

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

[Pastor Gene Henderson (edits by Pastor)]

God can't win. He creates a paradise, places the first couple there, introduces them to love and peace and power and freedom. The whole place is theirs. All the other creatures respect them and each other – no conflict, no competition. They run everything. Without argument. Without resistance. **The future is limitless.** They live in paradise and the world is theirs to explore, to fill with their offspring, to develop. Everything is theirs ... except for one tree and a deceptively beautiful creature who distracts their focus. Eventually, they trade their amazing paradise and its immeasurable potential for one tree. Correction – for the lie they believed about that one tree.

We would toss them off as obtuse and immature if we didn't know that we're talking about ourselves.

God doesn't quit. He continues to forge relationships with any of Adam and Eve's offspring who will reach out to Him. Unfortunately, hundreds of years later the deceptively beautiful creature has corrupted so many that what started out as a paradise has become a vicious, violent world. Instead of hitting reset and wiping the whole mess clean, God finds one family that listens. And, in spite of the derision of their neighbors, this family builds a boat in a place where it has never rained. You know the story.

Afterward God tells this recalcitrant race, "***I will not do this again***". Thousands of troubling, turbulent years pass during which God finds some who listen, some who believe in Him. Unfortunately, most do not. They listen to the deceiver, and the world gets about as far away from paradise as it can. At the precise moment when it's about to tip over, God finds a couple who will let their lives be turned upside down so He can turn the world right side up. They believe in His Plan, but thirty years later their son dies horribly. The sky goes black. The earth shakes. The deceiver celebrates.

While he celebrates, the Son Who died defeats death. But instead of just walking away, instead of wiping His hands of this ungrateful species, He steps back into their broken world and jump-starts their faith. Two thousand years later, here we are wondering if God will ever win. Wrong tense. It has never been about whether God ever **will** win, as if that were a future event, or an event in question. God is not **going** to win. He already **has**. The question is whether **we** will win.

And the answer to that is simple: **which side do we want to fight on?**

Welcome!

October 14, 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sunday Evening Prayer – our hour of prayer at 6:00 PM. Join us as we ask God for direction and revival.

Wednesday Bible Study – Romans and Kid's Club. Come and learn about the Word

of God!

Snacks For Children – There is a basket in the foyer for donations of snacks for our children's programs. Thank you!

Promoting Our Church – in order to make it easier to advertise our church one on one, Debbie DeVries designed and produced a one page flyer to introduce New Life to neighbors and friends. Please stop by the table in the foyer and take the number you need to help grow our church. God bless our efforts!

Ladies Meeting – tonight at 6:30 PM at New Hope Ministries, 334 Second Ave., Albany.

Teen Challenge Banquet – October 19th, 7:00 PM at the Albany Hilton Hotel, 40 Lodge Street. We have purchased a table with 8 tickets for sale at \$50.00 per person. We need those who would like to go to sign up on the table in the foyer so we can plan if we need to purchase a second table.

10th Annual Rebuilding the City Benefit – November 3rd, 6-8:15 PM at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 63 Mountain View Ave, Albany. The cost is \$30 per person. Come and support this great Ministry while enjoying great music and fellowship.

Rev. Bill Pier Jr., Campus Pastor

Rev. Arthur Henderson – Pastor

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