

10.06.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “Getting Spiritual”

Scripture Reading: [Colossians 2:1-7](#)

Reflection: Rev. Evan Heerema

I received a graduation gift from my parents in June of 1965, the month I graduated from Junior High School. It was, and still is, a College Edition of Webster’s New World Dictionary of the English Language. For the record, I still use it at times, though I have also purchased an 11th Edition of the Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary along the way, which I also use at times. And I also have a dictionary on my computer and pocket computer (also used as a mobile phone). I use one of these at those times when I need to know the correct spelling of a word, or when I desire to understand the correct meaning of a word. There are times when the true meaning of a word is necessary.

I have become a regular watcher of the television game show “Jeopardy”. Occasionally they have a category that centers around new words found in the OED, the Oxford English Dictionary. Apparently, that dictionary is the dictionary of all dictionaries. When the OED speaks, speakers or writers of the English language should listen. In October 2019 an addition was made to the OED. It is the word, “Fake news.” It has been talked about since 1890 but has become popular lately. It is disappointing that we can now define that which is meant to be “new” news as fake, or untrue. It is published as news, to be accepted as reliable, yet is fake and untrue.

The Colossians and Laodiceans were being challenged with fake news. Listen to Colossians 2:4, “I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments” (fake news about God, Jesus, and spiritual maturity). The Apostle Paul was contending for these believers by providing for them a measuring stick of what being a true follower of Jesus looked like. True news! Pastor Doug provided us with a way to use that measuring stick. How is your persistent encouragement? How is your love/serving? How is your growth in wisdom, which he defined as propositional truth? And how are you doing at being filled with gratitude, at walking in, at being rooted in, and being built up in and strengthened in your faith in Jesus?

True news, the Truth is Jesus, who said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). The question comes down to, “How are you doing at being like Jesus?” It takes effort to rid oneself of oneself in order to be more and more like Jesus. That is what the spiritual disciplines are for, to help us live a more disciplined life like Jesus, who learned obedience by what he suffered (discipline).

Prayer:

Father in heaven, help me identify fake news in my life about Jesus and about following him. Fill me with the Spirit of truth about Jesus so that I can contend for your Church. Fill me with your Spirit, for your glory and honor. AMEN

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Whatever you do, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Songs for today:

[All to Jesus, I Surrender](#) Sing along if you mean it.