

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

[Pastor Gene Henderson with edits by Pastor Pier]

Sooner or later, someone will ask, “*How are you doing?*” Your answer will depend on what you think they mean, basically one of two things: “*Are you happy?*” “*Are you feeling well?*” The average questioner doesn’t really care – they’re just making conversation. And even if you think they really **do** care – otherwise, why would they ask? – you try to answer. That’s when the conversation goes sideways, meaning we talk about ourselves.

Later, when you review the conversation in your head, you wonder... what should I have said? No good answer comes to mind. Here’s one from Jesus in Matthew 5:46-48:

For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Typical advice from our Lord, except for the last line: *You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.* What does that mean? I need to come up with the perfect answer? What if I don’t know what to say? I’m not perfect, so how does He expect me to be? Now our conversation with ourselves goes sideways.

Here’s what He means. *If you give an answer and it isn’t what they wanted, stop. You’ve done your part. The rest belongs to them.*

If you’re wondering what this whole little essay is about, read it again. We talk to people every day. Part of our conversations are answering questions, and it is not our responsibility to please the questioner. ***It is our responsibility to tell the truth.*** If we do, we don’t have to worry about the response. Or we don’t answer the question at all, just change the subject and move on. We’ve given our answer.

Remember, we can only control what we say, ***not how the person we are talking to perceives what we say.*** That is their business. So, speak the truth and leave the consequences up to God. Zechariah 8:16-17 (Living Bible):

“Here is your part: Tell the truth. Be fair. Live at peace with everyone. Don’t plot harm to others; don’t swear that something is true when it isn’t! How I hate all that sort of thing!” says the Lord.

Welcome!

March 9th, 2025



“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; Kid’s Club

Prayer ½ hour before services

DON'T WRITE ME OFF, COUNT ME IN! Part 2

TEXT: Ruth 1:19-21

1. **CIRCUMSTANCES MUST NEVER DETERMINE IDENTITY**
2. **CIRCUMSTANCES MUST NEVER DETERMINE OUR _____ OF GOD** – Ruth 1:20-21

Naomi had a _____ view of God.

Job 2: 9-10, 11-13; 1:21; 42:10, 12a; Psalm 103:1-5; Isaiah 40:28-29; 43:10-11; 44:6; Titus 3:4-7; Deuteronomy 7:9

A. God is _____! (Knows everything all the time.)

1. **Knowledge based on His _____!** 1 John 3:19-20
2. **Knowledge of _____!** Psalm 139:1-4
3. **Knowledge with _____.** Hebrews 4:13

B. He is omnipresent! (Everywhere present at all times.)

1. **All present in trouble!** Psalm 46:1
2. **All present regardless of the circumstances!** Psalm 139:7-10
3. **All present forever!** Matthew 28:18-20

C. He is omnipotent! (Infinite in power.)

1. **That power is mine!** Ephesians 1:16-23
2. **That power is perfect and never reliant on me!** 2 Corinthians 12:9
3. **That power is Holy Ghost power!** Ephesians 3:14-21

My _____ of God will be solely _____ by the Word of God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Wednesday Bible Study – we continue our study of the Rapture of the church.

Prayer – every Sunday evening from 6 to 7. We join together to pray in an informal way, come as you are and pray as you wish. God honors the church that prays together.

Flagging Practice has begun again on Wednesday nights at 6:00 PM. For more information, please see Debbie DeVries.

Free Music CDs & DVDs – in the foyer, on the pulpit there are numerous CDs and DVDs which are free. Please take a look and see what you might want.

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