

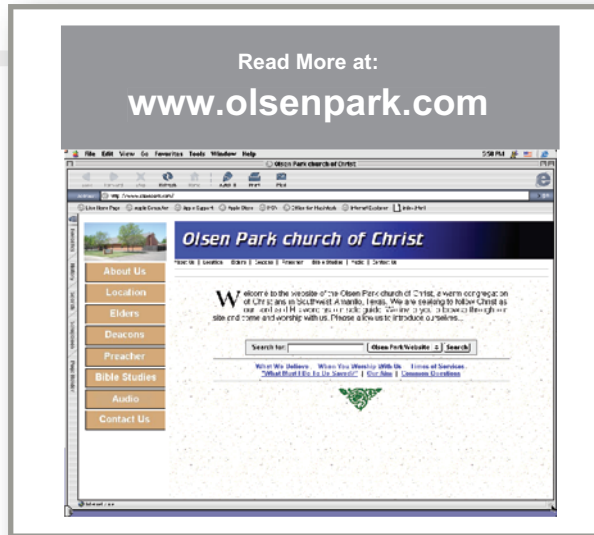
No Patmos – No City of Gold (Cont. from pg. 2) prepares us to help others. Writing in II Corinthians 1:3,4 he declares - **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”**

Not only can afflictions allow us to see things differently, but having to stand up to falsehood may as well. The Bible urges us to - **“...sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in**

you, with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15).

The next time you are discouraged, think about John. Perhaps in your “Patmos” their is a glorious insight the Lord would have you to see.

By Kyle Pope



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Faithful Sayings

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

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Pat Ledbetter

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No Patmos – No City of Gold

Revelation chapter one what he had already
verse nine establishes preached elsewhere. Al-
for us the setting in though the Bible is silent
which the final book of on the matter, early reli-
the New Testament was gious writing appears to
written. The text declares support the latter view.
- **“I, John, both your The fourth century
brother and companion church historian Eusebius
in tribulation and in the in speaking of the perse-
kingdom and patience cutions of the emperor
of Jesus Christ, was on Domitian writes - “There
the island that is called is ample evidence that at
Patmos for the word of that time the apostle and
God and for the testi- evangelist John was still
mony of Jesus Christ” alive, and because of his
(NKJV). Some brethren testimony to the word of
suggest that John was on God was sentenced to
Patmos for the purpose of confinement on the island
preaching. Others say of Patmos.” (*Ecclesiasti-
John was on the island as cal History*, Bk. III, Ch.
punishment or exile for 18).**

(Cont. on pg. 2)

No Patmos – No City of Gold

(Cont. from pg. 1)

However we understand the reason for John's stay on Patmos it is clear that he *was there*, and *there* received the marvelous revelation of the holy city (21:2) with streets of gold, pearly gates (21:21) and the river of life flowing through its midst (22:1).

If modern conditions are any indication of what Patmos was like in the first century, one would have to conclude that Patmos was not the most hospitable environment in which one could find themselves. Most of the island is rocky

and somewhat barren. Now days there are shops and houses throughout the island but one could well imagine the sparse little island that John knew. Because of the island's religious significance it has been greatly exploited by the Greek Orthodox Church. A shrine has been built in a little cave in which they claim the revelation took place. A monastery now sits on top of the ruins of an ancient pagan temple. Clearly, ancient Patmos would have been a place of hardship and falsehood.

In the midst of such an environment we can well imagine what an encour-



agement it must have been to John to receive such glorious visions. The revelation insured John (as it should all believers) that no matter what hardships Christians face, the Lord will vindicate His people in the end. Yet it occurs to me that (from all we know) the Lord had not given John such visions before his time on Patmos. It might be that if John had never come to Patmos he never would have received such a wonderful picture of God's care for his people.

Often we feel that God isn't fair with us. We face hardships that try our faith. We are surrounded by falsehood and

corruption that discourages us. Yet at the same time we can all think of ways in which trials have allowed us to see things in a way we had not been able to prior to facing the trial. The Christian who has lost a loved one gains a special insight into how to comfort others. The believer who has had a their faith challenged by falsehood has been forced to study so as to prepare for other challenges in the future. Just like John, had such Christians not faced their "Patmos" they might never have seen the things that helped both themselves and others.

The Bible teaches us that Christians can view trial with joy because of the fruit it can bear in our lives. James 1:2,3 teaches us - **"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."** Romans 5:3,4 echo this sentiment in declaring - **"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."** Through Paul the Holy Spirit tells us that affliction

(Cont. on pg. 4)