

Pastor's Minutes . .

WEEDS IN THE GARDEN OF LIFE



Pulling weeds in my lawn is one of my most “un-favorite” activities! Yet, as the summer seems determined to hang on, and we seem headed for a very late autumn, working on the yard is becoming a reality. I looked in the yard of the parsonage recently, and saw a two tall shafts of green, and thought, “Those don’t fit with the bushes nearby. I think they are weeds!!” I recently read an insight into dealing with weeds. It said that when the ground is hard and dry, weeds are very resistant to being pulled up. But when a soaking, fresh rain softens the soil, they yield quite readily. Also, the younger weeds seem easier to re-move than the older weeds, which seem tough and stubborn.

Bad habits are like that. The longer they remain, the harder it is to get rid of them. If we uproot them while they are “young” and have not taken deep root in our personality and attitudes, they can be re-moved much easier.

The apostle Paul encouraged us to find renewing strength in God’s grace and presence – ***“Do not conform any longer to the pat-tern of this world, but be trans-formed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - His good, pleasing, and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2; NIV)*** The truth of God’s Word can soften the soil of a hard heart; if we “soak” our hearts and minds in the fresh nourishment of God’s Word, the bad habits will be weakened and will resist far less from up-rooting. And when we realize that Jesus came to set us free from sin (John 8:34-36), we will see the need to fight firmly and daily against those bad habits - those sinful habits - taking root in our lives.

We cannot kill bad habits with just a passive faith. Faith that conquers must be an active, determined trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, applying the truths of God’s Words in us. “Pulling weeds” can sometimes be a pain-ful process that does not always see instant success. But as we apply God’s Word in our life, as we read and pray, and pray for others and ask them to pray for us, we can see those bad habits reduced and “pulled out” more and more.

See you at “God’s gardening place” this Sunday.

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