

Monday, MAY 17, 2010

Deadlines...we all live with them don't we? Normally they, like a trampoline, propel us forward to the next anticipated event. Two weeks from today is Memorial Day 2010! For Walworth County that's a big deal, isn't it? Almost everything changes around here between Memorial Day and Labor Day, so how do we PREPARE for summer 2010?

Life is filled with times like this...a window of time allows you to prepare for something which approaches unrelenting. The Bible has several examples of people called of God to prepare... Noah prepared for a global flood (Gen. 6); Abraham prepared to offer his son as a sacrifice (Gen. 22); Jacob prepared to meet his brother Esau (Gen. 32); Moses and the people prepared to flee Egypt (Ex. 11,12); Jesus prepared for the agony of Calvary (Matt. 26:36-46).

While summer always brings smiles, laughter, warm weather, friends, relaxation...history tells us life brings the unexpected challenges, even disasters. God is Omniscient. Knowing everything (Ps. 139), He already can see what your summer will hold for you and in Deuteronomy 29-31, He offers us a template for preparing to walk through our summer with Him, confident you and He can face anything...together.

Deuteronomy is Moses' "farewell" message to the young generation who had been born in the desert or was under age 20 when they escaped Egypt, 40 years before (Numbers 14:26-35). Deut. 29 is God's call to a renewed covenant relationship with a warning. I urge you to read it. Clearly it is a specific message from God to a specific people in a specific situation...but what does the Holy Spirit of God show you regarding its application to you and me in 2010 in Walworth County? Remember "I the LORD do not change" (Mal. 3:6). What cautions do you hear as you approach summer 2010? How do you suppose God views the spiritual legacy Calvary Church and Walworth County have received from those pioneers who built these towns, established Calvary and other churches here? What's God's call and warning to us for this summer? Do 1 Peter 2:9 and 2 Peter 3:9 give us a hint?

Tuesday, MAY 18, 2010

For several weeks our theme has been "The Call...His Passion for All." How do you explain God's "Call" to humanity...to you? What is God's primary message, His objective, His purpose, His desire for a human race He has designed and made in His image? Eventually our world as we know it will come to an end (Rev.21:1-4). From that vantage point, what will this human journey have been all about?

Today I urge you to read Deuteronomy 30 with special focus on 30:11-16. "*The word is very near you, it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.*" Would you link that with Hebrews 4:12,13 "*The word of God is living and active...it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight...*" As we PREPARE for summer 2010, may I suggest the Word of God is one of your greatest assets as you walk forward into the unknown of your future? Have you considered Psalm 119? The longest chapter in the Bible, notice every verse (150 of them) celebrates the power of God's truth! Remember Isaiah 45:18,19 claim that God is the author of all truth. Jesus claimed to be living truth (John 14:6). God's truth is proclaimed to us primarily through His Word and the Holy Spirit illuminates our minds to understand it (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). It's a miracle...do you experience it regularly?

The generation standing before Moses that day did not have libraries filled with books, not even multiple copies of the Bible. Apparently they had only one copy of the first 5 books of the Bible which Moses himself had written for them (Deut. 31:24-26). Their regular practice was to read it often so the people would know God's truth and pass it on to their children. What is your personal priority of God's Word as you walk through this complex world? How often do you discuss it as a family (Deut. 6:1-9)? How does God's Word guide your path (Ps. 119:105), how does it help keep you pure (Ps. 119:9)?

One of the great dangers of our day is the notion that truth is relative, opinion is paramount. Life gets painful when lived outside the parameters of God's unchanging truth. Filling your heart with God's truth PREPARES you for any future!

Wednesday, MAY 19, 2010

Daily our complex world calls us to live WISDOM. A volcano spews an ash cloud...wise airline pilots don't fly through it, stranding thousands of busy people. An oil rig explodes and an untapped well spews thousands of gallons of crude into the ocean...and the world watches and waits as engineers develop a wise response. Global leaders gather to assess a global economy in free-fall, and millions of desperate people watch, holding their breath, hoping wisdom will prevail.

Facing the daily challenges of life with wisdom could save your life, protect your family, preserve your reputation. I gave you this formula last weekend: Wisdom = Information + Past Experience + God's Perspective. Whatever situation you find yourself in... filter it through the lessons God has taught you through past experiences and then through God's Perspective of your situation...then God will lead to wise action. Remember yesterday we focused on the importance of knowing God's Word...that's how you gain God's Perspective!

Deut. 30:15-20 are powerful words from Moses to a young generation needing to move forward with wisdom. Look closely. Desert living, dependant on a cloud to lead them and manna to feed them was all they knew. Soon they would be conquering a new land with no cloud, no manna and no Moses!

When you consider our theme "The Call...His Passion for All", what do you understand God's Passion is for you? Do you see His desperate desire to empower you to defeat Satan and evil efforts to harm you (Gal. 5:16-25)? What about His deep desire to be honored and glorified by your daily life (Eph. 1:12)? Do you see how living WISDOM daily accomplishes both those objectives? What do you see in Solomon's wisdom advice in Proverbs chapters 1 and 2. Would you agree Paul's letters to the churches are instructive challenges to wise, God honoring living in the reality of God's great work in our lives...His redeeming work (Col. 1:13); His reconciling work (Col. 1:21,22), His transforming work (2 Cor. 5:14-21)? Do you see the key wisdom choices in Deut. 30:16, 17, 19b, 20? Wisdom: It's a daily choice and our children live in the results!

Thursday, MAY 20, 2010

Few statements I've ever read impact me more than this: "Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to His voice, hold fast to Him for the LORD is your life." (Deut. 30:19, 20) You and your children (and grandchildren), are today living in the consequences of your past choices. Your tomorrow will be profoundly affected by your today choices. That is why WORD and WISDOM are so important as you live today casting your shadow into tomorrow. It's one of life's most important lessons!

Today, consider Deuteronomy 31, it's powerful, especially 31:1-8! Link it with Joshua 1:1-9!! Whenever the mantle is passed from one leader to another...pay attention. God's PRESENCE was visibly evident in the cloud by day and pillar of fire by night (Numbers 9:15-23) which hovered over God's people as they left Egypt and wandered for 40 years in the desert! Sometimes it would come down and envelop the Tent of Meeting where Moses met with God (Ex.40:34-38). Can you imagine living with such an overwhelming awareness of the Presence of Holy, Majestic, All Powerful God? Consider carefully Moses' frightful plea that God not leave them (Ex. 33:12-16)? Honestly now, what sense of God's Presence do you live with daily? I assure you, the more you know God and allow accounts like this to penetrate your heart, the more you'll hunger for tangible evidence of God's presence with you daily.

There's a fundamental principle here friends...God can't bless sin and He won't honor wickedness or rebellion. When God's people turn away from Him, He will withdraw His hand of blessing and replace it with His discipline and if that is disregarded, then His judgment! Have you considered WHY Moses was not permitted by God to lead the people into the Promised Land? Look at Deut. 32:51 and Numbers 20:12. You'll see the full account in Numbers 20. Pay attention to this friends: God takes very seriously our choices, our lifestyle, when we are His redeemed people! Remember John 14:16-18 and Jesus' promise that His Holy Spirit would live within His people? How do you honor His Presence in you?


Friday, MAY 21, 2010

This week I've given you three powerful "God truths" that should prepare you for living Summer 2010 as a vibrant, victorious person in dynamic relationship with God!! The WORD of God must penetrate and permeate your mind and heart...your life! The WISDOM of God must guide every choice, every decision. The PRESENCE of God must be so overwhelming to you, it pushes away the darkness of evil and rebellion which naturally grows in every human heart. If you will live those three realities, I promise you a summer like you've never had before in your life!! It's your choice...daily!

The PRESENCE of God is something which has been sought by people in every generation since the days of Moses. Consider Exodus 19...the first overwhelming experience the Hebrew rescued slaves had of God's Awesome Presence among them! Chapter 20 is God actually speaking, audibly, what we call the "10 Commandments" to those frightened people. You'll note their trembling response in Ex. 20:18-21 as they backed away from God's presence. What would you have done?

In Ex. 24 Moses goes back up Mount Sinai to meet with God, this time for 40 days 'in the cloud'. The people got bored, assuming he had died up there and the true condition of their heart is seen when they ask Aaron to fabricate gods for them and take them back to slavery (Ex. 32)!! Don't be too quick to castigate them...look around, Christians in 2010 are doing it everywhere aren't we? What do golden calves look like today?

Finally, Exodus 33,34 are key to understanding and experiencing God's presence. Repentance and restoration, when rebellion of the heart has taken place, are essential. That's living in surrender before Holy God! Read it carefully, is it you? Remember, Jesus explained His offer of Presence relationship with us in the upper room with His disciples (John 13-17). The only thing that prevents this in your life and mine is sin! God so longs to fill your mind and heart with His Word, His wisdom and His presence...but He will always wait for you to clear out all the clutter that keeps His Holy Majesty at a distance! It's a choice... your choice, daily. What do you say to God today?



Pastor Doug Anderson

MAY 17 - 21, 2010



THE CALL

HIS PASSION FOR ALL

PREPARE

Summer 2010 is two weeks away. What "volcanoes", "earthquakes" or "oil rig disasters" will your summer bring? How do we best use this time to **PREPARE** for what God knows is ahead for each of us in summer 2010?

A Disciplemaking Tool
DIGGING
DEEPER

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