



"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" - Hebrews 6:19

Welcome! We're glad you are here!

Sunday - March 12, 2023

Why Did God Harden Pharaoh's Heart?

by Troy Spradlin

One of the verses that confuses many Bible readers is Exodus 7:3 that reads, "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt." Immediately, one might ask, "Why would God harden someone's heart?" Or, "Doesn't that violate man's free will?" It is a valid question because it affects our understanding of God's nature. God is love (1 John 4:8) and such action doesn't seem to coincide with His love. However, with just a little reflection and observation of the context, the answer is revealed from the Bible itself.

Pharaoh Was Not Innocent



First, this was not some case where God just randomly decided to wield His power. Although God is the Creator and can do anything He pleases with His creation, (Romans 9:20-22) He never overrides man's free will. He always allows mankind to make his/her own choice. This was a case where Pharaoh himself had to make a choice. He was not some innocent bystander. He was an ungodly and evil man, from a long line of brutal dictators that had enslaved the Israelites for the past 400 years, having severely mistreated and oppressing them. This pharaoh, or one just before him, had even dictated that all male Israelite babies be killed at birth (Exodus 1:16).

So, when it comes to hardened hearts, Pharaoh's heart was already in a somewhat calloused condition because he showed no mercy or grace to the people of God (cf Exodus 5:6-9). Even after the first plague the Bible says that, "Pharaoh turned and went into his house. Neither was his heart moved by this." (Exodus 7:23)

Pharaoh Did It to Himself

There is second important point revealed in the context. After Moses and Aaron went to talk to him, and even after giving him the proof which he asked for (cf. 7:9-10), the Bible says, "And Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them," (7:13). In the next chapter, we read that, "Pharaoh ... hardened his heart and did not heed them," (8:15,32). In other words, Pharaoh used his own free will to make a decision and he chose to reject God's commands. His rebellion is evidence of the bitter and hard fruit produced within his heart! Jesus taught us that "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts ... and defile the man" (Mark 7:21-23) Who harden Pharaoh's heart? He did it himself.

God "Hardened" Pharaoh's Indirectly

Thirdly, the context continues to reveal that God **did** harden Pharaoh's heart, but He **did not** do it by actually, physically reaching in and manipulating the heart of the King of Egypt (not even in a miraculous manner). The only thing that came into contact with Pharaoh's heart were the words and works of God. How did God harden Pharaoh's heart? God simply revealed Himself. God's omnipotence, His love for His people, His hatred of sin, as well as, the signs and wonders of the plagues all had an internal impact on the king's heart. Thus, he refused to accept or submit to God. His realization that God was truly supreme and he, Pharaoh, was insignificant, was what hardened his heart.

God Had a Purpose

Lastly, the context tells us the why of all this. It was so that "the Egyptians shall know that I am Yahweh," (7:5) and that Pharaoh "may know that there is none like Me in all the earth." (9:14) God knows the hearts of men (1 Sam 16:7). Therefore, He used Pharaoh's disposition for His glory, knowing full well what Pharaoh would say and do, simply because of the callousness he had already exhibited. Remarkably, God's revelation still affects the hearts of mankind today. People still harden their hearts or receive the message. It's the power of God unto salvation! (Romans 1:16)

6745 Margaret Street / margarst@bellsouth.net / 850.623.8191

www.margaretstreetchurchofchrist.org

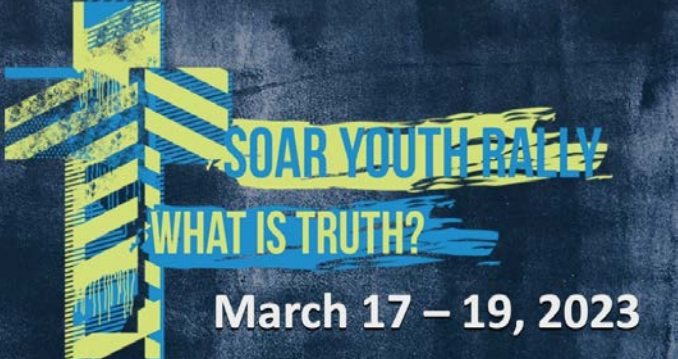
YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



CHURCH

Gulf Coast AREAWIDE
2022-2023

- AUGUST 21 @ CREEKWOOD
Community of Love & Life
- SEPTEMBER 11 @ SUMMERDALE
A Place of Forgiveness
- OCTOBER 16 @ MARGARET ST.
A Place of Forgiveness
- NOV. 11-13 @ FUEL RETREAT
Gulf Coast Bible Camp
- JANUARY 8 @ SCENIC HILLS
A Place of Forgiveness
- FEBRUARY 5 @ SPANISH FORT
Restoring Strength
- MARCH 12 @ ROBERTSDALE
Emphasizing Personal Value
- APRIL 16 @ REGENCY
Support Through Struggles



SOAR YOUTH RALLY

WHAT IS TRUTH?

March 17 – 19, 2023

YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT



Wed. March 22 @
5 pm in the FH

whatever, whatever

CREEKWOOD GIRL'S DAY 2023

MOMS & MENTORS SPEAKERS:	GIRLS SPEAKERS:
TAMMY WISDOM	SHELBY CAMP
CATHY SHELBURNE	ERIN MOODY
MARY BETH CLAYTON	ANNA MAYNARD

GRADES 6-12 AND UP | MARCH 25TH

STAFFED NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5.



LADS TO LEADERS

L2L

BUILDING GODLY LEADERS

Upcoming Events / Info

March 19 – Jay Girls present to ladies @4:15 PM in Fellowship Hall (Snack/drinks provided)

March 26 – Workshop, 2nd Away Speech @ Brewton, & Hotel Money due

March 29 – Girls Presentations



LADS TO LEADERS

L2L

BUILDING GODLY LEADERS

Upcoming Events / Info

April 2 – Workshop, Boys Presentations, & Puppet Presentations

April 6-9 – Convention in ATL

BIBLE TIME



March 26th

WITH KIDS!

Join us for an

EASTER EGG HUNT

Hosted by Kingdom Kids

SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST
AT 10:00 AM

McCool Residence
5318 Lakewood Drive
Milton, FL 32570

Attire is Sunday Best



"How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. 10 With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! 11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. 12 Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! 13 With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. 14 In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. 16 I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word." - Psalm 119:9-1

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Special

- Patricia Ann* - prayers, health (MZL)
- Sharon Ates - surgery (Gallagher*)
- Terri Baker - recovery (Farley* daughter)
- David Black - Baptist, heart issues (McGriff)
- Janice Carter* - tests, prayers
- Josie Coons - hospice (McReynolds*)
- Mason Chandler* - loss of grandmother
- Myrna Fuller* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Annie Godwin - hip dysplasia, harness 6 weeks
- Zeb Hamilton family* - loss of Zeb
- Lauren Kreis (Martin family) - prayers
- Laura Lewis - Sacred, ICU
- Donald McGriff* - surgery/recovery
- Richard McCool* - heart attack, recovery
- Paula Mense - health (Pat Mense*)
- Edith Sullins - recovery (Blisse's gma)
- Gloria Vonada - recovery, new tests
- Andrea Wilson* - knee surgery, struggles

2023 Recently Baptized / Restored / Identified

- Brittany Parker* - Baptized
- Lanie Scott* - Baptized
- Laura Oliver* - Identified

Expecting Mothers

- Jennifer Cannon - March 2023

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute - Paul Discher

Students in College

- Caleb Owens
- Seth Crider
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Nick Webb
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

Other Requests / Health Issues

- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Bob Black - health (Lipford*)
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health (past member)
- Winston Burnham* - health
- Sherryn Canniff* - health, pain
- WillieMae Cosby - health, recovery (McGriff*)
- Sherry Davis* - health
- Fatima Deem- pregnant, problems (Nunes)
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Madeline Farley* - broken wrist, recovery
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham
- Daphne Hamilton - surgeries, health
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Barbara Helms* - health
- Chris Hollis - (McGriff)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Marcia Jones - (Kenya's* friend)
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Cindy Marotta - paralyzed (Nunes*)
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Mary McGriff* - health, asthma
- Ron Miller - esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Jeffery Norman - lung transplant list (Nunes*)
- Ella Parker* - health
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia*)
- August Eugene Smith - cleft palate (J.English*)
- Zyler Thompson - rescheduled surgery
- Julia Torpey* - health
- Gloria Vonada*
- Jan Whitney*

Military

- Nick Bartell - Ft. Walton Beach
- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer Gable-New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kentucky
- Byron Solomon - San Diego

Cancer

- Kandi Armand - (Bostwick*)
- Justin Barnhart - former member
- Ron Bartanen* - cancer
- Darlene Baxley* - recovery, health (Baxley*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis*)
- Tish Clark - surgery (Hatcher*)
- Pat Deforest*
- Brenda Dunham - (J.English*)
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jenning - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill*)
- Keith Pabst - (Webb*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin* friend)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Megan Sanders - brain cancer (Blisse*)
- Kevin Shanahan - operation (Scott's* dad)
- Al Sheridan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley* - good news!
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff*)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton*)
- Donnie Turner - cancer (Helms*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Sherryn Canniff - homebound
- Donna Dudley - Life Care Center (S. Davis*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia* - Arcadia Senior Living
- Betty Lee - homebound (D. Lee's mom*)
- Linda Mann* - Shut In
- Ina Ruth Miller* - Grandview Retiree Center
- Ruth Phillips* - Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines* - Victorian Manor
- Mary Salinas* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith (Jeanna's mom) - Shut In
- Troy Vonada* - Sodalis House, Hospice



SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

MORNING

Opening Prayer Chris Davis
 Song Director Casey Bearden
 Sermon Troy Spradlin
 "The Devil's Pitchfork"
 Scripture Reading Dane Harrington
 1 John 2:15-17
 Closing Prayer Phillip Webb

Serving Communion:

Comments Matt Reynolds
 Nick Batell Michael English
 Joe Bartell Darrell Bozeman
 Joe King

EVENING

Opening Prayer Joe King
 Singing Mike Scott
 Scripture Jake Newcomb
 Acts 10:9-15
 Comments Chris Davis

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep Fisher family
 PowerPoint Connie Bartell
 Greeters: Jak Gallagher
 Secure Building Jak Gallagher

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director Elliot Wilson
 Opening Prayer Steve Fulton

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 165
 AM Worship 215
 PM Worship 77
 Wed. Night Bible Class 149
 Contribution \$7,530

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:00 am
 Sunday AM Worship 10:00 am
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship ... 6:00 pm
 Wednesday PM Bible Class 6:30 pm

Visitors:

Thank you for coming!

You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

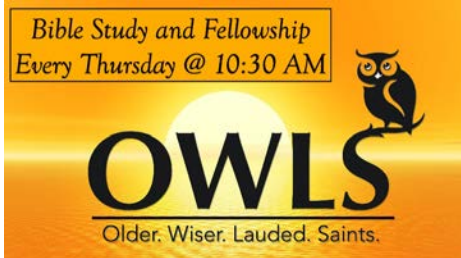
ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is Thursday, by noon.



EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!



WORSHIP

- Service Rosters are available on the Welcome Desk and Margaret Street website (listed under "Archives")
- "LISTEN" devices available in the foyer, located in the Armoire.

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for online giving

STAFF

Troy Spradlin Preacher / Minister
 cell: 850-910-2868
 spradlin.troy@gmail.com
 Casey Bearden Family Minister
 cell: 706-889-3222
 caseybearden@live.com
 Blisse Hatcher Church Secretary
 cell: 850-625-8911
 margarstcoc@gmail.com
 Scott Shanahan Missionary
 cell: 865-443-9856
 scottshanahan@hotmail.com
 Trevor Smoot Domestic Missionary
 cell: 937-417-4297
 smooterii@outlook.com

ELDERS

Rick Bird 994-3148
 bird1plus3@icloud.com
 Phillip Webb 232-7431
 pw_webb@hotmail.com
 Joe Wilson 206-8350
 jaw@wilsonharrell.com

CONTACT FOR MARCH:

Primary..... Rick Bird
 Secondary Joe Wilson

DEACONS* & MINISTRIES

Administration Troy Spradlin
 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell
 Building & Grounds Paul Lipford*
 Education Chris Davis*
 Evangelism Troy Spradlin
 Finance
 Fellowship Jeff Scott*
 OWLS Stephen Fulton
 Involvement Joe Taylor*
 Lads to Leaders David English
 Missions Mike Scott*
 Visitation Bob Locklin
 Youth & Family Casey Bearden
 Worship Blake Hatcher*