



Millville United Methodist Church

The Dove May 2016

Hello Church,

I came across this verse from Colossians in my daily devotions, “To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ” (1:27-28). These two verses sum up the unending joy, incredible mystery, and immense responsibility that comes with being a follower of Christ. I encourage you to read those two verses again very slowly and carefully. Break it down into separate parts and reflect on each one for a while. A mystery bearing glorious riches is Christ in us, which is also the source of the glory we can have hope in.

The Apostle Paul continues to say that Jesus Christ, “is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom”. I see this a challenge to not only grasp and hold on to the truth of Jesus as Lord, but to live in a way that illustrates that truth for those around us. What Paul is putting forth here is a lifelong struggle dictated and won in the little things, the small decisions that shape us into who we are going to be. Actually this can be boiled down into a pretty simple formula. We need to not only be open to letting Christ into our

lives, but intentionally pursue Him on a regular basis. Next, we need to nurture this glorious and mysterious relationship and new way of being as often as possible and in ways that truly feed us. This can be through prayer, study, fellowship, and worship throughout the week in different settings and formats. The end result of this equation is Christ being seen and learned about by how we present ourselves and live our lives.

Don't worry, this doesn't automatically mean leading a Bible Study or preaching somewhere this coming Sunday. Christ is seen in us as we interact with and react to the world not from ourselves or a worldly state of being, but from our pursuit of Jesus. How surprised would people be if you don't participate in the fear, anger, and anxiety rampant in the world around us? Don't you think they would wonder where you are getting a peace and stability that may be lacking in their lives? You can join with me in one spiritual practice I'll be taking up this summer to nurture my soul and witness to those around me. I am not going to get angry or annoyed with traffic this season. I'm not going to scowl, dwell, or let my hand get near the horn.

I know that if I do indulge in any of that whatever I need to do next is going to be soured by getting wound up about something I cannot control. That's my commitment to

God and my community, what is yours going to be? What practice or goal are you going to take up to maintain your equation with the Lord and those around you? What are you going to do to get it back in balance? Us Receiving Christ, Christ Dwelling in Us, Us Sharing Christ is our call. Join me in aspiring for it!

With Blessings,
Pastor Brad



TRUSTEES

Church lighting: The trustees are looking into replacing the sanctuary lights. We have received a quote of \$4429 to replace all 5 lights. The Admin Council has given preliminary approval pending a decision on means of payment. We have pledges for two lights at this time. Anyone wishing to purchase a light may do so. See Joe Skinner or any of the trustees for more details.

Doors and lights: Many times the doors are not shut and locked, and lights/fans are left on in the church and Wesley Hall. Please check before you leave to see these things are done. Be aware whether or not you are the last person leaving.

Thanks, Joe

AGING FAITHFULLY

Aging Faithfully has announced some Spring events:

May 9th - Cookie BINGO at 10:00 in Wesley Hall.

In **mid-June** we're looking forward to again hosting the AARP Chorus. If you have heard them before, you know what a wonderful performance they present.

We're planning a free presentation by a local law firm on "estate planning". Details to follow.

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are in the process of updating the church directory. **Please fill out the form attached to this month's Dove, and let us know if you would like to have your information and/or picture updated or if you need to be added to the directory.**

If you do not have a copy of the directory, let us know that you want a complete copy of the directory. If you already have a directory and need updated pages, those can be provided.

Pictures for the directory will be taken on May 15th during coffee and conversation, after the church service. If you want to update your photo or if you need a new photo taken, please try to be available at that time. We will meet at the front of the church by the choir pews. If you cannot have your photo taken at that time, please contact Sharon Walters to set up another time. If you are out of town, you can mail or email

me the information along with a current picture to:
Sharon Walters, 30611 Cedar Neck Road, Unit 2309, Ocean View, DE 19970. Any other questions, please contact me at 302 616 1833 or sbwalters79@gmail.com.

MOTHER'S DAY HISTORY

Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday." Once a major tradition in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, this celebration fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was originally seen as a time when the faithful would return to their "mother church"—the main church in the vicinity of their home—for a special service. Over time the Mothering Sunday tradition shifted into a more secular holiday, and children would present their mothers with flowers and other tokens of appreciation. This custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with the American Mother's Day in the 1930s and 1940s. Mother's Day is a holiday honoring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world. The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U. S. holiday in 1914. Jarvis would later denounce the holiday's commercialization and spent the latter part of her life trying to remove it from the calendar. While dates and celebrations vary, Mother's Day most commonly falls on the second Sunday in May, and traditionally

involves presenting mothers with flowers, cards and other gifts.
Happy Mother's Day to All Moms everywhere!

Sacrifice Part 2 By Ed Thornton

Read Hebrews 10:1-10

What does this passage tell us about the precious blood of Jesus?

First the blood of Jesus is precious because of who He is.

Christ was not just a man, but the Son of God, born of a virgin. In the Old Testament, any animal offered as a sacrifice had to be perfect, without spot or defect. That perfection represented holiness. In order for Jesus to take the punishment for our sins, He had to be perfect—without sin.

Second the blood of Jesus is precious because of why He came. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible has one main theme—the Father's redeeming love for us. Christ came as the Son of God with the purpose of dying for our sins.

The shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ was absolutely essential for the forgiveness of sins.

Finally the blood of Jesus is precious because of what it provides.

Jesus' blood provides **Redemption**
To redeem means *to buy back*. No matter how moral we are before accepting the gift of salvation, nature is inherently sinful. The

shedding of Christ's blood redeemed us from sin.

No matter how moral we are before accepting the gift of salvation, our nature is inherently sinful. The shedding of Christ's blood redeemed us from sin. Jesus went to the cross to "buy us back" from a life of slavery to sin.

Jesus' blood provides **Forgiveness**

We are forgiven, not simply because God is merciful, but because Christ his son went to the cross and shed His blood for me and for you. Salvation is not something we earn through good deeds or bargain for in exchange for promising to improve. Forgiveness is the gift of God purchased with Christ's blood.

Jesus' blood provides **Justification**

God is holy and must punish sin. Because Christ shed His blood in our place, the Father not only forgives our sin but also declares us righteous. We call this process "justification." Even though we may not always act like it, we are declared righteous in God's eyes.

Jesus' blood provides **Reconciliation**

When two or more parties break up or part ways they can reunite, come back together. We call this process reconciliation. It is through Christ's blood that God reconciles us to Himself. By the shedding of Christ's blood on the Cross you and I are reunited with God.

Jesus blood provides **Sanctification**

Sanctification is the process of being set apart for God's purposes and being made

holy. It is only possible because of the blood of Christ. Sanctification is both a one-time event that happens at salvation and a life-long process. God continues to work on us so we become more and more fruitful for His kingdom.

Jesus blood provides **Access to God.**

The Old Testament explains that God chose to make the Holy of Holies His earthly dwelling place. The Holy of Holies was a place where God was separate from His people. This area of the temple was so sacred that just one priest was allowed in, only once a year. The priest had to prepare himself carefully before performing sacred rituals. One of the requirements was that he sprinkled blood of a sacrificed animal on the Alter. Today, the only reason we can approach God is because, spiritually speaking, we are covered in the blood of Jesus. The Father listens to and answers our prayers because we are allowed to draw near to Him through the blood of Christ.

Finally Jesus blood provides **Daily Forgiveness**

After salvation, we will still do some things that are unacceptable to God. But if we confess our sins to the Lord with a sincere heart, He faithfully forgives us over and over. The basis for that continual forgiveness.

Always remember how precious the blood of Jesus is.



Why Nobody Wants To Come To Church Anymore Part 5

A Synopsis by Ed Thornton

Chapter 7: Acts of Love #2 Fearless Conversation

When we trust the Holy Spirit, God will take care of the rest.

What's So Compelling About Fearless Conversation?

Many non-churchgoers say “You Christians just lecture me. You don’t care what I think.” So when they hear “Your thoughts are welcome, and your doubts are welcome,” they are genuinely stunned. This comment opens the door for God’s work.

In its simplest form fearless conversation mean we listen. In listening we allow two-way conversation, an honest, authentic, dialog. It is amazingly refreshing.

Every time people participate in healthy, open dialog, even when they disagree it is a remarkable witness to the power of Fearless Conversation.

Jesus-Style Fearless Conversation

Jesus loved getting people to think. He asked provocative questions. He wanted people to ponder, to grapple with, to own their faith. He told open-ended parable, leaving people to figure them out on their own. No encounter was off limits.

How To Recognize Fearless Conversation:

Fearless conversation is:

Seeking to Understand – grasping why someone thinks, feels, or responds
Really listening before speaking
Asking great questions – people want to engage their brains and hearts
Asking “wondering” questions – “I am wondering about...”
Allowing others to talk – even in a sermon or Bible study
Using pair shares (turning to a partner and discussing what was just said – simplest way to engage everyone, anytime, in any setting
Offering nonjudgmental responses
Trusting the Holy Spirit and believing that God is on our side.

Fearless Conversation is not:

Pretending to pay attention
Having all the answers
Asking questions you already know the answer to
One person doing all the talking
Bible studies for the elite
Sermons, guest speaker, and panels on controversial topics
Allowing of “approved” books, music, and opinions.

