



From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

Well, I just finished writing my newsletter article for July and while I found it greatly cathartic, I realized it was not the message the Lord wanted me to share with you at all. 🙄 It is too bad. It was a good article filled with profound insights into the chaos we are seeing all across our country and on social media. Despite my brilliant commentary on our society, and after feeling greatly satisfied with my work, that Still Small Voice assured me that this article was not for you.

Instead, I was reminded anew that whenever we are tempted to fix our eyes on our culture, that God's Word is the source of life, not sound-bites or talking heads. As Peter discovered when Jesus invited him to walk on water, the threats and fears of the world will cause us to anxiously sink if we deal with them by taking our eyes off of Jesus. Instead, as we keep our eyes fixed on Him, we discover the stressors of this world are strangely and sometimes miraculously addressed while our hearts and minds rest in hope and peace.

So today, in the midst of cultural chaos, I offer you this following Word- not as a response to what is going on in the world, but as the rock that stands firm as stormy waves crash upon it:

“10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”

-Ephesians 6:10-18

These words speak three profound words of instruction to the faithful.

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First, Put on the Whole Armor of God:

We have great strength when our strength comes from God. So, “put on the whole armor of God.” In other words, when things get tough, be sure not to leave your armor at home! A friend of mine served a couple of tours in Afghanistan. This was back in the day when there was great social outrage regarding not equipping our troops with sufficient armor. Honestly I don’t clearly remember all that was going on at the time, but it boiled down to our troops heading into danger without all of their armor plating. When my friend returned from duty I had the chance to talk with him about his armor.

“I hated those things,” he said, referring to the bullet proof plating that was designed to fit into his uniform over critical areas, “I had enough. We just generally left them at our bunker when we went out.”

I was astonished and asked him why he would leave his armor behind. “First they were heavy, and second, they were basically metal plates. It was already over 110 degrees there, surround yourself with metal plates and you might as well be in an oven.” So my friend went into many battles un-armored.

Too often we do the same. God has given us the perfect defense- the whole armor of God, but too often we find the discipline of wearing it inconvenient, so we rush into battle unprepared.

Second, Know Your Enemy:

Keep in mind, that as we suffer for the faith- or as we suffer as a result of worldly philosophies that celebrate evil instead of good, as we see the world drowning in confusion, the true enemy is the devil. Our fight is a spiritual one. The enemy is not the people who spout falsehood as if it’s truth, or even those who break windows, burn buildings, or kill the innocent in the name of justice. Our enemy is the underlying spiritual darkness that fuels these evil times. To battle a spiritual enemy requires spiritual arms and armor.

Third, The Armor of God is Jesus Christ:

What is the Armor of God exactly? Sure Paul describes the BELT OF TRUTH, the BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, SHOES OF READINESS, the SHIELD OF FAITH, the HELMET OF SALVATION and the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT. But what are those things exactly and how do we ensure that we are putting all of them “on”? The answer is simple.

Jesus.

Jesus is the whole armor of God.

The BELT of TRUTH: “I am the Way the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father but through Me.” -John 14:6

The BREASTPLATE of RIGHTEOUSNESS: “For our sake [God] made [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him [Jesus] we might become the righteousness of God” -2 Corinthians 5:21

The SHOES of READINESS: “Now may the God of peace, ...equip you with every good thing to do His will. And may He accomplish in us what is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” -Hebrews 13:20,21

The SHIELD of FAITH: “The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen” -2 Timothy 4:18

The HELMET of SALVATION: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” - Acts 4:12

The SWORD of the SPIRIT: “For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” - Hebrews 4:12

So, as a solid rock before both wind and waves stands firm and unmoving, we to, the Church may stand firm and well-founded against the attacks of the spiritual forces of evil manifest in this world as we wear Christ as our armor in faith.

And in faith, clad in the whole armor of God's provision, "pray at all times in the Spirit" Paul concludes. And pray continually, persevering, for the building up of God's Church.

May that be our Word of hope in the face of the many voices demanding fear and anger. Firmly within God's Armor, may we continue with the timeless hope, joy and peace of Christ.

In Him and for His glory,
Pastor Aaron

DEACONS DOINGS

Please don't forget the Food Barrel stationed in the church lobby. Make a habit of picking up a few items for the barrel each time you go shopping. The donated foods are used by those coming to our door, looking for something because they're hungry, and by the Food Bank (who is contacted periodically to empty our barrel). Though any nonperishable food is appreciated, especially needed are meals-in-a-can (chili, soups, stews), canned meats (Spam, tuna), canned fruits & vegetables, and peanut butter.

****CANS W/ LIFT TABS ARE ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED AS A LOT OF FOLKS DO NOT HAVE CAN OPENERS****

And don't forget pets.

Many transients have a "travel companion" and low-income families have a furry family member.



Remember to bring back your baby bottle!!!
This is to benefit the Pregnancy Hope Center

Thoughts from an Elder: by Joe Riker

Good Seed-Bad Seed

Read Matt: 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus taught among people who knew their scriptures intimately. They found in their lines and stories endless new insights yet realized that God still did not reveal every answer. Through Jesus' Jewish eyes and thoughts we see the passionate longing in his Father's heart to save humanity. It is from the scriptures that we find our calling as God's image bearers and Jesus' mission as our redeemer.

But as much as we might wish to have seen and heard the Lord in person, we are grateful that we can still experience him in the scriptures. And yet the Jesus we meet in the gospels is not always easy to understand; neither did many of his disciples. Partially, this is because we perceive his words at the distance of many centuries, from an entirely different culture and in a different language. Instead of making our hearts burn sometimes they make us scratch our heads in confusion.

The parable of the weeds appears only in the Gospel of Matthew and the allegorical interpretation that places its emphasis on judgment, carries a particularly Matthean flavor. It addresses a question that was alive and well in the early church and continues to challenge the communities of faith today: Why does evil persist in the world.

This passage tells us that the weeds appeared when the plants were old enough to bear grain. This suggests that the weeds and grain had been growing side-by-side, indistinguishable for some time as it grew.

It may not seem like it, but, Jesus is speaking directly and comfortingly to humanity's loss of hope. The story would have been familiar to his Palestinian hearers. They knew about the weeds that, in the early stages of growth, were indistinguishable from wheat. They knew the frustration of enemies planting such weeds in good wheat fields.

The weeds called Tares or bearded darnel were one of the curses a farmer had to contend with. In their early stages the darnel so closely resembled wheat it was impossible to tell one from the other. When both had produced seed heads, it was easy to distinguish between them; but by that time their roots were so intertwined that the darnel could not be weeded out without tearing the wheat out with them.

As for an enemy planting weeds in an opponent's wheat field, this was sometimes done. To this day in India, one of the direst threats which someone could make to an enemy is: "I will sow bad seed in your field." And in codified Roman law, this crime is forbidden and has a specific punishment laid down.

Yes, they even knew the frustration of enemies planting such weeds in good wheat fields. They knew the dangers of trying to remove the weeds—because the good could not be easily distinguished from the bad, and the roots were intertwined.

Thoughts from an Elder: Continued

Jesus explained that the parable was about the evil one who “plants” wicked people in the world, who cannot immediately be rooted out and judged because they are indistinguishable from the righteous. Only at the “end of the age” can God finally separate the wheat from the weeds and deal with them as they deserve.

Jesus’ hearers were tired of the evil that was rampant among them, seemingly being allowed to continue without consequences or judgment. They may well have applied this parable to their Roman Overlords and the correct religious establishment. Almost every response to the evil was one of despair. From the Pharisees and Sadducees who cooperated to preserve their influence and wealth, to the Essenes who withdrew into their own separated community, to the tax collectors who actively collaborated with the oppressors, to the zealots who sought to overthrow Rome by force of arms—all held a basic doubt that God was at work in the world or that evil would finally face its judgment.

But Jesus challenges this loss of hope; Don’t lose faith in the people around you. Those who appear as weeds may actually reflect God’s life, and those who appear as wheat may be anything but. It’s not up to you to rip out the weeds or decide who’s in and who’s out. And you need not fear being “corrupted” should a “wheaty” looking weed slip past your notice.

Don’t lose faith in yourself. Those “weeds” you’re ashamed of, may yet turn out to be seeds of life and the “Wheat” you take pride in may be far less significant than you think. Don’t judge your own heart too quickly or severely either..

Don’t lose faith in God. God does intend for goodness and love to win. God does intend to deal with evil and bring the cosmos to wholeness. But God’s timetable is driven by His grace and compassion. So don’t allow your loss of hope to cause you to adopt evil methods or attempt to enact God’s judgment prematurely. Trust that God’s Reign is at work even if it doesn’t seem so.

We only have to look at our pews or our denominations for the obvious situation. None of us is perfect. And if we consider Wesley’s doctrine of Christian perfection, none of us is ever fully mature. Here we sit side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder on church pews, at different stages on the spiritual journey. We are mere mortals and simply do not know enough to uproot or “give the boot” to people suspected of being weedy. Added to our dilemma, at the casting call, Jesus assigned someone else the part of the Reaper.

It is a tough parable, but it is the Gospel. There is always hope, because what may look like a weed can very well have the life and goodness of wheat surging up unseen within it. Our task is not to judge—not ourselves or others or the world of God’s work in it. Our task is simply to trust, to believe, and to hope.

Hello Friends,

SCAM ALERT!!

There are many scams circulating around the country right now as nefarious people and organizations try to take advantage of heightened fear and anxiety. One of the more common scam efforts is targeting churches by sending out emails apparently from the pastor to the congregation saying that he is stranded and needs immediate help and can you please buy a gift card of some kind and transmit the card information. If you receive any such email apparently from me, do not respond, but contact the main office. I will never contact any of our members in any situation asking for emergency assistance like this. In times where we are forced to communicate more via email and video, we will do all we can to validate any special fundraising programs, but having the pastor contact members seeking personal emergency assistance is never a valid thing. So again, if you receive any such communication, please contact the main office and report it to me or to our Administrative Assistant, Scott.

There are many other scams out there especially targeting the elderly. With schemes dealing with stimulus checks to tax returns (or money due the IRS), or even Social Security checks, criminals are trying to frighten you or coerce you into sharing vital information over the phone or via email. Be very cautious about any such communication. In general, a wise principle is to never share any information in response to a call or email. Instead you can thank them for the information and hang up and then find a valid contact number for the organization that the message claimed to represent and call them directly. I am available if any of you have concerns about such messages. Feel free to come by the Church or call/ email/text me and I would be happy to help you assess the validity of any communication you find suspicious.

Blessings to you in Christ our Lord
Pastor Aaron

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7TH MARY IRVINE

17TH ANN WINCENTSEN

19TH MATTIE SMITH

29TH BARBARA DEAN

31ST CHERYL PERSHALL

31ST VICKI TOMSON

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

2ND FRED & SHARON HADDOCK

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Financial Report

May 2020

At a glance

Operating Inc.:	\$9,603.45
Operating Exp.:	\$10,474.96
Mon ^{thly} Net:	\$871.51
Ckg Acct Bal 5/31	\$28,152.00
MMkt Bal 5/31	\$54,526.56

May 2020

Here is our monthly update on finance:

May Operating Income: \$9,603.45

Expenses: \$10,474.96 Net: (\$871.51)

Year-to-Date Net: (\$173.13)

Greetings All!

This has been a trying time for many churches during the COVID situation, and we have heard of a few really

struggling financially. We want to THANK YOU so very much for your continuing contributions and steadfast pledging. We have been truly blessed to be able to keep up with our regular monthly commitments, continue to support our local and world missions contributions, and also keep up to date with our quarterly payments to our Presbytery. So folks, just thank you for helping to keep us centered in Christ during this time. And we also have an awesome pastor, thanks to Aaron, we are hearing the Word and helping to keep us grounded. God is good! All the time, God is good!

Many Blessings,



Give



Serve

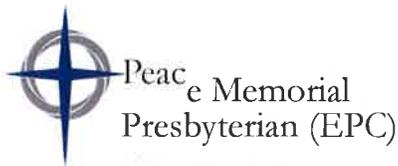


Attend



Grow

Stewardship
a way of life



431 South 6th St.
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

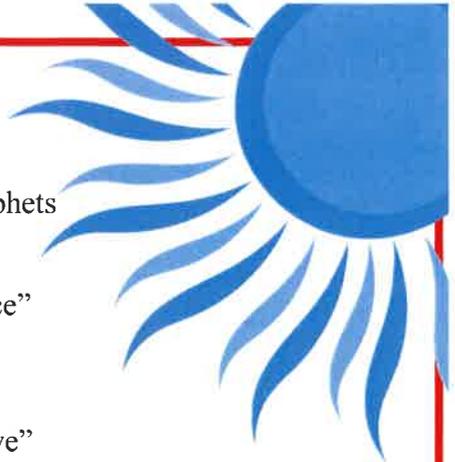
Phone: 541-884-5057

E-mail: office@peacepres.org

Pastor: pastoraaronepc@yahoo.com

We're on the web!
www.peaceEPC.com
"like" us on Facebook

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight"
-Prov. 3:6



The Minor Prophets

7/5 - Amos
"Enduring Grace"
Amos 7:7-17

7/12 - Hosea
"Relentless Love"
Hosea 1:1-2:1, 3:1-5

7/19 - Micah
"True Worship"
Micah 6:1-8

7/26 - Nahum
"The Wrath of God"
Nahum 1:1-8

Your SESSION

Elders

- Pastor Aaron Beaty- Session Moderator
- Noreen Rhoades- Clerk of Session
- Kathy Todd- Finance & Stewardship
- Don Perryman- Christian Education
- Linda Dart- Mission and Outreach
- Jim Zeller- Building and Grounds
- Sally Heaton- Worship

Your DEACONS

Gerri Coker- Chair

- Bev Moulton
- Susan Orton
- Jocelyn Shellito
- Vicki Zeller

The Deacons meet the third Sunday of each month following worship.

Your

TRUSTEES

- Harold Heaton
- Sheryl Keady
- Stephen Goode

Session meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 6-8PM.

