



Welcome! We are glad you chose to worship with us.

Pastoral Thoughts on Politics

Some of you may wonder why our church leadership has not taken a stand on the burning political issues of the day. Years ago many church leaders took stands on communism, the burning issue of those days. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, a respected conservative church leader in London, wrote these words in 1959:

*“The primary task of the Church is to evangelize and to preach the gospel. Look at it like this. If the Christian Church today spends most of her time in denouncing communism, it seems to me that the main result will be that communists will not be likely to listen to the preaching of the gospel. If the Church is always denouncing one particular section of society, she is shutting the evangelistic door upon that section. If we take the New Testament view of these matters, we must believe that the communist has a soul to be saved in exactly the same way as everybody else. It is my business as a preacher of the gospel, and a representative of the Church to evangelize all kinds and conditions and classes of men and women. **The moment the Church begins to intervene in these political, social, and economic matters, therefore, she is hampering and hindering herself in her God-appointed task of evangelism [emphasis by GG].** She can no longer say that she ‘knows no man after the flesh’, and thereby she is sinning. Let the individual play his part as a citizen and belong to any political party that he may choose. That is something for the individual to decide. The Church is not concerned as a Church about these things. Our business is to preach the gospel and to bring this message of salvation to all. And, thank God, communists can be converted and can be saved. The Church is to be concerned about sin in all its manifestations, and sin can be as terrible in a capitalist as in a communist; it can be as terrible in a rich man as in a poor man; it can manifest itself in all classes and in all types and in all groups.”*

I agree with Lloyd-Jones that we must keep a laser-tight focus on the word of God, on the priority of teaching it to everyone who will listen, and (I add) on our focus of growing into the perfect and lovely image of Christ. No matter what our political views are on the highly emotional issues of our day, we dare not forget God’s command:

“Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven you.” Eph. 4:31f NRSV

“Let there be no more bitter resentment or anger, no more shouting or slander, and let there be no bad feeling of any kind among you. Be kind to each other compassionate. Be as ready to forgive others as God in Christ has forgiven you.” Phillips

While the primary focus of these verses is on our relationships within the body of Christ, they must certainly apply to all our relationships in our troubled world.

*Yours in Him,
Gordon Gower*

KEY POINTS

KEY VERSES

Sermon Summaries

Morning *The Gospel According to Jesus – Come To Jesus for Rest – Matthew 11:25-30*

Jesus offers what no one else does; a peace that is so complete that it is defined as rest. When a person comes to that place of rest, they find a place where they can let down their guard and fully trust that they will be protected and safe. It is a place where they can let go of anxiety and worry. As long as you trust in yourself or the systems of this world, you will not find rest.

Evening *The Reign of God – Rejoice Because Someone Is In Charge – Psalm 95*

Followers of Christ, citizens of the Kingdom of God do have an advantage. The advantage comes from knowing the Great King who is above all gods. His hands formed all that we see. Because we know Him, we know who we are; and in that we rejoice. Those without Christ are doomed to the rule of petty tyrants or self-rule, both of which lead to chaos and crisis. With the great King who is above all gods, we find rest. Today, we need that more than ever.

Why We Lack Peace

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. (James 4:1-3 ESV)

This is God's explanation for why we do not have peace and do not live our lives as peacemakers. We fight, quarrel, and divide because we are listening to the desires of our heart rather than the desires of God. There are things that we are desiring in our hearts that are causing the conflicts. When you think about what these desires are that cause the hatred, malice, arguing, bitterness, divisions, and strife, how often these desires are foolish, insignificant desires!

We have strife because someone did not respect us. We are bitter because someone said some mean words. We are hateful because someone hurt our feelings. We separate ourselves from others because someone was unthoughtful, uncaring, or something else like this. I hope that you will see that the cause of our fractures and divisions is selfishness. We are thinking about ourselves. These are the desires that James is talking about. I am thinking about myself and I do not like what you did to me or said to me, so now we are going to have a problem. This is not being a peacemaker. This is being a troublemaker. We have plenty of troublemakers. Being a troublemaker is easy. Just think about yourself.

Listen to how James say this in verse 1: "What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?" You have desires warring with your other desires within yourself. This is why Jesus said in the last declaration of blessing, "Blessed are the pure in heart." When we are double-minded we are going to have fights and strife with others. We are divided within ourselves. Jesus is calling for us not be a troublemaker, but a peacemaker. Jesus is calling for every person to step into a conflict and help make resolutions and peace. Notice that we are not supposed to take sides. Oh, how often that happens! People take sides lining up with their families or with their longtime friends. Divisions and strife happen because no one will turn to their own family member or own friend and tell them that they were wrong. We just circle the wagons and defend our own rather than trying to create reconciliation and peace.

We have been called to make peace. Who cares who started it? How is it going to end? We are supposed to be doing good in the face of evil (Romans 12:17-21)! So it does not matter if I am right and you did some sort of evil against me. We are to make the way for peace. This is why Jesus said that if your brother or sister sins against you, you go and tell him, between you and him alone (Matthew 18:15). You do not bring in your friends or your family or the church. You and that person alone. You do not wait for them to come to you. You do not try to be a troublemaker. You are to be a peacemaker and you do that by going to that person.

..... Excerpt "Matthew 5:9, Blessed Are the Peacemakers", Brent Kercheville

Things to Know

Manuelito Children's Home

Pantry Items Needed: Ranch & Taco seasoning, Tabasco hot sauce, salad dressings, soy & teriyaki sauce, cooking spray, saltine crackers, yeast, chocolate chips, walnuts, pecans, peanuts, powdered sugar, brown sugar, vanilla, maple syrup, plastic spoons & forks, paper plates & bowls, cleaning supplies, Kleenex, dryer sheets, Lysol spray and liquid laundry detergent.

Any of the items can be ordered online through Walmart and they will ship directly to the front door of the home. Here is the shipping address 12 Theta Street Gallup, NM 87305

Thank You!

*Dear church family,
Thanks to everyone for your many beautiful cards, prayers, calls and thoughts for the last long eight weeks of being on one leg. I am so blessed to be able to be walking a little once again.*

*Love in Christ,
Lillian Pollock*



PRAYER REQUESTS

Eddie & Judy Redman we made an emergency trip to Idaho to get Beverly Redman (Eddie's Sister) and bring her back to Prescott. She will be living with us. Bev suffered a stroke and her left hand and arm have been affected. She is unable to walk or bear her own weight at present...she requires full care. Needless to say, we covet your prayers during this time. Home Health Care is setting up a schedule for physical therapy and nurse visits. We're thankful Bev is with us and look forward to better health and happiness for her.

We request no phone calls or visits at this time as this is a very difficult time for us, but please keep us in your prayers as we navigate this new situation

Elizabeth Marley recovering from COVID.

Syble Mann still not well

Charla Morgan home from hospital recovering.

Brandy Aquafedda (Denise Miller's niece) has surgery scheduled for Feb 16th at St Joe's hospital.

Thomas Kendel (co-worker of Denise Miller) to improve kidney functions

Michael Gregory port for treatment has been placed.

Continual Prayers Health Reasons/Treatment

~ **Jane Gifford** healing from concussion.

~ **Avery Adkins (Betty Hanna's great-granddaughter)** cancer treatment.

~ **Ruthie Jarrett (Marcia Serrano's cousin)** cancer

~ **Hallie Adams (Maxine Dillahunty's sister)** terminal condition.

~ **Carolyn Fields (friend of Larry Miller)** has terminal cancer.

~ **Marilyn Lara (Marcia Serrano's friend)** stage 4 breast cancer. Will have double mastectomy on March 15th.

~ **Daniel Tillman** brain tumor

~ **Allen Till (Dolores Buehler's son-in-law)** cancer has spread

~ **Rita Bowden (friend of Sally Guest)** stage 4 cancer.

Our Shut-ins

Marjorie Trammell

Betty McInnes (Syble Mann's mother)

Ravenell Young

Schedule of Services

Bible Class	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:30 am
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wed. Ladies Class	11:00 am
(via Zoom)	
Wed. Evening Study	7:00 pm
(via Zoom)	

Minister Dennis Baker

Shepherds

Gordon Gower Morris Guest
Larry Miller

Deacons

Don Dillahunty Rick Pinney
Spencer Guest Troy Trammell

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OFFICE HOURS: M-Th 8am to noon

ATTENDANCE

Bible Class	44
AM Worship	67
PM Worship	18

FINANCES

Weekly Budget	\$3995
Weekly Contribution	\$3475