

Theme: In Times of Tribulation and Loss—Rejoice, Persevere, and Pray!

Text: Romans 12:12 (NKJV)

“Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.”

Although I only met Mame-maw a few times as Sue reminded me this week, she saw me a lot more than I saw her. She faithfully watched the videos of our worship services and sermons online each week. So in a sense, I served as her pastor for the last few years of her life (even though she saw me a whole lot more than I saw her!).

One of the times I met Mame-maw in person was at her son Richard’s memorial service—in fact, if I’m not mistaken, I think that was the first time I met her. I was told that she said she really liked that service and my sermon that day and wanted hers to be like it since it was all about Jesus and not just about the person who had passed away.

I think Mame-maw would be very happy with the message and worship service today. For while we are gathered here in loving memory of Elaine, above all we want to emphasize the most important person we are here remembering: Jesus!

The text that has been chosen for our comfort and encouragement today is just one short verse—but a very powerful verse from the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Romans:

“Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer” (Romans 12:12).

Especially **In Times of Tribulation and Loss**, our Savior encourages us through the Apostle Paul to **Rejoice, Persevere, and Pray!**

✝ **Rejoicing in hope**—Rejoice, even in death? Yes! In Jesus, the resurrection and the life.

We can rejoice that because of Jesus’ life death and resurrection Mame-maw is with Jesus. We can rejoice that because of Jesus we will see her again in heaven.

This gives us reason to rejoice! As Paul says in Philippians, **“Rejoice in the Lord always! And again I say, Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4).** Our joy is **“in the Lord.”**

Jesus also gives true peace to our hearts: **[Jesus said,] “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. “In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also...” “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ...” “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:1-3, 6, 27 NKJV)**

✝ **Patient (persevering) in tribulation** – The Greek word that is used here means: *endure, continue firm, persevere* (from a word *remain behind, stay* (when others depart) (2) as refusing to flee *hold out, stand one's ground, endure*)

Does that sound like Mame-maw, or what!? By God's grace she was enduring and persevered for 97 years in this life—that for certain held many joys and blessing for her. As you will hear when we read her obituary she was a remarkable and very gifted woman. But her life also included many trials and hardships as well.

Through it all the Lord was with her guiding and blessing her through His Word, which in the last months of her life she was able to listen to and draw comfort and spiritual strength from (as well as anyone else who was in earshot of her Bible recording player :)

✝ **continuing steadfastly in prayer** - Mame-maw definitely took these words to heart. As you told me, "she prayed for everyone!" She prayed for people on their birthdays, anniversaries, and special occasions in their lives.

She certainly was "steadfast in prayer." Her prayer life was certainly one to emulate. We too can turn to Jesus in this time of loss, in our times of grief, in times of loneliness and sadness—anytime and in every circumstance.

As the familiar hymn states,

*What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!*

You shared with me that Mame-maw once wrote: "My deepest prayer, oh Lord, is to know you and to serve You all the days of my life." (dated 4/9/89).

Thanks be to God that He answered her deepest prayer! Thanks be to God that because He sent Jesus for Mame-maw—and for all—she is now serving God in heaven's perfect joy and peace, forever! Amen.

OBITUARY



Mildred Elaine Hocker fell asleep in Christ on 10/21/22 at 97 years old (9/28/1925). She was born to James/'Jake' Lilly and Myrtle Mae (née Bryant) and raised from humble beginnings on farms in rural Texas. She was baptized at 14 years old in 1939, and confirmed in Christ at 17 in 1943.

During WWII, she served as a nurse's aide. She married Richard Monroe Hocker in 1945 and they moved from Texas to Burbank, CA in 1946. In 1947, she completed coursework at a finishing school for modeling. She and her husband both worked at Lockheed Martin in Burbank.

In 1955, they were transferred to the Bay Area and lived in Cupertino while they built their home in Saratoga, CA. Mildred had a long career at Lockheed in administration. In 1976 she received teaching credentials to train future leaders at Lockheed.

When her son was young, the family enjoyed traveling across the country, backpacking, and motorcycling. In her civic life, she was involved in Toastmasters (speech and debate organization) and the local women's Republican group. She was active in local politics, especially in advocating for traditional values. She volunteered her time entertaining disadvantaged children as a clown. Her hobbies included gardening, sewing, decorating, reading, research, and writing.

She was preceded in death by Emmitt & Marion/'Shorty' (brothers) and Richard Hocker (son). She is survived by Iris Conner (sister), Beth Hocker (daughter-in-law), Suzanna Blank (granddaughter), and Rachel and Elizabeth Blank (great-grandchildren). Throughout her life, Mildred was devoted to the study of Scripture and had an active prayer life. Her life and actions could be summarized by this prayer of hers, "My deepest prayer, O Lord, is to know you and serve you all the days of my life."

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

We are thankful and grateful to you for the blessed life you gave to your daughter, Mildred Elaine Hocker, and for giving her Your peace in this life, and a peaceful end and relief from her physical burdens, and pains. We rejoice that she is now sharing the eternal joys of heaven with her Savior Jesus, and all the believers that have gone before her.

Comfort her family members and loved ones with the knowledge that she is sharing the eternal joys of heaven with you where there is no sin, no sorrow, no pain, and no death. Comfort all of us also with the joy that when we say good-bye to a departing Christian it is not forever; but rather we say, "till we meet again" on the Last Day, when we will be with You, and Mam-maw, and all the believers in Christ on heaven's glorious shore. Sustain and keep all of us in saving faith through your Word until our final day comes. In your Son Jesus' saving name we pray, and in His name we join together in praying the prayer that He taught us... [Lord's Prayer]