



## **"THE CALL"**

### **NEWSLETTER OF THE BEAVERTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

**September, 2020**

#### **PASTOR'S RAMBLINGS**

**This a long "Ramblings" due to the stay at home order. Because of it I had opportunity to read, study, and watch many church services on television and the computer. I heard one on a passage that I have used several times in the last forty years. The text that was used was Matthew 7:24-27. "Therefore who ever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock, and the rains descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand, and the rains descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, and it fell. And great was its fall." The message was on insuring that one's faith, one's life, was built upon the Rock, Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 10:4 and many other text refer to God and Christ as the "Rock." "For they all drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ." In the middle of the message I had one of those "Aha" moments that the Spirit often gives, if we are listening. The messages that I have given, and heard on this passage always focused upon the Rock, Christ Himself. However, this time the Spirit nudged me to think what about the house that was built upon the Rock? Jesus tells us that the storms are going to beat upon both houses, the one on the Rock and the one on the sand. Can a house be built upon the Rock that will not withstand the storm?**

**It brought to my mind a mission trip I was on to build a building for the church on an island about 25 miles off the coast of Honduras. The church had many buildings before, and they were all built on a rock outcropping in the jungle. They built them with the materials at hand, sticks, banana leaves, and other grasses that grew there. When the storms came in off the sea, they all blew down. They were built on the rock, and yet they blew down. The building we built has a concrete floor, cement block walls, a roof of treated lumber and steel.**

Is it possible that the spiritual house we have built cannot stand against the storms of doubt and fear? The Rock will not fail no matter the storm, and we can stand on the Rock, but will the house stand the storm? Matthew 7:24 says, "...a wise man who built his house on the rock..." A wise man, wise enough to build his house on the Rock, he must have wise enough to pay attention to the kind of house he built.

Consider for a few moments the spiritual house you have built. You have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord so you are building upon the Rock. Have you been as careful as the wise man who built upon the Rock?

What is the first step when you start to build a house: the foundation. The underpinnings that hold the house to the Rock. For a spiritual house there are three things that firmly anchor the house to the Rock. They aren't given in order of importance, because all are essential. First, a solid prayer life. It keeps the house firmly connected to the Rock. "...in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving..." Philippians 4:6. There are many "types" of prayer. There is the prayer of petition, of asking, the prayer of thanksgiving and very importantly, there is the prayer of praise, and equally important, is the prayer of communion. Just spending time with God. Such prayer is difficult for many Christians because it requires time. Our lives are so busy, and our agenda so important, there just isn't time. You're very busy with your agenda and word comes that a loved one has been taken to the hospital, would your response be "I really like to go see them, however I'm just too busy." We all make time for what is important, and there is nothing more important than prayer.

That brings us to the second part of the foundation of the spiritual house: the Scriptures, the Word of God. It would be good if one could carry a Bible with them at all times and refer to it whenever something comes up, however that's not very likely. We can, however, always take it with us if we follow the example of the psalmist in Psalm 119:11. "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." And we have the promise of Jesus that if we know the Word, the Holy Spirit will call it to our remembrance when we need it. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit...will teach you all things, and bring to you remembrance all things that I said to you." John 14:26. The Word of God will lock your foundation securely to the Rock.

Thirdly, listening to, and obeying, the Holy Spirit. When the storms of fear and doubt assail, the Holy Spirit comes as comforter, enabler, and friend. If one keeps a solid and personal relationship with the Holy Spirit, their connection to the Rock will always be secure.

**So the foundation of the spiritual house one will build on the Rock is comprised of prayer, the Word of God hidden in the heart, and listening to, and obeying the Holy Spirit.**

**There are other things we can do as well, however, these three are key. How firm a foundation have you built on the Rock that is Jesus?**

**Now we come to the house itself. The part of your spiritual house that is seen. The evidence of how firmly your house stands on the Rock of Christ and the foundation you have built. There are many evidences of one's faith, however, I will mention three that I believe are vital. First, being an active part of the church. Hebrews 10:24-25 says,**

**"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Being an active part of a church is a clear indication of the firmness of the foundation of faith upon the Rock. Being an active part of the church insures that you will never have to stand the storm alone. Galatians 6:2, a very familiar passage, tells us: "Bear on another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."**

**Confidence will strengthen the house in the storms of doubt and fear as well. In John 14:27 Jesus told His disciples, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you..." and in Philippians 4:7 the apostle Paul writes, "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Through the sharing of burdens in the church, and knowing the fullness of the peace of Christ one is equipped to withstand the storms.**

**There are many other promises that God has given that will enable the house to stand in worst of storms.**

**In summary, the wise man built his house upon the Rock, Jesus Christ. He was wise enough to insure the house he built would stand the storms. There is a lesson here for us today. Take the time to consider the house you have built. Like the church in Honduras was not blown off the rock it was damaged every time a storm came up. Build you spiritual house on a foundation of a solid prayer life, a deep knowledge of the Word of God, and listening to, and obeying, the Holy Spirit.**

**Then build on that foundation by being an active part of a church fellowship so you never have to face the storm alone. Develop a very personal relationship with Christ so that with the peace and confidence only He can give, you can face the storm in faith.**

**May the Spirit bless you with many "Aha" moments!!!**

Shalom,  
Pastor Bill

Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

***What are your prayer requests?***



*gathering of friends*

*time for instruction*

Join Us

*prayer for each other*

Sunday

September 6

7:00 p.m.

***LOOKING FORWARD.....***



**MARK**

**YOUR**

**CALEN-**

**DAR**

*Hay ride and corn hole*

*September 12*

*Love Feast*

*October 4*

*Harvest Auction*

*October 24*

*Homecoming Sunday*

*October 25*

*Birthday party for Jesus*

*December 20*

# **CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?? SCHOOL IS STARTING.....**



**The time is “now” to contribute to the teacher gift card outreach that happens in this church every year.**

**Staples Gift Cards will be given to all teachers, K-6<sup>th</sup> grades. We have been able to give \$125 each after raising a little more than \$4,000. We are well on our way, but we need to keep forging ahead with our giving. Please, take part in this important outreach to our community, our schools—teachers and students. God has blessed this ministry!**