

Eyes Front!

Whenever we accomplish something worthwhile, we feel a flush of enjoyment and satisfaction. That is quite healthy! In fact, it is unhealthy if we do not take a certain pride in our work. We should have a healthy joy in our own accomplishments and in those of others.

It is quite different, however, when we become so infatuated with what we have done that we cannot take our eyes from it. Fastening our eyes on what we have done, we fasten them also on ourselves. Like the evil queen in the storybooks we begin to ask, "Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?" And we want the mirror to answer, "You are." When we look in on ourselves and expect to rest in what we have done, we need something to snap us to attention with the command, "Eyes front!"

In his great work for Christ the apostle Paul always insisted on keeping his eyes front. He writes, "...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead..." (Philippians 3:13).

If there was anyone who might have rested on his past accomplishments, it was the apostle Paul. Sent out by the apostles, he undertook dangerous missionary journeys throughout the Roman Empire. He endured imprisonments, whippings, shipwrecks. One time he was beaten and left for dead outside a city wall. Often in his darkest hours he was pained even more deeply by the unfaithfulness of some of those who also claimed to be workers for Christ. Summarizing his own experience and those of other true disciples, he said, "I die daily."

But Paul did not keep his eyes on himself. He had eyes for something far greater than himself. He said, "For to me to live is Christ." He saw even his sufferings as a fellowship, as filling up that which was behind in the sufferings of Christ. For the apostle Paul to live was Christ and to die was gain.

*...forgetting what lies
behind and straining
forward to what lies
ahead, I press on
toward the goal for
the prize of the
upward call of God in
Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:13, 14

Covenant Presbyterian Church
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We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor! We would like to keep in touch with you. Please use the QR code to tell us about yourself.



MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise - Insert *"I Sing The Almighty Power of God"*

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 255 *"O Jesus, We Adore Thee"*

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

O most great, most just and gracious God; thou are of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; but thou has promised mercy through Jesus Christ to all that repent and believe in him. We confess that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. We have neglected and abused thy holy worship. We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably with our neighbors. We have not sought first thy kingdom. We have run into temptation; and the sin that we should have hated, we have committed. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father! In thy Son is our salvation, in thy promises our hope.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 449 *"We Rest on Thee"*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 146 *"Break Thou the Bread of Life"*

Sermon Text Isaiah 49:1-6

Sermon GREATER THAN CYRUS OR ISRAEL

*Hymn of Response # 32 *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord) # 734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Prayer Meeting. Church doors will open at 10:00am for gathering and sharing prayer requests. Prayer will begin at 10:15am. Children are welcome to attend. If you have questions or would like to be added to the prayer request email list, please see Jessica Verby.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Joshua. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.