

LET US SERVE THE LORD

God chose his faithful servant Joshua, to succeed Moses as leader of the children of Israel on their journey to the promised land. It was the faithfulness of Joshua that was so pleasing to the Lord. Faithfulness to our God is that which he desires of his people today as well. We are reminded of this in the holy scriptures, reading, "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6

Joshua demonstrated his faithfulness in all that he did and the spirit of wisdom was upon him. Recognizing these God given gifts in him, the children of Israel readily followed his direction. We recall how God gave him and the children of Israel victory over their enemies in spite of the seemingly impossible odds they so often faced. Because of Joshua's faithfulness God allowed his people to witness many miracles of divine deliverance. With each victory Joshua's faith was strengthened. Yet, the children of Israel became restless and they began to show evidence of impatience, unbelief, and disobedience to God; even open idolatry. This behavior weighed heavily upon Joshua. Nearing the final days of his life he felt compelled to summon the elders, the leaders, and all the children of Israel together to remind them of God's great faithfulness toward them. It was then that Joshua told the people to choose that day who they would serve, but as for himself and his house, they would serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15 The unwavering faith of Joshua prompted the people to quickly respond to his words and they, with one accord, began to confirm their desire to turn from their evil way and serve and obey the Lord. Joshua 24:24

Dear fellow traveler, do we sometimes conduct ourselves as the children of Israel did? Do we rebel against God, in thought, in word, and in deed? Do we sometimes become impatient and discontented with our station in life, and even with God's chosen leaders and demand more modern approaches in their leadership and teachings? Let us be reminded that God has not changed his Word to accommodate our society. It remains the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Apostle Paul states, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." 1Cor. 1:18 However, the whims, ideas, and attitudes of men are continually changing. Pray, dear Christian friend, that neither we, nor our faithful leaders would be drawn away from that which has brought us peace, joy, and a

lively hope of eternal life. The winds of false doctrine and errant teachings are ever near but let us hold fast to sound doctrine which embraces repentance and the remission of sin by the blood of Jesus through the spoken word. When this, the very essence of Christ's gospel, is proclaimed to the repentant sinner, and he truly believes that he is forgiven, God instills living faith to dwell within his heart and henceforth he is led in life by the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul writes, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Rom. 8:14 In this wonderful freedom from the shackles of sin the believer is able, with the eyes of faith, to behold the Author and Finisher of his faith and know the true meaning of Thanksgiving. Within such a heart there arises a desire to thank and serve the Lord, not only at this season of harvest and thanksgiving but each and every day.

Pray for the faithful leaders which the Lord has chosen to serve him and to guide us. Uphold the weary hands of them that faithfully labor in his kingdom. The desire of every faithful servant is that one day we may all enter the everlasting kingdom of glory. Soon the Great Shepherd of the sheep will come for all his children and his reward is with him; what a day of Thanksgiving that will be. Until then, let us serve the Lord.

In God's Peace, Ken Storm - pastor

Important Notice

Beginning January 2014 this newsletter will no longer be printed and mailed. We will continue this newsletter in email form. Please contact Jennifer Miller jmiller@mtu.edu with your email address. Some exceptions will be made for those that do not own a computer, or without internet access. Please let us know if you cannot receive this newsletter electronically. Thank you.

Worship Schedule

Nov 3	Ken Storm	11:00	Holy Communion
Nov 10	Paul Copponen	11:00	Sunday School 9:45 Medical Care 2pm

Nov 17	Dave Lappi	11:00	Sunday School 9:45
Nov 24	Nathan Ruonavaara/Chad Kuivanen	11:00	Sunday School 9:45

TELECONFERENCE

Local: 334-6338 Long Distance: 1-906-334-6338 Instructions: After "greeting", enter Conference I.D. No. 44444

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