

## **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*

April 3 in the year of our Lord 2019 - #782

## **Don't Turn Away!**

My one year old grandson Jaxsen (I know I write a lot about my grandkids ... no apologies!!) is Pap's boy! Jessie often shakes her head at how he wants only me when I'm around. If I'm holding Jax and Jes comes to get him he turns away from his mother and leans into me. Warms my heart ... stings hers! I was away last week from Wednesday thru Saturday and was looking forward to seeing "my boy" at church. I was sure he would rush into Pap's arms and cry when I needed to hand him over to begin worship. Well, he came in and greeted me ... I think he was happy to see me ... but then pushed away and toddled down the aisle at church. He had places to go and people to see. He is quite the little hob-nobber at church! Well that stung my heart a little!

It made me reflect though on how our Lord must feel when we turn away from Him. It has to sting the Divine Heart that loves you so very, very much! How do we turn away from the Lord?

- When we have plenty of time for the TV or computer or our phone but don't have time for prayer
- When our Bible lies dusty on the shelf
- When Sunday worship is not a priority, but other things are
- When we allow sin in our lives that God's Word clearly warns us against
- When we refuse to forgive someone who has wronged us
- When we have an opportunity to share the love of Christ with another person but neglect the opportunity
- When His Holy Spirit has filled our life with Gifts for ministry but those Gifts go neglected & unused
- When we have the opportunity to stand up for Christ and His Word but are too shy, embarrassed, or scared to speak up
- When Christ puts a person in front of us who needs to be loved, cared for, encouraged, blessed ... and we're too busy with other things
- When we carry a load of guilt from some sin in our past while the nail scarred hands of Jesus stretch out in forgiveness to us
- When the Divine Artist paints a beautiful sunset for us, or conducts a symphony of morning song birds, or writes a love poem to you in a babbling stream, mountain vista, or ocean wave and we take it all for granted without even a whispered prayer of thanksgiving
- When blessings aren't "counted" but are expected and complained about if absent

Yes, it is pretty easy to turn away from Jesus. He desires a close relationship with you. He loves you. He adores you. He died for you. He has a plan for you. He has given you His way within the pages of His Word for a life of blessing. He is waiting for you. Today, dear Sister ... dear Brother ... don't turn to the left or right. Today, like Jax leans into Pap, lean into the love, the grace, the comfort, the guidance of the One who loves YOU so!

**“Don't turn to the right or left. Keep your feet from the path of evil.”**

Proverbs 4:27 NIV

**“Only be strong and have much strength of heart. Be careful to obey all the Law which my servant Moses told you. Do not turn from it to the right or to the left. Then all will go well with you everywhere you go.”** Joshua 1:7 NIV

Leaning straight in, not turning right or left, to Jesus! Pastor Larry <><