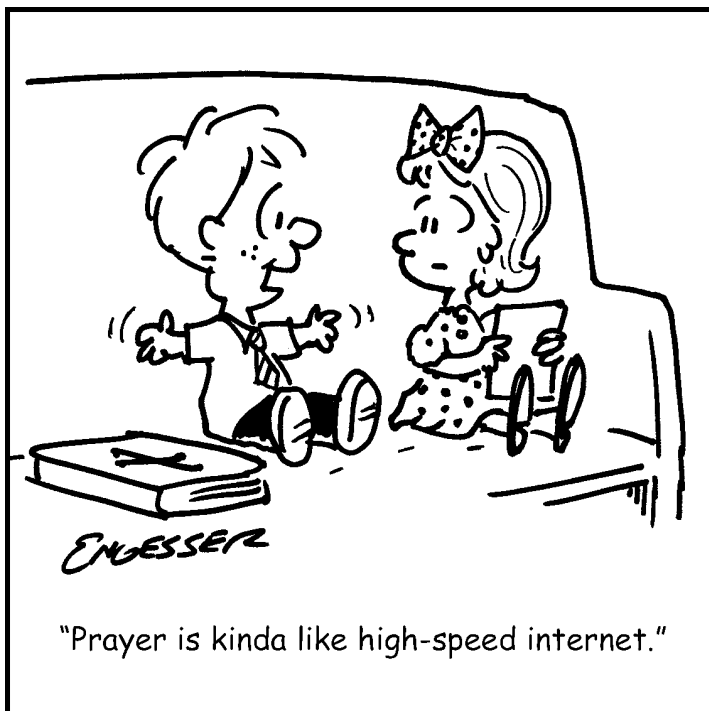


Sunday March 17 through Sunday March 24

- Pastor Robert continues his Lenten series focusing on how Faith Reflects God's Presence.
- Youth will be meeting this evening at 5 pm.
- The Apprentice Study Group will be meeting at 6:30 pm Monday at the Parsonage.
- Boy Scouts will be meeting Monday evening at 7.
- Bible Study continues Wednesday evening at 6.
- Choir Practice will be at 7 pm Wednesday.
- The Lenten Luncheon Service is being hosted by Trinity this week. Service begins at noon with a light lunch to follow.
- Youth will be having their lock-in Friday night beginning at 10 pm.
- Next Sunday, Robert's sermon series continues and will focus on how Faith Reflects God's Presence



This WEEK at Trinity

OFFICE: (276) 523-0789
trinityumc.bsg@gmail.com

Sunday March 17

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship
5:00 pm—UMYF
5:00 pm—Asbury Circle

Monday March 18

6:00 pm—Garden Club
6:30 pm—Parsonage Study Group
7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

Tuesday March 19

11:00 am—Ugly Mug Study Group

Wednesday March 20

6:00 pm—Bible Study
7:00 pm—Choir Practice

Thursday March 21

12:00 am—Lenten Luncheon Service

Friday March 22

9:00 am—MEOC
10:00 pm—UMYF Lock-In

Saturday March 23

Fellowship Hall reserved

Sunday March 24

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship
5:00 pm—UMYF

Philippians 3: 17—4: 1
Faith Reflects God's Presence

One of the themes in Lent calls us to deny ourselves. In today's lesson, Paul calls his congregation to imitate him. Paul understands that imitating him calls his congregation to deny themselves. Friends, Paul sees himself as a Holy Spirit lead teacher called to make disciples of Christ. During Jesus' time, imitating a teacher was common, accepted, and expected! (Our culture does similar things by becoming like their heroes.) Disciples were expected to imitate their teacher in thought, belief, faith, speech, actions, and behavior. Therefore, disciples deny their conditioned operating systems to learn, experience, and reflect their Rabbi. (Those reading Good and Beautiful God know this as denying the "false narratives" we have been conditioned to believe.) Discipleship transforms people into new creations who reflect Christ, especially in times of physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering.

We see this practice laid before us in Philippians 3: 1-11. Paul begins by telling us who he was before he was called to imitate Christ Jesus. (Paul's "False Narrative.") (See verses 5-6)

- Confident in the flesh. (self)
- Circumcised on the eighth day. (The Old Covenant bound people to the Law.)
- A member of the House of Israel. (God's chosen people, at the expense of everyone else.)
- Of the tribe of Benjamin. (Descendent of Jacob's youngest Son.)
- Hebrew of Hebrews. (Benjamin settled in the Southern Kingdom, Judah, the home of Jerusalem as opposed to the Northern Kingdom, Samaria, The Dogs, the unclean Hebrew people.)
- A Pharisee. (The liberal religious party. Believed in life after death. Gave equal authority to Law, Prophets, and Wisdom writings. Not so with Sadducees.)
- A Zealot: (He persecuted the Church.)
- As to the Law he was blameless: (He felt the Law called him to righteous killing. He believed he was doing God's will.)

Listen as Paul explains how Faith in Christ makes Disciples. (see verse 7-11)

- He counts his former life as rubbish compared to life in Christ. (Denies self)
- He desires to be found in Christ. (To live in Grace by Faith to obtain God's unconditional Love.)
- His righteousness comes from faith in Christ. (Not righteousness that comes from keeping the Law, Sacrifices, and National Holidays like Passover.)
- He wants to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. (He must learn to receive from God, not take.)
- He shares in the suffering of Christ. (The Holy Spirit gives him eyes to see Christ in all suffering people.)
- He becomes like Jesus in His death. (Jesus died to the power of sin and its penalty, death. Meaning he is free from sin and welcome in God's presence.)
- He presses on to make his life look like an imitation of Jesus on the Cross, in the Tomb, and Risen to New Life. (He dies daily to self, to rise in Christ.)
- He forgets what is behind and presses on to the heavenly Goal. (Sanctification.)

For some, the heavenly goal is to go to heaven when they die. Paul recognizes that he had this goal even as a Pharisee. His goal is to imitate Christ in this life.

To deny something does not mean to throw it away. It means we carry the baggage of self righteousness with us. The Holy Spirit teaches us to deny the power of shame, guilt, and blame. We deny the temptations of the Old Self to imitate Christ in our suffering, his death, and rise to new life. The new life is known by the fruit of the Spirit: Love, Peace, Patience, Joy...

One in Christ,

Robert

- If we want to change we must _____ ourselves.
- Biblical models who _____ us how: Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Paul
- To change, we must become _____.
- To change, we must have a new _____ to attain.
- Saul's goal was to be like Moses. Saul repented to Become Paul. Paul's goal was to be like _____.
- Self righteous people place their faith in keeping the Law and Prophets. Those who want to _____ like Christ break the Law but place their Faith in His Mercy, Grace, and Love.
- To attain a new goal we must Repent. Paul looks at Christ and sees his former ways as _____.
- Righteousness that comes from Faith in Christ call us to _____.

Answers: Deny, Show, New, Goal, Christ, Become, Rubbish, Press ON.