

The Lord's Day

September 3, 2023 ~ 10:30 AM

Scripture for Meditation: "Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."

-James 5:7-8 (ESV)

Prelude Carol Jones, piano

Announcements

* Call to Worship (Bible, p. 460) [Psalm 27:4](#)

* Hymn 376 [Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty](#) NEANDER

* Invocation

Old Testament Lesson (Bible, p. 472) [Psalm 49:1-20](#)
(responsive & continuous reading)

New Testament Lesson (Bible, p. 944) [Romans 8:18-28](#)

** Silent Prayer of Confession

* Assurance of Pardon

* Hymn 535 [O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!](#) EBENEZER

** Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

* Hymn 731 [Doxology](#) OLD HUNDREDDTH

* Prayer of Dedication

Sermon *Christ-like Endurance to the End* Pastor Will Snyder
Text: [James 5:7-12](#) (Bible, p. 1013)

* Hymn 689 [Be Still, My Soul](#) FINLANDIA

The Lord's Supper

Deacon's Offering

* Hymn (insert) *Christ Is Mine Forevermore*
arr. J. Robinson & R. Thompson

* Benediction

Postlude

As you enter the Sanctuary, please be considerate of others who are quietly preparing for worship. Please silence your cell phones before the service begins.

Communion Reminder: The outside rows on each cup tray contain grape juice; all other cups in each tray contain wine. The bread/cracker served is gluten-free.

Backyard Fellowship, 5:30 PM:

We will meet for a 'Bonus' Backyard Fellowship today at PCC to close out the summer. And what better way to close out our season of Backyard Fellowships than with an ice cream social? Join us at 5:30 PM for dinner (each individual or family should bring meat to grill and a side dish to share), fellowship, and a time of prayer and devotion. Then, get ready for the best ice cream sundaes you can possibly make! All plates, utensils, and drinks will be provided. We hope you can make it. It is a great way to get to know each other better in an informal setting.

* Congregation Standing

** Congregation Kneeling

CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE

Words and Music by
JONNY ROBINSON & RICH THOMPSON

Gently ♩ = 72

INTRO

B♭ Eb/B♭ B♭ F B♭ B♭

Mine are

VERSE 1/2/3

B♭ Eb/B♭ B♭ Gm F/A B♭ B♭sus

days that God has num - bered. I was made to walk with Him. Yet I
tears in times of sor - row. Dark - ness not yet un - der - stood. Through the
days here as a stran - ger. Pil - grim on a nar - row way. One with

B♭ Eb/B♭ B♭ Gm F/A B♭ B♭/D

look for world - ly treas - ure and for - sake the King of kings. But mine is
val - ley I must trav - el where I see no earth - ly good. But mine is
Christ I will en - count - er harm and ha - tred for His name. But mine is

REFRAIN

E♭ B♭ F B♭

hope in my Re - deem - er. Though I fall, His love is sure. For Christ has
peace that flows from hea - ven and the strength in times of need. I know my
ar - mour for this bat - tle. Strong e - nough to last the war. And He has

E♭ B♭ F B♭

paid for ev - 'ry fail - ing. I am His for - ev - er - more.
pain will not be wast - ed. Christ com - pletes His work in me.
said He will de - liv - er safe - ly

B♭ Eb/B♭ B♭ F B♭

Mine are
Mine are

REFRAIN 2

F B♭ E♭ B♭

to the gold - en shore. And mine are keys to Zi - on Ci - ty where be -

F B♭ B♭/D E♭ B♭

side the King I walk. For there my heart has found it's trea - sure. Christ is

34 F B♭ B♭ E♭/B♭ B♭

mine for - ev - er - more.

38 F B♭ B♭ B♭

1. BRIDGE 2. B♭ B♭

Come re - joice now, O my

42 E♭ B♭ F B♭

soul for his love is my re - ward. Fear is gone and hope is

46 E♭ F B♭ B♭

1, 2. B♭ 3. B♭

sure. Christ is mine for - ev - er - more! Come re more!

50 REFRAIN 2 E♭ B♭ F

And mine are keys to Zi - on Ci - ty where be - side the King I

54 B♭ E♭ B♭ F

walk. For there my heart has found it's trea - sure. Christ is mine for - ev - er -

58 B♭ F B♭ F

more. Christ is mine for - ev - er - more. Christ is mine for - ev - er -

62 B♭ B♭ E♭/B♭ B♭ F

OUTRO

more.

67 B♭ E♭/B♭ B♭ F B♭

Notes for the Preaching of God's Word

Christ-like Endurance to the End

James 5:7-12

Main Preaching Point: Amidst suffering in the Christian journey, fix your life upon the Lord while patiently enduring, for God's merciful hand is at work.

- Called to Patient Endurance
 - Patience—self-restraint without retaliation (v.7-8)
 - Endurance—the temper that does not waver under suffering (v.11)
- Examples of Patience
 - Waiting like the farmer (v.7)
 - God works out his purposes over the longer haul
 - The crop/fruit is worth waiting for
 - Witnessing & Worshipping like the prophets & Job (v.10-11)
- The Purpose/Goal of Patience
 - Seeing the merciful hand of God (v.11)

Questions for Individuals, families, or small groups

Text: James 5:7-12

Title: Christ-like Endurance to the End

Questions:

1. What was most important or applicable in today's preaching? Can you summarize the main message?

Called to Patient Endurance

2. Read v.7 and v.11. According to the sermon how is patience and endurance similar and yet distinctly different?

- James called for endurance at the beginning of his letter (1:2-4) and he stresses it again at the end (5:11). However, while in chapter 1 he stressed endurance amidst *external* trials and threats, how does the present context stress endurance amidst *internal* trials? (see v.8-9). How is this applicable and relevant today?

3. What are some of the challenges to being a people who are patient and enduring? What makes it difficult to wait upon the Lord and be patient with others? Explain.

Examples of Patience

4. Read v.7. What example of patience does James provide? What insights might we draw from this illustration and example of patience for Christian living?

- According to the verse what kind of fruit—what adjective does James apply to this fruit? How might this be incentive for patience, endurance, and faithfulness during a long waiting period? Discuss.

5. Read v.10. What example of suffering and patience does James provide? What in particular does James emphasize about the prophets? How did they demonstrate endurance and a willingness to suffer? How does this apply to you? Explain.

6. Read v.11. What example of suffering and patience does James provide? What does it mean: “and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful” (v.11). How does God's hand of mercy and care relate to the believer while he is enduring patiently? Think about the difficulties and questions that arise in one's mind while in the midst of endurance, trial, and long-suffering? How would knowing God's “purpose” (or end/goal) be an important thing to keep in mind? Explain.

7. Read Hebrews 12:3. How does Christ and his gospel relate to our calling to endurance and long-suffering? Discuss.

PCC Informational meeting

On September 17th after worship all church members, families, and regular attendees are encouraged to join in the sanctuary for a fairly brief informational meeting about two different ministries at PCC. Those two ministries are described below. There will be opportunity at the meeting to learn more and to engage with potential questions.

Discipleship Group Ministry at PCC

The Discipleship Group Ministry exists to encourage brothers and sisters in the Lord to walk alongside one another in order to cultivate growth in Jesus Christ. By God's design, a primary way that His people are sanctified is in the context of fellowship & community. There are dozens and dozens of 'one-another's' in Scripture—love one another, encourage one another, confess your sins one to another, carry one another's burdens—all of which may be effectively carried out as Christians develop trusted relationships and encourage each other in Christ-like living. Discipleship groups are for this purpose.

Design

The D-Group Ministry began about three years ago and is designed to provide both a shared vision among the groups as well as a level of flexibility. Each group has a leader/facilitator who is sufficiently mature in the faith. Each group consists of a smaller group of people (ranging from two to six)—men meeting with men, and women meeting with women. And each group is encouraged to gather a minimum of twice a month and spend time focused on four main areas:

- Prayer: Prayer is one of God's prescribed means of grace and as believers pray with and for another the Lord sheds forth his mercy and grace (James 5:16)
- Scripture: Each group is called to bring the truth of God's Word to bear upon one another's lives (2 Tim.3:16; Rom.15:14)
- Accountability: Groups are aimed at cultivating deeper relationships in Christ where burdens can be shared and the beauty of the gospel can be applied to the brokenness of life (James 5:16; 1 Thess.2:8)
- Service/Mission: It is our desire to encourage one another in being salt and light in a dark and needy world (Matt.5:13-16)

Takeaways

1. The D-group ministry does not mature believers. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. The groups are only an avenue to help foster growth in Christ through trusted community
2. The effectiveness of each D-group depends on the commitment of the members. It is not merely the group that makes the members, but the members that make the group
3. It is the work of the Evil One to isolate believers, limiting their resources in the battle of faith. Community and close fellowship is a God-prescribed way to undercut the devil's work and strengthen believers
4. D-groups are not the only ministry that provides fellowship and support. Bible studies, familial relationships, shepherding groups, and other already established friendships are all potentially effective means of growing in Christ. Yet, D-groups are intended to bring believers closer together in order to share life-on-life and encourage growth in Christ
5. The D-group ministry is overseen by a small team including: Pastor Will, Carol Jones, Julie Craig, & Julie Anne Edwards. We are still seeking one more male leader.

If you desire to start a new group, become a part of an existing one, or want to simply learn more about this ministry, please feel free to contact any member of the leadership team.

The PCC women's advocacy team was formed in August 2022 at the initiative of Hannah Sung, with the knowledge and approval of the elders. The goal was to train a group of women who would be qualified to come alongside the elders to support them in shepherding women in crisis. The advocacy training curriculum has been developed by leaders in women's ministry within the PCA who seek to equip women to minister to other women within the church body. The curriculum includes a list of ten books, a workbook, and in-depth Bible study. During this past school year, the team met monthly to discuss the books, the Scriptures, and case studies provided by the curriculum. The PCC team is made up of Pamela Hofmann, Madeline Edwards, Debbie Goodale, and Carol Jones.

Purpose:

1. To build the Body of Christ
Men and women partnering together in ministry for a woman in crisis can help to build unity and trust among the members of the church.
2. To apply the Gospel to the woman who is hurting
Men and women partnering together in ministry for a woman in crisis can provide complementary perspectives to help the woman back to wholeness.
3. To open the channels of communication and trust between the woman and male
Leadership Men and women partnering together in ministry for a woman in crisis can communicate what is necessary and protect the woman from further shame and withdrawal.

Notes:

1. Church leaders, male or female, are ultimately not the solution to a woman's problems. Only Jesus the Good Shepherd is!
2. Women's advocates are not trained counselors.
3. Men and women in the church have different roles, but complementary gifts. May these gifts be used to edify all parts of the Body!
4. The women's advocacy team will serve as a "bridge" for hurting women to develop long-term care connections in the Body, such as discipleship groups.
5. The women on the advocacy team will be communicating regularly with the elders, and more frequently when there are specific cases to be addressed. In other words, they are there to support the leadership of our elders.