



August 28, 2022

Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

“Turn Back”

*Turn back, O Man, forswear thy foolish ways.
Old now is earth, and none may count her days,
Yet thou, its child, whose head is crowned with flame
Still wilt not hear thine inner God proclaim,
"Turn back, O mortal, quit thy foolish ways."*

A Theme song for this week's Scripture: James 3:13-4:10



Many of us remember the old time hymn “Turn Back, O Man, Forswear Thy Foolish Ways.” That title sums up an important theme in the Letter of James: embrace heavenly wisdom, not worldly wisdom. Our grasping of worldly possessions and pursuit of worldly wisdom is at the heart of our dissatisfaction and unhappiness. James points us to “heavenly” wisdom which will bear fruit: “the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.” Turn back:

Christians have a word for this, Repentance. (This hymn will be our opening song this Sunday!)

A Big Challenge: “Don't Try to Eat the Whole Pizza in One Bite!”

We should keep this bit of contemporary wisdom in mind as we attempt to follow the path laid out in the Letter of James. Leading a life of wisdom can be daunting! We must be perceptive of James' message and look for meaningful and manageable goals to lead us down this path. For instance, James tells us about: careful speech, guiding our deeds and works by faith, developing patience during troubled times, frequent and focused prayer, shoring up our relationship with God and others; practicing charity, and so forth. In James we read about all these and more.

Our Last Look at James

After this Sunday and next, we will have completed our exploration of the wisdom found in the Letter of James. I hope each one of us will take away something personal from this. I had not read James in many years until a couple of months ago, and since then I have been drawn to these two passages: James 3:13-28 (Wisdom) and 4:13-17 (Who gives us tomorrow? ... the subject for next week). Feel free to pass along your thoughts of James!

Let us keep in our prayers: the soul of Donna (formerly of Saranac Lake); thanks for generous givers in our communities; thanks for the faithful members and “caretakers” of Raquette Lake Chapel; Bill facing upcoming surgery; a friend who has entered hospice care; a friend facing serious surgery; continued prayers for those suffering from extreme weather; those suffering from violence; all who are suffering from disease and hunger. Lord, hear our prayer!