

What is Your Narrative?

Have you noticed that there is a new word we are hearing a lot of lately, well, it's an old word with a new application. It is the word, narrative. Webster's dictionary defines it as:

Function: *noun*

1 : something (as a story) that is told or written.

2 : the art or practice of telling stories.

It seems, that today, the word has become synonymous with another word, truth. In the sense that we see "narrative" used when someone is describing a person's beliefs, actions or statements. A sentence will begin with, "So and So's statement is understandable when we consider his narrative. Or, "She can't really be held accountable for her actions because her narrative...

When we listen closely, we discern the slight whisper of another old word that has gone out of style, relativism. In other words, we are seeing another word being employed to help people seek to justify their actions by making truth subject to their experiences, feelings or desires, which comprise their narrative.

Are you saying to yourself, "Wow, Terry really isn't very good at this Pastoral Encouragement stuff. I think I'll open Facebook." Hang in there.

Believe me when I say I'm struggling with this message as well. This is a tough Friday for this assignment. On top of COVID, it's also Communion Sunday and the election is just around the corner.

Here is what I want to get at, we have all been affected by COVID, Politics and the regular onslaught of Satan's slings and arrows. Here is the question, what does our personal narrative say about our relationship with God? It matters as we prepare for communion. Think back on the past month. Are you ready to come into the presence of our Holy God this Sunday?

Isaiah confronted God's people when he proclaimed that their sacrifice of praise was a stench in God's nostrils. God turned away His face when they raised their bloodstained hands to Him and He rejected them.

Paul warns the Corinthians that many have taken communion wrongly and have died because of it.

Brothers and Sisters have we created a narrative for ourselves that gives us a false sense of acceptance in the presence of our God? Do we feel safe standing before him, confident in our assessment of ourselves? Matthew warns us that many will come before Jesus on that day and say Lord, Lord didn't we do.....say.....act..... and Jesus will say, "depart from me. I never knew you."

This is the time for us to reflect on our narrative. Not the one that we've concocted for ourselves, but the one that God sees.

Bereans, Isaiah offered the people reconciliation with God. If they would turn and repent from their wicked ways, God would accept their sacrifice and praise and heal their land. Jesus offers that same promise today. To unbelievers, turn from your sin, place your trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior. To believers, repent and seek Jesus' face out of gratitude for what He has done for each and every one of us.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Trust in His narrative.

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