

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

By Kathy Aeillo, Pastor, Almena, Clayton, and Norcatur United Methodist Churches

In the second letter to Timothy, Paul writes that we should present ourselves to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, a person who correctly explains the word of truth. Paul also says that we should avoid wrangling over words because it does no good but ruins those who listen. More pearls of wisdom from Paul—straightforward and to the point.

When Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them to pray, Jesus gave them what we call "the Lord's Prayer". Over centuries that prayer has been embellished here and there and different denominations have come to quibble over some of the words in it. Do you ask the Lord to forgive us our "debts" or "sins" or "trespasses"? It doesn't make any difference at all to God which words we use in God's prayer, all God wants is for us to pray.

Unfortunately, there are plenty of other examples of words we have found over which to wrangle. We need to think more about the

verse in which Paul says we should present ourselves to God with no need to be ashamed. If we're putting our time and energy into spreading the gospel, bringing God's Word and mercy and love into lives so badly in need, we won't have these disagreements on literalism vs. liberalism.

What we believe and what we live are vitally important but it is never a matter of this word or that word, this church or that church. Neither is it a matter of which program is being used or done in which church. What's important is that we love the Lord our God with our whole hearts and minds and souls and strengths and that we love our neighbors as ourselves. Concentrate your energies on being faithful to God and God's great commands and bring word of God's forgiveness to those whose "debts" or "sins" or "trespasses" are weighing them down.

Dios tu bendiga. Or, in other words, God bless you.

REMOVING THE "I'M" FROM "IMPATIENCE"



"Upon the heat and flame of thy distemper Sprinkle cool patience."
—Shakespeare—

You are standing in line at the supermarket...a long line. There is still dinner to prepare and a meeting at seven, you remember, tapping your foot and biting your lower lip. The "express lane" is not in service. Behind you a customer waits with two items and cash in hand. What will you do?

This is your opportunity to remove the "I'm" from "impatience". The two minutes you will lose by looking outside yourself and letting that customer ahead of you might be far outweighed by the grateful smile you will receive and the warm glow in your heart. This small demonstration of patience could be the most meaningful moment in your busy day...and will make little difference in your evening schedule.

And where might you find this patience? In God's House, you will learn of our Father's patience, mercy, and love for us...His children. This special time of prayer, praise, and fellowship will be the most meaningful in your week. We read in Luke 8:15, "...they will be those who, hearing the Word, hold it fast...and bring forth fruit with patience." You have no time to lose. Won't you worship this week?

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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SUNDAY
Zechariah
11:4-17

MONDAY
Psalm 10

TUESDAY
Psalm 11

WEDNESDAY
Psalm 12

THURSDAY
Psalm 75

FRIDAY
Psalm 76

SATURDAY
Psalm 97

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PITCH TOURNAMENT

By JAKE DURHAM

They were singing, "Happy Days Are Here Again", as the faithful gathered for the initial Pitch tournament of the '04-'05 season. From the north, south, east and west and other far off places, happy faces were smiling once again. Those devoted Husker and Wildcat fans, going head to head, the Ladies Coalition, dedicated for the advancement of womanhood, those Pilgrims from the East, The Muddy River Boys, The Northern Tier Gang and a host of notorious individuals were all present and ready for action and as the greetings were exchanged and settled, the more serious matter of sizing up the competition began. The clock struck seven but there was one team short when a pair entered through the south door wearing Wildcat paraphernalia with black arm bands claiming to be on their way home from the Little Apple. Enough said. The Brown Eyed Girl immediately shouted, "Begin to Commence", and forty and four dashed to the nearest tables.

The shuffling could be heard throughout the room as new decks were being broken in. Now in the game of seven point pitch there are 28 points possible per round and ten rounds in a tournament which would make 280 points possible, but in most cases, 125 points give or take will win most tournaments, and as everyone knows, making the trump suit is vital for success and immediately the pushers went to work. Some high scores immediately began appearing on the score board but the Combine Jockey and the Tire King stole the show with the honors for the initial lead.

Over half of the points recorded were in the double digit figures which implied some high risks could be in the making. There were some heated head to head clashes before the second round came to a close, but in the end, it was the Secretary and the Farmer who squeezed out the breaking point to take second round honors but the lead went to the Golden Girls, cruising along some what unnoticed up to this point. The third round was coming up and the Brown Eyed Girl called for the first break and as the scores were posted, everyone took a close look to assess the situation. The Hat Man and the Silent One had not only captured third round honors but had moved into the lead as well. Being as it was still early in the game, card tricks and loud talk were in lieu of serious considerations during the break.

The fourth round began with a flare as the Hound Dogs scratched and growled but to no avail as the Queen of Hearts and the Red Neck, playing with reckless abandon, captured the fourth round honors and sole position of the lead. The midway mark was coming up and it was time for more serious consideration. Figero and the Mail Man captured the fifth round honors as the lead switched once again as the Sweet Hearts moved to the top of the board. As the sixth round was being played out, the second break was declared, and as the scores were posted, all gathered around to assess the situation. The Queen of Hearts and the Red Neck, making every point count had captured the honors to make it a double for the evening and regained the lead. The Sweet Hearts were in second place, the Bombers were in third, The Combine Jockey and the Rubber King were in fourth and rounding out the top five was the Farmer and his Secretary. From there on down it was as tight as hungry bees on a honey comb.

High level strategy was the obvious during the break as those low on the totem pole needed to get back into contention and those in the top half needed to protect their position. Seems like the logical thing to do, but keep in mind, the second half is often a reverse of the first half and as round seven got underway, there was a definite sense of determination that prevailed. As the scores were posted, there was a mix of high and low scores and it was the Dancing Girls who stole the honors but it was the Sweet Hearts who moved into the lead. The crucial eighth round was coming up and the tension was beginning to mount. As the bidding began, the pushers were forcing and as the scores were posted, some major changes had taken place. The Dancing Girls had

made it a back to back double with the honors which gave them a big boost, but The Sweethearts were hanging on to the lead by the margin of a single point.

The ninth round was coming up and the signs of stress were beginning to show. A few good scores in the right hands and a few low scores in key places could turn the entire situation around. The Blues Brothers were now wearing their hats on backwards hoping for some inside help, the Dancing Girls were seen switching earrings, and the muddy River Boys were rolling up their pants legs. It was time for action. The scores began trickling in and the lead changed several times and as the last score was posted, everyone gathered around the board to get a close look. The Auctioneer and the Carpenter had captured the honors but the newly connected team known as the Bombers had moved into the lead for the first time of the evening. The Brown Eyed Girl declared a catch-up break as teams maneuvered for the final round. The Sweethearts were two points off the lead, the Queen of Hearts and the Red Neck were in third, the Auctioneer and the Carpenter were in fourth and rounding out the top five were the Combine Jockey and Tire King. The next ten teams were almost stacked up on the first five and it was evident the tenth round would again determine the final outcome of the game.

As the final round began, there was a measure of deliberateness not seen before with an element of concentration. There were the usual sounds of the agony of defeat and the joy of victory around the room and as the scores were recorded, everyone watched as the scores fluctuated. The Hat Man and the Quiet One took the honors on round ten to make it a double for the evening but it was the Queen of Hearts and the Redneck who stole the show as they grabbed the initial championship of the '04-'05 season by the huge margin of two points.

It had been a fantastic tournament and the newly crowned champions took their accolades in good stride. They had both been there and done that before. The winning score was 120 points for an average of twelve points per round.

Top ten teams: 1. Julia Roeder and Larry Harman; 2. Ed and Cynthia Glennemeier; 3. Elden Vincent and Welden Brooks; 3. Duane McEwen and J.D. Daffer; 5. Dee and Thelma Bushnell; 6. Randy Clydesdale and Dan Lauer; 7. Kathryn Van Meter and Juanita Eckhart; 8. Kim Gallentine and Stacy Breiner; 9. Jack Mechsner and Dave Sheley; 10. Rusty Goss and Jason Breiner

High round scorers: Randy Clydesdale and Dan Lauer; Dee and Thelma Bushnell; Jack Mechsner and Dave Sheley; Julia Roeder and Larry Harman, Dave Sheley and Jack Mechsner; Dan Hazlett and Fig Millan; Kim Gallentine and Stacy Breiner; Duane McEwen and J.D. Daffer. Highest single round score was 21 points by Roeder and Harman, Triple high round scores were by Ed and Cynthia Glennemeier, double high round scores were by Roeder and Harman and Kim Gallentine and Stacey Breiner.

Teams not previously mentioned: Dewaine Stapp and Leone Purton; Jerry Darling and Lynn Thiele; Darren McMullen and Bill Glennemeier; John Hildebrand and Coy Christy; Todd and Doyle Brooks; Arnold and Dorothy Zillinger; Mary Jane Wahlmeier and Jackie Porter; June Jolly and Margaret Magers; Bud and Sandra Kester; Jeanette Grottoff and Cyrena Kester.

As the evening wore on, the post mortems were many. The Elvis tunes were playing in the background and Big 12 football became the topic of discussion. Who would be playing for the league championship? A quick look at the calendar revealed the next tournament to be on the 7th of November, so get your partner and sign in early. Games start at 7 p.m.

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM