

October 29, 2017

Pastoral Notes

Reverend Dr. Brigitte A. Black

Ministry of Encouragement

From Membership to Discipleship:

We Rise Up!

Psalm 20:7-8

It's hard to build but very easy to lose. A team without it is just a group of people working together. Without it there is a communication breakdown, internal battles over position, status, and responsibilities and they probably will not cooperate with one another. Trust is essential to moving forward in a cohesive manner and obtaining the mission. Google defines trust as a firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability or strength of someone or something. The first five verses of this Psalm are an intercessory prayer for the king who is about to go into battle. The king went to the sanctuary to pray and the congregation joined him in prayer and interceded for him.

As a result, the king received assurance of victory. Verses six through eight speaks that assurance. The assurance is based upon the king and the people's trust in the Lord. Some folks trust in their weaponry, military might, and their own power. They trusted in the Lord, God Almighty to give them an overwhelming victory. Who do you put your trust in? What do you put your trust in?

Currently, with all the technological advances and information overload we may momentarily get caught up and trust the words of people, parties, companies, politicians, corporations, newspaper, reporters and other unreliable sources. Our God can be trusted, when others are backtracking, retracting, making excuses, blaming others, or lying. God is reliable and trustworthy. ***Our confidence, credence, and certainty are in the God who created out of nothing.*** God who created the heavens and earth. Others will stumble and fall, the bomb may explode, the horse may throw a shoe, the chariots may rust out or get stuck in the mud, the gun may not fire but our God can be trusted to follow through. Those who trust in the wrong thing will be brought to their knees, but we rise up and stand firm. Truth will be victorious. Our God is truth and justice. Put your trust in God, who will cause you to rise up and stand firm. Amen!

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Prayer

God of grace and mercy, we exalt and extol Your name. You are mighty in battle. You are the king of glory. You paint the most beautiful picture with the changing fall colors. Just as seasons change in nature we experience seasons in our lives. We thank you for this season of harvest and communal gathering and sharing. Lord, God Almighty, we bring to the altar all those who are grieved, mourning, and bereaved and ask that You would comfort them. We call upon You to heal the brokenhearted, the downtrodden, and those who are sick in their body. Lord, those who have experienced physical and sexual abuse heal their brokenness and restore their trust. God of love, those who have experienced blatant bigotry, racism, and hate crimes may they respond with love. Teach us how to be more empathetic and compassionate towards one another. Open our eyes and ears to see and hear You at work in this world. Forgive us of our sins, faults, and shortcomings. Increase our faith. May we stand firm on the Word of God and the promises of God. Bless the wonderful and powerful name of Jesus. This we pray, in Jesus name. AMEN!

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Stewardship Moment

November is stewardship month. We will explore using God's resources wisely. Everything belongs to God and we have been given the responsibility to manage the resources. Everything that we have and everything that we want belongs to God. The heater that heats the lower level of the church needs to be replaced. Let us pray and ask God how to proceed in replacing the furnace and air conditioner that is 21 years old. Let us be generous givers as a response to God's generosity towards us. Last week, we kicked off our yearlong "Jubilant Journey" celebrating 175 years of existence in McLean county. We are going to be good stewards of the life God has given us. **Proverbs 17:22 says, a merry heart does good like medicine.** We are asking everyone to commit to giving \$175 over and above your tithe this year to the church. We want to plan and prepare for the future by starting an endowment. We want to leave a legacy for those who come after us.

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Sermon Scripture

[Psalm 20:7-8](#)

Trust In The Lord

⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

⁸ They are brought to their knees and fall,
but we rise up and stand firm.