



Navigating Uncharted Territory - Transitions

Mancelona Camp Evangelist Joel DeSelm used the Israelites' move to the promised land as an illustration of transitions. Moses died and Joshua took his place; they stopped eating manna and ate from the land; they went from the desert to the promised land.

Transitions are a natural part of the seasons of life. In your body you will have transitions; emotionally you will have transitions. By definition you will have winters in life.

Some transitions we choose; some are thrust upon us. We choose job, career, schooling, marriage. But we don't choose to lose a child, have an accident, develop an illness.

Some of these transitions are because of decisions we make; others are because of God's plan for our lives. But just because it is God's plan doesn't mean that the transition will be pleasant. God's will is always good, but it may not feel good.

Success or failure in life is often determined by how we handle the transitions of life. Pastor Joel gave examples of Kodak and Timex as businesses which failed to make a good transition and went bankrupt. So how can we make good transitions? Pastor Joel had these suggestions:

Transitions will almost always involve pain and time to adjust. Allow time to adjust, and know that transitions will affect you in areas which

are hidden. But maintain your connection to God throughout the transition, allowing him to help with the pain.

Transitions require us to remember our trust in God's past deliverance. The Israelites could remember back to their deliverance from Egypt. What has God delivered you from in the past?

Transitions demand us to live by faith, not knowing the future. God seldom reveals our whole path ahead, but illuminates only the part of the path for our next step. He knows the future, and we have to trust Him for what the future holds for us, and what He has planned for us.

Ladies Begin Making Pasties

To prepare for their Pasty Supper on October 6th, the ladies are planning to make pasties on Monday, September 24 and Wednesday, September 26, and again on Friday, October 5. They will work from 9:00 a.m. until finished making one hundred pasties each day.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help get vegetables ready or work on pasty construction, please contact Eleanor Hill at 231-537-2724 or Verna Fay at 231-537-4683.

If anyone would like to order frozen pasties in advance, call Eleanor or Verna.

From Pastor Rob

Inside Out

This past year has had its up and downs for me physically. In September of 2017 I experienced something that I never thought I'd be dealing with. To make a long story short I was not doing anything strenuous, just yawning and stretching my back when suddenly I had pain in my lower back that took my breath away for a few seconds. Thinking that I pulled something I just tried to take it easy for a few days. However the pain never went away and was intensified with physical activity.

From the outside everything looked the same, nothing had changed, no bruising, no swelling nothing obvious could be seen.

Looking at me on the outside you cannot see anything wrong. From the outside you can say I was fine. Seeing what was visible there should be nothing wrong with my back. But on the inside I could tell something was wrong.

Let's change gears now. On August 30th of this year, 2018, the plumbing in the parsonage was changed from galvanized pipe to the new plastic pipes, called PEX. From the outside everything looked good with the old plumbing, but it wasn't. You see something was taking place on the inside that could not be seen just by looking at the outside. Yet there were signs that something was amiss. The water pressure would fluctuate from

just a small trickle to an overly strong pressure that felt like it could be used as a pressure washer to clean the outside of the house. Actually, the pressure would range from 30 pounds at the low end, the trickle, all the way up to 120 pounds on the high side, the pressure washer. We also would find small pieces of rusty mineral deposits in the filters of our faucets that I would clean out one to two times a week that should not have been there.

The symptoms were verified only when we allowed the plumbers to perform "surgery" on the old pipes to replace everything. The inside diameter of the pipe was reduced by the buildup of the mineral and rust deposits and

these deposits would break off and eventually they clogged the small pipe that was used for the pressure switch. They filled the pipe to the point that the switch

was getting false readings of how much pressure was actually there. Also the small particles that we were removing from the faucets were just a smaller sign of what was also happening. There were larger pieces that broke off and eventually almost totally clogged the hot water side of the kitchen faucet causing the pressure to be greatly reduced in the hot water compared to the cold water.

So why am I telling you this story about the plumbing and my back? You see, like the plumbing and my back, there are things going on inside of us that no one else can see. That cannot be detected on the outside. Yes there can be symptoms that something is not quite right that people can see in us, but

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they do not know what is taking place. I am talking about something spiritually now.

There are things happening spiritually in us that many times we do not know are happening ourselves. It builds up over time and we tend to not notice it until one day we sense something is different, something is happening to me spiritually and I don't know what is going on. Why am I acting differently, why am I saying or doing things I thought I had under control in my life? We get a sense that even though everything seems to be going well on the outside something inside is changing, going in the wrong direction.

With the plumbing, cutting it open and looking on the inside revealed what was happening on the inside. With my back, it took getting a MRI to take a deep look at it to tell me that there are bulging discs pressing on the nerves in my spine which is causing the pain I experience. Spiritually we need to take a deeper look at ourselves and allow God to uncover what is clogging us up spiritually.

You may be asking what can cause us to get spiritually "clogged?" Jesus gives us a great example in Matthew 13. Here he talks about a farmer sowing seeds and the soils that those seeds land on. In verse 7 he talks about the seeds that fell among thorns. Look at what Jesus said; ***"Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants."*** Later in verse 22 he explains this section of the parable with these words; ***"The one who receives the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of***

wealth choke it, making it unfruitful."

I want to focus on the underscored words here, this life. It is so easy for us, especially in our time, to get so caught up in what we need to do in this life that we are getting choked out spiritually by the sheer busyness of this life. Family, friends, commitments, work, vacations, physical problems, and the list goes on and on for the worries of this life. What I believe we need to do is stop, take an inventory of our lives and have God do an "MRI" of our heart, our spiritual lives, to see what it is that we need to have cut out and replaced with what God wants in our spirit in order that we do not get choked out and are unfruitful.

Just like plumbing, God wants to give us clean "pipes" for His spirit to flow through us so that we are bringing pure clean refreshing water to others instead of having the buildup of this life clogging up His love and truth as we live in this world. The Bible tells us we are not of this world, but we are in it for a time.

For the first four weeks of September we will be talking about being "Different" and I am excited and challenged by the first two weeks myself. I hope you will join us in a journey to becoming a people who would love for everyone to see what is on the inside more than what is on the outside. What if we live our lives in such a way that we would be more excited about what is on the inside then what other can see on the outside? What if we allow God to do a work so that we would love to live life "Inside Out."

Blessings
Pastor Rob

September 2018

Bliss Missionary Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service Ruth Hunt	3 Labor Day	4	5 7:15 - Youth Arnie/Tomi Strong	6	7	8
9 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service Sandy Thompson	10	11	12 7:15 - Youth	13	14	15 Bruce Byard
16 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service Kassia Strong	17	18 WMMC Business Meeting 1:00	19	20	21 Rob/Yvonne Thomson	22
23 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service Curtis Alexander	24 Pasty Making 9:00 a.m.	25	26 Pasty Making 9:00 a.m. 7:15 - Youth	27	28	29
30 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service						Saturday, September 1 Bob/Cindy Strong

What Is Creation?

Partially adapted from *Christian Beliefs* by Wayne A. Grudem

Where did the universe come from? How did we get here? What is the explanation for our existence?

The Bible addresses these questions. God existed before the universe, and although He didn't need it, He spoke it into existence. And then he created human beings with His own hands, in His own image, and breathed life into them from His own breath. God then appointed human beings to rule over the rest of creation.

"As Creator, God is distinct from his creation. He is not part of the creation." God is independent of the universe, but also intimately involved with it. He didn't choose to leave His creation to function on its own. As Psalm 46: 1 says, God is "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

All creation, us included, has been made to give glory to God. Certainly the creation we see around us testifies to God's superior power and wisdom.

"God created the universe to show his greatness, to demonstrate his excellence, and to delight in his work. Therefore, as we take spontaneous delight in God's creative activities...we are giving glory to God by imitating the delight he takes in his creation."

God took delight in his creation because, as Genesis 1:31 tells us, when God looked over "everything that he had made," he considered it "very good."

Because of sin, creation doesn't work always for good, but "we should... consider the material creation good."

"Therefore, we are to enjoy the good things God has created for us."

"...we should joyfully use the abundant earth God has given us and seek to develop it in a way that brings glory and honor to God's name."

The Case For A Creator

To those who read about science, Wayne Grudem's chapter about creation can seem confusing at the least. What about science which claims the earth is billions of years old? What about fossils found of human like people from millions of years ago? How about the claims of some science that life began by a random mixing of chemicals?

Lee Strobel also had these questions, so he set out to find answers. He traveled to meet with biologists, astronomers, and physicists. He asked them about how stars, galaxies, cells, and other wonders of the world came into being.

He found that many of them had no physical explanation for creation using known laws of the universe. Many of them thought these things came about because of "intelligent design".

Strobel has summarized his findings and conclusions in a book, *The Case For A Creator*. The book examines each part of creation—the universe, our location within our galaxy, our solar system and our special place in it.

He explains why our earth is so special and unique. He interviewed biologists about life and how it might begin.

Have questions? Read the book.

To make address changes, call Dennis Fay at 231-537-4683, or email dennisfay@centurylink.net or dennisfay@icloud.com. The newsletter is also on the church website.