

A TIME FOR REFLECTION – [Pastor Gene Henderson]

In the mysterious world of the mind (soul), we encounter the not-so-mysterious admonition of the prophets – we should worship God. We should love God. Deuteronomy 6:2:

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

Worship we get. That's kind of a standard in all religions. *Love?* Not sure how many religious adherents love their gods. Devoted, yes. Revered, yes. Loved? Not so sure.

“Have you lost your mind?” That question used to be funny – today's heightened sensitivities might have taken it out of common conversation, but when it was acceptable, it was seldom intended as offensive. It was a simple reaction, usually humorous, to when someone had a *“brain cramp”* and made a bad (not-too-smart) decision. And while we're examining our speech patterns, what's up with *“brain cramp?”* Where did that come from? The obvious conclusion is that we often use *“brain”* and *“mind”* interchangeably. But they are not. Interchangeable, that is. We can open the human skull and find a brain, but we will not find the mind with a surgical scalpel.

Why are we talking about this in church? Because in several places the Bible tells us we should love God with our heart, mind, soul and strength. And it's a good bet that each of those words carry significance. So, let's look at one – *mind*. If it isn't the brain, what is it? And how do we love God with it? Before we run down side trails into synapses, dendrites, neurons, axons, and glial cells, perhaps we could agree that the human brain is amazing. Scientists call it the most complex and amazing organic *“thing”* in the cosmos. *“Thing?”* Yeah, because maybe they don't know quite what it is either.

Neuro-psychologists talk about *“consciousness”*. Fascinating. Really. Drives the curiosity meter into the red zone. Unconscious. Subconscious. Altered states. (Not Hawaii.) Dreams. Okay, let's not go there.

We can get lost in the whole mind-mapping, brain-mapping conversation. Instead, let's return to what Moses said: *“we shall love God with all our mind”* (soul). How? First, we might consider accepting that if our minds and brains have us amazed, God has us amazed as well. Anselm of Canterbury defined God as *“that than which nothing greater can be conceived”*. Play with that as long as you wish – ultimately, it's pretty good. And loving God with our minds starts right there. Respect. Deference. Admiration. Adoration. Worship.

Happy Sunday. Happy every day.

Welcome!

April 29, 2018



“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way.”

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM

Unity In Prayer: 6:00 PM

Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM;

Kid's Club & Youth

Prayer ½ hour before services

SERMON NOTES

THE JONATHAN COMPANY!

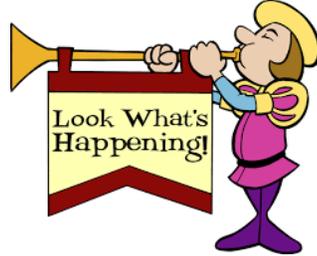
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Bible Study – We are studying the Book of Romans. We will be meeting in the basement during the winter to save on fuel costs.

Snacks For Children – There is a basket in the foyer for donations of snacks for Children's Church and Wednesday night Kid's Club.

Men's Ministry Breakfast – Saturday morning, 9:00 AM at Denny's on Route 4. Come and enjoy the fellowship.

Teen Challenge Service – the Teen Challenge team will be with us on May 6th for a great service. We are announcing this with much anticipation so you can invite those you know who are struggling with addictions of any kind. God can set them free!



TEXT: 1 Samuel 14:1-23; 2 Timothy 3:1-5

There is no place to _____ but in Jesus Christ! 2 Timothy 3:13; 4:3-4

1. **DON'T _____!** Matthew 10:39; 28:19-20; 10:16; Genesis 6:5-6, 11-13

He was kept by the power of God! Hebrews 11:7

2. **JOIN THE "JONATHAN COMPANY"!**

Jonathan _____ what God is looking for in His people today! 1 Samuel 13:5, 7

Nobody had a _____ – nobody could _____ God.

They have a _____ of godliness, but no _____.

Only _____ provides boldness! Proverbs 28:1

The more _____ we possess in our heart, the less _____ we have to stand and fight!

3. **DO SINGLE-HANDED _____!**

He decided to undertake a "_____ - _____" against the enemy. 1 Samuel 14:6

But God doesn't _____ a great army – He can use _____ or _____ committed soldiers!

The _____ that is needed in our household _____ on us!

Jonathan's plan had just two options: "_____", or "_____!"

1 Samuel 14:9-10, 13-16; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; Hebrews 11:33-34

We have the same power _____ to us today!

Psalms 35:4; 2 Kings 7:6-7; 1 Samuel 16:4

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