

## 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  
February 20 in the year of our Lord 2019 - #777

### Happy To See You

It's snowing hard in south central Pennsylvania as I work on this issue of *WEDNESDAY's WORD*. I can barely see Bermudian Church RD from my office window. It perhaps was not the wisest decision, but I came to the Church today because I have a good bit of work I need to accomplish for the weekend which I couldn't do from home. So I loaded my snow boots, a little extra food, and here I am for the duration. Hopefully the promised 'snow then freezing rain then rain' will run its course and the roads will allow me to get home safely later today at a reasonable time. We'll see?

One thing I know for sure. When I arrive home there will be some folks happy to see me! Last week one evening I arrived home to see something that I've come to love. Call it *'bouncing Bella!'* From our driveway it is a straight shot up the sidewalk to the door with its half glass. Bella (our puppy) is not tall enough to see out the half glass window in the door. So when she knows I'm home she stands by the door and jumps straight up & down so she can see out the window. Boing! Boing! Boing! It's the funniest thing! From outside you just see this precious little puppy head up at the window and then gone ... up at the window than gone ... up at the window and then gone. She doesn't bark while she's doing this. Just bounces!

But on this particular night as I walked up the sidewalk I could look thru the window back into the kitchen and saw Cathy laughing. What I didn't see was that one year old Jaxsen had heard the announcement that Pap was home and came crawling full steam to the door. Waiting right beside Bella inside the door, every time Bella jumped straight up in the air it just tickled Jaxsen's funny bone and he was belly laughing. When I made it to the door I was received by a very happy puppy, a delighted baby, and a laughing wife. *"Happy to see you!"*

Early believer's lived with the hope of the soon return of their Lord Jesus. As things got really bad for the infant Church with Roman persecution, they just couldn't imagine that Christ would delay much longer and leave them in this horror. When they parted company with other believer's they would often part with the farewell greeting, *"Maranatha!"* – an Aramaic expression which means *"the Lord is coming!"* or *"Our Lord, Come!"* It occurs just once in the New Testament, in the closing of Paul's first Corinthian letter, 1 Corinthians 16:22. And in Jesus' very last words in the last book of the New Testament, Revelation, we find the Greek equivalent when John writes, ***"He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come Lord Jesus!"*** (Revelation 22:20 NIV)

There is a Biblical expectation that believers live with this eagerness, this anticipation of Christ's return. The Biblical doctrine is called *"Immanency."* *"The Imminent Return of Christ."* But I fear that I too often have gotten so comfortable here that Christ's return may not be so eagerly anticipated. I have projects I want to finish. Travel I'm hoping to do. I want to see my grandkids grow up. Wait? What?

Why is our belief in the imminent return of Christ so important?

1. The Bible clearly teaches it and directs us to look for it, wait patiently for it, and to live Christian lives accordingly. It makes earthly disagreements, political foolishness and fussing over the trivial all seem so foolish!

***“Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!”***

James 5:7-9 NIV

2. **It helps us keep a clear perspective on earthly things. Why stress so much over temporary things of this life when eternity is soon coming? When Jesus comes soon will my hands be full of my stuff? Or stretched out to greet Him?**

***“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*** Matthew 6:19-21 NIV

3. It keeps us striving for holy lives, separating ourselves from the impurity of the culture around us as we await Jesus! I want to be ready to see Him! Not hiding my face in shame at His presence!

***“And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.”***

Romans 13:11-14 NIV

So on this snow day ... I’m bouncing at the door of my heart ... anxious to welcome my Lord! *“So happy to see You!”* How about you?

In anticipation! Pastor Larry <><