# TIME OF REFLECTION

# [Pastor Gene Henderson edited by Pastor Pier]

Do people who live in the tropics get bored? No colorful leaves to look at... or rake. No windy hints of the cold that's coming. No heating bills to look forward to. Just another beautiful day in paradise – blue sky and deep blue sea, soft rain, sandy beaches, palm trees and hammocks. Wait, is that a description of the average day for a citizen of the tropics, or is that a vacation fantasy for a North American? Just ask me and I will describe a day to you. (Pastor Pier)

I can assure you that Pacific and Caribbean Islanders actually have to work. And watch out for tsunamis and hurricanes. They just don't have to rake leaves or shovel snow. And they have to be nice to all the people who invade their paradise because of all the tourist dollars those guests bring. So, yeah, they have to work.

Of course, there's another rumor that angels just float around on clouds all day in their celestial paradise. That rumor runs into a problem when we discover that they have jobs, too, and one of those jobs is to take care of us. At least it appears that way. Daniel survived in a pit of lions because an angel had the duty to protect him. For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. (Psalm 91:11) Some of us are easy to guard because we're the good little boys and girls. Some of you are self-willed and full of mischief, so your angels stay busy.

But Heaven's assignment desk isn't just about guiding us through life. Heaven's prime purpose is preparing us for the next life, which can be a battle. Strike that – it isn't a battle. It's a cosmic war of epic proportions because Earth-bound creatures have a relentless, deceptive snake of an enemy. This isn't a kids' tale, and it isn't a sci-fi or horror movie. It's reality at a visceral level with eternal consequences.

So, we have a choice: believe the rumors that it's all myth and legend and angelic paradise; or believe in the Baby Who came to save us from ourselves and our enemy. This is no joke; it's serious stuff. And we still have to rake the leaves and hopefully not shovel too much snow.



November 27, 2022



"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 – 7:00 PM
Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM;
Youth & Kid's Club
Prayer ½ hour before services

### THEOLOGICAL SEED

Come closer, and listen to this. From the beginning I have told you plainly what would happen." And now the Sovereign LORD and His Spirit have sent me with this message. This is what the LORD says — your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is good for you and leads you along the paths you should follow. Oh, that you had listened to My commands! Then you would have had peace flowing like a gentle river and righteousness rolling over you like waves in the sea.

Isaiah 48:16-18 (NLT)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Wednesday Bible Study** – John 17. Come as we learn how Jesus prays for His own.

Kid's Club & Youth in the basement, learning about the Lord.

**Special Prayer Request** – we are believing God for the finances for a new air conditioning and heating unit for the sanctuary. Please pray with us.

**Flagging Practice** – every Wednesday at 6 pm, here at the church.

**Women's Ministry** – 3rd Friday of every month at 6:00 PM – December 16<sup>th</sup>, annual Christmas party.

*Men's Ministry* – 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month at 7:00 pm, here at the church – December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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## SERMON NOTES

#### PASTOR GENE HENDERSON