

Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

November 8, 2020

Why Good Matters Series

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Eric Hoey

- Veterans Day is Wednesday. This means that this is the Sunday we get the privilege of honor our veterans.
- If you have served in the Armed Forces in any branch of military, will you please stand so that we can recognize you and thank you for giving us the freedoms that we get to enjoy.
- Congregational Meeting to elect officers on Sunday, Nov. 22 immediately after the worship service.
- Titus Discussion group Wed nights at 7:00pm via Zoom
- Christmas Express deadline for adopting a child in tomorrow.
- Shoebox ministry through Operation Christmas Child is available. Pick up boxes and labels in the library.
- Presbyterian Women is collection the Thank Offering this month. Deadline Nov. 29

Organ Prelude Kristin Jones, Director of Music

*Call to Worship

Rejoice and be glad!

For God is our salvation.

Rejoice and be glad!

For God is great.

*Hymn PH 293 "This Is My Father's World"

1 This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Father's world.
Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so
strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.

*Call to Confession

Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus and his righteousness. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin that we might find forgiveness and new life in Christ.

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy and gracious God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trust in your provision, we chase after our own happiness. Forgive us,

Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace, for we know that you are the source of life, the fount of all that is good. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news: Nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Believe the gospel! We are forgiven.

***Gloria Patri (PH 579)**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***Passing the Peace**

Please turn and bow to someone out of respect and love— “The peace of Christ be with you”

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, to whom should we go? You have the words of eternal life. By the power of your Holy Spirit, speak to us of your promises that we might hear your truth and enjoy you forever; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

First Reading Psalm 78:1-7

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments

Special Music Alex Henderson, soloist

Second Reading Titus 3:1-2

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone.

Children’s Sermon Pastor Eric

- How many people use Facebook?
- I am told that young people do not use Facebook because it has been taken over by adults.
- I know a guy, who loves to post controversial things on Facebook.
- He will write a statement that will cause many people to respond in anger.
- He would say that President Donald Trump is a crook.
- You know half of the people listening will agree and the other half will put on their boxing gloves to set the record straight.

- He loves doing that to make people angry.
- Then he will get into an argument about the issue because he feels that his side is the best, and that everyone should think like him.
- Paul is teaching us today, that this kind of behavior is not appropriate.
- If we are Christians, Christians **do not** quarrel.
- Paul was concerned that this behavior does not exemplify what the body of Christ should be doing in society.
- He would say that rather than picking fights, that we should be doing good.
- Whenever you are tempted to say something controversial on the internet.
- Stop, don't pick fights, doing good is always better

SERMON "Doing Good in Society"

Titus 3:1-2

- Contentious climate we live in today.
- We have just come out of a national presidential election where we can see that the country is equally divided.
- With this 50% of the population is celebrating the election of a new president, and the other 50% feel cheated and that the elections were unfair.
- How does the Christian respond?
- Can Christians make a difference in spite of overwhelming odds division and strife that we have seen everyday leading up to the election?
- We have been going through the book of Titus where the dominate theme is doing good.
- Paul is saying that the good that comes from God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to change a community, even the most difficult society like the found on the island of Crete.
- Paul exhorts young Titus to do the following things:
 1. Find pastors in every city on the island, and Paul gives Titus qualifications for these new house church pastors.
 2. Then Paul address the relationships within the Christian community on the expected conduct
 3. At the end of Titus chapter two, Paul offers the rationale for doing good is GRACE
- In our text today, Paul offers ways to make a favorable impression on the non-believing world through our actions

Doing Good in Society

1. Submit to Authorities

1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient,

- Paul here is reminding Christians on Crete to be good citizens in their communities. WHY?
- Obedience to governing authorities is the lifestyle that results from understanding and experiencing God's grace.
- We're to honor the position, even if we have a difficult time honoring the individual who holds it.
- Remember, these words were written in a society where most people had little or no say over who their leaders were.
- Many of those leaders persecuted Christians.

- These tyrannical leaders jailed, enslaved, tortured, and even killed Christians.
- Yet, Paul is exhorting Christians are to fight the temptation to rebel, or start an insurrection, but to offer them our submission.
- *Romans 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God.*"
- Paul continues in verse 7, *Pay to all what is due them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.*
- Based upon this text, Christians honor God first because all authority belongs to God, but also to submit to the State.
- Christianity is not a social revolutionary religion.
- It's impact upon society should always be profound and good.
- We are to endure this world with its leaders (regardless how flawed) because we know the Christ's Kingdom is not of this world.
- EX: When a church is a part of the PC(USA), they are to give back to the denomination two fees: Per Capita (per member) and Unified Giving. One runs the governance of the church and the other runs the ministry of the church. I remember when the PCUSA made certain decisions in their General Assembly where churches and presbyteries wanted hurt the institution by not paying the per capita and unified giving fees in rebellion to the corporate decision of the whole.
 - This posture is exactly what Paul is preventing here.
 - Christian behavior is to submit to governing authorities and pay our taxes.
 - *HOWEVER*, there are some exceptions: when there are laws that run contrary the law of God.
 - Remember, we have a duty to God first, but when our duty to God comes into collision with our duty to the state, our duty to God take precedence.
 - EX: If we had to bow down and worship the president or the governor or the mayor
 - I believe the only time we have the right to disobey the law is when it orders us to disobey God's commands.
 - Remember, when Peter & John were told not to preach any more in the name of Jesus, they replied, "We must obey God, rather than men." (Acts 5:39)
- What Paul is saying here is that obedience to those in authority over you is a demonstration of GOOD that can have a profound impact upon those who continuously fights against it.
- Which brings me to my next point...

Doing Good in Society

1. Submit to Authorities

2. Do Whatever is Good

to be ready for every good work,

- See the word "ready" could be translated as prepared.
- Obedience to governmental authorities, **prepares** us to do good works
- Remember the context that Paul was writing this letter?
- He was instructing young Titus to rebuke the false teachers sharply
- Why? *Titus 1:16 They are detestable, disobedient, **unfit for any good work.***

- These false teachers did not have the grace of God within them, and their actions were destroying the testimony of what good can do in the local church as well as the larger community.
- This is why he is calling the Christians to not only be obedient to the government, but to be prepared to work against the false teachers by being the examples of good.
- *Ephesians 2:10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.*
- As good citizens, Christians must “be ready to do whatever is good” because this is a natural outcome of fruit of the Spirit
- Paul M. Elliot from the Teaching the Word website writes: Every Christian needs to remember a vital fact about good works: Christ is the root, good works are the fruit. That is the proper order. Christians are not Christians because of their good works. Christians are Christians because they believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the order. Christ comes first - the preeminent Christ. He takes up residence in the heart of the believer, and good works result.
- Belief in the Lord Jesus Christ is the grace of God found in the gospel of Jesus Christ which Paul dedicated so much of his life to communicate to the world around him.

Doing Good in Society

3. Slander No One

2 to speak evil of no one

- From our Christian responsibility towards the leaders of the community, Paul turns to our relationship with everybody in the community.
- “to speak evil of no one” means to not gossip or tear others down with words.
- In Proverbs 6:16ff *There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him:*
 - lying tongue (v. 17)
 - a lying witness who testifies falsely (v. 19)
 - one who sows discord in a family (v. 19)
- God hates slander because it is rooted in evil
- In Paul’s letter to the Romans, Paul lists slander as a behavior of those who hate God. *Romans 1:29-30 They were filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, craftiness, they are gossips, slanderers, God-haters,*
- Slander occurs whenever someone says something untrue about someone else that results in damaging someone else’s reputation.
- VIDEO: Slander in the Church

2 to speak evil of no one

- Slander is so evil it becomes the enemy’s chief strategy to divide relationships, deter, and derail the mission of the church.

Doing Good in Society

4. Be Peaceable and Considerate

to avoid quarreling, to be gentle,

- The word for quarreling means to not be contentious, or disposed to fight or quarrelsome.
- Resisting the desire to pick a fight to have an argument.

- It is not to be a bully with words or behavior, and refusing to not be involved in quarrels and conflicts.
- EX: I remember my mother always told me not to talk about two things in public. Did your mother ever teach you that? It was religion and politics.
- People hold such deeply held beliefs in those areas that anything contrary, builds immediate tension, anger, and separation.
- The people of the island of Crete had turbulent personalities, and if the local church was to survive, Christians had to have the grace of God transform the argumentative nature so that it opens the door to grace and peace.
- Christians need to work toward being peaceable with everyone.
- EX: If you read any of the blogs on the internet, there are people there who love to cause trouble. I was reading someone's blog on cooking, and someone made a political comment just to pick a fight. Where the moderators had to jump in, send everyone to their corners, and remind everyone what that particular blog was all about.
- Being peaceable lends itself to Paul's next exhortation of being "gentle"
- The word for gentle means to be mild, yielding, gentle kind, forbearing.
- This was a notable quality of Jesus.
- It is not stubbornly insisting on their own rights but acting in courtesy and tolerance
- I like how now writer describes gentle: "It is being ready to yield personal advantage, eager to help the needy, kind to the weak, considerate toward the fallen, always filled with the spirit of sweet reasonableness."

Doing Good in Society

5. Show Humility to All People

and to show every courtesy to everyone

- The word for "courtesy" could easily be translated as "humility"
- This means to have an attitude of mind that is the opposite of self-assertiveness and harshness.
- But here the emphasis is on the scope of humility—
- Notice the text says to show courtesy to EVERYONE
- Showing humility is not to those whom you like!
- "Everyone" in this context includes those who are liars, evil brutes, lazy bellies, hostile and morally perverse.
- The Christian church was never meant to be an isolated community that is separate and removed from the community.
- It is to be an instrument of changing culture, pointing people to Jesus Christ, doing GOOD, and demonstrating humility to everyone
- EX: I remember visiting a church in upstate New York that had the biggest, most beautiful fence around the entire church. IT clearly communicated to the community, you are not wanted! We are not like you. We are separate from you!
- But our text today tells us just the opposite.
- Our acts of humility is to be on visibly on display
- Bringing the good news of Christ is facing the sin and ugly parts of our society and demonstrating humility and courtesy to all people.

Doing Good in Society:

1. Submit to Authorities

2. Do Whatever is Good
3. Slander No One
4. Be Peaceable and Considerate
5. Show Humility to All People

Offering

Freely we have received; freely we give, with gratitude and joy.

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise him above the heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

***Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, receive our gifts, tokens of thanks for your extravagant blessings, signs of trust in your coming reign of justice, peace, and love; in Jesus' name.

Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith** (Apostle's Creed)

Minister:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, what do you believe?

All:

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

[A time of silence follows each petition.]

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

God of life, you created the world and called it good. In Jesus Christ you came to redeem us; his resurrection is our promise of eternal life.

By the power of your Spirit you claim us, strengthen us, and prepare us to live with you in glory. In sure and certain hope, we pray for your world, that we may live into your coming reign of justice and peace.

For the church, wherever it thrives and wherever it struggles— keep us faithful to your gospel.... Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who govern—grant them wisdom and a commitment to justice.... Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For planet Earth—heal its wounds and make us better stewards of its wonders and gifts.... Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who are dying—calm all fears and welcome them into your peace....
Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer from anxieties and ills—give them relief.... Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who endure the days and nights without food or shelter—feed and protect them.... Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer in silence—comfort those who carry secret sorrows.... Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For all who seek your face ... Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

With thanks that you hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken, we entrust all of life to you, gracious God, our Alpha and Omega, our only hope in life and in death; and now, with confidence as children of God, let us pray:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

In honor of our veterans, our closing hymn will be—

***Hymn** PH 564 "America the Beautiful"

1 O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with
*brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

3 O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country
loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine.

2 O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

4 O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with
*brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

***Benediction**

Postlude "Let There Be Peace on Earth"
Alex Henderson, soloist
(please be seated for the postlude)