

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "Proclaim the Good News of God" 3/30/22

*And every day in the temple and at home  
they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah. (Acts 5:43)*

Life is tough. Sorry. But it's not fair. Stuff happens. Things go wrong. How can we find joy? How can we have fun? When will things go right for me? Well, we can find joy in God, but we have to remember – joy is not the same word as happy. As we say in Montana, it is what it is. The stoics tell us the obstacle is the way. The rough edges we pass through in life form us into the people God created us to be. And God gives us all we need to get through the rough patches.

Paul writes from jail to the Philippians telling them what had happened to him was for Christ, it was helping to spread the Gospel. Followers, seeing Paul in jail, were made more confident to speak God's word, Good News of Jesus Christ.

We take strength from Paul's times in jail. They help us to see who we are and whose we are, what our mission is, and how we are met in the dark places and strengthened to carry on. In our baptism we vowed, with God's help and guidance, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed. We want to live our life according to God's teachings and reflect God's love to others with our words, our actions and reactions.

We desire to follow God's command to love our neighbors, to feed the hungry and care for those in need. We want to react with patience, to be gracious. In a world where we can be anything we want – we want to be kind. During joyous times and times of distress, what we say and how we act reflects who we follow.

As the early believers prayed, through the threats we face, may God grant us to speak God's word with all confidence. (Acts 4:29)

While in jail, Paul asked for prayers, knowing with the help of the Spirit this would become his deliverance. He hoped not to be put to shame, but to exalt Christ, through his words and actions. Oh, that we could look upon the ups and downs we face and give them to God and pray for our reactions to glorify God and His message of love, acceptance, and forgiveness.

We each face our own worse, and God is there for each of us, to strengthen us and to walk through the fire with us. For God has promised the fire will not consume and the waters will not overwhelm. He is with us and we are to not be afraid. Just hold on. Continue. Give it – the good and the bad, the fair and unfair, the unexplainable and the unavoidable, the victories and the defeats to God. May the Lord be glorified by our actions and reactions, by our words and our works.

**Please pray with me.** God of the journey, thank You for traveling with us, for guiding us, protecting us, and loving us. I pledge to keep my covenant to Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed and I pray You will help and guide me to do so. **Amen**

## Blessings on your Lenten Journey