



The Beatitudes – Part 2

Last month I shared some thoughts on the first five beatitudes from Matthew 5. Here are the last four.

“Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.” Matt. 5:8.

No one can say that he or she is pure in heart. We know that the “heart is deceitful above all things” Jeremiah 17:9. I remember a discussion a friend of mine and I had in the mid-1970s. He insisted that “Mankind is basically good.” He and I were new fathers and I asked him if he was through teaching his son to pout, throw temper tantrums, or refuse to share his toys. “I would never teach anything like that!” he responded. “Case closed,” I replied, “your son, like mine, is born that way. We don’t have to teach any of those bad habits, or what I would call original sin. So Mankind is born, not basically good, but in need of Jesus!” Since we do not have pure hearts, we can be thankful that “... the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7

“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” Matt. 5:9.

I am hard pressed to think of anyone whom I would describe as a peacemaker. Today’s world is divided up into opposing camps angrier than anything I can recall in my lifetime, and that’s taking into consideration the volatile 1960s. It seems to me we can’t agree on anything; everything turns political. This has even crept into the church as well. I firmly believe that the answers to this world’s great challenges cannot be found in a political party’s platform. The only thing which will bring peace is Jesus. “Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...” Romans 5:1

“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’s sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.” Matt. 5: 10-12

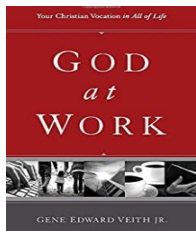
Taking a stand for the truth may come with a cost. Since we live in a fallen world, demonstrating genuine righteousness may not lead to a positive outcome. Just consider how the prophets were treated, as Christ reminds us. The following might be a simple example of this. Years ago I was on the board of directors of a conservation organization. This was the beginning of the gambling era in Minnesota, and local charitable or non-profit groups could receive money from pull tabs sold in local bars. I can’t remember what the group could get, but it was a large enough amount to be very tempting, and there were many conservation projects which might have benefited. It just didn’t seem quite right to me, however. Fortunately, another board member spoke up against the proposal. He worked with local families on addiction issues and said his case load had increased since gambling was now more common. He described families, and especially children who were already negatively impacted by gambling addiction. Even though the group may have used the money for worthwhile causes, he felt the money was tainted. The motion to apply for pull-tab money was narrowly defeated. The person who spoke out was not too popular with some for a time, but I will always remember the man’s stand and his willingness to speak out. By the way, the group came up with positive and beneficial fund-raising ideas and is still, to this day, sponsoring worthwhile projects.

C. Phil Johnson



The Adult Class that meets after the Worship Service Sundays, is reading GOD at Work. Unpack the Bible's teaching on work and find godly purpose in "doing everything for God's glory".

Books available in the Church Office.



We had a float in the Labor Day Parade



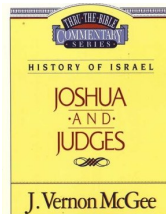
Card Makers, Cricut Crafters & More

If you have a craft you enjoy doing, come to St. Paul's Church the third Monday of the month, to work on your project, & for fellowship and lunch.

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

(come for an hour or two or stay for the day)

Bring a Bag Lunch



Bible Study 9:00am Wednesday Mornings

Series from

J. Vernon McGee

Joshua and Judges

Questions See Barb Halland



This is Just a Resting Place

Sometimes the Road of Life seems long
As we travel through the years;
And, with a heart that's broken,
And eyes brimful of tears;
We falter in our weakness,
And sink beside the way;
But God leans down and whispers,
"Child, there'll be another day"—
And the Road will grow much smoother
And much easier to face;
So do not be disheartened,
This is just a resting place!

Helen Steiner Rice

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called

Mandatory 10-Digit Dialing in 218 Area Code Starts Sunday, October 24

The Federal Communications has adopted 988 as a new three-digit number to be used nationwide to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline.

In order for the 988 to work in the 218 area code, 10 digit local dialing must first be implemented. As a result you will need to change the way you dial calls on/before October 24,2021



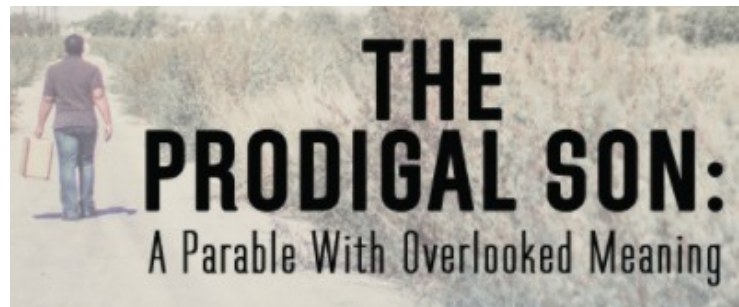
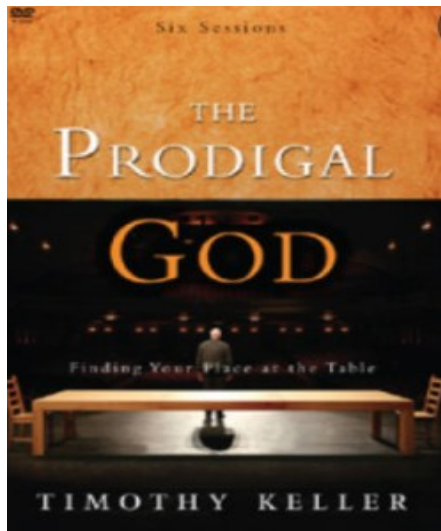
Pastor's Message

Biblical Faith is not centered on the rules.

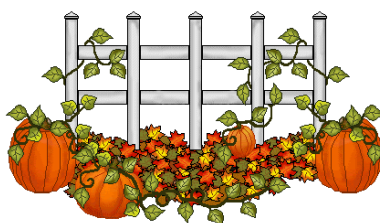
By Pr. David Handsaker

Timothy Keller is both a prolific author and an accomplished preacher. Keller planted Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, NY in 1989. At that time the city was filled with liberal minded artists and elites who were opposed to the Bible because it was conservative and because it was limiting. The area was considered a death ground for anyone foolish enough to try and plant a church there. God however, had other plans and through a relentless focus on the Gospel message Redeemer Church has grown to be one of the larger churches in the area. This month we are beginning to walk through Keller's book "The Prodigal God" with a video series. The series is just 6 weeks and is well worth your time. Keller focuses our attention on the Bible's most well-known parable, the parable of the prodigal son. Most of us know this parable by heart and when we think about it, we spend most of our time looking at the younger son who demands his inheritance only to run away and squander it all.

(If you want a reenactment of this part of the story, simply ask my wife Lydia to tell you the story of Robbie the rapping robot. It even comes with a song.) Keller points out that it is not just the younger son who has a broken relationship with the father. The older son also has a broken relationship with the father, although this relationship is broken for very different reasons. Both the younger and the older brothers have failed to grasp how to live in relationship with their father. Come join us and study these two brothers



St. Paul's Lutheran Church (AFLC)
1705 Wilson Ave,
Cloquet, MN 55720



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218-879-5956

Worship Services - Sundays 9:00 am

Sunday school classes 10:30 am

Wednesday Evening Activities 6:30 pm

Kid's Club, Youth Group, Bible Study