

Pastor's Message

Our Wednesday evening prayer over the past weeks has been focusing on parts of the prophecy of Ezekiel. Ezekiel 37 is the section which is a prophecy to the valley of dry bones. And the valley of dry bones is the people of Judah, God's people. They are like dry bones. They have no muscle or flesh on their bones. They are quite literally dead and dried out from the sun's beating down on them.

This is a metaphor that describes how God's people had become. At this point in their history they were about to or perhaps they had already gone into exile to Babylon. In other words, their going into exile was God's disciplining them. Why? Because they had been neglecting God. They had become so used to being God's people that they forgot their necessity for God. And so, He allowed a dominant nation (Babylon) to overtake them and their capital city of Jerusalem was overpowered. Many of the citizens of Jerusalem were taken into exile.

Well this is all fine and dandy and makes for a good story. But what does it have to do with us? As followers of Christ and being God's people, we too may have distanced ourselves from our need for God. Are you neglecting God in your life?

And maybe, we too have been taken into exile. The Church, as a whole in North America, appears to have forgotten how much we need God. We, I am afraid and ashamed to

say, have distanced ourselves from doing anything that would require God to show up. I can't think of one thing that happens in the Church that isn't just plain good old fashioned human effort - human energy. There is nothing that requires God's energy.

You might think I'm overstating things here. Well, would you do a little exercise? Think about all the things you see the Church do. Think of all the things you do. Is there anything required except human effort to make it happen? Does any of it require God's power in order for it to happen and to have success at it?

The nation of Judah were carrying on their temple worship. I'm sure they had gotten it down so well that it was routine, just like our routines. And what happened to them is exactly what can happen to us in these last days. People have become lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power (2 Tim. 3:1-5). And do you know what the recommendation is when any people become like that? Avoid them. Could it be that we are becoming like that. Is that why people are not attending Church? They may see us as religious (rule keepers) but not living with any power beyond human power.



Well, I hope you're not ready to tear this up and cast aside my words. If you are, then maybe I've been successful in getting your attention. Really, I do hope you're ready to tear this up and throw it all aside because you're angry. If that is what it would take for God to shake us free from our sleep, then it's worth it all.

You may not see it. But here is what I see. We need a fresh Awakening. The Church across North America needs to be woken up by God. In the prophecy of Ezekiel, God asks Ezekiel a question "Can these bones live?" In other words is there any hope for God's people who are dead and dried up? Ezekiel's answer is priceless. "Oh God, you know". And then God instructs Ezekiel to do something –

4 “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”
(Ezek. 37:4-6)

This explains what we are doing at Wed. night prayer meeting. We are seeking God on behalf of the Church, the followers of Jesus Christ. As well, we pray for other things. We believe God has life for these dry bones and we are asking Him to bring that to pass. Only God knows if we can truly live. But we are asking

- we are prophesying. We are waiting upon Him.

You are invited to join us if you can and when you can at 6:30 most every Wednesday night.

Your Friend in Christ

Pastor Vern

Calendar of Events

Each Tues. @ 8:30 am (new time)– Prayer in Pastor Vern’s office

Each Wed. @ 6:30 pm –Prayer @ Parish House

1st & 3rd Wed. of month - M&M’s-Feb 7 will be studying the book Ephesians

2nd & 4th Sat. of month 10th & 24th - Men's group meets @ 8 am. @ PH

Special Event

On Friday February 17th from 5-7 PM at the Parish House we will be hosting a 50's-60's get together.

There will be great music (via DJ), light snacks and refreshing water available.

50's-60's trivia, and an all around enjoyable time!

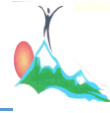
Come and join us to listen and or show us your dance moves!

For questions or to make a reservation or even request a favorite song from that era please call one of the following ladies:

Barbara Walters 315-852-1129

Roxanne Groves 315-852-9841

Linda Springer 315-852-3336



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Feb 1~~Isabel McReynolds
- *Feb 4~~Tim & Ann Etter
- Feb 4~~Betty Wood
- Feb 6~~Amanda Sevier
- Feb 6~~Beverly Petley
- Feb 7~~Sue Braungardt
- Feb 14~~Linda Springer
- Feb 14~~Sylvia Hathaway
- Feb 15~~Robert Brock
- *Feb 16~~Harold & Betty Wood
- Feb 21~~Steve Best
- Feb 23~~Fred Lawrence
- Feb 24~~Bev Brown
- Feb 24~~Jean Coon
- Feb 25~~Bob Petley
- Feb 25~~Dakota Baker
- Feb 27~~Emma Downs

Reading Corner



When was the last time you read the book of Ezekiel. This month begin reading and studying the book of Ezekiel. Join in the conversation on Wednesday night at 6:30 at the Parish House.

Special Offering

Would you like to take part in the special offering for a new projector and screen? If you would like to donate so the right side of the

church can view the announcements and the songs better, please consider a donation. Plans are in motion to add another viewing screen to the right side of the pulpit and you can be a part of the new addition with your donation.

Christian Education

New Year Everyone.

Sunday School resumed January 14th after the Christmas Break. We had an extra week off due to the cold.

PK-6th grade is focusing on being caring and helpful people using examples from the Bible. Janet and Kris are co-teaching. We continue to have music with Ed and a game every Sunday morning.

Linda's class 7th – 12th grade continues to meet at the Parish House. It is good for the younger kids to see the older ones coming to Sunday School. They are continuing to study the "Believe Series" which teaches the kids to think, act and be like Jesus by using Old and New Testament stories and relating them to the kid's lives.

In His Service,

Maurine

M&M's

Welcome Back! On February 7th we will start M&M's and will be reading the book of Ephesians. Please pray for this study group and join the study of Ephesians, it is a great book with many blessings for us. See you there.



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