

**A Publication of the Port Orchard Church of Christ
August 20, 2023**

FROM REJECTED TO REJOICING!

I recently saw the following on Facebook and reposted it:

**“Imagine the Christians Paul helped to kill
rejoicing as he enters heaven as their brother.
That’s how the Gospel works.”**

Yes, the Gospel of Jesus provides hope to the penitent sinner regardless of the depth of the sin of the past. Can we envision being willing to so rejoice over the turn-around of even one who had violently rejected us for our faith? One of my Facebook connections (a classmate from high school) responded to the post, “I do not understand this ... sounds bad ... please explain.”

I responded with the following: “Before Paul (known earlier as Saul) became a follower of Jesus, he was a persecutor of the church (Acts 8:1) as he even himself noted in looking back and acknowledged his zeal in doing so. (1 Corinthians 15:9; Galatians 1:13; Acts 26:9-11). However, he was converted on the road to Damascus where he was going to arrest Christians (Acts 9; Acts 26:12-18). Because of that past, he expressed he didn’t deserve to even be called an apostle, but by the grace of God he had been saved. (1 Corinthians 15:9-10)

As Christians, regardless of another’s past, we should hope for and rejoice in the repentance in their life that would lead to embrace Jesus Christ as Lord and so be saved from whatever their past might have been. The Gospel (good news of Jesus) is for all with the hope of accepting the complete forgiveness provided by the blood of Jesus and experience the renewal of life in Him. (i.e. 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Even those who were martyred for their faith -- because of their Christian spirit of love for the lost of the world -- could (and should) in the spirit of Christ rejoice over the change of heart by their persecutors. It is following in the steps of Jesus’ instruction of “(44) But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, (45) so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” [Matthew 5:44-45 ESV]

I hope this quick response helps. Thanks for asking.” And their response was, “thank you, that makes sense!” Such may not make sense to the world. We may even find ourselves struggling in considering it. Another Facebook connection responded to the post, “This is so so hard to do! Something I need to work on!” Yes, may God help us all as we understand God’s grace was not merited by any one of us. And that is why the Gospel is such good news, because in Jesus is found the adequate means of our salvation regardless of our past.

May we truly share such a desire for the lost around us and rejoice with Heaven (Luke 15:7 & 10) over every sinner who repents!

Have a great day NURTURING A HEART TO REJOICE WITH HEAVEN!

Carl Hanson

Our Prayer List

- Continue to pray for Heather's younger brother Chris Chilton was told he has kidney cancer. He will be seeing the doctor on August 30th about having the kidney removed. Please pray for Chris.
- Continue to pray for Brooke Armenta's healing.
- Please continue to pray for the McDaniel & Celletti families
- Pray for the children who will be starting school soon.
- For all those who are struggling for many different reasons, pray for them to find peace.
- Bruce and Debbie Sharp (friends of Judy Van Lueven) would like prayers for their grandson Adam who is 16 and has been diagnosed with brain cancer. Pray for his medical team as they proceed with treatment and for his healing. Pray also for the family.
- Please continue daily lifting up prayers for Barbara Chasteen's recovery and for Gary also.
- Pray for Cindiann Bradburn who is having concerns about the safety of her children. Pray she will make the right decisions.
- We received a request from Viola Cleo Bradshaw through our church website for healing for herself and for Cordelia Vogel for healing and family.
- Prayers for our SLT and ministries.
- Remember to thank and praise God for our many blessings – both physical and spiritual.

Labor Day Weekend Family Camp-out

Sunday September 3rd thru

Monday, September 4th

Invite your friends and family

Attention All Women

We will begin a Secret Sisters meeting in September. The women from Ekklesia will also be joining us.

It will be on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, beginning in September and going through June.

If you are looking to get closer to God and to have closer unity with your sisters in Christ, then this is for you.

September 14th will be our first meeting. It will be an orientation and name drawing. We will always have a meal prepared at the meeting to enjoy dinner together.

We will spend time with a devotional and prayer, as well as having craft nights, game nights, and theme nights.

The goal of this group will be to encourage each other as well as to get to know each other better.

POCOC Web Site (<http://pococ.weebly.com/>)

- Weekly Bulletin – Go to <http://pococ.weebly.com/> then click on Bulletin & Newsletters
- Pre-Covid audio sermons are also still online. Click on Teachings
- Current Event Calendar - Click on News & Events
- Live stream of worship services on YouTube Channel - Previous video recordings, too:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_SrX11URAkOYw7JOR9ZIQ then click on the desired video.
Please subscribe to be notified when new videos post or when we go live.



Sunday Worship for August 20, 2023 (10:30 am – 12:00 – noon) (Children are dismissed for Children's Church after communion) Watch live-stream or after our worship time: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_SrX11URAkOYw7JOR9ZIQ					
Speaker: Trent Herbert	Singing Darrell Fry	Scripture: Trent Herbert	Prayer: Jon Powless	Communion: Brad Orser	Offering: Trent Herbert
August Servers – Brian Bungart Nio Velez Elijah Herbert Terry Bratcher					
9:30 am Adult Class: Auditorium Led by Trent Herbert			Children Class: Downstairs Two Classes: children and pre-teen		
Call Laura Fry or the Church Office (360-876-2604) for Zoom Meeting ID					
Men's Fellowship Downstairs Fellowship Room Tuesdays - 10:00 am			Ladies in the Word Upstairs Overflow Room Tuesdays - 10:00 am		
Bible Class & Prayer Colossians (in person or on Zoom) Wednesdays: 5:00 - 6:00 pm			Ladies Prayer Group LaDonna's home Thursdays 10:00 am		
Port Orchard Church of Christ 4135 Carr Lane SE Port Orchard, WA 98366 360-876-2604 - churchpococ@gmail.com			August 13, 2023 - Tithes & Offerings – \$ 6,847.00		
			If you have any questions, please give me a call. God bless you. Gary Chasteen (cell) 360-731-4104		
Call Laura Fry or the Church Office (360-876-2604) for Zoom Meeting ID					

Communion and Tithes & Offerings

The bread and fruit of the vine will be served during our communion time. You also have the option to pick up your communion supplies as you enter the auditorium. It contains both the juice and the bread.

There are also a few options for giving your tithes & offerings:

- 1) The collection box is in the foyer at the entrance to the auditorium.
- 2) Online bill-pay with your bank or credit union. Your bank will mail your check for you.
- 3) Mail your tithe/offering check directly to the Church address below. We have a lock mailbox.

Happy Birthday!

August: Terry Bratcher – 17, Connie Greer – 20, Hanna Herbert – 22, Dave Snypp – 25, Shirley Olson – 30

September: Savanna Wilson – 1, Sydney Monk – 4, Dave Lawrence – 13, Jon Powless – 15, Kayli Benjamin – 17, Pam Woodrow – 25, Eunice Orser – 29

I Lift My Hands

Verse 1

Be still there is a healer
His love is deeper than the sea
His mercy is unfailing
His arms a fortress for the weak
Let faith arise; Let faith arise

Chorus

I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge
You are my strength
As I pour out my heart
These things I remember
You are faithful God
Forever

Verse 2

Be still there is a river
That flows from Calvary's tree
A fountain for the thirsty
Your grace that washes over me
Let faith arise; Let faith arise

Bridge

Let faith arise let faith arise
Open my eyes open my eyes
Let faith arise let faith arise
Open my eyes open my eyes

Ending

Let faith arise; Let faith arise

**I will sing of your strength,
in the morning I will sing of your love;
for you are my fortress,
my refuge in times of trouble.
You are my strength,
I sing praise to you;
You, God, are my fortress,
my God on whom I can rely.**

- Psalms 59:16-17



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