

CPC This Week

OCTOBER 14, 2009

JUST A THOUGHT...

BY TOM STEIN

This is tough, isn't it?

As we move toward the end of our study of the book of James, your response reminds me that James is tough!

There is no doubt: James challenges us in every area of our lives. This is good! Real faith should change real life.

BUT - I am concerned that we remember something. Real faith that changes real life, comes through real grace.

The gospel begins with guilt, and if you are awake, the book of James will awaken guilt in you. But we must never, ever stop there.

Guilt should drive us to grace. Even as James reminds us how far short we fall, I hope our worship reminds you of how great Jesus is. Whether we sing, or read other Scriptures, or celebrate the sacrament - I hope and pray that while you are challenged by guilt, that you will be comforted by grace.

Some of you grew up in church settings where the value of the sermon was measured by how guilty you felt when it was over. You would slink out of church, bruised and battered.

I hope the opposite for you. I want you to feel wonderful when you leave worship. Why? Because you are great? No! Because Jesus is great. Even as James challenges us, his words drive us back to the forgiving and changing grace of Jesus. I want you to leave as a different person - but as a person who is renewed in vigor for the Lord, by the marvelous grace of your Savior.

James is tough - and Jesus is tough and tender. He calls us to a greater walk with him - not through guilt, but grace.

The Persecuted Church:
BANGLADESH
Voice of the Martyrs reports
attacks on Christians by
Muslims.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will have a
Congregational Meeting
during the Sunday School
hour on October 25.

The purpose of the
meeting is to:

- * Present the church budget for the fiscal year that began October 1.
- * Present, for approval, a new set of by-laws to guide the church's work.

Copies of the proposed new by-laws are on the welcome table. Please review them in advance of the meeting.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MISSIONS FALL FESTIVAL: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

THANKSGIVING SERVICE/KIDS MUSICAL: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

THIS SUNDAY'S SERMON TEXT:
JAMES 5:7-8

**OCTOBER VERSES TO
MEMORIZE: JAMES 1:2-5**