

Another Word August 10, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

I hope you are having a good week, so far. We had a good leadership meeting last Sunday. Our Wi-Fi signal's power will be boosted so that it will reach the pavilion area. This will help with our live streaming services and allow outside groups that use our pavilion to access the internet and have zoom meetings. Also, we will be replacing the two sets of doors down by the offices and rest rooms. They have become unreliable and will be updated to match our main entrance doors.

There will be a celebration of life gathering for Bill Hastings at the pavilion this Saturday, August 14, beginning at 2pm.

The scriptures for this Sunday are: Psalm 111, and John 6: 51- 58. "You want me to eat what?" Our serving Elder is Mona Campbell.

May we be in prayer.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you this day for Your gift of life. And with this gift, is the promise of everlasting life offered through Your Son. We also thank You for the strength and abilities to serve You each day. As we read and study Your word, may we draw even closer to You through Jesus, whom we believe and follow. We pray for all those in great need; the homeless, the widowed, the orphaned, the persecuted. Guide us each day to reach out a helping hand, and give us courage to be a witness of Your beautiful love. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.

I don't know if you have noticed, but for the past 8 weekends, there has been a motorcycle riding school just across the street on the parking lot of the high school. I have enjoyed watching the "newbies" as they learn how to start, stop, turn, and maneuver without putting their feet down, as well as how not

to “drop” the bike, which is a serious no no. There are a lot of skill sets you need to know and try to master before you “head out on the highway.”

Some of you know that I began riding when I was 15. A dear friend and I went to the old YMCA cinder track, and rode my first motorcycle round and round until we mastered the feel of what we could do, as well as what we were not capable of doing, even before we got our licenses to be on the city streets. We practiced countless hours until we became decent riders. The classes across the street were not available to anyone until the 90’s. But when they started, we both took the class to sharpen our riding skills.

It’s funny, but yesterday morning the call of the road beckoned me, so I suited up, and just went out for a nice long ride. One of the things that I always marvel at is how you become “one” with your machine; the response of the throttle, the touching of the brake, knowing when to shift, and how to lean and accelerate out of a curve. As I rode on, I began thinking how these experiences could translate to my letter.

For those who were unable to be with us Sunday (and for those who were), there is a tremendous lesson in John 6, verses 44 and 45 that I think goes right along with learning to ride a motorcycle. In verse 44, Jesus says, “No one comes to me unless the Father draws him.” Now, don’t mistake what I am about to say. Draw means to *drag you*, or to *call to you*. There are at least 8, and as high as 12 men and women each weekend, drawn to classes to learn to ride. Now not everyone feels the call to ride, but God in His beauty and wisdom, draws each and every one of us on the face of the earth. Sadly, not everyone responds, but those that do, respond like the future riders. They show up, eager to be taught.

Verse 45 goes on to say, “They (Those that are drawn) will be taught by God. And everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him comes to me.” The riders will learn all of the basics from a trained instructor that will help them to stay safe out on the road. Jesus’ words are very similar. If I may be

so bold to paraphrase; if you listen to God, and His word, you will set out on the journey to believe and to follow Me. (That is, Jesus) Something we all need to understand and heed.

My friend and I got the call. We were drawn to riding. We practiced until we were proficient. But we also rode a lot, learning through our experiences to become more and more proficient. And when the opportunity arose, we even took further instruction. These steps helped us in our quest to become “one” with our machine. Our friends across the street are on that same journey, which is just like the journey that we are all on with Jesus.

God beckons each of us. I pray you sense and feel His call. If you do, then you need to immerse yourself in His word. Not just once or twice, but daily. Because the more you read, the more you learn. The more you learn, the more you can put into practice. And the more you put into practice, the more you become “one” with Jesus, the ultimate ride of your life.

In His Peace,

*Rich*