

06-26-19 Wednesday Musing

With the days of summer upon us... the temperature is creeping up higher and higher... We are all keeping our eyes on the thermometer... it becomes the norm as we make decisions for our days. We check our thermostats to keep our homes at a comfortable temperature. The thermometer and the thermostat play important yet different parts in our lives... in any season. The thermometer reads the temperature around us... and the thermostat regulates it... The thermometer allows its environment to determine what its temperature will be... While the thermostat impacts the atmosphere... conditions... and temperature...

As Christians we have another temperature gauge which we must keep in focus... our Spiritual Temperature gauge... We are either the thermostat or the thermometer... we either allow the culture we are in to set our spiritual temperature or we impact the environment we are in with our spiritual temperature. In **Romans 12:1-2 Paul tells us "1 So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. 2 Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature."**

So I ask you... which are you? ... the thermostat?... or the thermometer? ...

The Spiritual thermometer becomes conformed to the atmosphere and conditions of their environment... the world in which Satan and his demons roam searching for those to devour... the world in which our own sin condemns us... or are you the Spiritual Thermostat? ... The Spiritual Thermostat is a believer who has become... is becoming transformed into the image of Christ... through daily prayer... Bible study and Christian fellowship... The Thermostat regulates their environment by standing steadfast with the World of God... as opposed to the world view that the thermometer holds....

The Bible gives us examples of both positions... The example of a Spiritual Thermometer that pops into my mind is that of Lot... he became conditioned to the world around him... and if it had not been for Abraham's persistence with God on Lot's behalf he would have perished with the whole of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot sat at the gates of the city where the elders sat... but did nothing to confront the evil that he saw before him...

On the other end of the spectrum... Noah pops into my mind... God saw that there was great wickedness of man on the earth... but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord... and He made a way for His salvation... Think about that for a minute... everybody on earth was so wicked that God was berating Himself for even making man... How hard that must have been for Noah and his family... the only ones on the whole earth that were walking in the ways of God... The spiritual atmosphere must have been unbearable... Noah refused to become a thermometer and allow the world around him to set the spiritual temperature for his life... He decided to become the thermostat and be a witness to those around him by doing as God had called him to do... he built a boat in the desert... That boat which ended up saving all of Noah's family as well as the entire animal kingdom was a prophetic picture of Jesus Christ... the Savior ... the gate through whom we enter into our eternal salvation...

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So... let me ask you again... .. which are you? ... the thermostat?... or the thermometer? Are you going to sit at the gate? ... or are you going to get up and build a boat? Let Jesus be the thermostat in your life that keeps your Spiritual Temperature regulated... He is the stable point in our unstable and changing world. He remains the same. His love for us does not change. Set on Him, our spiritual temperature will remain steady and calm through all the seasons of our lives.... Enabling you to be a thermostat in our world today...

As you lift your prayers to God this week please remember: Norma Simons (surgery Friday), Family of Jeanne Williams, Family of Mary Jane Pettigrew, Family of Pat Sellars, Faye Strickland, Frances Morgan, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman, Dotti Davis, And friends: Family of Curtis Pass, Marilyn Parsonson—Aunt of Mark Garrison, Daniel Contino—Friend of Joan Paschal, Nancy Toney, Connie Papadis, Jeanette Hudson—mother of Connie Collins, Family of Reggie Jeffries.

This week the Guest Pastor will be Rev. Hugh Knapp. His sermon title will be "First Responders". The Scripture will be from Galatians 5:1, 13-25 and Luke 9:51-62.

Happening around the church... Rev. Fonville is out of town... if a pastoral emergency should arise please contact Deacon Chair, Elsie Bolick. There will be no Supper Club meeting in July... due to the Independence holiday week. Remember to arrive early on **Sunday... at 9am...** for the Organ Demonstration in the sanctuary by Matt Rice. Connie Collins will be off June 30th - July 7th.

Grace and Peace to You!

Joan 😊



And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

~Romans 12:2 NKJV



2Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever Amen.