

The Church of Our Saviour

2405 Clearview Dr.
Glenshaw, PA.
15116



For More Information:

Office: 412-486-5171 • Fax: 412-487-4520 • Email: coosglenshaw@juno.com • website:www.churchworthfinding.org

From the Rector (Continued)

between human beings is held in higher esteem than the marriage bond between a man and a woman, even to the extent of representing the relationship between Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:32). Countless Christian leaders consider this the bulwark issue of civilized society and go so far as to say that if we as a nation lose the distinctive sacredness of marriage as God has ordained it in His word we jeopardize the very existence of our social order.

The third issue is that of the proper use of money. Jesus spoke more about money than any other topic and the bottom line was simple: To paraphrase, where your treasure is, your heart will be also so make sure the Lord is your God and money is not. When money becomes a god, those who have it become greedy, those who don't become envious, and the hostility between the two increases until the system collapses, a la French Revolution. Throughout the Bible we see a God who rewards hard work, expects charity, and promises provision for those who trust Him.

A system that either promotes greed and gluttony or rewards sloth and envy has never stood the test of time or received God's graces for long. "You cannot serve both God and money." (Matthew 6:24).

How we respond to these timeless messages is the tough part. We live in a culture that is increasingly hostile to God's truth and the people who desire to live it. At the same time many people are worried about the future and looking for answers. We need to repent of our own compromise of God's message and then pray for courage and strength to stand like a lighthouse in these stormy times. The eternal reward far outweighs the temporary cost.

May God continue to bless us,

Joseph

The Holy Alphabet

(With thanks to Joanne Shoyer for this and "Some Christian Humor," located in the next column)

Although things are not perfect

Because of trial or pain

Continue in thanksgiving

Do not begin to blame.

Even when the times are hard

Fierce winds are bound to blow

God is forever able

Hold on to what you know.

Imagine life without His love

Joy would cease to be.

Keep thanking Him for all the things

Love imparts to thee.

Move out of "Camp Complaining"

No weapon that is known

On earth can yield the power

Praise can do alone.

Quit looking at the future

Redeem the time at hand

Start every day with worship

To "thank" is a command.

Until we see Him coming

Victorious in the sky

We'll run the race with gratitude

e Xalting God most high.

Yes, there'll be good times bad times, but...

Zion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!



Some Christian Humor

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, its morning."

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses." When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

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