

Note from Pastor Steve

There has been many reports over the last few weeks that have said one thing and the next day we hear something completely different. It has become hard to know the truth. Are we getting closer to the end of our isolation or is this just beginning? We are ready for this to be over with, but at the same time we want to remain safe. The governor has extended the Stay at Home order to May 8th, but that might be extended again. Even if the order comes to an end, it does not necessarily mean we will be able to meet together as a church yet. We just don't know, leaving each of us in a hard place.

However, I know a different story. A different leader. One that cannot lie, that has spoken in an oath, so that we can flee into His arms. Where we can place our hope. We can be greatly encouraged and have an anchor for our soul that is firm and secure. (Hebrews 6) He has entered the innermost parts of our being and on our behalf is leading us to a restored life connected to Him. We can have the hope to know that:

“When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.” - James 1:13-17

Know this ... Our World moves towards its own desires and plans. Plans that are in the end hollow and change daily. God is not this way. His promises still hold true. His word is unbreakable. He is restoring us. He loves us. He has not left you today. Jesus did not run away from the storms and suffering, but ran into them to live with us in the midst of the storm. The words of the “Experts” will change like shifting shadows. The words of Jesus will stand forever and His Kingdom is coming and will stand forever (Isaiah 9 & Luke 1)

Prayer List

- Joyce Sear's Family
- Carolyn Norwood
- Barry's Brothers
- David Myers (Cancer)
- Judy Pollard (Health)
- The Clarks (Health)
- Sally Overton
- Judy Pollard (Family's Health)
- Jackie Burke's Father
- John Fletcher (Health)
- Coronavirus Crisis
- Cindy Koontz's Son (Andy)
- Margaret & Cecil Dale
- Wilma Stephens
- Karen Richardson (Jamie)
- Sharon & Donald Winstead

Prayer Requests

Judy Pollard had a mild heart attack this week and was admitted to the hospital, she is home now. Please keep her and Leon in your prayers.

Lovedee, Joyce's niece is moving to Georgia this week. Please be in prayers for her as she is finishing up cleaning out Joyce's house and saying her final goodbyes to her life here in Rocky Mount with Joyce.

Do You Worship The Work? By Oswald Chambers

We are God's fellow workers... —1 Corinthians 3:9

Beware of any work for God that causes or allows you to avoid concentrating on Him. A great number of Christian workers worship their work. The only concern of Christian workers should be their concentration on God. This will mean that all the other boundaries of life, whether they are mental, moral, or spiritual limits, are completely free with the freedom God gives His child; that is, a worshiping child, not a wayward one. A worker who lacks this serious controlling emphasis of concentration on God is apt to become overly burdened by his work. He is a slave to his own limits, having no freedom of his body, mind, or spirit. Consequently, he becomes burned out and defeated. There is no freedom and no delight in life at all. His nerves, mind, and heart are so overwhelmed that God's blessing cannot rest on him.

But the opposite case is equally true—once our concentration is on God, all the limits of our life are free and under the control and mastery of God alone. There is no longer any responsibility on you for the work. The only responsibility you have is to stay in living constant touch with God, and to see that you allow nothing to hinder your cooperation with Him. The freedom that comes after sanctification is the freedom of a child, and the things that used to hold your life down are gone. But be careful to remember that you have been freed for only one thing— to be absolutely devoted to your co-Worker.

We have no right to decide where we should be placed, or to have preconceived ideas as to what God is preparing us to do. God engineers everything; and wherever He places us, our one supreme goal should be to pour out our lives in wholehearted devotion to Him in that particular work. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might..." (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

I asked the Lord that I might grow
In faith, and love, and every grace;
Might more of His salvation know,
And seek, more earnestly, His face.

'Twas He who taught me thus to pray,
And He, I trust, has answered prayer!
But it has been in such a way,
As almost drove me to despair.

I hoped that in some favored hour,
At once He'd answer my request;
And by His love's constraining pow'r,
Subdue my sins, and give me rest.

Instead of this, He made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart;
And let the angry pow'rs of hell
Assault my soul in every part.

Yea more, with His own hand He seemed
Intent to aggravate my woe;
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,
Blasted my gourds, and laid me low.

Lord, why is this, I trembling cried,
Wilt thou pursue thy worm to death?
"Tis in this way, the Lord replied,
I answer prayer for grace and faith.

These inward trials I employ,
From self, and pride, to set thee free;
And break thy schemes of earthly joy,
That thou may'st find thy all in Me."

- John Newton

Being Shaped for a Life to Come

A famous evangelist told the following incident: I have a friend who in a time of business recession lost his job, a sizable fortune, and his beautiful home. To add to his sorrow, his precious wife died; yet he tenaciously held to his faith -- the only thing he had left. One day when he was out walking in search of employment, he stopped to watch some men who were doing stonework on a large church. One of them was chiseling a triangular piece of rock. 'Where are you going to put that?' he asked. The workman said, 'Do you see that little opening up there near the spire? Well, I'm shaping this stone down here so that it will fit in up there.' Tears filled my friend's eyes as he walked away, for the Lord had spoken to him through that laborer whose words gave new meaning to his troubled situation.