

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

March 11, in the year of our Lord 2020 – #826

BINGO!

Last week while driving in York I saw something that really made me stop and think. On a stretch along my journey ... not more than a few miles long ... I saw three advertisements by various institutions for upcoming BINGO events. Now I have to be perfectly honest. I'm not a big BINGO person. I don't get excited about the game. Even when we added it to the church picnic ... I looked for something else to do then. I'm just not into BINGO. Nothing against it. It's just not for me. But these three advertisements REALLY got me thinking!

“Grocery BINGO”

“Tool BINGO”

“Naughty BINGO”

Hmmm? Now “Grocery BINGO” I get. My only problem is that I'm such a picky eater that I envision winning a big bag of groceries and it having some really weird stuff in it like SPAM, or humus, or horror of horrors!!!! Cheese! No count me out for “Grocery BINGO!”

Now “Tool BINGO” ... that sounds exciting! *“It's B-4 and BINGO! For the pastor in the back row! Here's your new DeWalt drill or your new craftsman socket set.”* Now we're talking!!! But somehow, I can't imagine a room full of flannel clad men playing BINGO! So, who is going to “Tool BINGO??” Are women attending hoping to win a great tool prize to share with that special man in their lives? Not sure I get it??

And “Naughty BINGO” ... well this prudish pastor is blushing at my keyboard just imagining what that might be!!!! Curious as it makes me ... ahhh, No!

So, folks traveling on that stretch of road. Persons with an inclination for BINGO. Are presented with three clear choices. Grocery BINGO, Tool BINGO or Naughty BINGO. What a choice!!!

We have choices to make every day. Food choices. Entertainment choices. News source choices. How we spend our time choices. How we react to family choices. How we interact with strangers' choices. Even this very day, with the coronavirus epidemic around us, we have choices. You can hear, listen to, read, decide on how to react with many choices.

And in our faith journeys ... we make choices every day too. What place will God's Word, the Bible, have in my life today? Choice. Will I talk to the Lord in prayer today? Choice. Devotions? Christian service? Morality? Witness? Sunday Worship? Bible Study Group? Choices!

And do you want to know something amazing? Our wonderful Lord leaves these choices entirely up to you. He won't coerce you or manipulate you. He wants you to choose Him and His Way. But the choice is yours.

At the end of Joshua's life in the Old Testament, as the Israelites settled into the Promised Land, the aged Joshua presented the choice of faith to his people. There was a culture they had known as slaves in Egypt. There were pagan cultures living all around them. There was a plan the Lord had for Israel. Choices!

“Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:14-15 NIV

First of all, let's give thanks today that our Lord gives us the gift of choice. Then let's consider the choices we are making. Are there some we need to rethink? You can choose today ... to make a new beginning, or to correct a wrong choice. You can! Choose!

Grocery BINGO? Tool BINGO? Naughty BINGO?

No ... I choose Jesus! And that will always bring a hearty "BINGO!" from Heaven!

But maybe ... I could check out that Tool BINGO.....

Pastor Larry <><