

11.24.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “The People God Uses, and Good Light Stories”

Scripture Reading: [Colossians 4:7-18](#)

Reflection: Rev. Evan Heerema

Most, if not all of us, enjoy a good story. If we are reading a book and we call it a “page-turner” it means that we don’t want to stop reading it and the end of a chapter causes us to think, “Just one more chapter. I have to find out what happens next.” For me personally, that means a whole book will get read over the course of a weekend or a couple of long and late nights. A good story draws us into the plot; we feel we know the characters and see ourselves being played out in the story.

This week Covenant Church has had to say goodbye to two godly men who passed away. Their lives were stories that fellow believers should look at and be thankful for. And, we should be honored to have served God and loved God’s world alongside them. Their characteristics of faith, service, love, joy, and trustworthiness are characteristics we are all called to have with Jesus and with each other. As Christians we are called into God’s family; we are children in unity with Jesus and with each other.

One of the questions on the [Spiritual Formation Guide](#) for this week is, “Which of the ten people/ten characteristics in Colossians 4:8-17 do you most identify with? Which one of the ten do you most aspire to be like?” In other words, of the ten people recorded in these verses and their personal characteristics, ably described by Pastor Doug, which of them do you see in yourself, and which are you thankful for in others?

In a poem written by Linda Ellis, called “The Dash” the author writes about a man who was asked to give a eulogy at the funeral of a friend. The poem says (in part), “I read of a man who stood to speak, At the funeral of a friend, He referred to the dates on the tombstone, From the beginning...to the end, He noted that first came the date of birth, And spoke the following date with tears, But he said what mattered most of all, Was the dash between those years . . . So, when your eulogy is being read, With your life's actions to rehash...Would you be proud of the things they say, About how you spent YOUR dash?”

About Jesus, we can say that his 33-year “dash” on this earth was lived in service to others, from his conception to his burial, resurrection, and even his ascension. His return will be another great act of service and love to God’s world and its restored and renewed inhabitants. He lived selflessly, taking the form of a servant in human likeness. Nothing but good should be spoken about Jesus’ life.

For those of us who read these weekly devotionals, many, many good things would be included in your “dash”; good, but not perfect. By grace God has called us to be his, he has forgiven us through Jesus and equipped us to live and serve as His kingdom ambassadors on earth, bringing in the reality of His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. The 10 stories told in Colossians 4 are our stories too. And as long as God gives us life on this earth, we are to be developing the characteristics that reflect Jesus in us. What a godly privilege to develop a godly heritage. Let your life-light shine.

Prayer:

Loving Father, thank you for calling me one of your children. Thank you for empowering me to live, love, and serve in Jesus' name here on earth. Thank you for the godly men and women who have come before us and those alongside us who reveal Christ-like lives for your glory. And please, help me to live a godly "dash", for Jesus' sake. AMEN

Action Item for the Day/Week:

During the month of December, host a neighborhood fellowship gathering to foster hospitality (Romans 12:13) and fellowship within your neighborhood. Don't want to host alone? Partner with someone else from church or a neighbor in your community to host this fellowship gathering.

Songs for today:

[This Little Light of Mine](#)