

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will counsel you and watch over you...



AM I GOING TO MAKE IT?

Have you ever wondered that?

Have you ever thought about how hard life is? How difficult the challenges that lay before you?

Have you ever thought about how to extract yourself from the unpleasant season you find yourself stuck in?

Have you ever wondered about checking out early?

Many today seem to have the misguided notion that the Word of God, the Bible, sets an unattainable standard for our lives and behavior . . . that it is chock full of perfect and holy people who never stumbled, never sinned, never lost hope, never were depressed.

Far from it! The reality is, the Bible is chock full of people, who like us, have struggled at many points in life. And had to summon the courage - and faith - to persevere beyond difficult situations and conditions - and move into God's good future for them!

Think about some of the stories . . .

- † Joseph, hated by his brothers, thrown down a well-hole, and sold into slavery.
- † Noah, left as the only father alive to begin a new world.
- † Moses, who was rejected by both his own people, and his adopted people, yet had to face both again.
- † Nehemiah, who had to build a wall around the Holy City over the objections of all his neighbors.
- † Hosea, whom God compelled to marry a prostitute as a public sign of His people's unfaithfulness to Him
- † The Apostle Paul, who was repeatedly bruised and embattled for his confession of Christ
- † Elijah, who grew depressed and feared for his life, when pursued by a woman named Jezebel
- † And many, many more!

This Sunday, we will be reminded that one of our values, that we want to pass on to those who follow after us, is the value of 'PERSEVERANCE.'

We almost always face a dark season in life - trials and tribulations - the foundering of a marriage - a critical illness - a job loss, abandonment by a special friend, trouble with children, economic woes, inability to advance your plans and dreams, perhaps the dream of having a child, or having a retirement, or having a comfortable and pain-free life.

It is at these times that we most need to connect with this biblical value - that we are to persevere. Never to give up - never to lose hope - to keep going.

The author of Hebrews reminds us that we are to '**run with perseverance the race marked out for us.**' Did you know you had a race marked out for you? Did you know that everyone's race is a little different? Did you know that someone can lead us in this race - and show us the way to win it?

Our time together this Sunday will begin with a brief story about a man who has turned the calamity of his life - born without any limbs - to advantage through faith in Christ. He has persevered - and is making a difference with his life.

You can too. No matter your circumstances. Learn how! See you Sunday?

SALEM FAMILY FESTIVAL!

We have a positive history at Salem of doing things to connect with our community . . . this is the weekend! Saturday afternoon and early evening, we are putting on a kind of party for children and their parents - the invitations have gone out by the thousands - and we expect a great crowd of people to come, meet us, and be blessed!

As we did last year, we will be sharing some Bible stories in fun and creative ways that kids like and that parents appreciate, and doling out some food and games and prizes and music, all for free.

You are the 'linchpin.' What is a 'linchpin', Pastor Art? Here you go:

linch·pin

'lin(t)SHpin/

noun

noun: **linchpin**; plural noun: **linchpins**; noun: **lynchpin**;
plural noun: **lynchpins**; noun: **lynch-pin**; plural noun:
lynch-pins

1. a person or thing vital to an enterprise or organization. "regular brushing is the linchpin of all good dental hygiene"
2. a pin passed through the end of an axle to keep a wheel in position.



In other words, we can't do this without you. Without YOU, the wheels come off this operation! So, even if you didn't sign up in advance, could you come out and help? We have lots of easy and fun helper-spots!

It runs from 4 to 7 PM this Saturday, May 20th. Pam Osbaugh is in charge - give her a call if you like, it's not too late.

By the way, finger food snacks for this big party would be very much appreciated as well; cookies, brownies, finger jello, rice krispies treats, things like that - bring them on Saturday to the Kitchen by 3 PM - thanks!

This is all part of what we do as followers of Christ: We share a positive witness. We make disciples of all nations - even the nation of Chambersburg! Here's our opportunity!



SATURDAY MORNING: WALK FOR ROYAL FAMILY KIDS

There is a walkathon at Norlo Park this Saturday morning, beginning at 8 AM, to raise funds for our camp. The 'Souls n' Strays' walk will benefit both abused and neglected children, and pets - via the Antieatam Humane society. If you enjoy walking, and would like to bless these organizations, you can register on site Saturday morning at Pavilion # 1. Bring family and friends who enjoy walking . . . and thanks for making a difference!

SUB MEN

This Sunday evening, the SUB men are meeting to continue to study and discuss 'Ten Men of the Bible', by Max Lucado.

SUB Men. This reminds me of a man I grew up with, he was one of my boy scout leaders, he was a sub man, and a Christian, and an IBM-er. (There were lots of IBM-ers where I grew up.) During WWII, Tom served in the belly of a whale, the USS Perch, a Balao class submarine launched in 1943. He sailed with an all-male crew through a number of tours of duty in the Pacific Theater, fighting towards Japan.

Submariners are a pretty tough breed; they have to work in very confined, hot, smelly, humid quarters, and don't have much luxury or privacy - at least, that's how it was during the Second World War. A little history lesson . . .

In a small space, the submariners — some 60 to 80 in all — had to store themselves, their gear, and provisions for 75 days. Each crewmember had only about one cubic foot of personal storage space aboard the sub. Each crewmember also had a bunk, scattered throughout the many compartments of the boat, including in the torpedo room. As many as 14 men bunked in that confined, hot space - along with 16 torpedoes!

Submarines would stay submerged during daylight hours, and only surface at night to avoid enemy detection. Once the submarine dove after running its diesel engines for hours, the boat would quickly heat up



before spreading throughout the sub. Combine that with the 80 men working and breathing and the air inside could quickly become foul. The men knew the air was getting bad when they had trouble lighting their cigarettes due to the lack of oxygen (oh the irony).

To make matters worse, there was little water available for bathing and on long patrols most men only showered about every ten days or so. Laundry was out of the question. Because of these conditions submarines had a unique odor – a combination of diesel fuel, sweat, cigarettes, hydraulic fluid, cooking, and sewage. They were strong men. Had to be.

Our SUB Men are pretty tough bunch too; state troopers, mechanics, engineers, farmers. To follow Christ fully as a guy, you've got to be tough. Being a 'real Christian' is NOT for sissies!

Anyway, we invite YOU to join us for study - with men - at 5 PM on Sunday. Meet us in the Salem gym for a good spiritual workout!

SALEM PRAYER CORNER . . . Please be in prayer for

- ✠ Hospital, or recovery
 - Lori Hogue, stent implant in brain
 - Daryl 'Slugg' Kissinger - knee surgery
 - DeWayne Hogue - heart surgery (Hershey)
 - Sharon Young (cancer related hospital stay)
 - ✠ Suffering from pain, discomfort, illness, treatment
 - Essie Knouse, hospice care (Providence)
 - Betty Sellers, hospice care (Shook)
 - Julianna Shubert, ongoing disorder
 - Bob Paxton - compression fracture spine
 - Doris Guyer, heart issues, CDIF, blood loss
 - Curt Poper - recovery from foot surgery
 - Brandon Kissinger, Chiari Malformation
 - Moyenne Telcius (Haitian), cancer
 - Ray Bricker, Parkinsons
- ✠ Travel Mercies
- Roy College's grandchild Elizabeth

LAST WORD: PERSEVERE

From "the Family Book of Christian Values": Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland, was hiding from his enemies in a cave. He was deeply discouraged, but as he sat there he noticed a spider trying to weave its web. Time after time it attempted to climb the silvery thread, only to fall back to where it had started. Fascinated, the king watched as the tiny creature refused to give up, and eventually succeeded in attaining its objective.

Assuming that he at least had the determination of a spider, Robert returned with renewed energy to his task. From a lowly spider, no less, he had learned . . . to persevere.

Jesus clearly expected and expects the same kind of perseverance from His followers - His disciples. He told them (and us) in no uncertain terms, ***"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart; I have overcome the world."***

Down through the centuries, Jesus followers have found this to be true. They've had trouble, but have had enough encouragement in Christ to "Keep on keeping on."

May we do the same . . . persevere! Blessings to all; Pastor Art

