

II Timothy 5:24 “Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later. **25** Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.

6:1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. **2** And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. **8** And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. **9** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. **10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. **11** But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses...

17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. **18** Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, **19** storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

An Ordinary Sermon

When last we visited the Gospel of Luke, we had come to the account of Jesus healing the mother-in-law of Peter who then rose to serve the Lord. We used that text to launch a survey of the women in Luke's Gospel and encourage our mothers!

Now as Father's Day approaches I want to use this week to explain and emphasize an important part of the church calendar that we are now entering called "ordinary time" or "normal time." It runs from now until the first Sunday of Advent and is intended to show the importance of Christ's redeeming work in our everyday lives.

I want this to be an encouragement to our fathers & young men – To see how God delights in our vocations – like Peter the fisherman who we also meet in our trip through the Gospel of Luke!

Our nation celebrates Mother's Day and Father's Day, but are they just empty symbols instead of having real meaning?

- **Do we buy cards and presents as a modern day guilt offering to appease the unappreciated mother's and father's rather than as a focus on the important work that mother's and father's do throughout the year?**

I fear it is much more the former than the later...

- **We have allowed our lives to revolve around the secular calendar and lost track of the church calendar, which is something we need to strive to reverse here at Church of the King!**

Remembering the founding of our nation at the 4th of July or celebrating Thanksgiving in November are certainly not bad ideas, but our culture is now much more focused on "3-Day weekends", special shopping days or seasons and some not so heroic heroes these days which we must be so careful not to get caught up in. In the general culture, and sadly much of the church, Halloween is a major retail event and no one remembers what happened on Reformation Day!

With the church calendar we come again to one of those situations that we explain to the children where we need to see the two cliffs:

- **On the one hand the church calendar is totally ignored: Where most of us have been in our church experience**
- **On the other hand we can become totally obsessed with the calendar and neglect its real meaning**

[hold up the prayer book and mention its history during our founding]

In giving this “ordinary sermon” for our fathers I want to focus on reminding us of the church calendar and the importance of “ordinary” or “normal” time.

The church calendar for much of the year focuses on the redemptive work of Jesus, beginning with Advent where we anticipate His coming, Christmas where we see God become man to save His people from their sins and establish His Kingdom.

The time between Christmas and Easter has been used in various ways to focus on the ministry of Christ: For example we have used Herod’s slaughter of the innocents to draw attention to the Roe v. Wade decision.

We then reflect on His passion and celebrate His victory during Easter.

Finally, we remember the establishment of His Church and the Great Commission with Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sundays which we just completed.

After this, we begin what has been called “ordinary” time or “normal” time.

Much more than just “filler” for the remaining months of the year!

- **This is where we see a focus on application, on routine, on child-like faith doing the same things over and over again.**
- **And of course the centrality of Christ and the importance of routine are shown as we repeat this year after year!**

This is a pattern that we see coming from the Scriptures:

In the Old Testament we see it in the fourth day of creation:

Genesis 1:14 “ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. 16 Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. 17 God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.”

- **We see the importance of this routine in the covenant that God made with Noah following the flood:**

Genesis 8:21,22 “And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. 22 "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.”

9:12 “And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: 13 I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. 14 It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; 15 and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.”

- **We should REGULARLY thank God for enjoying routine!**
- **This is a pattern that we see consistently in the New Testament as well: Almost all of the Epistles outline important doctrines and then follow with the applications for our lives.**

If we think back to this morning’s reading from Paul’s first letter to Timothy: We see the practical living stressed even in this pastoral epistle:

I Timothy 5:25 “Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden. 6:1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. 2 And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved.”

- **Quite simply, what we learn in church on Sunday should impact how we live before the watching world...
AND they will notice, for good or for ill!**

6 “Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.”

- **In a few moments we will be singing a new hymn that will help us ponder these comforting verses: BUT I hope you can see why we need to be reminded of the “ordinary time” year after year, after we have focused on what Jesus has done for us!**
- **Paul then gives the strong warning against greed and then turns his attention back to Timothy:**

11 “But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses...”

- **Our covenant renewal worship is a reflection of the church calendar where again, week after week, we confess our sins, obtain instruction, confess our faith and feast with our Savior so we can be commissioned to go forth and serve Jesus!**

- **Finally, Paul reminds Timothy that his prior warnings are against greed and selfishness and NOT prosperity, which should be a comfort to those fathers struggling to prosper! – but for a purpose...**

17 “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good

works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

- **Clearly, what we saw two weeks ago on Pentecost Sunday where in the young church the Saints had all things in common: Not communism, but a Godly community that lived out what Paul taught young Timothy.**
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**I would encourage our fathers and young men to take the time to study and review these important chapters in 1 Timothy – Often!
You will see that there are three simple lessons that will encourage our fathers and young men:**

- **Avoid fruitless disputes**
 - **Focus on daily obedience**
 - **Remember our community life**
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Just as we saw with our mother’s, this is how we glorify God and enjoy him forever! Now let us as mothers and fathers, as future mothers and fathers, as the covenant people of God prepare to heartily sing O Give Us Homes, paying special attention to the wonderful words of this hymn: Words that capture the true meaning & purpose of our living in and celebrating “ordinary time”

**O give us homes built firm upon the Savior
Where Christ is Head and Counselor and guide
Where every child is taught his love and favor and gives his heart to Christ
the crucified
How sweet to know that though his footsteps waver,
His faithful Lord is walking by his side!**

**O give us homes with godly fathers,
Mothers who always place their hope & trust in Him
Whose tender patience turmoil never bothers
Whose calm and courage trouble cannot dim
A home where each finds joy in serving others,
And love still shines, though days be dark & grim**

**O Lord, our God, our homes are Thine forever!
We trust to Thee their problems, toil, and care;
Their bonds of love no enemy can sever
If Thou art always Lord and Master there:
Be Thou the center of our least endeavor
Be Thou our guest our hearts and homes to share!**

Communion Meditation:

**Genesis 8: 22 "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease." 9:12
"And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: 13 I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. 14 It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; 15 and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh."**