

Removing Boundaries

#530, Week of 11-4-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

Advanced technology enhances communication. We can crunch data and make calculations heretofore thought impossible. Men went to the moon with computers far less powerful than today's average desktop or laptop. Where will we go next? What will we do for an encore? Increased knowledge in medicine pushes back boundaries. Cures for disease become possible as well as replacement body parts. New technology enhances training tearing down boundaries in track, field, swimming, and a host of other athletic endeavors.

We exalt in these advances. We become enamoured with our success. We break down ancient boundaries that ought to remain. Advances in technology should not draw us away from these ancient moral and religious standards and boundaries.

Here is a significant one. We will ever remain creatures. We will never become the Creator. The supreme evil will always be joining with those who "worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever" (Romans 1:25).

God also sets a boundary between human beings and plants and animals. Adam named the animals (Genesis 2:19). Scientists continue this task. God gave the plants and animals for food (Genesis 2:9, Genesis 9:3). We continue to live off the land.

Caught between two worlds, we should not worship plants and animals. We must worship God. "Do not move the ancient boundary which your fathers have set" (Proverbs 22:28).

Just Being There

#531, Week of 11-11-2018

Dr. Dennis Prutow

Coming alongside and just being present with someone in the hospital or under some special pressure is often all that's needed. It's a sign of love. It's a token of care. We don't need to talk a lot. We may not know what to say. We may be afraid of foot-in-mouth disease. We can be present. We can listen. We clasp a hand. We willingly listen. These are powerful tools of comfort.

There is a divine application. God says, "I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people" (Leviticus 26:11-12).

God fulfills this promise in heaven. "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among

them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away” (Revelation 21:3-4).

This is not pie in the sky. Jesus Christ “dwelt among us” (John 1:14). He was and is “God with us” (Matthew 1:21). His invitation is clear, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

Gratitude

#532, Week of 11-18-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

Gratitude: the state of being grateful, thankfulness. We owe ultimate gratitude to God. We ought to show Him our thankfulness. Ultimately, our food comes from Him. “He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the labor of man, so that he may bring forth food from the earth” (Psalm 104:14). Water is precious. God delivers the snow and rain. “For to the snow He says, ‘Fall on the earth,’ and to the downpour and the rain, ‘Be strong’” (Job 37:6).

God forms nations and gives us the plots of land upon which we live. “He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation” (Acts 17:26). The God of the universe puts kings on their thrones. He gives wisdom to teachers and professors. “He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding” (Daniel 2:21).

God has a deep care for those in despair. “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds” (Psalm 147:3). He is ever present when we look to Him in times of need. “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

Thanksgiving directs us to God. “Give thanks to the Lord” (Psalm 107:1).

Dressing for the Wedding

#533, Week of 11-25-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

We dress up for weddings. We don’t want to be embarrassed. We don’t want to embarrass the bride and groom either. God has scheduled the biggest possible wedding at the end of the age. Jesus Christ is the groom. The church is His bride.

We must have proper apparel for this important event. We don’t want any questions. “Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?” (Matthew 22:12). We must enter this wedding dressed in holiness and righteousness. “Worship the Lord in holy attire” (Psalm 96:9).

How do we obtain holiness and righteousness? “As through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous” (Romans 5:19). Believe it or not, we inherited Adam’s dirty clothes. Our own dirty laundry makes the situation worse.

Where Adam failed, Christ succeeded. He was “holy, innocent, undefiled” (Hebrews 7:26). He therefore became a perfect sacrifice. “Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18).

Christ’s sacrifice scrubs us up. Christ’s life of perfect holiness is our new suit. John 3:16 puts it together. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”