

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

"We Are Enough" 5/8/24

*Those who look to God for help will be radiant with joy;
no shadow of shame will darken their faces. (Ps 34:5)*

What makes us happy? What gives us worth? What satisfies our souls? Do you ever feel like asking, "What do you want from me? I've done enough, haven't I?" I've felt that way. I'm not sure I really have done enough, even though it feels like I've done more than enough at times. I don't feel like others appreciated all I've done, and I feel guilty because I should do more, at the same time. I wonder what Solomon was thinking, or feeling when he wrote in Ecclesiastes, "Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart; for God has already accepted your works." (Ecc 9:7) Seems like an easy out, but maybe we have done what God's asked, even though we feel like the world asks more of us.

Paul told the Romans, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." (Rm 5:1-2) Is this an easy-out? Are we getting a blessing or a walk? We sure need God's grace. We hold ourselves to such high standards. We are quick to judge ourselves as "not enough."

We work so hard to measure up, to be thin enough, rich enough, pretty or handsome enough, popular, faster, stronger, we literally go out of our minds proving we can multi-task. We all do, but why? When is enough - enough? When can we find peace with ourselves? When will we be happy, or with what will we be happy? Quite a struggle we've set up for ourselves.

We are judgmental of others and of ourselves. We judge others as perfect, they're not. Like the old adage, we need only walk a mile in their shoes to know that. We are harsh judges of ourselves, we're never enough, never as good as we wish we were. We have all set the bar too high. We each set out to win, we train for it, we dream of it, and then life happens. We trip, get sick, fall victim of nature. No matter how fast they are, not every horse is a mudder.

But God is consistent. In a world full of uncertainty, there is comfort and strength in knowing the unchanging truth of who we are in Christ, "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Eph 2:10) God has a purpose for us – and we are not to judge or be judged for it or by it; but to be faithful to our calling. We need to realize this is true and is true for us, no matter what direction the day takes. Turn to God. Hold on to His promises.

When we feel we fall short of the world's standards, we remember "God, who is rich in mercy made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions," (Eph 2:4-5) it is by grace we have been saved, not by our works. That being said, we are to take His command to love one another to heart and - live it. For this is the work God has already accepted.

Please pray with me:

Lord of Love, Thank You for loving us so much You sent Your Son to show us how You love. Thank You, we are enough. God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, may we abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rm 15:13)

Amen.