

A TIME FOR REFLECTION – [Pastor Gene Henderson]

“There are never enough kinds [of penance]. Not for me. And not for you.” (John D. MacDonald, A Purple Place for Dying) If only we had a “*neuralyzer*” for when we mess up. Get everyone’s attention and, click, it never happened. Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones carry their little magic memory eraser through several Men in Black missions. Saves a lot of penance when we can just erase the last few minutes.

Saves more than penance, because even sincere apology or honest attempt at reparations cannot undo or repair the damage of some mistakes. Lives altered. Lives lost. Dreams destroyed. The human heart cries for peace and justice, but human history tells us those cries get lost in the struggle for power and revenge. As much as we preach freedom and independence, we practice fear and domination.

The “*neuralyzer*” sounds enticing, but our problem runs deeper than memory. We have character issues. St. Paul said it this way in Romans 7:18-21 (NLT):

And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can’t. I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don’t want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.

He goes on to say he’s at war with himself. No matter how much he tries to always do the right thing, he keeps messing up. He’s miserable because he can’t fix himself. He uses a phrase that is not very popular today, even in church. **Because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin** (verse 25). And that is a problem a memory “neuralyzer” can’t erase. MacDonald feels the same way. *“There’s never enough kinds of penance. Not for me. And not for you.”* In other words, we’re all in this mess together.

We don’t need Men in Black with “*neuralyzers*”. **We need a Savior!**

Welcome!

May 20, 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

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.

March For Life New York – will have their third annual march in Albany on June 4th, 2018. All are meeting at 10:30 AM at the Children’s Memorial at Empire State Plaza for prayer. Then we will be marching to the State Capital steps for a Pro-Life Rally. We encourage all to plan to attend. Jeremiah 1:5: **“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”**

Ladies Bible Study – this Thursday morning at 10:00 and in the evening at 7:00. The study will be on “Uninvited” by Lysa TerKeurst. Come and learn while fellowshiping.

Missionary Letters – there are new missionary letters on our bulletin boards in the foyer.



A VOICE – A MIRROR – A STEP OF FAITH #1

John was the _____, Stephen mirrored the _____, and Peter took the daring step of _____.

1. A VOICE

John shows us the kind of _____ most _____ to the Lord!

John 1:23; Matthew 11:11

John refused to be _____ or _____.

The _____ of all prophets was in his own eyes not even worthy to be called a man of God – but only a _____.

John 1:29; 3:30

They _____ the Lord mightily by their simple _____ to His faithfulness in their struggles.

His pure joy was to stand in the _____ of the Bridegroom, hear His voice, and _____ in it.

His joy and self-worth came from his _____ with God.

Simply rejoice in being a son or daughter who _____ in the very _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Voices that will testify to a doubting world that Christ is _____ to see everyone through any crisis – that He is a tower of _____.

And that is there is a desperate need for some who will _____ all thoughts about doing some great or important work for God, and instead fasten their _____ only on Him and become a voice proclaiming His overcoming _____.

Luke 16:15

Rev. Bill Pier Jr., Campus Pastor
Rev. Arthur Henderson – Pastor
Pastor’s cell phone: 518.567.9788
Location: 292 Hays Rd, East Greenbush, NY 12061
Mail: PO Box 105, East Greenbush, NY 12061
Office Telephone: 518.479.3439
Email: pastorpier@newlifeaogeg.org
Webpage: <http://www.newlifeaogeg.org>