



The STEEPLE

Leicester Evangelical
Presbyterian Church

August 2021

Pastor David Missel
382-3311 - Office

LEPC website:
www.seekinggodtogether.com

*It is our desire to assist anyone
who is seeking help, if possible,
whether it be spiritual or otherwise.
Please contact Pastor David
or any Session Elder
if you would like us to be of help."*

LEPC NEWS

Prayer Ministry

For the upcoming week I intend to
pray for _____.

Worship:

The worship format has gone back
to the way it was previously. We ap-
preciate the feedback concerning our
attempt to stream line the bulletin.

Sunday scripture readings and
sermon may still be heard at:

www.seekinggodtogether.com

We are now sending out e-mail
notices to all Members and Friends
which feature what will be happening
at LEPC for the upcoming Sunday.

These notices will contain the
sermon title, scripture passages, title of
the song of exaltation and hymns that
have been selected as well as online
links to hear the general tune of these
songs and read the scripture passages.
In addition, announcements will ac-
company these e-mails.

It is hopeful that this will make
you better prepared for worship on any
given Sunday.

Missions:

As an example of your mission
giving in action, Session moved to
send \$100 to EduNations to be used
for purchasing school supplies for the

students in Sierra Leone.

Thank you for supporting the
missions work financially and through
your prayers. See page 2 to learn how
you have made an impact in the life of
one EduNations's Child.

Stewardship:

LEPC Financial Update for June:

Operating Income: \$4053.25
Operating Expense: \$5572.86
Mission Income: \$105.00
Mission Expenditures: \$40.00

Witness:

Dish to Pass Luncheons have
thankfully begun again starting on
7/11/2021. It is so good to be back to
fellowship in this manner.

The luncheons are scheduled for
the second Sunday of the month, fol-
lowing worship, unless there is a con-
flict which may result in a cancellation
or postponement for that particular
month.

Please bring a dish to pass, and
stay to enjoy some food and fellowship.
Table service and refreshments will be
provided.

We also ask you to observe our
Pandemic Policy: On the Honor Sys-
tem, if you are fully vaccinated, and
are confident your health is not a threat
to the well being of others, you are
not required to wear a facial covering
or social distance while in this build-
ing. **Unvaccinated** individuals are
requested to wear a facial covering
and to social distance when moving
around the building, but while seated,
the facial coverings become optional,
and please continue to practice social
distancing according to family units as
is recommended by NYS and CDC.

Staying Connected: If anyone
does not receive the Steeple Newslet-
ter, participate in Prayer Chain Activa-
tions, or receive church updates by
e-mail and want to be included, please
contact Leo Richardson.

Sunday Prayer and Share for the
summer months will start at 10:10 a.m.

Property:

Session approved to contract with
Edward Hulme, Inc. to repair and re-
pave the LEPC driveway and parking
lot at the cost of \$24,100.08. This will
be paid for as follows: \$4100.08 from
the line item, "Special Projects" and

the balance from LEPC investments
overseen by Morgan Stanley Financial
Investment Counselors.

Gene Gregg will be LEPC's liai-
son with Edward Hulme, Inc. from the
start to finish of the contracted work.
Gene Gregg has also volunteered to do
the striping of the parking lot follow-
ing the paving.

Paving of the parking lot is
expected to be finished this year, and
we hope to avoid any Sunday parking
inconveniences during this project.

Christian Ed:

Sunday School is on recessed for
the summer. You are encouraged to
continue to learn on your own.

Miscellaneous:

Dr. Bill John Newbrough stated
that God has answered our prayers
regarding his ability to move to this
area and have his children attend the
Christian School in Geneseo.

He should be finished moving on
July 17th and plans on attending LEPC
with his family.

"Thank You" to all who were
praying about this matter.

**If you should read this early
enough, help could be used on Tues-
day, July 27th, in Geneseo to unload
his truck. Please contact Pastor
David if you are available.**

You may recall Dr. Bill John
Newbrough played for several Christ-
mas Eve Candlelight Services here at
LEPC.

Monthly Celebrations:

August Birthdays

22 Shari Stringham
28 Cindy Briggs
29 Lori Cartwright

Anniversaries

4 M/M Michael Mallaber
12 M/M Paul Griffen
20 M/M Sam Maggio, Jr.

If you see a need for corrections
to the Monthly Celebrations, please
contact Leo Richardson:
griehardson001@rochester.rr.com

Up Coming Events Calendar:

Next Regular Session Meeting date
is scheduled for 8/5/2021, at 3 p.m.



From the Pastor's Heart

The following is my submission, written by Rick Warren, pastor and founder of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Lake Forest, California.

**“Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves . . . You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.”
Philippians 2:3, 5-6 (NLT)**

The ability to be humble is a relationship builder. What is humility? It's when you honor others above yourself, not always demanding or clinging to your rights.

Pride, on the other hand, destroys relationships—and it shows up in a lot of different ways. It can make you critical, judgmental, competitive, stubborn, and unforgiving. Proverbs 16:18 says, “Pride leads to destruction; a proud attitude brings ruin” (NCV).

Pride is also self-deceiving. When you have a problem with pride, you struggle to see it in your life. But everyone else can see it in you! What does pride look like in a relationship? One, you always offer advice but never ask for it. Two, you can't admit when you've had a tough week. Everybody else is saying, “Yeah, this last week was tough.” But you can't seem to admit you have any problems.

But how does humility play out in a relationship? Notice the five relationship builders in 1 Peter 3:8: “Live in harmony, be sympathetic, love each other, have compassion, and be humble” (GW). The first four are really built on the fifth one: Be humble. And it's an excellent model for relationships. How does humility happen in your life? It happens by letting Jesus control your thoughts, heart, attitudes, and reactions. Growing in humility has to include Jesus.

The basic law of relationships is this: You tend to become like the people you spend time with. If you spend time with grumpy people, you get grumpier. If you spend time with happy people, you get happier. If you want to have more humility, spend time with Jesus Christ in prayer and reading his Word. Just talk to him. He is humble and wants a relationship with you.

Growing in humility may seem like a tall order, but it's possible with Jesus. Take the first step toward humility and become a relationship builder today.

Talk It Over

- How does pride show up in your life?
- In what way do you see a connection between being humble and spending time with Jesus? Think about how you act when it's been a while since you've connected with Jesus.
- Who is a person of humility in your life? What about them stands out as humble?

Meet Abubakarr Success in the Making



Abubakarr is a current student at EduNations Senior Secondary Boarding School. Raised by a single parent in the vil-

lage of Gbenekoro, Abubakarr began attending EduNations (JSS3) Junior Secondary School in his home village, where he did well academically.

A few years after completing JSS3, Abubakarr found out that EduNations had started a Senior Secondary Boarding School in Rokassa. Knowing the good reputation of EduNations, Abubakarr and his family made the decision that Abubakarr would leave his home village to attend EduNations' Boarding School in Rokassa.

After adjusting to the boarding school environment the first few weeks, Abubakarr found that attending EduNations was positively impacting his academic journey, as well as his personal life. Abubakarr was part of the commercial business department this past year and took a variety of classes focused in entrepreneurship and business. He has not only learned a lot about business, but has also grown in his public speaking, writing, reading, and critical thinking skills.

Abubakarr's dream is to one day become an accountant, and he is fervently working towards that goal. At the end of this past school year when all grades were calculated, Abubakarr was one of EduNations Senior Secondary School's top students!

Having access to free and quality school supplies has made a tremendous difference in Abubakarr's life because he can study in his own personal time and therefore excel in the classroom.

When you give to EduNations, you are directly making a difference in the lives of students like Abubakarr.

To learn more about EduNations, please visit <https://edunations.org/>

LEPC also forwards the EduNations' Village Insider Newsletter by e-mail to Members and Friends of LEPC so be on the lookout for the next issue, or subscribe to it yourself.



Our Merger

First, we want to thank you for your support of Catholic Charities of Livingston County. Your support has been critical to our success in serving the community, and we could not have done it without you.

In order to do more good for more people, and with the support of the Diocese of Rochester and encouragement from government funders to streamline our work, our boards approved an integration of Catholic Charities of Steuben County with Catholic Charities of Livingston County effective January 1, 2021.

The purpose for the merger is to increase our mission impact in both of our communities. By working together, we can serve more than 30,000 people per year. As a larger organization, with broader geographical reach, we increase the stability of our government funding. We have already begun to achieve financial efficiencies through a joint CEO and by streamlining expenses.

Even though our name is different, we assure you funding that is marked for Livingston County will remain here. More specifically, all money raised through Livingston County parishes for the Second Collection will stay in Livingston County. We will always honor donor requests, and our systems are built to accommodate and track that information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to our Development and Fundraising Manager, Nicole Ricker, at Nicole.Ricker@dor.org or (585)658-4466 ext.20. You may also visit ccsteubenlivingston.org for more information on our services and programs.

As always, we thank you for your continued trust and support in the work we do.

Sermon on the “Mount”

Recently Pastor David attended a horse breaking demonstration given by Dr. Lew Sterrett. Pastor was genuinely moved by what he heard and saw and would like to encourage you to see some of that for yourself:

Excerpt from Sermon on the “Mount” website:

Sermon On The Mount is the ministry arm of Dr. Lew Sterrett’s Human / Equine relationship training. The culmination of years of education, experience and training; S.O.T.M. (Sermon On The Mount) seeks to teach about issues related to human relationships, character development and all of the things in between.

When you attend a Sermon On The Mount event, you will have the

uplifting opportunity to watch an amazing man named Dr. Lew Sterrett address the heart issues of one or more horses while he reaches into your own heart.

For over 30 years Dr. Lew has combined his expertise as a professional horse trainer, a certified youth and family counselor, a licensed pastor, and a successful business executive to produce one of the most unique events in the Christian realm.

As he trains the horse, you will vividly see yourself, your spouse, your child, your co-worker or employer. The needs of the heart will be clearly illustrated and the steps to meeting those needs will be evidenced as the horse overcomes his resistance to

change and finds success and fulfillment in his relationship with the trainer. These events vary in length from thirty minutes to two hours. But no matter what the length, you will be so captivated that you will be astonished the session is over so soon.

As a relationship specialist, Dr. Lew has lived and understands real life issues, accurate and truthful solutions and clear application for daily living. If you are tired of status quo living and are looking for gut-level truth and development of core values based on truth from the Word of God, you don’t want to miss this one-of-a-kind event.

You will find yourself fascinated even if you don’t like or understand horses. You will feel encouraged, focused, and challenged to greater excellence in your life. You will clearly see the simple steps of application for your complex life issues resulting in a positive effect, both now and for future generations.

You can learn more about his ministry, listen to Dr. Lew speak, read lessons on life, view the gallery, see his upcoming calendar of events, and explore inspirational DVDs, books, and more that are all available by visiting: **Sermon on the “Mount”**
<https://www.sermononthemount.org/>
 and on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/lewsterrett>



Dr. Lew Sterrett from his Facebook Page

Rummage Sale Coming Soon to LEPC !



Please start bringing your gently used, unwanted items to the church basement for the upcoming famous Rummage Sale. The date of the sale will soon be announced.

If you have any questions, please see Carol Griffen.

Friday's List to Live By #49

The Preachers Word

<https://thepreachersword.com/>

July 23, 2021

Our Wednesday night class at the West Citrus Church has been studying the beatitudes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

This week we discussed Matt. 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God."

From this statement, we offered several Biblical suggestions on how peace is possible, which serves as today's list.

How Is Peace Possible?

- #1 Get Right with God (Rom. 5:1-2).
- #2 Respect the Word of God (John 17:21; 1 Cor. 1:10).
- #3 Pray for peace (Phil. 4:6-7).
- #4 Pursue peace (1 Pet. 3:11).
- #5 Do the things that make for peace (Rom. 14:19).
- #6 Be an edifier (1 Cor. 10:23; 14:26).
- #7 Don't allow problems to fester (Acts 6:1-7).
- #8 Realize that divisiveness is sinful (Titus 3:10-11).
- #9 Do all things from the spirit of love (1 Pet. 4:8).
- #10 Remember God hates division and discord (Proverbs 6:16-19).
- #11 Avoid foolish questions and useless speculation (1 Tim. 6:3-5; Titus 3:9; 2 Tim. 2:23).

—Ken Weliever, The Preacherman

The Way Things Were



In 1971, LEPC was part of the denomination: Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. In that year their annual General Assembly meeting was held in Rochester, NY at the Rochester War Memorial Auditorium. Today this auditorium is known as the Blue Cross Arena. Area churches in PCUSA were asked to design and make banners for the meeting which would be displayed from the balcony. These banners were to portray Biblical themes.

LEPC, then known as Leicester Union Presbyterian Church (LUPC), needed someone with artistic abilities to design the banner for LUPC. Leslie Heen, formerly Leslie Clune at the time and resident of Leicester, agreed to come up with a design. With the help of some from the congregation, a banner was made and displayed at the GA Meeting along with others provided by PCUSA churches in the area.

Following the meeting, our banner was returned to the LUPC where it hung in the sanctuary for many years. The banner deteriorated over time, and a decision was made to have it removed and thrown away.

In addition to the banner, you will also notice that the chairs on the pulpit platform were then upholster in a golden color which is now done in red. The old pew cushions were also replaced with new stuffing and also done in red.

An item of interest: the original pew cushions were brown in color and stuffed with horse hair. Horse hair is no longer used in furniture for the same reason that automobiles replaced horse drawn carts. Polyurethane foams began replacing horse hair in mid 1900s and is the type of stuffing in our current pew cushions.

The carpet and lower sanctuary wall colors were changed too, but we'll save that discussion for another day.



...know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death. — Philippians 3:10

Don't Waste Your Pain

by Adam B. Dooley
from Hope When Life Unravels
July 20, 2021
<https://www.faithgateway.com>



SILVER LININGS IN DARK PLACES

Surveying the various good outcomes God frequently produces from our agonies requires a careful word of caution.

Because knowing the mind of God is impossible (Romans 11:33–34), discerning His intentions demands humility.

Though it is true that God may have a singular goal for our afflictions, His desired end is often multifaceted and complex. You may understand something of God's design for your hardships, but the full breadth of His intentions is often incomprehensible.

Grasping for understanding of what God might be teaching you is commendable, but speaking dogmatically for Him is not. We should be proactive in order to grow, without being presumptuous regarding the Lord. With these boundaries in place, the following list is by no means comprehensive.

These are just some of the beneficial results God brings into our lives through our suffering.

Trials Grow and Strengthen Our Faith

Because God is more concerned with our character than our comfort, sometimes He chooses to use calamity in order to sanctify us. James 1:2-4 explains:

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

If ease or happiness is your primary goal in life, you will likely feel frustrated and betrayed when God chooses to deepen your maturity through a trial. The potential for meaningful development and growth, however, may be greatest when we are hurting the most. Will you eagerly follow a God who will likely break you in order to mature your commitment to Him?

Before Carson was sick, I confess that my life was relatively easy — no major heartache and few serious problems to weather. This first real challenge to my faith tested everything I said I believed. Even though I had preached for more than a decade with an adequate knowledge of the Scriptures, suddenly my situation forced me to reckon with my confidence in the fundamentals of my faith.

Surface faith will not suffice when circumstances threaten what you treasure most in life.

I am thankful that throughout our dilemma, my confidence in God's truth only deepened. Before I might have told you what I believe about Christianity. Today I can tell you what I know from firsthand experience.

Trials Deepen Our Fellowship with Jesus and Reveal His Strength

When speaking about his primary goal for living, the apostle Paul reminds disciples of Jesus of the need to seek to “*know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship*

of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.” — Philippians 3:10

Though most of us are eager to experience the power of Christ's resurrection, we are less enthusiastic about the fellowship of His sufferings. Do not forget, however, that the agony of Golgotha preceded the glory of His victory over the grave. As we learned previously, experiencing the power of Christ's resurrection begins on the road of heartache.

In a similar way, receiving God's power in our lives will require enduring great wounds without wavering. Apart from suffering, we simply cannot learn about God or relate to Him on an intimate level. Believing that God is real and present is one thing; trusting that He is enough, no matter what we face, is another thing entirely.

Though we are quite capable of cognitively grasping these ideas, we cannot embrace them fully until we experience their reality for ourselves.

Trials force us to move beyond superficial knowledge of Jesus into a meaningful, daily walk with Him.

Even those who believe the gospel and claim a relationship with God sometimes fail to live in light of their commitment.

Tragically, though we know God is there, we seldom feel like we need Him. Before Carson's diagnosis, I often preached about the peace of God, but I seldom felt like I needed it. My prayer life was consistent, but it left much to be desired. I read my Bible to prepare sermons, but I rarely did so with desperation to hear from the Lord. My outward obedience was, at times, lacking the inward fellowship with God that I now crave.

Maybe you can relate. Do you pray more when times are tough? Is your Bible always close by when you are searching for answers? Is your church worship attendance noticeably more frequent when things have gone awry in your life? Why are these patterns so apparent? Stated simply, it's because suffering forces us to live what we really believe. Thus, the Lord beckons us into a deeper, more meaningful fellowship with Jesus through the doorway of hardship. In our weakness, we move from having a cognitive awareness of His strength to experiencing the personal peace it brings.

continued on page 6

Don't Waste Your Pain *continued*

Trials Increase Our Effectiveness in Serving Others

We seldom consider how our current struggles might prepare us for future service, yet God often equips us to serve others as a result of our most painful experiences.

In 2 Corinthians 1:4, we learn that God the Father

comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

In addition to the personal benefit God produces, the fruit of adversity in our lives will often bear the seeds of comfort for other hurting believers along the way. The Lord's intention to comfort us is also His investment in bearing the pain of others who are not even hurting yet. When we enjoy the supernatural peace that surpasses our understanding today, we become distributors of that same consolation to others tomorrow and every day thereafter (paraphrase of Philippians 4:7).

Today I regularly receive calls from other pastors and churches whenever a child they know is diagnosed with cancer of some sort. Though I was completely unaware of it at the time, God was giving my wife and me the gift of His comfort so that we could share it with other hurting people.

Your trials will enable you to do the same.

Trials Embolden Other Christians to Be Courageous for Christ

Similar to its impact on those outside of Christianity, resolute commitment to the Lord despite adverse realities is a powerful motivator for other believers as well. Again, God's servant to the Gentiles is a powerful example of maximizing our deepest moments of despair for the kingdom of God. Philippians 1:14 celebrates this: "*Most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.*" In other words, Paul's devotion to Christ in prison was a powerful influence on believers who were not suffering.

Those who were less committed were challenged to devote their lives to the gospel because one man was

willing to serve God under any circumstance.

Think about the Christians who inspire you the most.

Chances are you watched them walk through a season of difficulty without wavering. When I was a boy, my favorite teacher fought a brain tumor for nearly four years. This giant of a man demonstrated the substance of Christianity to me in a profound way. Before one of his surgeries, he sat me down in the hallway of my elementary school one day and declared, "I am not afraid to die, and you won't be either if you will live every day of your life for Jesus Christ." That conversation still impacts me today. Mr. A, as we called him, ultimately lost his earthly battle with cancer, but he is still enjoying his heavenly reward for such profound faithfulness.

His life emboldened me to give myself more fully to my Savior. Your suffering may allow you to do the same for someone else.

Trials Can Be a Form of Discipline Intended to Produce Repentance

No Christian will ever experience the condemnation of God (Romans 8:1). However, Scripture explicitly teaches that God does discipline those who belong to Him. Hebrews 12:9-11 reminds us:

Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Sometimes trials are the consequences of our sinful choices and actions. Other times our adversities may not be directly traceable to a specific moment of disobedience, but God intends to produce greater holiness within us nonetheless.

God loves us too much to ignore any behavior or perspective that would push us away from Him. Like a loving father, He carefully and expeditiously works to correct us when we stray. Though this involvement in our

lives can be painful at times, it proves God's affection for us rather than His abandonment of us.

Excerpted with permission from Hope When Life Unravels by Adam Dooley, copyright Adam B. Dooley.

Your Turn

Your pain has purpose. It has meaning. It's not just random and it isn't unknown to God, nor unseen by Him. God loves His children more than we could possibly comprehend. In the darkness of pain, look for the silver linings and thank the Lord!



**Camp Cherith
75th Anniversary
Family Fun Day**

**Saturday, August 28, 2021
1:00 - 8:00+ p. m.
9534 Short Track Rd, Hunt, NY**

Your \$15 family registration on the website:

www.campcherithwny.org will help us plan.

(includes 1 dinner- additional dinners available for \$10)

Donations gratefully accepted.

Be sure to bring your towel, swim suit, sun screen, bug spray, camera, and anything you need to have a great day!

We'll provide the fun and fellowship.

Activities to Enjoy:

Swimming, Hiking, Crafts, Archery, Gaga Ball and More.

For questions and limited accommodations for long distance travelers, contact Egohr at 248.722.1531.

Theology and Everyday Life

by Derek W. H. Thomas
Table Talk Magazine
August 2021

The Puritan William Perkins

famously defined theology as “the science of living blessedly forever.” His contemporary William Ames mimicked Perkins by calling theology “the science of living for God.” Since living for God is every Christian’s duty and joy, every Christian must be a theologian—a good one. The connection between theology and everyday life is clearly seen in the following three examples from Paul.

First, at Philippi. Two named women are in public dispute in the church at Philippi, and Paul feels he must address it (Phil. 4:2). Fools rush in where angels fear to tread. Perhaps, but Paul is an Apostle, and the church’s good reputation and witness are at stake, and the issue cannot be brushed under the carpet.

What does he do? He brings into play the most massive theology he can muster: the incarnation of the eternal Son of God. Jesus, who was “in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped” - in the sense, perhaps, that He did not grasp at His deity in a manner that would say no to the lowliness of His incarnation (Phil. 2:6). Though Jesus was “very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things are made,” as the Nicene Creed of 325 stated, He “emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant” (v. 7). So fraught with theological danger is the term “emptied” that many translations have shied away from the literal translation, employing a euphemism in its place (e.g., “made himself of no reputation,” KJV). The passage in question deserves a fuller treatment, but the point needs to be underlined. Paul wants the Philippians (and you and me) to demonstrate the *mind-set* of Christ: “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus” (vv. 4-5). The colossal doctrine of the incarnation is employed in the interest of demonstrating humility; the “truth, which

accords with godliness” (Titus 1:1).

Second, at Corinth. Paul desires a display of benevolence toward the suffering church in Jerusalem, an issue that occupied the Apostle for some time (2 Cor. 8-9). What incentive can he employ to encourage generous giving? Among other things, such giving will prove the “genuineness” of their faith (8:8, 24). At one point he makes what almost sounds like an appeal to their vanity: the Corinthians do not want to be outdone by churches in the north (9:1-5). But his key argument is a theological one: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (8:9). Once again, the incarnation is employed in the interests of a practical matter.

Third, at Rome. Having written eleven chapters outlining the nature and shape of the gospel, Paul makes the morphology of practical godliness clear: you (Christians in the church in Rome) will be transformed “by the renewal of your mind” (Rom. 12:1-2). The manifesto that is Paul’s letter to the Romans is for the purpose of practical godliness: demonstrating brotherly love (v. 9-10), ridding oneself of laziness (v. 11), demonstrating patience in trials (v. 12), contributing to the needs of the saints in acts of hospitality (v. 13), preventing peacock feathers rising in displays of self-importance (v. 16), doing the honorable thing (v. 17), living as peaceably as possible with one’s neighbor (v.18), feeding one’s enemy (v. 19-20), and responding to acts of unkindness in a non-retaliatory fashion (v. 21). It doesn’t get more practical than that.

But Paul is merely exercising the wisdom he saw in his Savior. How practical is theology? Consider the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus’ comprehensive coverage of everyday life. Jesus’ view of holiness was physical. Sanctification doesn’t take place merely in our minds but in our bodies. Jesus talks about eyes and hands, feet and lips. The point is that we use our bodies either to sin or to express holiness. Speaking of lust, for example, Jesus suggests that we should pluck out our right eye and/or cut off our right hand rather than use them in acts

of sin (Matt. 5:27-30).

Do you have anxiety issues? Do you worry about daily provision in a manner that suggests a lack of trust in your heavenly Father? Then take a look at the birds that fly into your garden every day. They look healthy and strong. God takes care of them. And you are of more value to Him (Matt. 6:25-34). Are you judgmental in a manner that delights in seeing the sin in others and exaggerates it? Say to yourself, “There go I but for the grace of God!” (Matt. 7:1-6). Treat people with respect, in a manner that you would want others to treat you. Live by the Golden Rule (Matt. 7: 12).

Take the issue of guidance. Jesus promises: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened” (v. 8). As the twenty-third psalm promises, “He leads me” (Psalm 23:2). The verb suggests that our Heavenly Father, our Shepherd-King, will grant us the wisdom and discretion we need to make the right decisions in order to walk through this life in a manner that brings Him glory. Our Father loves us and isn’t about to stop loving us. His covenant ensures that His word is His bond. But He leads us “in paths of righteousness” (v. 3) and not in stray paths of unrighteousness. He will never lead us to acts of impropriety or to sin. Those come by not listening to His Word, not praying for wisdom, or giving in to choices that are less than the best.

Perspicuity and Providence

How practical can theology be? Consider two doctrines: perspicuity and providence.

Perspicuity is a theological term that expresses the truth that “ordinary” Christians may read the Scriptures for themselves, and by using the right means (sermons, Bible study aids, mentors, commentaries, and even Tabletalk) they may come to a “sufficient” (though not necessarily comprehensive) understanding of “those things which are necessary to be known ...for salvation” (Westminster Confession of Faith 1:7). This point was, of course, contested in the

medieval church when the Bible was largely unavailable, trapped in a language that only the clergy understood, and used as a ploy to keep the masses chained to the restraints of papal and church authority. The doctrine of the perspicuity of Scripture encourages us to love the Bible, read it often and well, and grow in our practice of putting its precepts into visible, tangible action. It is a doctrine that teaches us to be like those noble believers in Berea, described by Luke as those who “received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

What is *providence*? It is not a term employed in Scripture, but it is a basic Christian truth. The Westminster Confession defines it this way:

God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose and govern all creatures, actions and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness and mercy. (5.1)

The confession’s chapter on providence touches on some rather difficult issues (the nature of God’s control of history and its relationship to free agency and evil, for example), but its basic thrust is to assure us that nothing happens without God’s willing it to happen, before it happens, in the way that it happens.

Briefly, this definition of providence is an expression of Paul’s statement in Romans 8:28: “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” To a mother who loses her first child, a sister who learns of a malignant tumor, a college graduate who fails his first job interview, and to people in a thousand other scenarios, God’s providence serves as a reminder that while we may not have all the answers, God does. And when all is said and done, that is what really matters most. It is a doctrine that brings with it an abundance of calm and serenity in the midst of life’s storms. It doesn’t get

more practical than that. All of us are theologians to some degree. The real question is, Are we good theologians? Are we using our knowledge of God in every aspect of our lives for His glory?

Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas is senior minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S. C. and Chancellor’s Professor of Systematic and Pastoral Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary. He is a Ligonier Ministries teaching fellow and author of many books, including How the Gospel Brings Us All the Way Home.

Submitted by Carole Missel



Power of the Tongue

by Os Hillman - June 9, 2021

“The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” Proverbs 18:21

Words have the power to motivate or destroy, energize or deflate, inspire or create despair. Many successful executives can remember the time their father failed to give affirmation to them as a child. The result was either overachievement to prove their worth, or underachievement to prove he was right.

Many a wife has lost her ability to love because of a critical husband. Many a husband has left a marriage because of words of disrespect and ungratefulness. Stories abound regarding the power of words. There are just as many stories of those who have been encouraged, challenged, and comforted with words that made a difference in their lives.

Jesus knew the power of words. He used parables to convey His principles of the Kingdom of God. He used words of forgiveness and mercy. He used words to challenge. He used words to inspire His disciples to miraculous faith.

Do your words give life? Do they

inspire and challenge others to greatness? Who does God want you to encourage through your words today? Affirm someone close to you today.

Finish the Job

by Os Hillman - July 22, 2021

“When Israel became strong, they pressed the Canaanites into forced labor but never drove them out completely” (Judges 1:28-29).

Have you ever hired a contractor to do some work and ended up having to spend time and energy to get him back to finish the job? The small unfinished projects simply irritate you and create ill-will between you and your contractor. If you have been involved in a building project, you have surely had this experience.

God wanted his people to finish the job. He often told the Israelites to remove your enemies from the Promised Land. However, many times they would not finish the job and the remnant that was left would come back and create difficulties. In most cases, the people of Israel would intermarry which enticed them into their enemy’s way of living. Other times they had to enslave them, which took time away from their mission.

Whenever we fail to complete a job it creates ill-will from those we are serving. It also violates a basic biblical mandate for every believer to do their work with excellence. The Bible says that Daniel and his friends did their work ten times better than anyone else. They were known for their excellence.

It is often said of American football that the hardest place to score from is the one yard line. That is because the defenses are greatest where there is the most resistance. Sometimes completing a job is like this.

Whenever you have a project to do make sure you complete the job fully. Go the extra distance to make sure your boss or your client is totally satisfied with your work. You may complete 95% of your work, but if it is not completed you will be known for what you did not finish, rather than for what you did finish.



New Song Music & Performing Arts Ministries

(A Branch of Reclaimed Ministries, Inc.)

"I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. ¹⁴Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!" **Ps.27:13 + 14**

June 21, 2021

Dear Friends and Family,



This certainly is a time of waiting on the Lord, and thankfully He is concerned even with the lowliest sparrow or Bluebird (like this one at our window feeder). It has been a blessing to be able to continue our ministry during this season. Bernadette has been writing music constantly, and recently we got to attend a **Legacy 5** concert and they sang Bernadette's song: "**Love, Pure Love!**"

Here is Bernadette with the group:
Our music lessons have gone well, but at the end of the school year students often stop for summer vacation. Tim continues as "point-person" keeping tabs on the federal, state, and local COVID regulations; he has also been busy at the new facility tackling various work projects.



Here he is on the scaffolding working with our contractor and a volunteer replacing some worn-out roof gutters. We are hoping to get everything ready and "ship-shape" in time for the Nite Lite concerts in August. Our first concert since the pandemic will be **The Puffers** on August 6th at 7PM and **you are all invited!** Two weeks later, **The Foresters** are scheduled on August 20th. **The Foresters** are planning to record one of Bernadette's songs on their upcoming album! Sometimes a song gets recorded by a group and you may never know what kind of any impact it has in the world. We recently asked Mr. Heath, the father of the 3 **Heath Brothers**, how Bernadette's song "**I Believe**

You" was being received at their concerts. Mr. Heath said: "We sing it at public school concerts, and many of the students will have tears streaming down their cheeks. **We might not be allowed to preach the Gospel in public schools, but the teens sure respond when we sing it!**" We also found out that many teens are downloading that song from the Internet to listen to at home! Those internet royalties are basically nothing (less than 1/10 of a penny), **but getting the Love and Word of God into those kids is priceless!**



Thank you so much for all that you do for this ministry! We are so blessed by all of your prayers, generous support, and encouragement. Please pray for God's direction in every aspect of this ministry. Your support allows us the opportunity to share the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ!

All because of Jesus,

Tim & Bernadette

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The Steeple Newsletter

is published monthly by the Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church, for the purpose of proclaiming that Jesus is Lord and that He is moving among his people here. Our intent is to keep the readers informed of local events, provide information to stimulate and edify it's readers, mixed with a touch of humor to lighten the day.

Submission Deadline:

The 3rd Sunday of the month.

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This month's Scripture Postcard photograph was taken by Carole Missel.

FREE
Scripture Postcards are available at
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161 Main Street
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Leicester, NY 14481

**If you're happy and you know it,
clap your hands.**

If not, count your blessings.

For Emergencies or Personal Matters

Pastor David Missel 382-3311 Church
658-1197 Residence
Pastor David is presently scheduling Fridays as his day off so matters of less urgency could be left on the church office answering device, or call one of the Ruling Elders:

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*"I have come that they may have life
and have it abundantly."*

John 10:10

LEPC Supports Our EduNations Child

Margret Conteh

Margret lives in Sierra Leone, Africa, where the Presbytery of the Alleghenies reaches out with the Gospel in several villages. Margret attends the Mayatta Hope Academy in Makump.

Please remember her in your prayers and in your giving to the Missions Fund.

