



## From the Desk of Pastor Meyer

My oldest daughter is fond of the saying, “You’re not wrong...but you’re not exactly right, either.”

In last month’s Messenger, I shared my opinion about teaching the Bible in the public schools, taking the position against it. I had a whole slough of reasons which can be summed up: “just because they say they ‘teach the Bible’ doesn’t mean they teach the Bible.” I took a similar position against prayer in public school, as well.

A few weeks later, I asked if anyone in my Sunday school class had read the article and if there was any feedback about it. One person said they hadn’t thought about it, but my arguments seemed sound and they now agreed. A few heads nodded. Another person waited a few beats and then said they disagreed with me. I forget the exact words, but it was to the effect that regardless who teaches it, it is still God’s Word. The power isn’t in the teacher but in the Word and the Spirit who works in and with that Word. Then, with a chuckle, they added, “Wouldn’t it be something if a person came to know Christ by an agnostic teaching the Bible? It would be a real kick in the devil’s pants!” No doubt.

That got me thinking, rethinking, and reevaluating what I wrote last month. Maybe I was wrong. The Lord works in His Word where and when He desires. Isaiah 55: 10-11, for example, says:

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Further, writing to the Corinthians, Paul said that he planted, Apollos watered, but it was God who provided the growth (1 Cor. 3:6). Jesus told the parable of the sower who scattered seeds recklessly (Matthew 13). It’s not the sower’s job to determine the precise location where the seeds go, but to get the seed out, trusting the Gospel-seed has the power to do what God wants it to do.

As to the Ten Commandments, even there I have to rethink my position. Most scholars will say that the Ten Commandments are at the base of most of man’s laws. Christian ethics are grounded in the Law and guided by the Gospel. So, while the Commandments might not point to Jesus, they do still express God’s Law which is always good and wise.

So, maybe I was wrong. If it were teaching doctrine, then absolutely – it does not belong in the classroom. But, perhaps simply teaching the Bible isn’t as bad as my knee-jerk reaction might have needed to jerk. Time to do some more digging, investigating, and searching. I discovered that the question had been raised earlier in the summer on a pastor’s Facebook group that I

follow. There were about 40 replies to the original question, “What do you think about it?” While the majority were more-or-less in line with what I had written last month, perhaps with different points of argument, there were probably a third with a different opinion.

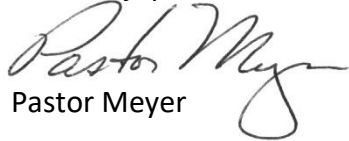
So, what do you think about teaching the Bible or prayer in public school? I would love to hear it – even if you think I was wrong!

September brings with it Labor Day. People call it the “official” end of summer, but for those who have kids and grandkids in school, or who work in the schools, summer ended a few weeks ago. Labor Day is unique among American holidays: it simply celebrates the American worker. Although it is a completely secular holiday, it is in line with the Church’s doctrine of vocation which says that regardless of what it is you do, God is at work in and through you to those around you. Whether you have the day off or must work, whether you rest at home or squeeze in a weekend getaway, I encourage you to remember that in your vocation that God has given you, regardless how ordinary or mundane, exciting or adventurous the job might be, God is “hiding” in you. Your vocations bring Him – literally – down to earth, enabling others to see how close He really is to them. In your vocation, God transfigures our every-day lives to His service.

There are plenty of things happening at Zion. Little Disciples will meet on September 8 right after church. Junior confirmation starts that evening at 4:30. I’m wanting to do a new member class. If you are interested in becoming a member of Zion, or just want to learn more about the congregation, or would like to do it for personal review, let me know. The date and time are “to be determined,” based on our collective schedules. September has a full calendar. Make sure you read carefully to see what’s all going on. Also, please continue keeping members and friends of Zion in your prayers – the list is lengthy, and prayer is always a present need. Finally, look around and see who isn’t in worship or who hasn’t been in worship for some time. Pick up your phone and send a text or, better yet, give them a call. Tell them you miss them, that you’re praying for them, and hope to see them next week.

As always, feel free to drop a note, text, or call if I can be of service to you.

Peace & joy,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Meyer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name "Pastor Meyer".

Pastor Meyer