

A Note from Pastor's Desk

²³ *Whatever task you must do, work as if your soul depends on it, as for the Lord and not for humans,* ²⁴ *since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24*

As we enter Lent, let us take time to reflect on what it means to us through the lens of Colossians. Often, in Lent we think about what to give up for a Lenten discipline. What makes sense? What am I trying to accomplish? When we look at this through the lens of Colossians the disciplines we choose for Lent and for our lives should always be focused on two points.

Point one, whatever discipline we choose to do we should do it for the correct reasons. Is the discipline to prepare our hearts to meet our Savior? Is the discipline so that others will see our work as a badge of honor or a testament to the grace we have received in Jesus Christ. As Colossians infers, make your work of the discipline “as for the Lord”...do it for God and no other.

Point two, whatever discipline we choose to do we should remember it will not grant us eternal life. Eternal life has already been given to us in our Baptism; it's the rite where we are connected intimately to Jesus' suffering, death, resurrection and life eternal.

Point three, “you serve the Lord Christ”, so we ought not to think too hard about how to make ourselves bigger than what God has already made us. We are perfect in God's sight. We are part of his creation, so what discipline might God be asking of us? Micah 6:8 *He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?* As a mortal we are to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

The Lenten discipline we choose to follow should not be a way to elevate ourselves. The discipline should bring glory to God and help bring God's grace through these acts of discipline. If we choose to give up coffee, then add something that gives to God that matches it. Could that be buying coffee for someone? If we choose to give up chocolate. Could that mean donating to the blessing box every time we think about chocolate? If we decide to give up swearing, could that mean we bless someone with a kind word.

The relationship we have with God is personal and individual but not meant to be lived out in a selfish way. I know that I will be selecting something that makes a difference to someone else, and I hope you will choose to do something similar.

Remember Lent is about returning to the Lord. The best way for God to know it is through our choices of how we serve God. Not everyone will be able to serve in the same way but that is the point; we are united as one body but bring diverse gifts from God for serving God's creation. My prayer is for each of us to find that special way God is calling us to serve Him remembering the points given to us in Colossians about the way we do it.

May we join God in God's work with our entire being.

Peace,

Pastor Christi