



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 46

NOVEMBER 2, 2016

NUMBER 40

WE GOOD?

by Steve Daniels

Have you asked anyone that question lately? This contracted two-word question (or one like it) is used to gauge the status of relationships on many levels. Essentially it asks “Is there still something between us?” Offense, relationship blocker, opposing views, conflict. It is a question of reconciliation.

It is heard on basketball courts after a collision or rough play. WE GOOD? It is used in the workplace after an intense meeting. WE GOOD? It is used between friends after political discussions or strangers who accidentally and literally bump into each other in a crowded room. WE GOOD? Parents and their children use it throughout the pre-teen years! WE GOOD? It is used between husbands and wives after an argument...or a day of arguing...or days. WE GOOD?

If you have asked the question, you know that by asking it you have risked at some level. You have opened yourself up to more hurt because asking it is stating that you care, that you are looking for affirmation of your relationship, that you want peace and restoration.

The problem with earthly relationships is they involve broken people. We have all fallen short of the glory of God. One result of the fall is that there will be much brokenness, we all have baggage. And because of this brokenness we all have insecurity and pain. Yet we are made for relationship, so on earth we must endure pain for intimacy. We must risk in order to give and receive love.

There is no doubt that following Jesus’ teaching will result in healthier, more loving relationships. But, ultimately, He came to answer the question WE GOOD? once and for all. Jesus answered the question WE GOOD? over 2000 years ago on a cross with an exclamation point and a resounding “Yes! Yes we are!” Because of the cross, Jesus paid for our relationship with His life and essentially surrendered the relationship to us. He has done all He can do to assure us that WE ARE GOOD!

He could not say that He loves us and wants us any stronger than He did on the cross. There is nothing more He can do that will further guarantee His love and faithfulness to us. There are no more words that can be spoken from Him that will say more than the weight of His body being held on that cross by three nails that He loves us. It was a proactive, emphatic, irreversible statement of His commitment to us. It should crush any insecurity or anxiety that you have in Him because He was not broken and He chose brokenness for you to save you for Him. There is nothing, no outside force that can separate you from his love, a promise written in blood. He has removed anything that could keep you from Him. So we take the emblems of sacrificial love, the body of love given for us and the blood of covenantal love spilled for us, and

It’s Monday, and the Cubs are still alive. Does it surprise you that I’m even aware of that? If you know me at all, you know the only sports I care about are the ones my grandkids are playing. But here I am writing about the Cubs and the World Series. Why? Because something on the sports page of Sunday’s *Journal-Register* caught my attention as I was turning to a section I actually read. The heading was “What happens to ‘lovable losers?’”, and the subheading read “If Chicago wins it all, do Cub’s fans lose something?”

The writer expanded on the opening question by writing, “If the Chicago Cubs win the World Series for the first time since 1908 what happens to fans who have waited for next year their entire lives, the ones sporting T-shirts that read, ‘Just win before I die?’ What happens when someday arrives?” The question that popped into my mind was, “What happens to hope when what you hoped for comes?”

In Romans 8:24-25 we read, “For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”

We generally think of losing hope as something bad, something that happens when we give up thinking that which we long for will ever happen. And some might lose hope while waiting. But I’m longing for the day when I’ll lose hope because hope will no longer be needed.

In the love chapter Paul writes, “But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” Why is love greater than faith and hope? I think the answer is that someday there will be no need for faith or hope. Our faith will be confirmed, and our hope will be fulfilled.

To keep Cubs’ fans from losing hope I guess it would be good thing if they lose the series. They can then go on hoping. And if Christ doesn’t come back tomorrow, we can just keep on hoping. But if He does, all hope will be gone. And that will be a good thing, because all that we hope for will have arrived!

God Bless, Rick

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Sunday Worship Service
Bible School

9:15 AM
10:45 AM

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chatham, IL
Permit No. 9

STATISTICS

Worship NC
Offering \$4,234.20

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-11/6/16

Greeters Beryl & Jamella Reese
Visitors' Stand Bonnie Ruebush
Communion Meditation Chris Luzio
Doug Marlow
Ushers Will Bartels
Otto Huber
Rich Mann
Kirk Polley
Ken Barry
Bill Carroll

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers.....Julie & Abbie Divjak
Infants.....Rhonda Luzio
Reagan Formea

Sunday School

Toddlers.....Julie Divjak
Infants.....Janet Polley

Let Us Pray For...

--Steve Daniels' mom in nursing home to recover before surgery, and family at the passing of an uncle.

--Wendy (Bales) Lacey with nodules on her lung and Renee Bales with skin cancer, both scheduled for surgery.

--Kim Diero's mom with blood clot in a bypass.

--Lee and Schar's neighbor with breast cancer.

--Family of Dave Reynolds, a friend of Beryl's, at his passing.

--Alex Fahnders back in Springfield as he continues to recover.

--The Trimberger family as they travel to Florida for Ryan and Carolee's wedding!



SATURDAY, NOV. 19TH 10:00-1:00



NOVEMBER SERVERS

11/13: Doug Marlow, Chris Luzio
11/20 & 11/27: Jonathan Sperry, Chris Luzio

NOVEMBER PROJECTIONIST

Chris Luzio

NOVEMBER GREETERS

11/13 Debbie Sanner
11/20 Judy Marlow
11/27 Will & Sara Bartels

NOVEMBER VISITORS' STAND

11/13 Bob & Dixie Williamson
11/20 Beryl & Jamella Reese
11/27 Bonnie Ruebush

NOVEMBER NURSERY

Worship - 11/13

Toddlers: Kristin Polley
Emily Hughes
Infants: Janice McLaughlin
Grace Hunley
Sunday School

Infants: Dixie Williamson

Worship - 11/20

Toddlers: Erica Blakley
Jake Divjak
Infants: June Carroll
Courtney Bales
Sunday School

Infants: Rhonda Luzio

Worship - 11/27

Toddlers: Nikki & Anna Hunley
Infants: Dixie Williamson
Kate Sperry
Sunday School

Infants: Bonnie Ruebush

All-Church Thanksgiving

Pot-Luck Dinner

Sunday, November 20

Program at 5:30

Dinner at 6:00



Jr. / Sr. High Students

Our annual Fall service project is set! On Saturday, November 12th, we will be raking leaves all afternoon for some members in our congregation. If we have time, we can pick a house with a bunch of leaves in their yard to show a random act of kindness towards a neighbor. Clear your schedule! This is always a fun afternoon!

Let's meet here at church at 1pm. Please bring a rake, bundle up if it is cold, and some money for dinner after we work up an appetite. For your hard work, I'll let you choose where we go! Looking forward to a great afternoon of service with you!

Dearest Church Family,

I cannot thank you enough for the outpouring of love and support you have shown my family over the last several months. I am especially grateful for the recent prayers, cards, and kind words expressed at the passing of my dad. Our family is so very blessed to be a part of this church. Thank you.

Rhonda Luzio

Thank you very much for the pretty roses sent for Jim's funeral. We appreciated the people who came from church to attend the visitation. Rhonda and Chris really like being a part of the Chatham church.

The family of Jim Small

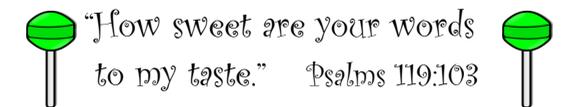


Once kids move into the Jr. High class in August, they immediately start asking when the paintball outing will occur. This has been such a fun group outing in the past and I am sure it will be again this year.

We originally set the date to be Saturday, November 19th, however, let's look at another option since I overlooked the blood drive here at CCC on the 19th. I know Saturday, November 26th is right after Thanksgiving, but if most of us are going to be around, that is another date to consider.

For those who want to go, please see me on Sunday. We'll discuss these two options and pick the best date. If we go on the 19th and miss the blood drive, so be it. But it would be nice to give back through our donation of blood if possible.

I do know, regardless of the date, the cost will be \$25 per participant. This adventure is open to anyone Jr. High School and above. The larger the group, the better!! We'll get a sign up sheet going on Sunday.



Kids: Let's focus on meaning this week. Some of your Sunday School teachers assigned new verses for November, others are keeping the October verse for a little while longer. Regardless, tell me the most important part of your lesson and what your verse means to get a cool Halloween Ring Pop.

Jr High and above: We are finishing our lessons on Daniel this week! Memorize Daniel 9:9-10 and we'll discuss the importance of confessing our sins before the Lord.