

**Tuesday - April 12**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercy and the God of all consolation.  
2 Corinthians 1:3 (NCB)*

We gathered in the living room of a young family member whom we had just lost to a sudden cardiac-related event. His minister was there to lead us through this time together as we began the grieving process. I will never forget the first words that Pastor Frank said to all of us:

“Don’t let anyone ever tell you that there is a reason for everything.”

That moment is stuck in time for me as my inner voice responded with, “Yes! Thank goodness someone finally said that out loud, and he’s a member of the clergy, too!” In my mind, we have come to use this trite expression when we cannot come up with something better to say especially to someone who has had a significant loss in life.

Our God is always with us; however, He is not like some fictional character that is flipping switches on a day-to-day or even moment-to-moment basis deciding when we will have good times and bad times. He is not commanding triumphs and tragedies from some mythical mountain top! My faith journey keeps growing along with yours and our God is one to celebrate with us and also offer comfort to us each step of the way. Our foundation of faith must be built upon the beautiful and the painful events of our earthly existence to prepare us for Glory! And the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation will carry us every step of the way.

Todd

**Prayer:** Dear Father, Let me turn my eyes to You on this day and every day knowing that You have my heart and soul in the palm of Your hand. Thank you for my life and the bounty that You have provided. I sing Your praises with all that I am! In Jesus’ name. Amen.