

THE NEW PORT REPORT

July, 2010

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. (Psalm 145:3-6)

The pastor who preached during the first worship service of the PCA's General Assembly this year in Nashville reminded us of how a cow eats.



“Why in the world,” you might ask, “would he do that?” Well, because he wanted to encourage us to take up the lost art of meditation.

Meditation may conjure up images of sitting cross-legged and humming until you become oblivious to everything around you, but that's not the kind of meditation the Bible encourages. Meditation in the Bible is more like the way cows eat grass: they chew on it for a while, digest it, and then bring it up again to chew on it some more, until they really break it down and take in its nutrients. Rather than pushing everything out of our minds, biblical meditation encourages us to really soak in the greatness of our God, of his works, and of his word.

The preacher went on to remind us that if we're not meditating on God and his word, we're still meditating on something. Perhaps we're ruminating on our anxieties, difficulties and failures instead of God's word. Maybe those difficulties have led to a numbness that causes us to soak in hours of television or addictions of various kinds. Maybe we fill up our time with important things like work, family, friends, education, etc. to the point that we leave out any room in our spiritual stomachs to really mediate on God and his word.

The sad thing about all these substitute objects of meditation is that they leave us spiritually malnourished and incapable of declaring God's glory the way we long to – and the way he deserves. After all, what you take in is what you have available to give out. If you meditate on your anxieties instead of on the one who makes you more than a conqueror, then anxious words and discouraging talk will usually be the bulk of what comes back out of your mouth. If you continually invest in addictive behavior, then addictive behavior will enslave you. And if you fail to prioritize time with God and his word, then what you have available to give to your work, family, or friends will never rise above your own limitations.

God's word doesn't encourage us to deny the reality of difficulties, or neglect important relationships and responsibilities, or keep away from enjoyable hobbies and activities, but it reminds us that God and his word are above all of those things, and, therefore, should be pursued with greater – the greatest – priority in our lives. So, how much time do you devote to meditating on God and his wondrous works? Is it enough to cause the wonder of Christ to spill back out when you are with others, either within or outside of the church? Are you growing in wonder of God or are you losing your wonder? Does your praise reflect this?

If you're not satisfied with your answers, don't deny it or cover it up. Be honest with God; ask him to give you an insatiable desire for his glory and his word. Ask him to help you make meditating on him the priority. And then watch how his spiritual nourishment causes you to grow and shine!

Vacation Bible School 2010

VBS is almost here!

Please continue to pray for our VBS staff, and pray also that God will bring about lasting work in the lives of the children who attend.

We hope to see you

July 12 – 16!

(9:00 a.m. – noon)





LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Please join the
New Port ladies
in their monthly Bible Study on
Wednesday, July 21st, at 7:00 p.m.
in the fellowship hall.

We will be studying chapter 4 titled
"The Commission—Legacy of
Fruitfulness."

Jill Barrett and Linda Galbraith will provide
snacks for the evening. There are handouts
with each lesson, so please come and share
with us.

*Please make a note on your calendar that
there will NOT be a Bible Study in August.
See you on July 21st.*



July Youth Happenings

New Port Night at Skaterz in Union

Tuesday, July 6th, 7:00 p.m.

Free Admission

(You pay for skate rental)

Youth Work Day

Saturday, July 24th

We need recommendations of people
in the congregation we might help.

Youth Float

Sunday, Aug 1st, 5:00 p.m.

We'd like to participate in the
Town and Country Parade.

We need to use a truck and tailor
from someone in the church.

All activities are open to youth going
into 6th grade and above,
and to anyone interested in being a
part of the lives of our young people
over the summer.

A Little Humor

Three preachers sat and discussed the best position
for prayer while a telephone repairman worked
nearby.

"Kneeling is definitely best," claimed one.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results
standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most
effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face
down on the floor."

The repairman could contain
himself no longer. "Hey,
fellas," he interrupted, "the
best prayin' I ever did was
hagin' upside down from a
telephone pole."



JOIN US!

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Worship Notes

Thus says the LORD: “Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.” (Jeremiah 6:16)

As we move forward in our study of the prophecies of Jeremiah, we begin to see certain themes re-emphasized, particularly the pronouncement of judgment on those who have turned away from the Lord and his ways. We will not always go over those passages in detail, but since they provide context for all that Jeremiah is saying, I encourage you to study them throughout the week. The passages below in parentheses are the context for the specific passages we will mediate on in worship:

Scripture	Sermon Title	Date
Acts 17:16-34	<i>Worldview Matters</i> (Brian Parr)	July 4 th
Jer 6:10, 16 (6:1-30)	<i>Stand at the Crossroads</i>	July 11 th
Jer 7:1-14 (7:1-8:3)	<i>Deceptive Words or Living Faith</i> (Lord's Supper)	July 18 th
Jer 8:18-9:9 (8:4-9:22)	<i>God's Warrior: Wounded, Weeping, Warning</i>	July 25 th
Jer 9:23-26	<i>The Delight of the Lord and the Glory of Man</i>	Aug 1 st

Remember, each week's bulletin is posted on the church's website (www.newportpca.org) by Thursday or Friday.

Audio files of past sermons and the current monthly newsletter are also available there.