

MAUPIN MESSAGE

Trusting God the Redeemer in 2022

If you've been keeping up with the Maupin Message, you've read about my gratitude that God could continue to use me as I make myself available as a missionary with Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He also continues to use me as I make myself available as a husband to Susie, a father to Ricky, Dan, Brian, Joey, Leann and Tonya and, for some remarkable reason of unmerited favor from God, he continues to use me in the lives of our 12 grandchildren (Makayla, David, Kendall, Atticus, Skylar, Lincoln, Harper, Quinn, Junior, Taelor, Tre, and Paisley). It is a blessing to have these little ones close. Every time I see them it is a delight and a reminder that God loves me!

I was meditating over the past two months about my circumstances in light of God's presence, power and provision. I had been feeling the weight of my numerous imperfections and how I have an imperfect marriage and an imperfect family. I found myself racing down a cause-and-effect pathway and God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, stopped me. It was at that time that our pastor, Michael Loudermilk, began an improbable series as an Advent to the celebration of Jesus' birth. If you've ever experienced a message so tailored to your inner struggle that you *feel* as if you are the only member of the congregation (despite the 300-400 people around you) and that indeed, God Himself is speaking through the messenger, the pastor. I highly recommend you visit www.c3lr.org and listen to/watch the 5-week sermon series on the women in Jesus' genealogy from the Gospel of Matthew. I can only tell you what I heard and God was clearly meeting me in my particular point of need throughout the series. My takeaways are 1) It's not about me; 2) I don't have to have all the right answers or even understand what's happening for God to be "in it"; 3) God brings Himself to ordinary circumstances and His presence is enough to change lives; 4) More glory to God because He makes beauty out of ashes—uses broken people to bring Good News; 5) I only control three people: me, myself, and I. When I stay in my lane, sweep my side of the street, surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit—even when I want things to make sense to me and they don't—(demonstrating faith), God can/will/does handle things for His glory and my good. He is trustworthy and He is my Redeemer.

As I begin 2022, I want God to redeem all the pain and suffering He has seen me through in 2021 (and in 2020 as well). I want it to make sense. I don't know if that's God's plan. What I do know is I'm grateful He has me where He wants me, doing what He's called me to do for His glory and my good and the good of those around me. You make all of this possible with your prayers and giving. Thank you! To God be the glory.

