

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church – Oconomowoc

Lent 2 – February 25, 2018

“Reconnecting – Part 2: Confessing Christ in an Impersonal World”

Romans 10:9-10

Rev. John Kelling, Emeritus

*Use this insert for home study of the text for today,
and for personal assessment of your faith*

As you reflect on the following questions I ask you, be honest with yourself...

- 1) *Do you find your cell phone in your hand more often than you would like?*
- 2) *Do you check your cell phone for calls even when someone else's cell phone rings?*
- 3) *Do you find texting easier than talking on your cell phone?*
- 4) *Do you spend more time talking on your cell phone during the day than talking to God without it?*

(If you don't own a cell phone, be thankful.

You have once less distraction from God.)

Think of how technology has changed our world. We teach in history how the Industrial Revolution of the 17th & 18th centuries changed the face of manufacturing and trade in our world. It made many nations “super powers” and world-wide leaders. Little did we know that a small 20 inch metal sphere called “Sputnik” back in 1957 would lead us into the cyber lives we have today. Mankind has not stopped creating and refining new ways to communicate, build, and use new gadgets to talk with one another – earthly or celestial. It's hard to believe, but the I-Phone is only 10 years old! Add to that advances in medicine, science, media, food, and even the “comforts of home”. We'd be lost without the icemakers, microwaves, and remote controls!

Though God certainly has given man the ability to create and communicate in remarkable ways, that gift has also allowed man to forget our basic human purpose. The focus on the Creator is lost in that created. We have lost our personal relationship with God in the impersonal world of our gadgets and advanced technology. Mankind craves to create better and faster ways of saving time in our lives, all the while taking our sight off what is truly important – God!

In the text, the Apostle Paul puts human life back in perspective. *“...if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe with your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”* (Romans 10:9-10)

- Does the text say anything about alternate forms of communication?
- How much verbal & non-verbal communication do we express through our hearts and voices?

Though sin and evil can easily corrupt the heart, if the heart is truly and completely focused on the Creator, it can only believe as Paul says.

- Think of the power God has over a “broken and contrite heart?”
(justification is God’s gift of personal purification)

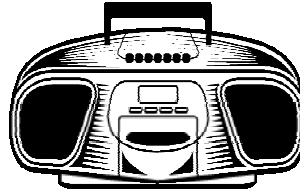
I have to admit, my life is pretty much managed (not controlled) by my cell phone – calendar, contacts, connection to family and friends, news and alerts. I have most everything at my fingertips. And yet, God has yet to call me. And I don’t have a number for God – He’s not on my speed dial. That’s not how God wants to talk to us. He doesn’t literally want us “to call Me in the day of trouble...” Yet we know as His family, how to get in touch with Him – through heart and voice.

- Do you spend enough time each day talking with God?
- Do you know where to find Him?
- Do you do the listening or the talking?

Technology has made our lives far more impersonal with others than our parents were. The millennial generation prefers to text us than talk to us. It’s easier to chat without having to look the other person in the face. How unemotional and impersonal. During Lent, all we have to do is reflect on the journey Christ took to the cross, and hear those words, “given and shed for you” and the impersonal becomes VERY personal to us. Christ looks into our faces and brings peace. And it’s a lasting and saving peace the impersonal world will never find a way to text or tweet.

-In the Cross of Christ I Glory -

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Our radio broadcast over WTKM is a very important outreach for our congregation. Below are the dates open for the year **2018**. Please prayerfully consider sponsoring one of these Sundays. The cost is **\$95.00**. We praise God for this valuable community outreach.

Mar. 11	Aug. 19	Dec. 2
Mar. 18	Sept. 9	Dec. 9
Apr. 29	Oct. 14	Dec. 16
July 15	Oct. 21	Dec. 23
July 29	Nov. 18	
Aug. 5	Nov. 22	

If you are interested in sponsoring a Broadcast please fill out the bottom portion of this page and hand it into the church office. Thank you. Any questions please call Heather in the church office 567-5001.

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DATE- 1ST CHOICE _____ 2ND CHOICE _____

Please dedicate to (i.e. in memory of, wedding anniversary, to the Glory of God, in honor of...etc.)

**April
6
2018**



YOUTH LOCK IN

**@ St. Paul's
Oconomowoc**

Admission

**5th & 7th - A snack or
dessert item to share
6th & 8th - A beverage to
share**

**5th & 6th
Game Night
5 pm - 10 pm**



**7th & 8th
Lock-In
5 pm - 7 am
Breakfast
@ 6:30 am**

**Sign up at St. Paul's Lobby or Narthex
or email nicole@splco.org**