

05-01-19 Wednesday Musing

I learned a new word this past weekend... I love learning new words... and as I love writing... it's somewhat beneficial... The word... which you may have known... but was new to me, is "Cruciform". The Merriam Webster dictionary defines it as "forming or arranged in a cross".

As Christians... we are charged with living a "Cruciform life". A cruciform life is cross shaped life.... It is the vertical life of loving God with all your heart, head and hands... and the horizontal life of loving others as Christ loves you. Simple... yet extremely difficult at times... however... as our vertical life of loving God with our whole hearts... minds... and soul develops and grows... we are filled with love for and from Christ... this love spills over to our brothers and sisters in Christ as well as our neighbors... forming horizontal aspect to the cross shape life.

In my mind's eye... I can picture a lump of clay on the potter's wheel... I am... we are... that lump of clay. Jesus tenderly and lovingly draws us up with His loving embrace to reach heights we never before imagined... forming the vertical shaft of the cross...and as He does so... our love bursts forth onto others... forming the horizontal arms that reach out to our Christian families and neighbors in need of Christ's love.

In our world of instant self-centered gratification and constant change it is often hard to keep your eyes on the prize that is in Christ... it is ours for the taking if we keep our focus on Jesus. And often, we feel totally inadequate for the task at hand. But God doesn't seek out those that are perfect... for I sincerely doubt they even exist except in their own minds... He seeks imperfection to mold into that which He desires us to be. In 2 Corinthians 12:9 we see Paul recounting something the Lord said to him... **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."** God seeks out imperfect people... to carry out His perfect plan. Repeatedly in Scripture we find God choose people who have and will fail as they attempt to carry out a plan that cannot fail. And He still does today... we must not fail to follow the instructions of our Lord... for it is better to be a follower who fails than one who fails to follow.

Don't be that lump of clay that sits on the potter's wheel refusing to be re-formed into a beautiful vessel from which the love of Christ may pour. Isaiah 64:8 **"But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand."**

Jeremiah 18 tells of the Lord's instructions to Jeremiah to go to a potter's house where the Lord would deliver instructions to him. When Jeremiah arrived, the potter was throwing a pot... which, incidentally, did not turn out as it was supposed to. The potter proceeded to rework the clay into another vessel. God proceeded to deliver the message to Jeremiah concerning Israel. The message being that like the clay, God had the power to deal with any nation as deemed necessary to produce the outcome of God's will. And just as that imperfect pot that was reworked into another suitable vessel... so are we, in God's hands, able to be reworked into something pleasing to God.

I cannot think of a potter without a certain song popping into my mind... "Change My Heart Oh God" The lyrics are repeated, but in essence are: *"Change my heart oh God, Make it ever true. Change my heart oh God, May I be like You. You are the potter, I am the clay, Mold me and make me, This is what I pray."* If you have the means to listen to this song... it is a great song to meditate or pray with while listening.

This week as we spend meditative moments with God in thought and in prayer let us continue to lift up our government leaders, missionaries and those suffering from various disasters around the world. Let us not forget to thank our Lord for the many, many blessings bestowed upon us each

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and every day, and that He may open our eyes to see the opportunities we encounter everyday to bless our fellow man.

Also please lift up: Pat Sellars, Faye Strickland, Millie Fraser, Frances Morgan, Selma Simpson, Jeanne Williams, Mary Jane Pettigrew, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman, and friends: Jeanette Hudson—mother of Connie Collins, Family of Dolly Watson, Sarah Wilson—Niece of Mike Smith, Family of Steve Williams, Brother of Jessie Falls. Please remember the families as well as the person listed.

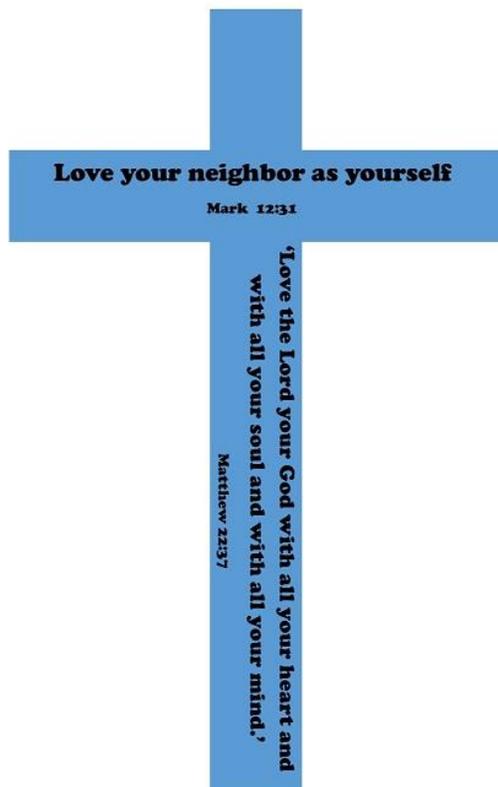
The Sermon title this Sunday will be "Hope - A Memory of the Future ". The Scripture will be read from John 20:19-29 and Romans 5:1-11.

Happening around the church:

- This Sunday we will celebrate the Lord's Supper.
- Monday, May 6th, the Margaret Lightbourne Circle will meet at 6 10:30 am in the church conference room.
- Tuesday, May 7th, the Supper Club will meet at 5:45 pm at Kimber's in Gibsonville.
- Friday, May 10th from 5pm - 7pm - Spaghetti Supper with entertainment by The Cornpickers.
- Sunday, May 12th - 8:30 am - the Official Board will meet and at 11:45 am the Board of Christian Education will meet.

Blessings from Above,

Joan 😊



THE CRUCIFORM LIFE

