



The Glendale New Church
845 Congress Ave. Glendale, OH 45246 513-772-1478

The Precursor

July 2020

Our Mission:

The Glendale New Church connects heaven to earth by worshiping the Lord God Jesus Christ; discovering eternal truths in His Word; promoting spiritual awareness; and fostering community

Announcements

A new online small group, using the workbook "Love Over Ego," is starting Monday, July 12. Go to www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com to register. It costs \$35, which includes the workbook.

We are currently not planning to hold worship services at our Church for July and August due to the pandemic. Please feel free to contact Pastor Clark for details on New Church services available online.

FROM THE WORD

Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. "Get away from me, Satan!" he said. "You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Jesus went on to say, "I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Kingdom of God arrive in great power!" Mark 8: 31-9:1

"And they loved not their soul, even unto death," (Revelation 12:11) are faithful people who have prevailed in temptations for the sake of these truths [concerning the divinity of Jesus], and who have regarded the life of the world as of no account in comparison with the life of heaven. Those who are in the combats of temptation regard the life of the world as of no account in comparison with the life of heaven, and consequently regard the death of their body as of no account in comparison with the life of the soul, as is evident from those who suffered martyrdom. The reason is, that they know that life in the world, which is only for some years, is as nothing compared with the life in heaven, which is eternal life; yea, there is no ratio between the time of one's life in

the world and the life in heaven that will continue to eternity. These and many other thoughts flow in from heaven with those who prevail in spiritual temptations, therefore ‘they love not their soul (meaning, as use here, their life in the world), even unto death.’” *Apocalypse Explained* §750.

FROM THE PASTOR

I resist bad news. I am “realistic” – events could happen in any number of ways. The worst is only one of many, and I purposely do not choose the worst possible outcome to lead my list of possibilities. In my youth, maybe the same age as Peter, I would get vocal about this way of managing my fear. I would downplay a negative assessment in order to remove its weight. Now, in my elderhood, I no longer dismiss a person’s negative view. I can manage my fear. I align with them in their worry, acknowledging its reality, knowing that the terror will pass as I walk along with them. And then we can have a conversation about positive steps to take. In this story from the Gospel of Mark, Peter was not there yet. He was immaturely eager for what he judged was the best outcome, but managed by his fear.

I see Jesus here putting a negative possible outcome – his death – at the top of the list of possible future events. Jesus knew, and we now know, that it was in fact the certain, necessary outcome. It seems to me that Jesus is voicing his human fear: he knew he had to die, and wanted assurance that everyone would continue with him to the end, strengthening his commitment. Jesus confesses at other times that his merely human part was afraid. Peter, not knowing the actual divine plan for the redemption and salvation of the entire human race, heard only Jesus’ ordinary, normal human fear. And, being a young idealist, he reacted. At least he took Jesus aside to challenge and encourage him! And then, it seems to me, that Jesus remembered his divine nature and saw a teaching moment. He pushed Peter aside and proclaimed the deeper reality: God’s truth is in action for the salvation of all.

The truth about our safe connection with God that Jesus models in this story is about managing our fear of the loss of the long-held negative beliefs and desires that hold us back from authentic, spiritual life. Here is an illustration: I have never experienced suffocation, but I am sure it is terrifying. God designed my brain to react to the lack of air with

mighty efforts to survive. At that moment my mind experiences this as terror. My body is so averse to death that I am compelled to do all I can to get air, and my mind experiences only fear. When Jesus tells his followers that they have to die to follow him, it must have been that terrifying. [And note: “soul” can be used to me either a person’s spiritual life or their earthly life, depending on context].

Here is the point: somehow they continued to listen! There was an antidote to fear at work in them: they had *experienced* being healed, even brought back to life. They had *experienced* being loved, respected, encouraged by this amazing man. They felt a secure attachment to him, and so felt safe to stay listening. They had the capacity to tolerate their discomfort, and they then heard his message of life, and it was made powerful by the contrast to their initial fear. Jesus was promising real life, “soul life,” what we now know is spiritual life. And they were able to manage their fear and believe him.

Jesus is showing us how we can manage our fear of spiritual death – the loss of something we love, which we now see to be a fear or a hatred – and stay open and receptive to the blessing of a new life.

We learn to tolerate this discomfort, little by little, every time we put aside the voice of the ego, or our materialism, or our wounded self, and listen for the Lord’s loving voice. It is always there, especially since Jesus died and glorified himself to be the divine source of healing love for us all. It is our task to quiet the mind and listen. Our task is to practice letting go of our world view, and look for God’s. The challenge is to stop avoiding the experience of the fear of loss by accepting the message that Jesus gives, that our life is spiritual, eternal, and loving. The glory of this new, spiritual, loving life, will survive the death of my self-centered, myopic, merely natural, world view. I am able to breathe again, and it is a fresh air!

We can experience not dying every time we cultivate a mature, secure attachment with the Lord, whose love then overcomes all challenges from my fearful, worldly, self-centered self that would propose alternative endings that may feel happier to our natural self, but are spiritual death. Rather, the promise Jesus here makes is that love will be present, and connecting us to him, every time we stop our thoughts, and listen to his message in our hearts, where he lives.

Clark Echols, MDiv, PC

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1 7:30am - Yoga	2 5:45pm - Yoga	3	4 10am - Yoga
5	6	7 10am - Yoga 5:45pm - Yoga	8 7:30am - Yoga	9 5:45pm - Yoga	10	11 10am - Yoga
12	13	14 10am - Yoga 5:45pm - Yoga	15 7:30am - Yoga	16 5:45pm - Yoga	17	18 10am - Yoga 12pm - Youkilis Wedding
19	20	21 10am - Yoga 5:45pm - Yoga	22 7:30am - Yoga	23 5:45pm - Yoga	24	25 10am - Yoga
26	27	28 10am - Yoga 5:45pm - Yoga	29 7:30am - Yoga	30 5:45pm - Yoga	31	1

Glendale New Church

Aug 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 10am - Yoga
2 11am - NCoM Worship	3	4 10am - Yoga 5:45pm - Yoga	5 7:30am - Yoga	6 5:45pm - Yoga	7	8 10am - Yoga
9 11am - Worship with 12pm - Luncheon	10	11 10am - Yoga 5:45pm - Yoga	12 7:30am - Yoga	13 5:45pm - Yoga	14	15 10am - Yoga
16 11am - NCoM Worship	17	18 10am - Yoga 5:45pm - Yoga	19 7:30am - Yoga	20 5:45pm - Yoga	21	22 10am - Yoga
23 11am - NCoM Worship	24	25 10am - Yoga 5:45pm - Yoga	26 7:30am - Yoga	27 5:45pm - Yoga	28	29 10am - Yoga
30 11am - NCoM Worship	31	1	2	3	4	5

Schedule

July 2020

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
7/5	Work Party any time
7/12	Work Party any time
7/19	Work Party any time
7/26	Work Party any time

Aug 2020

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
8/2	Work Party any time
8/9	Work Party any time
8/16	Work Party any time
8/23	Work Party any time
8/30	Work Party any time

Keep calm and carry on!

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