

Wednesday Word

As I shared four Sunday's ago, I was driving home from the LCMC district gathering and I felt the Holy Spirit speak three specific words into my spirit for Living Word specifically. While I did share them that next Sunday AM, I wanted to expound on them and give a bit more detail into what I believe the Lord is leading us into as a church community. I have taken two weeks to share the first two words and this week is my last word. Please take these to the Lord in prayer as you process and consider.

Revelation 3:18- "I counsel you to buy from me Gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see."

When I was a kid in grade school, we were given a list of school supplies at the beginning of each school year. The contents and items on the list were specific to the grade the student was in and each grade had many different items needed. But one thing that was always required regardless of grade was a box of #2 pencils. This was a standard pencil in the 1980's and 1990's and each grade would use them.

These were also the best pencils to play, what we young boys called, "Pencil Crack." The game was to take turns flicking your pencil as swiftly as possible on the center of your friend's pencil that they were holding at both ends. #2 pencils were the best because they had a little metal piece that clamped the eraser to the pencil. That really helped to chip away at your friend's pencil. I remember playing this game from third grade all the way through 8th grade. Then in high school it was not cool anymore.

The parents and teachers, of course, did not like this game for many different reasons. In fact, we would miss recess or get a note sent home (which was a horrible punishment back then) if we played it. So, naturally, we hid in back corners and under tables and played when no one was looking.

While this brings back many warm memories of my boyhood, I can't help but think how well I might have done in school if I focused the use of pencils on the proper function. There was nothing better than getting a fresh pencil, inserting it into the hand-crank, wall-mounted sharpener, giving the handle a few turns and seeing that fresh point on the lead. It always seemed my handwriting was better then, and my work would get better grades. This was because I would use the pencil for its proper function and not what I wanted it used for.

I think our worship and service toward God can look a lot like this. I have been in church my whole life and over all these years I have built my own preferences as a way of worshipping. I have the songs I like, the scriptures I like, the place in the sanctuary I like to sit, the way I like meetings to be conducted, the way I like finances and church missions to be explained.

But I have found something beautiful happens when I have given those preferences and practices over to God. He has refined them to fit His desires and His plans. Refinement

happens when we take what we feel connects us with God and church the most and surrender them back to God. He then takes those things and shapes them into something that we need the most and gives them back to us. Refinement allows God to reshape things that didn't reach their fullest function the way they were initially.

As I close these three specific Wednesday Words, I would ask you to please continue to pray through the following Words: Reform, Renewal, and Refinement, and how God could activate them in your life. I did my best to explain and express what the Lord was saying to my heart, and I know as you pray through them he will speak to your heart as well.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg