

Sunday, June 10, 2018 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: My Wish for You

Read II Corinthians 13:11-14



Paul finishing a letter to the church of Corinth has some final words for them. As we transition where I will be leaving here this month and Tizzy will come as your new pastor this passage contains what I wish and pray for you.



The first is to rejoice. Joy is important in life. What good is life without joy. We are not supposed to be joyless. We should have joy and show it. This is different from happiness. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit. We have joy when we allow the Holy Spirit to fully work in us. It is a choice for us. We can decide not to allow the Spirit to work in us, or we can yield to the Spirit. We also need to want to have joy. It amazes me that there are people who seem to enjoy not having joy. My prayer for you is that you will have joy.



Next Paul says to strive for full restitution. This is what John Wesley called going on to perfection. We are to set our standard all the way to the top. We strive for perfection and nothing less. Bishop Harmon, who was one of my professors, said there is no reason to strive for imperfection, we are already there. In our lives we should not try to be just good enough. We should go for the best. We are to be like Jesus. We should not settle for anything less.



We are to encourage one another. We are to help each other. We have to be careful not to become so busy in life that we do not care about others. Encouragement helps. When we feel down or stressed it is nice to have someone come along and encourage us. Look for the good in each other and when we find it comment on it. Encouragement helps us to get along in life. Use every opportunity to encourage one another.



We are to be of one mind. The church at Corinth was known for its factions. People did not get along with each other. The important thing is to strive to have the mind of Christ. If we are all trying to be like Christ then we will be united. That does not mean we always agree, but even when we disagree we can be united in Christ.



Finally we are told to live in peace. Peace is more than just not arguing with other people. Peace means wholeness. It is being whole in our spirit and with others. First it means knowing Jesus and having a living relationship with Him. Wholeness begins when we have Jesus in our life. This is not a one and done deal, but we need to maintain the relationship with Him. We need to spend time with Him. We know that He loves us and wants the best for us, so we return that love. When Jesus is the center of our lives we are at peace.



The promise we have is that the God of love and peace will be with us. We do not need to worry about that. Know that God is with you always. He will give to you His love and His peace.