

Newsletter March 2021

From Heaven's Heart

“Did you know you can see God!”

We were near the close of our fourth week of confirmation class. I have to be completely honest with you. I was so pleasantly surprised with the spiritual maturity of our young men and women in class. And week four was a major confirmation of that fact.

I had given them a homework assignment. Just one question. Why did Jesus come? And their answers were right on target. And their responses to the questions that followed were confirmation that each one of them knew Jesus. They understood why He came. They knew of His love, kindness, grace, promises, death and resurrection for our sins. I knew they were ready to become official members of Shallow Ford Christian Church.

I am so proud of each one and so proud that their parents and grandparents and Sunday School teachers had an influence on helping develop their personal relationships with Christ. You should be as well.

As we were about to close, God provided me with this closing thought. I said, “Did you know that you can see God?” I continued. “Did you know that when you see Jesus, when you learn of all the wonderful things about Him, who He is, He is the Son of God, you can actually see God. All the things you have shared about Jesus...His love, kindness, miracles, willingness to forgive us, His plan for salvation, eternal life, His power and His promises, what you see in His life, this is a picture of who God is, what God is like. In other words, you have seen God.”

If you have ever wondered what God is like, how He acts, how He responds to us when we mess up, His ever present love, grace, kindness, and yes, His power...you should no longer wonder. When you see Jesus, you have seen God.

You cannot see Jesus with your eyes or hear Him with your ears...(or God)...but Jesus is still calling you to become his follower too. Just like the rich young ruler, we have a choice. We can say yes, or we can say no. His call reaches you in many ways. He calls to you as you read His word, pray, through your pastor, teacher, hymns, through His Holy Spirit...He's calling your name. Even the pictures of Him on our stained glass windows or a painting of the Last Supper or holding a child on His lap. He's calling you.

Then you must decide. But you can't live both following Jesus and not following Him. It must be one or the other.

So stop and think...we have a picture of who God is through the life of Jesus. We know of His desire to take ownership of our lives as members of His chosen family...like our confirmands will do on Palm Sunday. We say yes to Christ, we join His church and our new journey begins. This is God's plan. His plan is for us to know Him personally and we can by knowing His Son...personally. How is it possible for anyone to know of God's love, His sacrifices for us, His power...and say no. Yet much of the world continues to say, "I'll keep doing it my way." How's that working out? There's a reason things are not working out so good for much of the world.

Your Heavenly Father has the only good plan that promises a wonderful outcome. He even took care of death. Dead in our sins...He sent His Son Jesus to the cross for you. End of life here on earth...There is a resurrection and Heaven for believers. And some still ask, "But how can I be sure"? Because we know what happened after the cross, after three days in a grave...God said to the world, "He is risen"...If you have seen Jesus, you have seen God's Son and you have seen God Himself.

I don't know about you, but I look a lot like my dad and I act a lot like dad too. Like Father, like Son...Jesus...God's Son. When someone looks at you...your life...what or more important, WHO do they see? Do they see Jesus?

With the deepest love for Him...and for you,

Pastor Steve