April 17
Greetings, DGCC Family.

As most of you know, I recently had foot surgery that, among other things, has required that I not bear weight on the repaired foot for six weeks. In turn, that means that I have had to curtail my normal schedule and routine in favor of, well, sitting around. Doing so has given me a lot of time to read, think, pray, and force myself to slow down. A lot. My wife Judy says that God is teaching me patience. I’m afraid that I am a reluctant, and poor, student.

In any case, if nothing else, it has caused me to think about something I have long believed and even said: God has no problem letting us wait. Because He is eternal and therefore is not bound by the constraints of time, His timeline and ours often seem to be out of alignment. Especially here in western society where we are so time-driven, waiting is sometimes just not something that, well, is in our schedule. So, for this week, let’s take a look at the benefits of waiting on the Lord, and how He would have us view time in the context of eternity. For that, we’ll go to the most logical of all places: The Beginning:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters” (Genesis 1:1-2).

God’s inspired Word starts with this: “In the beginning” and then God, who is pre-existent, engages in the creation of the of the universe. What amazes me here is that God, who has always existed and will always exist without end and without beginning, has to start somewhere if He is going to form a creation that has not always existed and will not always exist. So, He creates a beginning. “In the beginning.” With it, God introduces the concept of time. When He creates the sun and the moon and the earth, He creates them so that they orbit around each other not in a random fashion but in accordance with a precise and ordained timeframe. Pretty cool stuff.

So the next time you get impatient, (not that I know anything about that), or the next time you question God’s timing (not that I know anything about that either), or the next time you think God is making you wait too long for something (not that I…well, you know), I would suggest that you open your Bible and go back…to the Beginning.

IHS,
Pastor Lou
April 18

Grace and peace to you this day.

As I mentioned in yesterday’s devotional, foot surgery has forced me to literally sit back for six weeks and forego my normal routine and schedule. One of my strategies was to “take it one day at a time.” In other words, I tried not to say “Oh no, four weeks to go. How will I get through it?” Instead, I tried to say, “all you need to do is stay off your foot for today. Tomorrow will take care of itself.” For the most part, that “self-talk” worked. Except when it didn’t.

As I think about all of that, it occurs to me that for all of the promises of Scripture, there is something that is noticeably absent: the promise of tomorrow. Recognizing this, the writer of Lamentations said this: “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (3:22-23).

God renews us morning by morning, not week by week or month by month or year by tear.

His compassion is given morning by morning.

His love is apportioned morning by morning.

His love, His grace, His mercy descends on us day by day, morning by morning.

Even Jesus, when He taught us to pray, did not teach us to ask the Father for groceries for the week. Instead, He said this: “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11).

And so, while we hope for tomorrow, let’s not do it at the expense of today. My prayer for you is that you cherish the Lord’s mercies, as they are renewed, morning by morning.

IHS,

Pastor Lou
April 19
Greetings, DGCC Family.

You pray and you wait.
Maybe you’re not praying “hard enough.”
You ask your friends to pray. Maybe your pastor, and the church’s elders.
And you wait.
Maybe your anger builds, or your disappointment, or simply, your acceptance.
We’ve all been there, when it seems like God isn’t answering us, when we seem like
we’ve been praying, and waiting, forever.

The simple, but sometimes difficult, truth is that there are many times when God
requires us to wait, and we don’t know why. And sometimes, we are required to wait for
a healing or a recovery or a renewal that will only come when we are with Him in
eternity. At times like that, I am reminded of the words of the disciple Peter:

“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand
years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise,
as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to
perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:8-9).

Often, we are told to be patient with God and wait on His timing. But have you ever
thought that because it is His timing, it is He who is being patient with us?

So maybe today, as I look at the last few days of “keeping my foot up,” instead of
praying for patience for myself, I’ll say a prayer of thanks to the Almighty for being
patient with me.

IHS,
Pastor Lou
April 20

Greetings, DGCC Family.

“For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations: (Psalm 100:5).

I love this verse from the 100th Psalm for a number of reasons, chief among them that it speaks to the very nature of the Almighty. The first thing it says is that “The Lord is good.” The Hebrew word used here by the Psalmist for “good” indicates that the Lord is good for our benefit. His nature is good, holy, and righteous and He uses this goodness for our welfare and for our benefit.

The second thing we learn is that God is love, and that His love endures. It is not fleeting or fickle or like human love; it is not conditional. It endures, and it does so forever. That is only possible because God is eternal, and He Himself exists forever, without beginning or end.

Lastly, we learn that His goodness and love is a benefit to humankind throughout the generations. That means that the same God who created the world out of nothing, “in the beginning,” out of love, the same God who spoke to Abraham, the same God who sent His Son to die for us, is the same God throughout. His faithfulness remains. His grace remains. His love remains.

What a wonderful message, and what a wonderful assurance. God’s love, and God’s promises, are eternal. And His greatest promise is this: when we place our trust in His Son, our lives will also be eternal.

IHS,

Pastor Lou
April 21

Happy Friday, everyone!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y81ylo1_3o8

Here's your musical devotion for the week. Turn up the volume and enjoy!

IHS,

Pastor Lou