

Jeremiah 1:4-10

“God Knows Us!”

January 31, 2016

Next week I baptize my third grandchild. Some of you know the story. My daughter-in-law, Connie, was baptized by me. Her father was my field worker at Seminary. My son, Ben, proposed to Connie at the baptismal fount that they both were baptized in. Now I am baptizing their first baby. It is a small world and I am thankful to God for allowing this all to come together.

When I was studying to be a pastor, my mother came to me with prayer requests. I told her that God listens to her as much as He listens to me. We are the priesthood of all believers. God is part of all of our lives and not just mine. We all have a special place in God’s heart. This is possible because our God is the all knowing and present everywhere God. All of us are the priesthood of all believers. All of us are equally loved by Him and He listens equally to each and every one of us. Therefore no one has any right to exalt themselves over another person. Instead God has called all to be humble servants of all.

The world is about money, power and position. The world is about achieving security and being at peace with one another. God is about being at peace with Him. God sacrificed His Son that we may find that peace with Him. God sacrificed His Son that we may enjoy His undeserved grace and mercy. God sacrificed His

Son that we may be known as the smiling ones who smile because heaven is our home. God sacrificed His Son so that we are walking hand and hand with Him. Life is not about holding the position of pastor or teacher. Life is about serving the Lord Jesus Christ in whatever position we hold in this world. I now have two granddaughters and one grandson. My prayer is that God will use them for His glory and that they will be content in whatever position they find themselves.

In our text God has called Jeremiah to be His prophet. God tells us that He knew Jeremiah even before he was born. God tells us that before Jeremiah was even conceived He called Jeremiah to be His prophet. My two sons, their wives and I are called by God to be His servants. The wives are called teachers in the Missouri Synod. I also believe that God has drawn together our wives to walk along side of us in this service. The blessing is that we live in His undeserved grace and mercy as we walk together in His service. After all we are imperfect people in need of the washing of Christ's Blood that we may share eternity together.

I don't know what kind of world my grandchildren will face. I don't know what trials I and my family will face. I do know that the love of our God will never leave us as long as we keep the faith. I do know that the love of our God will never leave you as together we walk the path leading to heaven. That path is filled with loving God above all things and loving our neighbor as our self. Like me, your path will be filled with the ups and downs of life. Like me when you keep the faith,

then your path will be filled with stories like my own. We are not special people blessed by God. We are servants struggling to keep the faith in the face of the pressure of the devil, the world and our sinful nature.

Our Epistle lesson is about the Body of Christ being one body but many parts. Each of those parts is as important as the other parts. The foot cannot say “I am the body.” Nor can the eye say “I am the body.” Nor can the pastor or teacher say “I am the body.” We together are the Body of Christ and each part is as important as the other parts of the body. We are putting together the puzzle in the fellowship hall. If one person does it all, then it is their puzzle. If puzzle pieces are not placed in the puzzle, then it will be incomplete because we did not work together. If someone refuses to help, then we live with that rejection, just as God lives with our failure to be part of the Body of Christ, His Church. Christ died because we are imperfect and His hope is that we will not reject His call to be part of the Body of Christ and achieve that goal laid out for us. Amen.