



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

GOOD NEWS!

Joint Worship

On Sunday, October 4th, we'll be worshipping jointly with La Iglesia del Pueblo, our Spanish speaking congregation, as part of our celebration of World Communion Sunday.

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The International Potluck Is Coming!

OCTOBER 4th

Don't forget the International Potluck following Worship on Sunday, October 4th. This is being held in conjunction with World Wide Communion on that day and we're looking forward to a great time of food, fun and fellowship. Bring a dish to pass, preferably something with a particular ethnic or geographic origin. Tableware and drinks will be provided. And, if you have something of interest from another country, bring that along too. We may have a little "show and tell" session.

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Working At the Car Wash, Yeah!



And while you're enjoying lunch at the International Potluck, get your car washed at the same time. You know it needs it! Our youth group will be washing cars from noon until 3 PM to help fund their mission projects. So come on out and support our young people and get your clunker cleaned.



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GOOD NEWS!

View From the Pew

by Ann M. Velia

How to Be Perfect - Part I

Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. - Matthew 5:48, New American Standard Bible.

In Matthew 5:38-47, the Lord Jesus Christ prescribes larger-than-life responses to circumstances -- turning the other cheek rather than defending ourselves, adding a bonus when a legal judgment is made against us, walking a second mile when we are only obligated to go one, giving and lending to anyone who asks, loving our enemies and praying for our persecutors.

Even those seemingly impossible demands pale against verse 48, however: "...you are to be perfect."

How can we move from our present sorry state to one of perfection?

An important beginning is to recognize that perfection is indeed the goal -- not merely "much improved," but completely changed. After all, would the God Who has eternal plans for us be satisfied with any smaller standard?

Scripture outlines some bold, broad steps we can take to set ourselves up for good progress. For example, James 1:2-4 challenges us to adapt a new paradigm concerning the trials that are part of every life. We can lose years by praying for relief and seeking to avoid discomfort, inconvenience, pain, disappointments, and relationship failures.

They generally come anyway, despite our best evasions. Then we further waste the experiences that could advance our perfection by complaining about them instead of figuring out what's going on.

James gives us a godly secret: "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result *that you may be perfect* and complete, lacking in nothing."

Trials are the dynamic that routs out our impatience, self-centeredness, defensiveness, materialism - all the dross that fill our "inner man" until we yield space to Christ, the only Source of perfection.

James encourages us to joyfully embrace opportunities to persevere under trial, with the expectation that they will make us perfect.

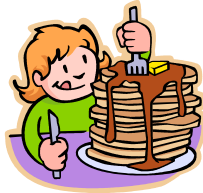


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GOOD NEWS!

Pancake Breakfast



COME AND GET IT!

Don't forget the youth are having a pancake breakfast fundraiser **THIS SUNDAY**, the 20th of September, from 7:30 to 10:00 am in Watkins hall. Come hungry, enjoy a good Breakfast and support our youth!

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Think About It

You know when kids are very deep thinkers when my daughter looks at me tonight and says daddy, that bright glow in the sky (the moon) is GOD's flashlight shining down on us watching all of GOD's people..... for all of us that think we are too busy all of the time take a minute to reflect each and every day.

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Church Chuckles

The preacher was wired for sound with a lapel mike, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mike cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again.

After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"