

May 10, 2019

Here's Hope
By Rev. Jerry Rea

Some Things Last

Some of you are driving the same car you bought in the 1990's, and some have had the opposite experience. Have you ever owned one of those cars that made you a bit nervous on the way home from the car lot? From a man's perspective, there are tools that last, and there are tools you hope you'll lose. With the first cut some hedge trimmers develop... issues. I once had a screw driver (considered by most to be indestructible) break off at the tip. On the other hand, there are tools that you've owned for years, that you inherited from your dad who also owned them for years. They are still working great, even though you're a bit embarrassed in the whole conversation about "new tools." Have you ever sat idly by while men waxed eloquent about their tools? Yes, ladies, we're obsessed. However, in our defense, you get attached to things that have been "in the trenches" with you. Some tools have been so dependable, you give 'em a name. There's "Red" and "Strong" and other creative names. Oh well, I'm off track. The point is that some things you can depend on. Over time you've learned that they are faithful, dependable, and loyal. There are other things that seem to be made for the moment... only. We call cars that don't drive "lemons." We call dogs that are not faithful... well, we don't call them at all. We call friends that you can't depend upon, but we don't call them much.

I know something that can be depended on. Well, here are *two* things actually. You can depend on the Word of God. The Bible has lasted for centuries, faithfully helping and feeding our souls and correcting our wanderings. It is often so deep we can't understand. It speaks of things we've never seen, both past and future. It brings that spot of joy that nothing else can give. The Bible doesn't "spark joy;" it leads us to still waters and green grass. It guides on the darkest night. It helps us understand both people and situations. Granted, "understanding" is only half the need, but you can't fix anything you don't "get." For centuries, the Word of God has been just that. It has been God's Word for our struggles, our worries, and our depression. It never fails. It just lasts.

There's another thing that lasts. This one is a person, and His name is Jesus. The Bible is on the outside, but Jesus is on the inside. He not only understands life, He understands me (that is the hard one). He has lived here so He can relate to our struggles and the constant barrage of temptations we face. Jesus is like a drink of cold water on a hot day. He is like a flashlight when things are dark. He is my warm coat when the wind blows. He is that hug that you don't always get from people. You can depend on Jesus. He is faithful even when we are not. He is dependable even when we are not. He is loyal to us when we are not loyal to Him.

You can depend on the word of God on paper (the Bible). You can depend on the Word of God in Person (that's the presence of Jesus).

Build your life on things you can depend on,
Jerry Rea