GRACE TO YOU
by
Pastor Bruce Creswell

“And it came to pass, that, while they communed together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.” Luke 24:13-35.

Here we are in the first month of the New Year, 2020. How appropriate are those words in the Emmaus story (v.15), “Jesus himself drew near and went with them.”

As those two men sadly “communed together” on the Emmaus Road, it was none other than “Jesus Himself” who joined them. The pronoun “Himself” is an intensive pronoun which meant it is emphatic drawing our attention to His personal involvement in their need. It was the real personal Jesus, who drew near, then and there. It is this same “Jesus Himself” who links up with us as we step into this new year of 2020. What we must grasp is that “Jesus Himself” is really with us invisibly yet none the less personally.

It goes on to say that “Jesus Himself drew near.” Yes, He drew near even though He was “near” before He “drew” near. He was with them spiritually and invisibly before He drew near noticeably. This is a reminder of the love and desire of our Savior to draw near and to draw us to Himself, to make the things of Himself dear and real to us. His drawing near includes bringing comfort, but more importantly, He wants to change our lives and makes us like Him. The issue is never a matter of His presence but of our awareness of His presence. It was while these two men were talking about Him that He drew near. At the beginning of this new year, He draws especially near to us. He would reveal Himself in some new way in our lives, our families, and our church. Are we ready for this?

The Savior draws near and the best part is that He “went with them.” He who draws near on the first day of January of 2020 will walk with us to the last day of December 2020. He will go with each of us guiding, guarding, encouraging, renewing and sharing the qualities of His life with us. He loves our company and fellowship. He delights to walk with us along the way!

This new year, He will walk with us wherever we are and wants us to tell Him our cares and concerns, as we see in His pursuit of these two men to reveal their sadness and confusion (vs. 17-24). They were in the place to hear and receive the Word of God. The Lord expounds the Scripture to them. He was both their teacher and their lesson (vs.25-27).

Having journeyed with them, sympathized with them, and expounded the Scripture to them, He revealed Himself to them (v.31)! They experienced “holy heart burn!” (v.32).

May it be for us a year of the “burning heart!”
HYMN HISTORY
Submitted by Peggy Dear

TRUST AND OBEY

The order we pick up items in a grocery store doesn't really matter. But order is important when it comes to our Christian faith. Our obedience will never save us, nor will it enable us to trust. Instead, vain attempts at obedience will bring only frustration. But when trust comes first, obedience follows out of love.

This song was written after a Dwight L. Moody evangelistic meeting in Brockton, Massachusetts. Daniel Towner was the song leader that night in 1886, and he asked the people to share how they had been saved. Several stood and spoke of how certain they felt of their salvation. But then a young man rose and said, "I am not quite sure, but I am going to trust and obey."

Towner couldn't forget that testimony. He jotted it down and sent it to John Sammis, who had recently left a career in business to enter the ministry. Towner asked Sammis to write a hymn text on trusting and obeying. Sammis wrote the chorus first and then the five stanzas. Later, Towner supplied the tune. To be happy in Jesus, we need to trust first, and then obey.

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey,

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt nor a fear, not a sigh nor a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.

But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows and the joy He bestows
Are for them who will trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go-
Never fear, only trust and obey.

JOHN H. SAMMIS (1846-1919)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!
Submitted by Dot Branson

We welcome Ken and Bev Cochrum to our Coram Deo Class. We are so glad the Lord brought them to Charlotte and to Christ Covenant.

Bev and Ken were born in Akron, Ohio, where they lived until they moved to North Carolina in 2013. They were married on October 2, 1965. A few months after they were married, Ken was drafted into the Army where he served as a combat medic with the 1st Infantry in Vietnam. After Ken's discharge from the army March 9, 1968, he was soon hired at BF Goodrich chemical company where he worked in many different positions for the next 39 years until retirement in 2007.

Bev worked as a secretary at Ohio Edison electric company while Ken was in the service and until they were established and decided to start their family.

The Lord blessed them with three daughters: Kimberly, Kelly, and Melanie. They now have seven grandchildren - 4 boys and 3 girls - and one great-granddaughter.

Later, after their girls were older and didn't need Bev's constant attention, Bev served as church secretary for 13 years at Calvary Baptist Church, where they attended. Ken and Bev have been married 54 years and have attended Christ Covenant since they moved here in February 2013.
BOOK REVIEW
By Chris Williams

VOLUME CONTROL: HEARING IN A DEAFENING WORLD
By: David Owen, Riverhead Books 2019

David Owen comprehensively addresses a problem that many of us seniors have struggled with for years: hearing loss. This subject is dear to me since my hearing has been getting worse for five years or more. There is much going on in medical research on this problem and also lots of fresh technology being developed to help relieve the symptoms. This book covers it all with a style that is readable and entertaining. Mr. Owen is a writer for the New Yorker magazine and is a good one, drawing you along with lots of reporting on personal stories and anecdotes. He even discusses Rush Limbaugh’s account of going deaf and his use of cochlear implants.

There is a long discussion on “Tinnitus” the ringing or hissing in the ears that many of us experience. This is a fascinating discussion on a condition that remains a mystery to science.

He covers basic function of the ear (here a diagram of the ear would be helpful), tinnitus, various kinds of hearing loss, hearing aids, social stigma associated with loss, cochlear implants, and much more including the development of sign language. To add to the wonder of human hearing, the author notes that our inner-ears set deep in the bony structure of the skull do not grow in size during our lives. We are born with everything sized and set in place for life.

The actual cost of manufacturing a hearing aid is mostly less than $100, but the retail cost can be in the thousands of dollars. These costs are now decreasing rapidly. Retailers offer training and assistance in not only learning how to use the technology but how to get used to the new way of hearing. There is a growing list of aids and devices to help the hard of hearing. There are even gadgets so new (I have one) the author does not cover them though the book was published in 2019. For many, the technology is daunting, and the adjustment to them is stressful so that some who buy hearing aids try them then put them away in the dresser drawer permanently. With help, some of the frustration with the aids can be overcome.

Owen occasionally (2 or 3 times) throws in a gratuitous obscenity. I don’t like this. It almost seems the author feels obligated to demonstrate his worldliness for his sophisticated audience. He also displays what I would call a naïve infatuation with evolution. The ear is an intricate and complex organ with many parts and highly sophisticated technology. The notion that it evolved through random mutation is laughable.

These things aside this is a book all senior citizens would both enjoy and profit from.

Happy Valentine’s Day

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.” I John 4:7

“We love because He first loved us.” I John 4:19
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

6  Steve Marion
9  Peggy Cathey
10 Nancy Megargee
12 Dave Ruths
18 Helena Rea
22 Sandi Barkman
25 Martha Bond
28 Bob Smith

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

Articles for the March newsletter are due to Jane Yancey no later than February 20th. Please send them to her at jane@yancey.com
SENORS MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

By: Mary Newton

February 7, 2020
12:00 Noon, CLC

Our February luncheon is one that you will not want to miss! Mary Newton and her committee will be preparing and serving lasagna, salad, and garlic bread. Again, this meal is being provided by an anonymous donor, and there is no payment needed. Please sign up in class so that they know how many to prepare for. The program will be our own Joy Singers directed by Pam Eash. Their music will be delightful and uplifting. Plan to come fellowship with your class members for this special time together.

By: Dot Branson

February 14th, 11:30 am
Trio’s Restaurant

The Ladies’ Luncheon will take place at 11:30 at Trio’s Restaurant on Feb. 14th. The address is 10907 McMullen Creek Pkwy. (off Hwy. 51). We will celebrate Valentine's Day and our February birthdays with great food and sweet fellowship. Please plan to join us.

MEN’S LUNCH

By: Dave Ruths

Friday, February 21st, 11:30 am
Park Place Restaurant

The senior men’s lunch will be held on Friday, February 21st, at 11:30 am at Park Place Restaurant on Park Road across from the entrance to Atrium Health Pineville. Come enjoy the good food and fellowship and Mo Up De Graff's sharing with us from the Word.

JOY SINGERS

Joy Singers, directed by Pam Eash, meets at the church every Monday at 1:30 pm. New voices are welcomed as we lift our voices together to sing praises to the Lord. Come join us!
**Coram Deo Sunday School Class:**
Sundays: 9:00 AM, WC 201 (Choir Room)

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**LOVE**

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging symbol. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child. I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now, faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

*1 Corinthians 13:1-13*