



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, July 12, 2020

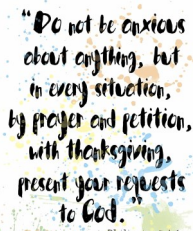
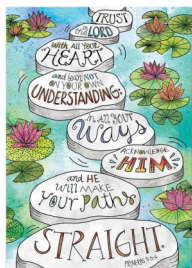
Greetings Everyone — Today is Sunday, July 12th. It is the 15th Sunday in ordinary time. As I wondered what to include in this week's edition I thought about verses that might tie into our perspective in these days of sheltering in place and social distancing. Our survey results are included with this Newsletter in a separate attachment and I thought I should consider how that figures in as well.

I was led to three verses. These are the verses I will keep close as we plan our future processes for congregational worship during these times.



Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.



Philippians 4:6: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

With these verses in our hearts and in conjunction with New Jersey and Presbytery guidelines and data based details about how the virus is playing out in the world both locally and nationally; the Session will plan out the procedures for future worship options.

The Session thanks you for your patience and confidence in us as we plan forward. God Bless.

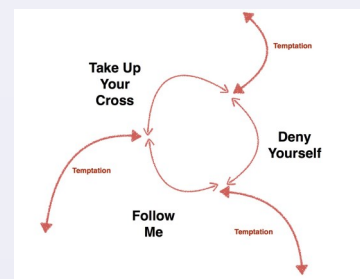
Terms Of Surrender

Randy York

A week ago we observed Independence Day. It was a time to celebrate America. It's a holiday that allows us to reflect on our historical heritage, our national qualities, our power and winning ways, a time to hold our heads up and proudly salute the greatness of our land. That is the expectation of our citizens; for America to be great, to be the best, to win, to lead and not submit to any foreign power.



So it's the same for us as Christians right? We should lead and win and be great. Cue the commercial: The few, the proud, the Christians. Well in a word, no. Actually God calls us to surrender and lose. The terms of surrender are clearly laid out in Mark 8:34: "If any of you wants to be my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." That statement quickly dispels any notion of a discipleship which involves simply a few small adjustments to a lifestyle.



Sometimes our notion of being a Christian is that you have to do some things like go to church, give an offering, and follow some rules and as a result something happens. It would seem the Pharisees lived that way and Jesus was not fond of them. No, Jesus requires more.

The J.B. Phillips translation reads: "If anyone wants to follow in my footsteps, he must give up all rights to himself." Hold it a minute Jesus, that's a big ask right there. I mean, I like a lot of what you say, especially the heavenly reward part, and I don't mind spending some time with you Jesus, but putting myself aside and submitting to you as Lord of my life, it sounds a bit like a dictatorship.

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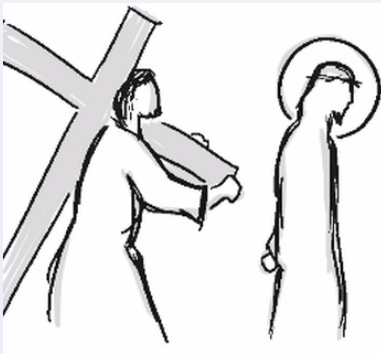
Terms Of Surrender

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Such a thought was posed in a conversation between Eric Liddell and his brother-in-law Sandy in the movie Chariots of Fire. Eric says, "Sandy, the kingdom of God is not a democracy. The Lord never seeks re-election. There are no referenda on which road to take. There's one right, one wrong, and one absolute ruler." Sandy replies, "A dictator you mean." To which Liddell replies, "Aye, but a benign and loving dictator."



Yes we serve a sovereign ruler, but one who formed us and provided everything to us. And, when we prodigals turned our backs to him, he mercifully provided a way back through the cross.

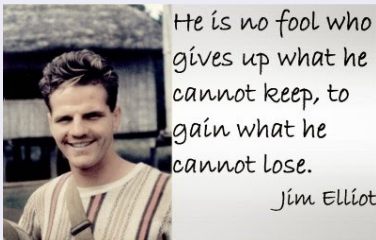


So we are told to "give up rights to ourselves"; to bring our morals, our manners, our minds, and our means under the control of His sovereignty. But wait there's that second condition, "take up your cross." I don't believe the cross Jesus speaks of is some type of burden. I believe Alistair Begg is closer to the essence when he says, "This is a radical metaphor. It is from the Roman world, not from the Jewish world. This must have reverberated in the ears of the Jewish people, because they thought that the Romans had conceived of the most brutal, horrible form of death ever known to humanity. And they would not be unfamiliar with the scene whereby some poor soul, having been sentenced to death, would be seen walking towards the place of his execution, carrying part of the means of his execution across his own shoulders. Now, that

picture would reverberate in the minds of the listeners. When neighbors and friends and members of the community saw that scene, they realized that that man was walking in one way and was not coming back."

Not coming back, giving up all rights, this all sounds very consequential. But that is exactly what Jesus is speaking of here. What he is saying is that we turn around and we say, "Goodbye, old life. I will never see you again-not if I take the terms of surrender seriously. The message of our faith is that Jesus Christ is the only Lord and Savior and the terms of our surrender require that in the words of Tom Petty, "There's been change of heart." Actually transformation is probably a better term.

There has to be a change in my life that changes my view of what is worth chasing in life. The issue for us is not one of being successful, but in being successful in a way that keeps God in the equation.



Jim Elliot was a Christian missionary who was killed in the jungles of Ecuador in 1956. When they uncovered his journals, they found that he had written, "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

That is the paradox we face. We as humans will not agree to anyone's conditions except our own. So we like the prodigal must "come to our senses"

turn back toward home, and ask God in his goodness to open our hearts to his love. The terms are given and he waits on our decision. The question is am I comfortable in myself or will I take him at his word and in his amazing grace surrender?

P.S. The Burlington Food Pantry provided food to 101 families this past Wednesday



PRAYER REQUESTS



Becky Jensen — For continued prayers for the **PNC** as they carry on their mission.

From All Of Us — Continued prayers for **Jeffrey Caron & the Caron Family** as they adjust to Jeffrey's diagnosis of diabetes.

Margo Mattis — For her Mother, **Jean Miller**

From All Of Us — Continued prayers for **Wendy Kasper**

Wendy Varga — Continued prayers for her nephew, **Sean**.

Sheila Zier — Prayers for healing and strength and encouragement for her daughter, **Brittany Zier** as she is battling a serious long term disease.

Randy & Barb York — Prayers of thanks for God's provision of a suitable transplant liver for **Wendy Pearl**, and His comfort and healing strength for some tough days ahead.

Randy & Barb York — Prayers for a friend, **Debbie** whose father passed away this week.

The Presbyterian Women — Remembers their members who are in need of prayers as they have been unable to get out and remain housebound : **Anna Freck, Polly Grobelny, Jerrie Glass, Alice Garman, & Jean Miller**. They look forward to resuming their meetings

Pat & Ivo Meilands — Prayers for their daughter, **Pam** as she goes through the process of moving from Michigan to Hershey, PA to start her new call as Associate Pastor for Youth & Families at Derry Presbyterian Church.

Robin McCarter — For her **Mother**, who is residing in the Masonic Home.

Jane & Rick Cheslo — For Jane's **Aunt Nancy** who has tested positive for the virus after the passing (non-COVID) of her husband, **Warren** last week.

From All Of Us — Prayers for **Barb Hammell**, who is home and doing better. Hang tough **Barb!**

Please e-mail RickCheslo@gmail.com with your prayer requests, or pass them on to those reaching out to you.

Don't Forget We Are On YouTube! 

See vintage services from our archives. There is a new posting each week. The direct link is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxLAXFkRJWgH8pLkGX988Bg/videos> The Link is nerdy, but you can also Google "Providence Presbyterian Church Burlington YouTube" and we rise to the top of the list. Accept no imitations! *Also Get Past Issues of this Newsletter at ProvPresCh.org*



Bustleton's Best Church Cookbook Recipe of the Week

I always have a Pavlovian response when I come to this section each week, and this week it has come over me more so. I call this Jack's Prodigal Recipe. It was lost and then it was found, and it is well worth slathering on the fatted calf or chicken or ribs that graces your grill.

Thank You Jack!

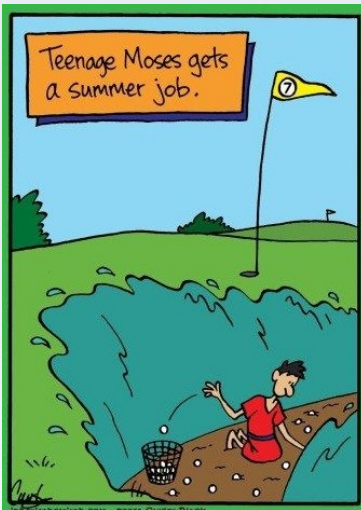
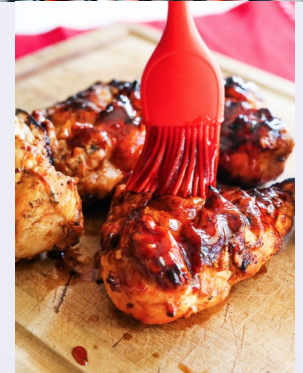
Jack's BBQ Sauce

Jack Harkins

"I developed this sauce back in the 70's when the only BBQ sauce you could buy was nothing more than glorified ketchup. It became popular at our neighborhood picnics. With all the moving around that I did, I lost track of the recipe. A few years back I reunited with some former neighbors and as we were reminiscing, they said this was the only BBQ sauce they had used for the last 35 years and gave me the recipe"

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|--|--------------------------|
| ½ stick of butter | ¼ C lemon juice |
| ¾ C chopped onions | 1/3 C dark brown sugar |
| 2 cloves garlic crushed and diced fine | 2 T prepared mustard |
| 1 40 oz bottle ketchup | 1 T Worcestershire sauce |
| ½ C apple cider vinegar | 1 oz Tabasco |

Melt butter in a medium sauce pan. Add onion and sauté until just transparent. Add garlic and sauté one minute. Add remaining ingredients and simmer 10 min. Sauce may be used immediately however it is better to refrigerate for a few hours or better yet, overnight to allow the flavors to meld.





Providence Presbyterian Church

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord



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Blessings

Betsy Reeder — Her son, Andrew & his wife Katie are expecting their second child in November!

Graduations!

NJ High Schools were able to hold outdoor ceremonies this week. Congratulations and Best Wishes!

- A.J. Stein
- Ethan Walker
- Mitchell Wildonger
- Nick Snively

The Walker Family would like to extend everyone an invitation for Ethan's Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony to be held outdoors at Buttonwood Park in Eastampton. For Ethan's Eagle Scout project, he planned the project, held fund raiser car washes and erected the gazebo that now stands behind the Manse. Please extend Ethan hearty congratulations on a job well done!



Notices

Come by on Sunday & take advantage of the drive-thru offering!

Reminder - Save a Stamp!

Come to the Drive - Thru Offering from 8:30 am to 9:00 AM and 11:00 to 11:30 AM each Sunday morning.

We average 12 to 14 cars each week. Come join the parade and Say Hey to Jack! Also don't forget to Honk or Ring Your Bell on your way out!

