



Captive to the Word, Free in the Holy Spirit

Millbrook Messenger

October 2010

FOCUS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT, NOT YOUR DIS-APPOINTMENT

It's a little before 5am; even the birds are still asleep (well, I did just hear my dog yawn). My mind is racing regarding today's activities. There is much to do before I leave at 5am tomorrow morning for Presbytery. Names of people flash through my mind, the struggles they are going through, the issues from the past that they cling to that make Communion, at best, a "meal on the run". It would seem to be an accurate reflection of our cultural spirituality.

It is also a timely reminder to seek the Lord and to invite Him to search me and to redirect my path as needed. To that end, we must be still and discover afresh one of the greatest sounds in the universe: Divine silence.

Time has passed... and my new smart phone stirs. It enables me to have a more effective overview of all my appointments. They are many and diverse. Some are sad and complicated, yet all have a common denominator. Jesus said, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear much fruit, and that your fruit would remain (John.15:16).

Here is a reminder of our "raison d'etre", the reason why we exist. The Westminster Confession states it at the outset. We are "appointed" to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. In the "Kingdom" picture, our whole life is "appointed". At the "micro level", our lives have appointed times in which the Holy Spirit seeks to do something special and specific reminding the believer that victory, peace and joy both produce "fruit" and are the result of "fruit".

I have been talking to my citrus trees. They represent a paradox. They are "heavy laden", because they are bearing much fruit! At the same time, I am disappointed as luscious sucklings seem to sprout almost overnight, and after a short time their sharp thorns increase

the task and challenge to remove them. I hear Jesus saying, "Focus on the fruit that will last."

It is of course an invitation to love, and to keep loving. Divine love always bears fruit of eternal value and nourishment.

Divine fruit cannot flourish in the "soil of Cain". That is the soil that cries out from the ground because of the spirit of turmoil and rebellion that led to the death of Abel.

Divine fruit comes from the soil that is part of a "new creation" through Him, Jesus, the 2nd Adam, who makes all things new. In this soil, in His appointed time all your appointments with and for Him will be fulfilled, provided that you do not cling to your disappointments.

If you have a vision, a hope, a dream, cling to it, "...It will certainly come" (Hab.2:2-3).

The power that produces thorny sucklings can be strong and make a sudden appearance.

Remember though that even the thorns in the crown of Jesus were used to reveal His glory. Do not let demon infused disappointments make you miss the divine appointments that the Lord has in store for you. The words of the Spirit through Paul continue to bear fruit in each generation: "We are more than conquerors through Christ who strengthens us" (Rom 8:37).

Have you noticed the increase of turmoil in the world? The "Zeitgeist", the spirit of the Age, and ages, is by nature one of turmoil. The world puts its trust in this spirit, and, as a result, continues to be disappointed. We see an increase in political turmoil, in economic turmoil, in relational turmoil.. We are perplexed, but the God of Israel whispers, "There is no peace for the wicked". Saints are appointed to have a "piece of Christ": "This is My body, take and eat", He says. Linger, recline on my shoulder now...it is the appointed time.

Taste the promises, celebrate the ones already experienced, and then today and tomorrow you will not be disappointed.

Because of Jesus....ruined for the ordinary

PJ

On the first Sunday of September, Pastor Jerry preached on the dark continent and in his sermon cited this passage:

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32

This started me to ask myself a couple of questions: what truth is this? what is this free? So, I consulted my manual (the Bible), and came up with the following answers that make sense to me.

The truth is another name for Jesus.

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.” John 14:6

Score one for me, I got the answer to the first question.

Now, what is this free that He talks about? Is it freedom from hard times, illness, economic strife, or persecution? Maybe it is freedom to do whatever I want to do, no matter how it affects me or anyone else? My first inclination, as a human, was that those are awesome. However, as I pursued this further, I began to think that this is the trap that the Galatians had fallen into, so long ago. So, to avoid this trap, I plunged ahead. I found this passage:

“But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.” Romans 6:22

Eternal life! That is way cool! How did I get this gift?

“For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant that those who are called may

receive the promised eternal inheritance - now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant." Hebrews 9:15

Now, this is beginning to tie up all those previous Bible lessons. Christ is the truth, not the world or other so called religious leaders. He died on the cross to redeem my soul and for my salvation. Because of this, He has given me the freedom to not worry about my eternal life with Him in heaven. Wow! I no longer have to worry about whether or not I have done enough in my life to earn my place in heaven. I can rest assured, I am His. I can come into His presence with JOY AND THANKSGIVING and the freedom to worship Him with all my heart.

As with all good things, however, there is a warning.

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1

There it is. Take joy in this freedom you have been given, but like so many others, don't fall back into slavery to the world. You are free, let no man or demon take that away from you. Come to worship with a heart full of joy. Forgive those who have hurt you, because it doesn't matter in the great eternal plan. Love all those you meet. Let the people see God's love in your eyes. Put a smile on your face. Sing out in praise. Don't worry about what others might think about if you lift your hands in praise or close your eyes in reverence. Remember, you are there to praise your Lord and King. If you don't have this joy in your heart and this freedom to worship, then maybe you need to study these verses, like I did, and let the Truth reign in your heart.

Lee Ault, Clerk of Session

During the regular business meeting of Session on September 21, 2010 the following actions were taken:

approval of a prayer walk in the neighborhood during a regular Sunday service.

approval of a date change for the Harvest Festival from October 30 to October 31.

approval of a date change of the yard sale from September 11 to October 2.

approval of the financial report for August, indicating revenue of \$18,857, expenditures of \$22,392 for a net loss of \$4,075.

approval of vacation request for Rev. Jerry Voss on September 19.

approval of issuing a Maintenance key to Tim Lockwood as chair of Facilities chair.

approval of a presentation to the congregation in regards to the new Facilities Utilization Strategic Plan.

approval of the use of \$3000 from Building fund to eradicate the bee problem and structural work to keep them from returning.

approval of vacation request for Pastor Robert from November 11 to November 15.

approval of the placement of a box as requested by Blue Star Moms for collection of gifts for troops.

Freddy and the Lord stood by to observe a baseball game. The Lord's team was playing Satan's team.

The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the 9th inning with two outs. They continued to watch as a batter stepped up to the plate named 'Love.'

Love swung at the first pitch and hit a single, because "Love never fails."

The next batter was named Faith, who also got a single because Faith works with Love.

The next batter up was named Godly Wisdom. Satan wound up and threw the first pitch.

Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass: Ball one. Three more pitches and Godly Wisdom walked because he never swings at what Satan throws.

The bases were now loaded. The Lord then turned to Freddy and told him He was now going to bring in His star player.

Up to the plate stepped Grace. Freddy said, "He sure doesn't look like much!"

Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace. Thinking he had won the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch. To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen! But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by.

He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing on the ground; the roaring crowds went wild as the ball continued over the fence...for a home run!

The Lord's team won!

The Lord then asked Freddy if he knew why Love, Faith and Godly Wisdom could get on base but couldn't win the game. Freddy answered that he didn't know why.

The Lord explained, "If your love, faith and wisdom had won the game, you would think you had done it by yourself. Love, Faith and Wisdom will get you on base but only My Grace can get you Home: 'For by Grace are you saved, it is a gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast.'"

Psalm 84:11, "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly."

-Author Unknown

Judy Ingoldsby, Deacon

VBS 2010 Attendance

Grade	8/1	8/2	8/3	8/4	8/5	Average
Pre-K	10	10	9	9	10	9.6
Kindergarten	1	1	3	3	3	2.2
1st Grade	4	4	6	6	6	5.2
2 nd Grade	7	5	6	6	6	6
3 rd Grade	2	2	4	3	3	2.8
4 th Grade	6	6	6	5	3	5.2
5 th Grade	3	5	6	5	5	4.8
6 th Grade	2	2	2	0	0	1.2
7 th Grade & up	13	18	14	13	14	14.4
Total Youth	48	53	56	50	50	51.4
Pastor Jerry's Class	12	12	12	12	7	11
Adults (Volunteers & Dinner Guests)	38	42	42	43	46	42.2
Total	98	107	110	106	103	104.8

I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School a wonderful experience for the children and adults in attendance. A special thank you to those who donated their time and their treasure to this year's Vacation Bible School.

Melissa Hyatt, VBS Director



Harvest Festival

This years Harvest Festival will be an exciting event with great Food, Music and Fellowship. This year we will have some Special Musical guests as well as Mike & Darla Ewoldson from Dunamos Ministries.

A little bit about Mike Ewoldson: "Mike has won 5 World and 6 National titles, has set 50 World and 78 American Records, is the only drug free lifter to have totaled over 10 times bodyweight multiple times and break a steroid world record!. He was also voted 1999 "Overall Powerlifter of the Year" in the U.S. - a title that is voted on by other powerlifters."

The Harvest Festival will be October 31, 2010. It will start at 1:30p and conclude at 4:30p. This is a FREE event and we hope to see you all there!

If you would like to donate large candy bars you can bring them to Worship on Sundays and give them to Robert Hyatt or they can be dropped off during business hours in the church office Monday through Thursday.

Also on October 31, 2010 is the GRAND OPENING of the Millbrook Community Thrift Store. We are very excited about this day and the exciting ways the Lord is going to bless Millbrook.

Come and see what the Lord is doing at Millbrook!

Senior Pastor - Jerry J. Voss • **Pastor of Discipleship** - Robert Hyatt •

Director of Urban Ministries - Alex Castellanos

Office Manager - Judy Edmondson • **Finance Manager** - Carl Campbell

The Millbrook Messenger is a monthly publication of Millbrook Presbyterian Church.

Editor - Robert Hyatt

Volume XLV No. 10

The November Messenger deadline is **Saturday October 23, 2010**

messenger@millbrookchurch.net