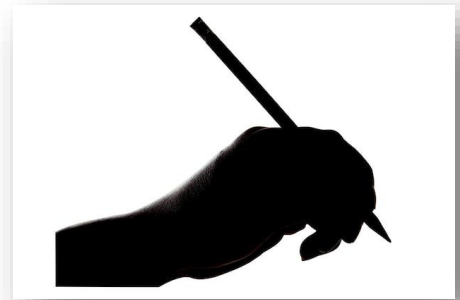


*From the Pastor's Desk...*

**“A Buffet of Buffeting”**

**“...I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I buffet my body and make it my slave...”**

**-1 Corinthians 9:26**



Once on a summer road trip, we were driving through a carwash when we suddenly noticed something. The wash we were in was an old fashioned one that had real rollers and brushes. Although we were used to touchless washes, this one was just like the old days. We sat there listening to the humdrum and flapping of the large, floppy bristles. The only casualty was our radio antenna, which came out of the wash plenty clean, but slightly bent. Otherwise everything was just fine, and our radio still pulled in perfect reception.

As the rollers buffeted the car, there was a consistent thumping sound, and we knew the car was becoming clean. But Paul talks about buffeting in a different way. He says that in our spiritual lives, we also need buffeting.

Paul says, “I buffet my body and make it my slave..” What does he mean by that? Buffeting results in a cleaner car, but does it result in a cleaner and holier life? Should a Christian expect clear sailing and no buffeting once he or she becomes a disciple?

We say, No. Because as a Christian lives a holy life, it brings him into conflict with the world and temptation. The result may be trials. Living for Christ has a cost, but its one that we gladly endure. We set aside worldly things, for the sake of Christ, so that we can focus solely on Him.

Buffeting is essentially discipline, as we hold fast to the Word of God. Even if we have a whole buffet table of buffeting, yet the struggle that we have as Christians is honorable. We are to die to sin daily, and be “dead” to the world and its desires (Romans 6:11). Praise God for His good work in our lives!

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

*Increase our ability to be buffeted, and teach us to be true, faithful disciples for you.*

*Grant us peace, joy and love in the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name, AMEN.*

*--In His service, Pastor Chris*