

Grace Presbyterian Gazette



September, 2019

“RE-SURRENDERING” - PSALM 80:17-19

BY REV. RUSTY MOSLEY

Psalm 80:17-19 *“Strengthen the man you love, the son of your choice. Then we will never abandon you again. Revive us so we can call on your name once more. Turn us again to yourself, O LORD God of Heaven’s Armies. Make your face shine down upon us. Only then will we be saved.”*

I feel as if God has been prodding me as a pastor to talk about one of the basics of Christianity, the idea of *surrender*. The challenge is that this is one of those basics, to which we persistently have to keep coming back. We have to keep RE-surrendering our lives to God, and, as time moves on, that can get difficult.

The reason for this necessity is grounded in the challenging but surprisingly illuminating doctrine of *Total Depravity*. By that, I mean that even after we have become Christians, even decades and scores later, we still have our fallen nature that keeps hanging on. We still have this residual nature as descendants of Adam, from the historic Fall of mankind, a fallen nature which will keep resisting surrender. We all want to stay in charge of the ultimate direction of our lives, a tendency which, unfortunately, never goes away in this lifetime.

It makes me think of a song written some years ago by a contemporary Christian group, DC Talk. One of the verses says, “I’m learning to give up the rights to myself, the bits in the pieces I’ve gathered as wealth, could never compare to the joy that you bring me. The peace that you show me is all that I need.” It is that continuing call by God to keep giving up our rights to ourselves, that continuing necessity, which honestly, gets old.

During my years of being in ministry, I’ve heard lots of strong Presbyterian “types,” Reformed types talk down about Baptists and “revivalistic” kinds of churches, about their tendency constantly to give people “alter calls,” an



invitation by the pastor to “come on down, to the front of the church, and recommit your life to Christ!”

Now, indeed, I would discourage us from feeling like the merit or importance, in such a moment, is grounded in our actions of recommitting, or making a decision, and would instead encourage us to keep trusting that the merit and importance always is solely in what Christ has done in the atonement and in what He is doing in me now, by his Spirit moving and convicting me. Indeed, we should not place so much of the importance on our choice to come to God, but instead to put all of our hope and confidence only in God’s grace to us in Christ and His moving us to it. However, while having clarified that, this Presbyterian pastor doesn’t mind sounding a little “revivalistic,” in that the Bible seems to be calling all Christians to practice “re-commitment!” We need to have a Grace Presbyterian Church revival every day! . . .So that we could recommit our lives to God, everyday!

I think it actually is right to recommit our lives to God, and not just every once in a while. Even seasoned Christians need to start each day by starting over, by converting again to Christianity (if I may put it that way). We need continually to do the persistent work of giving up our “right to our self,” again, each day. Every day we need to become a Christian again! We have the freedom to celebrate and rejoice in the truth that yesterday, no

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matter what it involved, is in the past and is totally forgiven and wiped away. At least, as far as God is concerned it is.

With the gospel of grace, each day is a fresh start, a clean slate! And, it is not that we have to earn anything from here on. It is free! In the confidence that we are a cherished son or daughter of God, with a perfect record from what Jesus did for us, which we already and fully have as our own, God wants us to freely and joyfully be able to make each day a new beginning with Him.

Recommit your life to God today! This gentle, loving Father gives us this freedom! If you are like me, in the busy-ness of the past week, you too have probably taken back your rights to yourself without knowing it. Being a Christian means continually starting over. On the basis of

grace, we get the freedom to "get right with God" again, each new morning.

And you know what can motivate us to do this? It is when we realize and believe that God does the exact same for us. Jesus recommits his life to me each day. Today, he does! Jesus re-gives away his rights to himself for us, to be at our access, to be at our call, to be the Spirit and power inside of us. He recommits to it every day! Let us do the same for him. Let us RE-surrender to God, today and every day.

Prayer: Lord, I've been away from you for a while. Thank you for earning me the right to freely come back to you. I want to give you my life, again, God. Help me today, to surrender every part of my life, every task, every responsibility, every desire . . . to you again. Thank you, God. In Christ I pray, Amen.

CURRENT ACTIVIES AT GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- ◇ We are excited to launch our new **Community Group** ministry starting this month. Ralph Scott will lead a group on Tuesday evenings at 6:30, Jenny Harrison on Wednesday evenings at 6:30, and Joe Pruett on Wednesday evenings at 6:00. The groups will generally meet the first three weeks of every month and will take a break in summer. Please see our sign-up station in the sanctuary!
- ◇ On October 27, we will have the **Baruch family** visiting our church followed by a **potluck lunch**. The Baruchs will share the work they are doing in St. Louis to plant a church. They are members of, and supported by, our ECO Presbytery, **Mid-America Presbytery**. Please make plans to attend this service and support them in their mission to reach the unchurched in St. Louis.
- ◇ The Christian Education Committee currently is exploring possibly hiring two **youth interns**, a male and female team, to work with Pastor Rusty to lead our youth group. We hope this will strengthen our efforts to provide more ministry for our young people.
- ◇ September 21 is our next **Serving Saturday** (every third Saturday of every month). We will continue our work to move sandbags for flood victims and community members who are unable to do so. If we gather a large group of our church members, we should be able to get this project completed soon. Please consider signing up to serve.
- ◇ A sign-up sheet is posted in the hall for the **Dessert and Variety Show** on Sunday, September 22 at 5:30 p.m. Don't forget to sign up for this fun filled event! The deadline to sign up is September 22.

September 2019

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Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2019

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 1 9:00am Choir Practice 11:30am Cong. Care Committee	2 8:30am Exercise Class	3 10:00am Diaconate	4 8:30am Exercise Class 5:00pm Mission and Evangelism Meeting	5	6 8:30am Exercise Class	7
8 9:00am Choir Practice 11:30am Worship Committee Meeting 6:00pm Youth Group	9 8:30am Exercise Class	10	11 8:30am Exercise Class	12 5:00pm Christian Ed. Committee Mtg	13 8:30am Exercise Class	14 8:30am Men's Breakfast
15 9:00am Choir Practice 6:00pm Youth Group	16 8:30am Exercise Class	17	18 8:30am Exercise Class	19	20 8:30am Exercise Class	21 8:00am Serving Saturday @ Church
22 9:00am Choir Practice 5:30pm "Desserts and Variety Show" 6:00pm Youth - Canceled	23 8:30am Exercise Class	24 10:00am Grace Gardens 2:00pm Session	25 8:30am Exercise Class	26	27 8:30am Exercise Class	28
29 9:00am Choir Practice 11:30am Potluck 6:00pm Youth Group	30 8:30am Exercise Class	Oct 1	2	3	4	5



For our August Serving Saturday, we were able to remove sandbags from an elderly gentleman's house so that he can begin the process of repairing his house after the flood.

We had such a wonderful time as Renewal Ranch led us in worship this past month. Check out their Facebook page for upcoming events and ways to support them. Renewal Ranch Homecoming - Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

BIRTHDAYS:

9/3 - Rosemary Hubbard (95 years young!!! :) , 9/12-Lavon Dunn, 9/12 - Karen Griffin, 9/26 - Zack Deem. Our birthday list has not yet been updated. If you are reading this, would you please contact our office (504-6899, gracepres@conwaycorp.net) and leave your birth date with us so that we can update our contacts? We want to celebrate your LIFE!!

CURRENT PRAYER LIST AS OF (9/1/2019):

Ilona Beczo; Bette Callaway, friend of Herman and Betty Ellis; Bill Conner; Charlie Cullum, friend of Annette Sackhoff; Betty Ellis recovery from surgery; Jeannene Ellis, sister-in-law of Herman and Betty Ellis; Paul Ellis, son of Herman and Betty Ellis; Heather Hiatt premature baby, relative of John and Nancy Davis; Trudy Jordan; Jason Hays, friend of Kevin Tucker; Jimmy and Nancy Higgins; Steve Hoffman, friend of Nancy Davis with cancer and transplant need; Dub Holt; Charles Jordan; Ann Moss, mother of Debbie McConkie; Jeff Whitehead, friend of Joe and Sue Dablock.

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