

Bermudian Church of the Brethren

WEDNESDAY's WORD – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler

to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week
September 14 in the year of our Lord 2016 - #664

More Like Thee...

Last Friday evening I took my seven year old grandson, Jericho, along to the Bermudian Springs Eagles high school football game. We had a great evening. He's getting old enough now to begin to understand the game. I found myself explaining the "chains," the down marker, 4 downs, first down, and on and on. Inquiring minds want to know!

It was a great game against the Boiling Springs Bubblers, a non league game against a team that through the years has been a thorn in the Eagles' side! During my son John's Eagles football days, the Bubblers knocked us out of state play offs more than once. And Friday night they gave the Eagles a fit! But the resilient Eagles held on to win 21-18 ... down to the final seconds. Fantastic game!

Those of you who know me well know I can get a bit excited at a football game! Some old friends from during the days when we were planting the Lake View congregation were at Friday night's game. The husband laughed as he said how startled they were to see me yelling ... so out of character with the Pastor Larry they thought they knew! As the intense game went along ... and I was very into it ... and very vocal ... I suddenly realized something. If I would yell, "*Hit 'em hard defense!*", beside me a little voice would yell, "*Hit 'em hard defense!*" If I called out, "*Take it and go Red!*", from alongside me came the cry, "*Take it and go Red!*" Every time I said something ... Jericho was echoing me. Now that will make you pause and think!

For those of us who are parents and grandparents ... be clear ... little ears are listening and often striving to be just like Mommy or Daddy, or Pap Pap or Grandma! Every word ... every action ... every behavior is a lesson!

I wonder if I have the same passion to be just like my Lord? The Bible clearly states that this should be our goal.

"All of us can see the Lord's glory and think deeply about it. So we are being changed to become more like Him so that we have more and more glory. And this glory comes from the Lord, who is the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV

"Anyone who says he is a Christian should live as Christ did." 1 John 2:6 LB

The question we must all ask is *“Do my words and actions reflect that I am a follower of Christ who is being transformed into His image?”* When people at work hear me? When people read my Facebook posts? When I interact with store clerks? Do people hear and see Christ in me? We represent Christ to the world! In an oft quoted comment that can be dated back to the 1800s, it is said that ***your life may be the only Bible some people will ever read!*** Sobering thought!

There’s an old Brethren authored hymn, *“More Like Thee, O Savior,”* that is a wonderful prayer. Let it be your goal, your heart’s desire, your prayer today.

1) More like Thee, O Savior let me be, More like Thee from day to day; Never let me from Thy footsteps stray, keeping the narrow way.

Refrain: More like Thee (More like Thee); More like Thee (More like Thee), More and more O Christ like Thee; By Thy grace, O let me day by day, Grow more and more like Thee.

2) More like Thee, O Savior let me be, Pure without, and pure within. Keep me ever from the ways of sin; I the crown of life would win.

3) More like Thee, O Savior let me be, All my pilgrim journey through; Meek and lowly, ever kind and true, Like Thyself in all I do.

Words by Frank M. Davis (1839-1896) / Music by J. Henry Showalter (1864-1947)
#458 in the red *The Brethren Hymnal*, © 1951

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