

SERMON NOTES ♦ JULY 26, 2009
“It Depends on God”

SERMON TEXT

Romans 9:14-29 (ESV)

¹⁴What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means!
¹⁵For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ¹⁶So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. ¹⁷For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

¹⁹You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" ²⁰But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? ²²What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— ²⁴even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? ²⁵As indeed he says in Hosea,

"Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,'
and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'"

²⁶"And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

²⁷And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved, ²⁸for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay."

²⁹And as Isaiah predicted,

"If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring,
we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah."

³⁰What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. ³²Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, ³³as it is written,

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

NOTES

1. Is God arbitrary? Depending on God's fairness and purpose...

2. Is God unjust? Depending on God's righteousness and character...

3. Is God qualified? Depending on God's authority and sovereignty...

Leadership of First Presbyterian Church

SESSION

Dr. Clay Brown, Moderator

Dr. Frederick A. Coates CP Chappell, Clerk

Class of 2009

Christine B. Ahearn
Karen O. Brawley
F. Michael Campbell, MD
Philip L. Heilman
Weldon M. Hitchcock
Thermond E. Thompson
J. Scott Vaughn

Class of 2010

David W. Brooks, II
Donald L. Fair
Donald F. Howie
Joyce S. Johnson
Thomas R. Kirkland, Jr.
W. Smith Kirk
Mark E. McNeely

Class of 2011

Mark E. Auten
Allen M. Brawley
W. Brent Curtis
Mary H. Fortanbary
Karen A. Shore
Paul S. Trimble
Harry Weyer

DIACONATE

Kathleen H. Irwin, Moderator

Class of 2009

Dale W. Brawley
John G. Donelson
Judy L. Cole
Eric H. Estes
C. Marshall Horsman, Jr.
Kathleen H. Irwin
Julie R. Morrow

Class of 2010

Kathy B. Ballard
Laura E. Bates
Lynn T. Brooks
Rebecca B. Deal
Janice S. Puer
J. Patrick Stutts
Eric R. Puer

Class of 2011

Bryan G. Cole
James N. Davidson
Thomas B. McMillan
Beth B. Sink
Mary Beth Stutts
Gene E. Vaughan
Lucinda Weyer

PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor/Head of Staff
clay@moorevillefirstpres.org

The Rev. Dr. Fred A.H. Coates, Associate Pastor for
Congregational Care and Missions
fred@moorevillefirstpres.org

The Rev. Tyler J. Domske, Associate Pastor for Youth
tyler@moorevillefirstpres.org

PROGRAM AND SUPPORT STAFF

Alan Sledge, Director of Music
alan@moorevillefirstpres.org

Ellen Auten, Director of Christian Education
ellen@moorevillefirstpres.org

Nancy Kortright, Director of Preschool
nancy@moorevillefirstpres.org

LuAnne Sledge, Treasurer
luanne@moorevillefirstpres.org

Nellie Goodman, Secretary
nellie@moorevillefirstpres.org

Billy Black, Sexton

Jerilyn Fair, Hostess

Christy Floyd, Organist

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

249 West McLelland Avenue
Mooreville, North Carolina 28115
704-664-5275 ♦ www.moorevillefirstpres.org

Loving God, Loving People, and Making Disciples

July 26, 2009 ♦ 11:00 A.M.

WELCOME

Clay Brown
Please complete the Friendship Pad and pass it down your pew for all to sign.
An asterisk (*) marks when those who are able will please stand.
Please turn off your cell phones or place them on "vibrate."

PRELUDE: "My Heart Ever Faithful"

Bach
Christy Floyd

CALL TO WORSHIP: "How Marvelous Are the Works..." Angerman
Chancel Choir

INVOCATION

***HYMN 11 "Stand Up and Bless the Lord"** ST. THOMAS

CHILDREN'S SERMON Fred Coates

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most holy and merciful Father, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy upon us, O God, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Teach us to hate our errors. Cleanse us from our secret faults. Forgive our sins, for the sake of your dear Son. Help us to live in your light and to walk in your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI #734** GREATOREX
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.

***HYMN 561: "Christ for the World! We Sing"** ITALIAN HYMN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Anne Telford

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 29:13-16 Pew Bible, pp. 623-4
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!
SERMON LESSON: Romans 9:14-29 Sermon Notes

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: "It Depends On God"

Clay Brown

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: "Give Me Jesus"

arr. Wagner

***DOXOLOGY 34**

OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN 579:** "This Is a Time to Remember" vv. 1-2

DUDLEY

***AFFIRMATION:** Heidelberg Catechism, Questions 27-28

Leader: What do you understand about the providence of God?

People: The almighty and ever-present power of God whereby he still upholds, as it were by his own hand, heaven and earth together with all creatures, and rules in a way that leaves and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and unfruitful years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, and everything else, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

Leader: What advantage comes from acknowledging God's creation and providence?

People: We learn that we are to be patient in adversity, grateful in the midst of blessing, and to trust our faithful God and Father for the future, assured that no creature shall separate us from his love, since all creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they cannot even move. Amen.

Leader: Thanks be to God!

People: Amen.

***OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AND INVITATION**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE 579:** "This Is a Time to Remember" v. 3

DUDLEY

***POSTLUDE:** "Postlude on Diademata"

Young

If you are our guest today, welcome! We're so glad you're here. For more information on FPC, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and/or take home a "Welcome Home" folder from the Parlor. **You can become a FPC member TODAY** by your profession of faith, transfer of membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Please speak with the pastor in the chancel area following the service.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. **Assisted listening devices** are available from the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of her mother, Janette McDaniel, by Joanne Cantrell. The flowers in the vestibule are given in memory of Terry Stevens

Last week, several of our youth departed with for the New Wilmington Mission Conference (NWMC), held on the campus of Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania just north of Pittsburgh. In some ways comparable to Montreat, NWMC is a multi-generational experience that will engage our youth with speakers, activities, and fellowship. Youth from around the country are connected with real missionaries to better understand what mission truly looks like, and are often surprised to find that it is not just in foreign lands, but also right at their doorstep. All of that is mixed together with a big dose of fun. Please be in prayer for safe travel as they return today.

Children in Action (CIA): All rising first through sixth graders are invited to this week's CIA activity, a trip to the Lazy 5 Ranch. Participants should meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. and be picked up at 1:00 p.m. Bring a bag lunch; admission cost is \$7.50, plus spending money. Please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) to make a reservation.

Combined Church School Class: All adult, senior high, and middle school classes are encouraged to attend a combined church school class on the next two Sundays. The class will be held in the fellowship hall from 10:00-10:45 a.m., with light refreshments and fellowship prior to the class. This morning the class will see the DVD, *John Calvin, His Life and Legacy*, Part I, with the conclusion next Sunday.

Saints Alive Beach Trip: The annual Saints Alive beach trip is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, through Friday, October 30, at Island Vista in Myrtle Beach, SC. Room deposits are due by this Wednesday, July 29. Please contact Ellen Auten to make your reservation. Detailed information may be found in the July newsletter.

Christian sympathy is expressed to Sue Stevens and family in the death of Terry Stevens on July 22, 2009 and to Beth and Ted Mikels in the recent death of his father.

Calendar for July 26 – August 2, 2009

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - Early Worship
10:00 a.m. - Combined Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
7:00 p.m. - Session

Monday:

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. - CIA to Lazy 5 Ranch

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
6:00 p.m. - PYF Just Desserts at Kerriagans
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Rogers' home

Sunday 8/2: 9:00 a.m. - Early Worship
10:00 a.m. - Combined Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship

Recent Prayer Requests: Sue Stevens and family; Lottie Massey; Rebecca Auten; Cathy Brown and family; Pam Winters' sister, Reaves Geist; Jan and Caroline Hampton; Suzy Brawley; Bill Raffety's father, Mick Raffety; Mary Voils Aven; Tip McGee; EO2SW Laban Thompson; Scott Knutsen; 1st Lt. Ben Peacock, USAF; all those who have recently lost loved ones; those who are looking for jobs.

From the Budget & Finance Committee:

January – June

YTD Budget \$385,161.00

Deficit..... <\$1,192>

In Memoriam

Terrell E. "Terry" Stevens

March 15, 1944 – July 22, 2009

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them! Revelation 14:13