

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20, 2016

TESTIFY - WHO - ME?

1 Peter 3:15 “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

Over the Christmas holidays, I visited the church operated by the Adullam House Ministry. My son, Christopher who serves in that ministry, had asked us to visit when we had an opportunity. During the service the pastor looked out at the congregation and said to a man sitting in the back, “Joe, testify.” Joe got up and shared briefly what God had been doing in his life. The pastor then chose a second person and said, “Testify.” Again we heard a brief testimony. By now, I am thinking, “I sure wish I had not told Pastor Pete my name when I met him prior to the service!” The third and last person he called on was Christopher, and he obediently stood up and spoke. After the service I asked him if he knew he would be asked to testify. He said “No, but Pete would never call on anyone unless he knew something about what God was doing in his life.” As I processed this I realized that we are all called to be ready at any moment to testify about our relationship with God. According to scripture, our testimony is a powerful weapon in the Spiritual warfare we face as followers of Jesus. John writes in Revelation that it is one way we can have victory over Satan’s attacks. Revelation 12:11: “They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;” As we continue through our sermon series on Spiritual Warfare, it is important to keep in mind the power our testimony has in this fight. Let’s ask God to help us be ready at any moment!

- Jan Niel, Director of Prayer Ministry

THURSDAY JANUARY 21, 2016

HAVE A LITTLE PATIENCE

Ephesians 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

My wife and I were so excited when we found out we were having a baby for the first time. We just couldn’t wait to find out if we were having a boy or girl, so much so that we took a blood test that was supposedly 99% accurate just after 6 weeks. The test said we were having a boy. I was ecstatic! We started buying boy clothes, painted the nursery, had a name picked out, etc. Fast forward to 18 weeks in and we got our actual ultrasound to distinguish the sex. I walked in that doctor’s office, telling the ultrasound tech all about the blood test and how we already knew we were having a baby boy. Well, surprise, surprise, we were having a GIRL! As it turned out the blood test wasn’t 99% accurate and the test was basically a scam.

The bible has many verses teaching about patience but one of my favorites is Ephesians 4:2 “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” Don’t skip ahead in life, be patient and humble, enjoy everything in the time it comes because that is the plan the Lord has laid out for you. If you don’t, you might have to repaint a nursery.

- Keith Williams, Information Technology Director

FRIDAY JANUARY 22, 2016

THERE’S NO “I” IN LOVE

Romans 12:10: “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

With the new year upon us, have you made any goals for 2016? Some call these goals resolutions, others avoid the word hoping they won’t get off track in the first few weeks. So let me ask you this, how many of your goals or resolutions start with the word “I”? Does this sound familiar, “I’m going to lose weight; I’m going to get in shape; I’m going to get a better job?”

Here’s a challenge—set your new year’s goals based on Romans 12:10. Help a co-worker achieve his or her goals; focus on encouraging your children every day; ask your spouse how you can help accomplish his or her plans for 2016. In other words, live and love like Jesus. Trust your desires and goals will come to fruition by pouring yourself into others. Ruth 1:16 is another powerful verse leading us to lift the needs of others above our own. Ruth’s husband has died and her mother-in-law, Naomi, is encouraging Ruth to go home and go on with her life. Ruth realizing the pain Naomi is experiencing over losing her husband and two sons, replies in Ruth 1:16: “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.” In the end, Ruth finds love again when Boaz recognizes Ruth’s loyalty to Naomi. What are you searching for this year? There’s a real good chance you’ll find it by lifting others higher than yourself

- Kim Hendrix, Director of Media Ministries

SATURDAY JANUARY 23, 2016

THE SHOCK THAT CHANGES IT ALL

John 16:7, “But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.”

In my life, there was a specific moment that completely shocked me that led to a great change. I remember the night that I found out that my wife Leigh, liked me. This was a shocking moment changed everything for me and led to a great pursuit to capture this great catch!

The verse above consists of a truth that was a complete shock to the disciples, but also changed life for us all. The first shocking truth is that Jesus was going away. I can only imagine how the disciples felt when they heard that the One who called them to follow Him and leave most of what they knew, was going to die. The next shocking truth was that as Jesus was going away, He was going to send an Advocate that is better than He. This news has great power. You and I, as a follower of Christ in today’s world, have access to One greater than Jesus. The Holy Spirit is sent by God to empower, convict, and guide our lives! May you and I live a life of surrender today, so that the great Advocate that God has sent to us can direct our lives. Just as the news of my wife’s affections for me changed my course of action, even greater so should the news of the Holy Spirit change our actions and faith.

- Chase Faulk, Director of Student Ministry

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

SANCTUARY - JANUARY 17, 2016

WORSHIP GUIDE & DAILY DEVOTIONS



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ORDER OF WORSHIP	
Prelude: “I Am Thine” (Arr. Whitworth)	Kelley Garrett, organ
Call to Worship: “Majesty”	Choir
Apostles Creed	Congregation
Hymn #154: “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”	Congregation
Special Music: “Never Once”	Choir
Prayer, Announcements & Call for Offering	Dr. Neil Epler
Offertory: “Sing the Mighty Power of God”	First Light
Doxology	Congregation
Sermon	Dr. Tim Thompson
Hymn #514: “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”	Congregation
Benediction	Dr. Tim Thompson
Postlude: “Recessional in C” (Hopson)	Kelley Garrett

SERMON NOTES

The Best Defense Is A Good Offense

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NLT) The Whole Armor of God

- ¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
- ¹¹ Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.
- ¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness.
- ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.
- ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
- ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NLT) ³ We are human, but we don’t wage war as humans do. ⁴ We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ⁵ We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

— Dr. Tim Thompson

Watch today’s sermon on WFRZ-TV, online at frazerumc.org/media or download the podcast at frazerumc.org/podcast. You may also order a CD of today’s service at the Connection Point desk.

MONDAYJANUARY 18, 2016

SLOW DOWN

Exodus 20:8, “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”
Psalms 46:10, “He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

I do a lot of traveling around town and on the local interstates visiting our hospitals and nursing homes. I am amazed at the crazy way people drive. Everyone seems to be in such a hurry. People quickly change lanes and dodge in and out of traffic trying to get ahead of a car or truck. Usually they end up stopped at a traffic light with the rest of the people they just passed. I often find myself thinking, “Where are they going that they have to be in such a hurry and jeopardize themselves and others with the terrible way they are driving?” And it is not just driving. Does it seem to you that everyone is in a hurry in their daily life? People don’t have time to stop and talk and visit. There always seems to be something going on or someplace to be. Now, before I seem too hard on folks, I must confess that I am talking about myself as well. Sometimes when I am driving, I find myself getting in a hurry and becoming impatient with the traffic around me. I ask people how they are doing, but I don’t really have time to hear the answer I need to slow down, and most of us need to reduce our stress and take it a little easy. God knows we need rest and time to be still. So I invite you to join me and slow down. May we enjoy each day to its fullest and take time for God and for others.
- Neil Epler, Congregational Care Pastor

TUESDAYJANUARY 19, 2016

RESCUED AND REDEEMED

Ezekiel 36:26 “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

A friend of mine gave me a journal called *Rescued and Redeemed* by Junk Town Revival. It was created from a vintage book that was rescued from a thrift shop or anywhere else a forgotten book might dwell. The creator of the journal pointed out that often times these books are abandoned, abused, and seem damaged beyond repair. Each one deemed worthless of monetary value because of the obvious flaws inside and out, but rescued! The next step is restoration. The cover remains unaltered, and the contents within are transformed. Some undamaged pages of the old book are included in the journal for character along with 50 pages of fine, watermark Strathmore journaling paper. The book is then cleaned, rebound, and “restored completely by hand, not to its former self, but redeemed for a new purpose.” Isn’t that what God does for us? He rescues us and redeems us, and by His hands we are healed through the work of Jesus on the Cross. He cleans us up real good, taking our sin and replacing it with a New Heart and gives us a New purpose. We still have the same outside, but He makes all things new from the inside out because of His great love for us. My journal/book cover title is The Wondrous Works of God published in 1956. I assure you the 50 pages in this journal won’t come close to holding all the things my God has rescued and redeemed me from, but I hold fast to His promise of making all things New whether it is yesterday, today, or tomorrow. How about you, are you rescued and redeemed from the inside out? You are priceless, He is ready.
- Susan Fisher, Director of Discipleship