



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

August 18, 2024

"Anxiety or Hope in the Gospel?"

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Anxiety takes many forms and is a false prophet and a thief. Yes, preachers can have anxiety especially when coming up with a Sunday sermon (or a Sunday Blast)! I have found that when I'm stuck, I should stop thinking about the problem and just let solutions offer themselves up. I wasn't especially anxious about this week's sermon or Sunday Blast, but I was visited by two intrusions in the last few days: one was a video clip of an exuberant preacher who declared it was time to call out false prophets by name. And what was the first false prophet's name? Anxiety. The second appearance on the topic of anxiety was a meditation from a traditional Stoic source: "You build up things in your head that amount to nothing. Just think of how much anxiety has stolen from you. And how much you missed because of it..." (Sounds like 2 Corinthians 4!) So having the topic of anxiety twice in as many days was a message to me to pay attention to what the Gospel says about anxiety: embrace the Gospel of Hope.

How do we embrace Hope in our daily lives?

The scriptural quote from 2 Corinthians urges us to believe that the Spirit is at work in us at all times, rebuilding broken hearts and helping us to change focus from the temporary to the eternal. We can't see the eternal, but we know it's there – God has promised us. How do we then live?

Trust in God's Sovereignty: Believe that God is in control and has a purpose for everything we experience transforms our perspective. This Hope allows us to see challenges as opportunities for growth and blessings in disguise.

Hold Firmly to Hope: Regularly remind ourselves of God's promises through Scripture, prayer, and fellowship with other believers. This renews and strengthens our Hope. As we immerse ourselves in God's Word and seek His presence, our Hope is continually reinforced.

Encourage One Another: As members of the body of Christ, we are called to encourage and build each other up. Sharing testimonies of God's faithfulness, praying for one another, and offering support in times of need are vital ways we can help each other hold on to Hope.

Hope is not a vague wish but a confident faith based on the character and promises of God. Amen.

Special Announcement: Raquette Lake Chapel's Annual Meeting will be held after service on August 25, 2024. All are invited!

Raquette Lake Chapel History will continue in the next Sunday Blast. (I know I said this last week too)

Prayer Box: pray for the soul of David and comfort for his grieving family; pray for healing and comfort for Margo and Bill, Justin and his family, Danielle, Debbie, John C, Joe, Holland, Steve, Gail, John H, Mia, Patti, Florence, and Dawn; pray for all those suffering from severe weather; pray for first responders; pray for an end to the divisiveness our country; pray for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Bangladesh, and Sudan. *Lord, hear our prayers!*