

God's "Magic Wand"

2 Timothy 3:16-17

For the life of me, I can't understand the obsession with the myth that God has a magic wand. To hear some people talk, you would think that God walks around touching people with this mythical wand every time they pray. I hate to disappoint these future disciples of the word, but God has no magic wand. Let us study the scripture and see if we can show that God doesn't have a magic wand.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV2011)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

All the writers of the Old and New Testament were men of God. Men who were in constant study, prayer, and preaching about God. In the Old Testament, God gave the word through Dreams, Visions, and sometimes the Holy Spirit would come upon the speaker. The Holy Spirit didn't live "in" the people in the Old Testament (John 14:17). In the New Testament, the scriptures were inspired directly by God through the Holy Spirit that lived in them.

These scriptures are first given for "teaching." By teaching the scriptures first, God wants us to learn how to avoid the second use, and that would be "rebuking." People who learn from the teaching of the word will become believers.

If a Believer has a good person to disciple them, they will learn how to study the bible as well as how to maintain a positive relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. Through this relationship, God will inspire us to learn His will for us.

Many people look for God to do things in their lives and they think they can just sit back and wait for God to do things, guess what, wake up and listen to what God has inspired us to say. God will inspire "you" to learn. The Holy Spirit will give "you" the gift for "you" to use in God's service. God will give "you" the knowledge to use that gift.

God doesn't have a magic wand; God has you. (Matthew 28:16-20).

The second part of that verse reads "Rebuking." This does not mean you can use the bible to rebuke your fellow Christians (Matt. 7:1-2) but is to be used to rebuke the words of charlatans. The word rebuke means to express sharp disapproval of someone. Since Matthew tells us not to judge, the disapproval would naturally be of you. This is God's way of telling us when we are straying from His inspiration. Still no magic wand.

The third and final thing takes two words, Correct and Train, it is not enough to tell someone they are wrong about something, it is your job also to train that person in God's word. Notice God is not training them, "you" are.

Those who think they can go to church on Sunday and maybe teach or attend a class are going to miss out on the Glorious things that will be enjoyed by those who study and allow God to inspire them



Seminole United Methodist Church

Newsletter



We are a community of dedicated disciples of Jesus Christ seeking to share the love of God here in Seminole Florida and around the world (*Matt. 28:18-20*). See our Web page for a map and directions to our church

Youth Sunday School at 9am

Sunday Morning

Worship Service 10 am

Fellowship at 11am

Rev. Avis Smith, Pastor

(727) 391-9781

WWW.SeminoleUMC.org

Facebook.com/SeminoleUMC/

Celebrating 128 Years

Quotable Quote

Marriage is not a time of bliss

The couple must work hard together

Just to make the time a pleasure

From the Desk of Pastor Avis

Over the past few years, and even recently we have experienced mass shootings within the schools, religious institutions, and local businesses. According to law enforcement, this is what they would consider a "soft target." A person or thing which is relatively unprotected or vulnerable, especially to military or terrorist attack. These tragedies which unfortunately are transpiring all too often, may be attributed to mental health issues, feelings, of being isolated, animosity, chemical imbalance, discrimination and etc.

Given our vulnerability, and the number of entrances to Seminole UMC, and in consultation with the Church Council, it was unanimously decided to secure the doors at 10:10 a.m. We are not implying that people are not welcomed into the house of worship. We are simply living in times where the enemy desires to create havoc, confusion, pain and destruction within our society and the local church.

We are not living with a spirit of fear, but being vigilant, attentive and cognizant of our surroundings at all times.

At Seminole UMC all that we do, is done with a Spirit of Love. Still loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbor as our selves.

Shalom

Honor of the Rose

This month as I thought about the many ways which Seminole UMC is supported, I reflected upon the means of financial support, volunteering, and prayers. There is also the engagement in worship, bible study and grow groups. For that I am grateful.

When Paul wrote Romans 13:7 " Give to all persons therefore that which is due to them: tribute to whom tribute belongs, custom to whom custom is due, fear to whom fear belongs, honor to whom honor pertains" (NMB), this was from a financial perspective. But being supportive of a mission consists of much more than supporting financially. It includes other means.

Beginning this month and subsequent months I want to honor the faithful supporters of Seminole UMC

May Honorees are the Preschool Committee:

Linda Henderson, Doris Glass, Ted and Carol Snyder, Sarah Miller, and Bobbie Strickland.

Symbolically red roses represent love. Because of your unselfish support I present you with



Definition of Redemption

The action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt

synonyms:

retrieval · recovery

Ephesians 4:17-32 NIV

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

John 3:16 tells us just how God feels about the world. This verse also tells us how to be saved, "believe."

In the scripture from Ephesians listed above, Paul is telling us how to live a Christian live. What gives us that right? Both of the scriptures listed above are telling us the same thing, "Redemption." This was God's way of allowing us to be in His presence. You see God can't look at sin, God can't be in the same space as sin.

For God to allow us to be in His presence God had to tak away our

Grow Groups

Wednesday Evening: Grow Group meets at 6:30pm. in the multi-purpose room. The group leader is Pastor Avis. Group begins after Soup and Soul

Thursday Evening: Joan Moore is hosting a Grow group in the Multi-Purpose room at 7pm.

Thursday Evening: O.J. Brundage is hosting a Grow Group in His home at 7pm.

Friday Morning: At 10am Jane Mohr is hosting a Grow Group in the Multi-purpose room at the church.

SUMA Pre-School

SUMA provides a loving and stimulating program for children ages 2 -5 years of age.

Under the guidance of the director Jennie Lauracuate, the school also offers Prekindergarten Education (VPK). In Florida, your child is eligible to participate for free.

Our Homeless Ministry

On the second Saturday of each month, our Homeless Ministry gathers to help those who suffer in our community. Our goal is to help those who are down but not out.

Each time we gather we make PB&J Sandwiches to be distributed in St. Petersburg later that day. The items needed for this ministry include Peanut Butter, Jelly, Bread, Small Fruits (Apples, Oranges), bottled water, and brown paper bags (sandwich size pre-