

May 25, 2018

Russell's Ritings....

This week we celebrate the 280th anniversary of John Wesley's dramatic Aldersgate Experience. Wesley, born in 1703, was a graduate of Oxford, and an ordained priest in the Church of England, but he was miserable, unhappy, and unsatisfied. For the first 35 years of his life he was a doer of good deeds, a disciplined and dedicated churchman. He wasn't afraid to preach in the slums nor too proud to visit the jails. He served God with noble purpose, but he was not serving God with joy, happiness, and satisfaction. His life was lived out of duty, not freedom.

Then it happened. On May 24, 1738, in Aldersgate Street, London, he felt his heart "strangely warmed". Beginning there, Wesley was a new man. He still went to the slums and prisons, but with a different message and a different passion. For 53 years after his experience, he tirelessly traveled England, preaching, teaching, and bringing a renewal of spirit to a demoralized people. The Wesleyan Revival shook England as England had never been shaken before.

For Wesley his life was a "before and after". He said about the "before" that he had the faith of a servant but not of a son. We, too, need that revitalizing faith, renewing faith, restoring faith to be sons and not servants! We need to be people of the "after", not the "before"!

This Sunday we will continue with the series WHAT WE NEED. Sunday's sermon is "What We Need: Friends" and the text is John 15: 9 – 17. I hope to see you at the friendliest place in Evergreen!

Shalom,

Russell