

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 9, in the year of our Lord 2020 – #852

All

“**All**” ... it's an interesting little word. In Pennsylvania Dutch slang we use it sometimes in an unusual way. “*The toothpaste is all.*” But, in the Bible it is a powerful, important word. On my bookshelf is a 21-volume encyclopedia like set called “*The All Series*”, by the late Scottish Biblical scholar, Herbert Lockyer. The set includes volumes such as, “*All the Men of The Bible,*” “*All the Books and Chapters of The Bible,*” “*All the Messianic Prophecies of The Bible,*” “*All the Divine Names and Titles of The Bible,*” and many more. It is one of my “go to” reference sets!

Webster defines “all” this way: “*the whole amount, quantity, or extent of,*” “*as much as possible,*” “*every member or individual component of,*” “*the whole number or sum of.*” So why is this everyday little word so Biblically important? Let's explore.

Right now, as we move through this worldwide pandemic many of us carry a lot of stress. The isolation factor for the sick and elderly is immense! The political games that have been drug into the time are infuriating. Small businesses have suffered. I see and hear even Christians bickering with one another. If you are cautious and very intentional about wearing a mask and avoiding crowds, some Christians will brand you as, “*living in fear.*” If you are against masks and have no concern for group settings, some Christians will label you as “*careless and uncaring.*” NEITHER of these are fair and accurate assessments. Let's be careful about branding other faithful believers who are at a different place than we are.

But what does the Bible say about living in such a time as this with all its uncertainties?

“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7 NIV

Do you have any hip pocket sins? You know, you carry around a burden of guilt for that sin of years ago, or that sin of yesterday. Instead of placing that sin on the Christ-blood soaked altar of repentance, you carry it in your hip pocket. You beat yourself up. You hide from the truth. You wouldn't want anyone to know. You aren't sure if the Lord could REALLY forgive THAT! Satan loves to remind you of those hip pocket sins. He loves to convince you that you are a terrible person. Certainly, God could not forgive THAT!

“But if we confess our sins, He will forgive our sins, because we can trust God to do what is right. He will cleanse us from all the wrongs we have done.” 1 John 1:9 NCV

Do you ever feel beyond the reach of God's love? Question could God love me? Or do you have a lost friend, or child, or spouse, or sibling that has wandered far from the Lord? Can God love them? Are they beyond redemption? The lifestyle. The total disregard for things spiritual and Biblical. Can God really love them?

"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." 2 Peter 3:9 ESV

At the end of your rope? Overwhelmed by problems, crisis, brokenness, grief, loss, illness, financial stress, work problems??? Feel that there's just no way that you can overcome this gigantic mountain before you?

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13 NASB

"All" ... it is such a simple word. And such an important Biblical Word! The Lord loves you so much that you can go to Him with **all** your stress and anxiety! He cares! If you feel lost or hopeless in sin, past or present, He is the one who will forgive **all** sin if we come to Him with true repentance. He is the Lord of New Beginnings! If you feel as though the Lord couldn't possibly love someone like you ... or that lost child, spouse, sibling, friend ... Good News! He does love them (you) and wants them **all** to come to Him! His arms are open to them, His heart yearns for them, His love is for them! And if you just feel as though you just can't go on ... can't take another step ... can't face this crisis ... can't deal with that brokenness ... know for sure that with the Lord as your very strength ... you can do **all** things!

"All" ... it's a great word for today!

Thankful today for "all" of you! I do love you "all!"
Pastor Larry <><