

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

"Sandcastles" 6/15/22

*Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life?
For you are a mist which appears for a little time and then vanishes. (James 4:14)*

I love walking along the shore at Canon Beach during their Sandcastle Contest. Quick, temporary works of art. Creativity, skill, and the perfect mixture of water and sand.

Sandcastles. Working during low tide, one designs and builds an elaborate castle. Vision and know-how go into the creating, yet as one builds, they know from the get-go, high tide will come and the waves will take the edifice back into the beach, leveling their creation. Removing all signs of their ever having been on the shore.

There is a season for everything. Here today. Gone tomorrow. All is temporary. Life - the joys and sorrows, haves and have nots, war and peace, sun and snow, high water and drought, accomplishments and failures, laughter, and tears. Why spend the time and energy to build what you know will disappear in a few hours? Snap a picture – hold a memory before it is washed away with the waves. Waves are going to come in, take over, take away, destroy the castle, and return the sand to the beach from which it came.

What do we take from this? We know time flies, the waves come in and go out. Many stake their business or their pleasure around predictable tides. So, it is with life. There are knowns we base our life and livelihood upon. There are unknowns which take away our plans, our possessions, our accomplishments. One can have faith and know it is not all for naught. We have been gifted to create, to work, to live, and love. We DO have worth and purpose. We may lose what we made or gathered, we may fail before we win. No ball player hits every ball, makes every basket, or every mad dash to the goalpost. But we keep trying and trying again. We can't give up – because we need to keep pursuing what God has set before us – whatever that is for you.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Heb 13:8) God is from eternity, never wavering, unable to be washed away with a wave, a wind, or a kick. As we look back at the sandcastles we've built in our lives, we see God was there. God is with us today and will remain with us tomorrow. He will guide us to rebuild after we have lost – lost a job, a loved one, our possessions, our way, our confidence, or even our faith. The journey, the building, seeing the finished product is worth it all. It's the doing, it's the believing which keeps us moving forward in life.

It is faith in the known love of God, in the teachings of Jesus the Christ, in the ever-present Holy Spirit which keeps us stepping out - against all odds. While knowing nothing is forever, it is faith which keeps us moving forward, which makes us not give up but try again when we fail. Which causes us to - design a new castle for next year's competition.

Please Pray with me:

God of eternity, You have told us to not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication - with thanksgiving – to bring our requests to You. We bring before You our feelings of failure, our desire to quit, our lack of faith and ask You to give us Your gift of faith so we can continue, even when things look bleak. Thank You for Your Spirit who comforts and guides us through this life. For never leaving us. Thank You for Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who has walked this world - so we know how. Thank You for the creativity and faith You give to us so we can build sandcastles – with joy and hope.

Amen.