

## A TIME OF REFLECTION

[Pastor Gene Henderson edited by Pastor Pier]

Why would any people call their leaders judges? Our founders structured the judicial branch to protect the citizens by limiting the power of the executive and legislative branches. But running up to the 2024 election, we're watching one political party use the judicial branch to hamstring – literally, an attempt to destroy – the opposing candidate. National leadership can be complicated.

The ancient Israelis spent 300+ years led by judges, following the model set by Moses and Joshua. Some of the judges were spiritual and good leaders. Others, not so much. Because the people did not follow Joshua's direction to completely remove all the previous inhabitants of the land, the years of the judges were anything but peaceful. Yet one of the great stories near the end of this time was the story of Ruth. What makes the story great is more than the love Ruth and Boaz found. **Ruth was the grandmother of David.**

The story of David emerges and tracks through the Samuels, Kings, Chronicles and Psalms. Raised by a farmer, he met God in his early years shepherding his father's sheep. We should keep in mind that even believers like David had no Messiah, no resurrected Jesus of Nazareth, no thousands of years of believers charting a course for his faith. Yet **David talked to God directly and personally**, which is what makes the Psalms such an amazing collection. His life and culture were different from ours, but his spiritual connection stands as a model when his personal life went sideways.

David's route to kingship wound its way through amazing military victories, friendship with Jonathan, years of living as a social outlaw and more years waiting for all the Israeli tribes to ask him to be their king. Then he spent 40 years expanding and solidifying Israel's borders and becoming a wealthy, respected leader. His biography presents us with a highly motivated, extremely gifted and deeply flawed human male. **His love for God is unquestioned. His willingness to follow God's advice is admirable.** His foolish, human frailties give us courage that even we can be forgiven. And his prayer for God's grace and favor (Psalm 51) remains one of the greatest of all time.

# Welcome

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023



*"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 & Youth: 6:00 – 7:00 PM  
Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM; Kid's Club  
Prayer ½ hour before services

## SERMON NOTES

### SHAKE IT OFF

**TEXT:** Acts 27 & 28; Hebrews 12:27-29; Matthew 16:18

We feel that now we are indeed in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for His \_\_\_\_\_ in our life. Acts 27:14, 18-19

They began to throw things overboard that speak of their very \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

We \_\_\_\_\_ our purpose, forget the Holy Ghost, Pentecost. Acts 27:21-26

\_\_\_\_\_ with the boat, stay \_\_\_\_\_ to the church!

Folks there's too much at \_\_\_\_\_ here for us not to stay connected.

Ephesians 6:12

#### 1. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ IS AT STAKE

\_\_\_\_\_ of life is at stake.

#### 2. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF GOD IS AT STAKE

We have a world today that wants a god that says \_\_\_\_\_ goes.

#### 3. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_

We find ourselves caught between the \_\_\_\_\_ of crisis and culture.

Our \_\_\_\_\_ is with a godless culture, a culture that needs to be \_\_\_\_\_. 2 Chronicles 7:13-14; Acts 27:41-44

#### 4. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF GOD

There's \_\_\_\_\_ in the time of storm. Acts 28:1-4

The devil \_\_\_\_\_ his own!

Snakes from their \_\_\_\_\_ and they walk around as if it was their \_\_\_\_\_. Acts 28:5-6, 8-9

It's time to \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_! Hebrews 12:27-29

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Wednesday Bible Study** – we will continue our study of John 17. Our children will enjoy Kid's Club in the basement.

**Flagging Class** – will begin again on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. For more information, please see Debbie DeVries.

**Ladies Christmas Party** – December 8<sup>th</sup>, Friday evening at 6:00. Please bring a dish to share and a grab bag gift of no more than \$10. There is a signup sheet on the table in the foyer for all those attending. For more information see Caroline Zeyak.

**Christmas Program Practice** – December 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. For more information see Leah Pier or Lori Slingerland.

**Christmas Program** – December 17<sup>th</sup>, Sunday morning. Let's invite all we can to enjoy this great service, believing God for many souls.

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