Wow! Isn’t that an incredible summation of the Christian life? God is good ... all the time! Life is hard and messy, much of the time, but one does not negate the other! Both truths run on a parallel track! When life gets hard, it doesn’t mean that God is no longer good. Recognizing that God is good doesn’t guarantee that life will be easy.

As many of you know, Ron Hunnicutt had what most of us would call a difficult life. Early in his adult life, he was

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diagnosed with kidney failure, and it affected his physical body, energy, and ability to live a normal, active life. But, it did not affect his understanding that God is good! In fact, it served to intensify his pursuit of God and His goodness.

The Psalmist says:

*"Before I was afflicted, I went astray,
but now I keep your word."
(Psalm 119:67)*

*"It is good for me that I was afflicted,
that I might learn your statutes."
(Psalm 119:71)*

*"I know, O Lord, that Your rules are righteous,
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me."
(Psalm 119:75)*

In the midst of a long life of physical affliction, Ron grew in his understanding of the goodness of God. He knew that ...

*"God causes all things to work together for good
for those who love God and are called
according to His purpose."
(Romans 8:28)*

The powerful truth he would encourage us to remember:

God is good.

Life is hard.

Don't get the two confused.

Best graduation speech ever!



Ron Hunnicutt



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