

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

[Pastor Gene Henderson (edits by Pastor)]

Why was it important to Jesus that we see God as our Father and that we talk to Him constantly? In other words, why should prayer be an unending conversation with God rather than a specific time during our church services? Setting aside specific times to “pray” and following specific patterns in our prayers are signs of respect, are they not? Yes and no.

Yes for obvious reasons, the greatest of those being that we should not want to ever lose our sense of awe and respect for God. But who are we kidding? If President Trump showed up at church and gave us opportunity to talk with him, we would respect him. We would call him “*Mr. President*”, and we would phrase our comments as appropriately as we know how. We would put on our best manners not just because of the Secret Service detail lined up along the walls, but because we respect his office. What’s more, we would tell all our friends and neighbors about his visit. And we would do all of that even if we were conservative Republicans who didn’t like some of his policies! Respect remains even when disappointment or disagreement exists.

No for reasons just as obvious. Imagine President Trump standing in front of your church and saying, “*I’ve appreciated your welcome this morning and I’m glad to have met you. But I would like us to continue our discussion and build a lasting relationship. On the screen behind me is my personal cell number. You may think I’m too busy to talk to you, or maybe you don’t really know what to say, but if you call we can start the process of getting to know each other.*”

Is it too much to believe that every person in the room would be writing down that number or programming it into their contacts? Didn’t think so. Even if they thought it was a hoax, they’d at least write it down and eventually try it.

The Hebrew people had rituals for their religious gatherings just as we do. Jesus wanted to take us past the ritual and build a relationship. Republican, Democrat, Baptist, Catholic, Pentecostal – doesn’t matter. You don’t have to like everything in The Bible. You don’t have to understand everything in The Bible (or in church for that matter). You don’t have to agree with everyone’s perspective on religious “*stuff*”. You have God’s number and you might consider calling. If you think He’s telling you to kill someone, you dialed the wrong number. Otherwise, even if He doesn’t do everything you want Him to – He won’t – **He will talk back**. Might take you a while to recognize His voice, but eventually, you will be glad you called.

Welcome!

October 7, 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 – October 14th at 6:30 PM at New Hope Ministries, 334 Second Ave., Albany. Please let Caroline or Leah know if you plan to attend so we can RSVP.

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

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