

GREETINGS FROM GREENVINE



Keyboarding, typing and/or texting. As I sit and put together thoughts for these newsletters as well as my sermons and various letters, I find myself utilizing several different keyboards to do the same thing. My laptop computer. My iPad. My telephone. All are used almost daily in the entering of text that I desire to keep and use. However, sometimes I forget

which I am on, and also forget how to access some of the applications and how to make changes to documents and how to operate the one that I am on. For instance, I tried to open my “pages” application on this computer by touching the icon that represents the program. I am on my computer laptop so I have to point my cursor on the icon and click. I simply touch the icon with my finger when I am on my iPad. However, I have a keyboard for typing on the iPad so sometimes I have to stop and realize which machine I am on. I do this almost constantly. Probably because I have access to the various computers and have to think through which one I am on. Seems kind of silly, but that is the curse for me in advanced computer use. I know that you are probably laughing now, or shaking your head and thinking “GET A LIFE!” Well, it may be the current difficulty that effects most people who have multiple computers. I’m not looking for sympathy. It is simply a way of life for me now.

I thought of the various spiritual gifts that we have a followers of Jesus. We have looked at prior to this time the truth of spiritual gifts. The lists and truths are found in four places in the New Testament. Romans 12. 1 Corinthians 12. Ephesians 4. 1 Peter 4. Those Scriptures tell us that each one of us as individuals have at least one spiritual gift given to us at the time of our conversation to Christianity. Prior to our following Christ we did not have that particular gift. But, because of God’s great love for us and His concern for our following Christ as He desires, He has given us spiritual gifts.

Therefore, we not only have different personalities, we have different natural gifts and different spiritual gifts. We are not alike in our actions. We are not alike in our motivation. We are not alike in our speech. We are not alike in our thinking. We all utilize our gifts, both natural and spiritual, differently because of our learning, teaching, understanding and communication.

I think it was St Francis of Assisi that said, “Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary use words.” I think we all are aware of what he was saying here. We are to live our lives in such a way that not only proclaims God our Savior, but also tells the story of who we are in Christ. All of our stories are different, and how God uses us in His Kingdom differs as well. Just like my various computers are different but all ultimately do the same thing, we are different but all called to do the same thing. Represent Christ.

Paul writes in **2 Corinthians 5: 17 - 20**; **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, Who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.”**

Two important words there. Reconciliation means to bring together two formerly estranged parties. We were far from God, but He brought us to Himself by the blood of Christ and has given to us that same ministry of bringing others to Christ. Ambassador means an exact representation of someone else who is of great importance. The United States has ambassadors to most every country around the world. They represent our country and have the authority to represent our government and to present to the countries where they work what our expectations are of them in our relationship with them. That really describes who we are in Christ Jesus. We represent Him to everyone that we meet. We are to share what we know and lead them to the Savior.

My point with the opening paragraphs here is to note that we don’t represent in the same way. We don’t talk the same talk. We don’t enjoy the same things. However, we have the same basic message. Paul said it best. “I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.” That is **1 Corinthians 2: 2**. He also said in **Galatians 2: 20**, **“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life that I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.”**

We all have the same promises. We all have the same directive from God. We all have the same basic message. However, because we have different personalities, vocabulary, life styles and family backgrounds, we are different in our presentation. We “ambassador” differently from one another, but we represent the same God and Savior. We do our part to have an effect in the lives of those around us, our families and those whom we rub shoulders with in life.

What a privilege to represent the God of the universe, and to have the ability in our own way to share the glorious truth of the forgiveness of sin through His only begotten Son, Jesus.

Represent Him well. Do your best to tell others of your relationship to Him. Let others see in you, both in what you do and what you say that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior.

Maybe that is why Paul wrote in **Colossians 3: 17**; **“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”**

Blessings upon you all. Jack & Karen

Announcements

- Please remember to complete your information card for the directory.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study -Wednesday nights @ 6pm
- Women’s Ministry - 2nd Tuesday of each month @6pm - Next meeting July 13@6pm
- Men’s Prayer Breakfast - Wednesday June 29, @ 7am
- Southern Association annual meeting - Saturday June 26
 - If you are helping serve lunch or bringing food - please bring it to the church by 10:30am.
- 4th of July Barbecue- Sunday July 4th - 5pm - dark - Stay tuned for more details
 - Woman will provide desserts

Prayer Requests

Jack - Recovering from surgery

Larry Pulliam - Knee surgery - Thursday June 24

Sandra Pulliam - Heart Cath completed on Monday with great results

Carol Witte - Being treated for 2 bacterial infections

Byron Rutland - Having issues with Diverticulitis

Dorothy and Ben's 3 yr old Great Niece, Dobie Gulker was kicked by a horse and sustained a concussion, damage to her heart and liver. Please pray for a full recovery.

Becky's granddaughter Taylor who has Cystic Fibrosis and is having health issues

Colin Smith - 18 yr old with a Traumatic Brain Injury. (Patient of Karens)

Gerri Smart's daughter Terri has been diagnosed with cancer. She has started her chemo treatments. Please pray for strength as she walks through this and prayers for Gerri as well as she she helps Terri through this process.

Cliff Reed's dad is recovering from a UTI (He was hospitalized earlier this week)

Joe Durrett - Stomach cancer and heart attack - home on hospice care

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Cliff's dad has dementia and is not doing well.

Mandy Forester - Upcoming Brain surgery

Sandra Carson's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Bob & Sadie Easley - Health issues

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse

Prayers for those working in health related jobs, for protection. Especially those from our own families:
Karen at St Joseph - Susan - State School - Zella Johnson