

Also a Roman citizen by birth (Acts 22:28), a rare and privileged status that granted him legal protections and freedoms that many Jews did not have.

(vs 7) Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. (As good as he had it before, Jesus has something better in mind for him.)

(vs 12) Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

(Paul admits he still has not “arrived.”
He is still living into God’s future.)

(vs 13-14) But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal... (He does not dwell on the past.)

“We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future.” – George Bernard Shaw

3 points for individuals & Churches

- a. God’s intended future is better than anything we have now.
- b. We never “arrive” but always becoming
“a new creation, God’s ‘New Thing.’ ”
- c. We remember the past, but we press toward the goal of God’s intended future.

FINAL THOUGHTS Psalm 126 p. 967
“A Prayer for Restoration”

When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion...
The Lord has done great things for us...
Restore our fortunes....

God’s restoration “New Thing” is in process/ongoing.

Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.
He who goes out weeping...will return with songs of joy...

“Gods not finished with me yet.”
“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 1:6)

Sermon Notes 04-06-2025

FIRST THOUGHTS Isaiah 43:16-21 p. 1,127
“God’s New Thing”

Syllabus Shock at Bridgewater State

Making it through the 1st semester built my confidence for the 2nd, and then each subsequent step (M. Div. & D. Min)
“I’m not smartest nor dumbest person who has ever done this.”

Isaiah reminds that people God has delivered them in the past.

(vs. 16-17) He who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick...

What was required of me at each different level was different.
B.S./M. Div./D. Min.

What is required of God and of his people is different.

What remains the same is God’s faithfulness,
and the people’s faithful response to God.

While God may be doing the same thing (Deliverance)
God does it in a New Way in each new circumstance.
Which in turn requires something new of God’s people.

“The past is a place of reference, not a place of residence.”
Roy T. Bennett

FURTHER THOUGHTS Philippians 3:4-16 p. 1,828
“Living into God’s Future”

“Change is difficult because change always comes with loss.”

The Apostle Paul

(vs. 4-6) If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

Paul studied under Gamaliel, one of the most famous and respected Pharisaic teachers of the time (Acts 22:3).

*Prayerfully, openly engage in relationships
through Christ's love."*

CONTACT INFO

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PRAYER LIST

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Local Church: Heights Church of God- Chris Faylor

Presbyterian: Gettysburg- Caleb McClure

April Spring Clean Up

The Property Committee will be having Spring Cleanup on **April 12th starting at 8 a.m.** We will be picking up sticks and branches in preparation for the mowing season as well as putting down mulch. If you're able to lend a hand, the help would be greatly appreciated. Many hands make for light work. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering begins today and continues through 4/13. The \$\$\$ we share will be given to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance which will help to restore damage done by the California Wildfires. Our \$\$\$ will also support the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People. Please give generously in Thanksgiving for our abundant Blessings. Thank you!

The 8:30 a.m. Worship Service will be discontinued as of June 1, with the last service being May 25. See the April Oak Leaves for more information.

Lenten Luncheons are at Noon

4/11 Doubling Gap Church of God

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 12 at 4 p.m.

To be successful we need help in many different ways.

1. Donations of small wrapped candies for 500 plastic eggs. Please bring them to the kitchen by April 6.
2. Help stuffing the candy into the eggs after the 10:15 a.m. service on April 6.
3. Help hide the eggs at 2:30 pm on Saturday, April 12.
4. Help guide the kids/parents during the hunt. We need 6 people, 2 for each age group.
5. Help clean up.
6. Pray that we show God's love to all who participate.

Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.

At Big Spring Presbyterian.

Please join us as Pastor Lucy Bowerman and Pastor Vern will jointly lead the service.

Good Friday

Sanctuary Reflection, Noon-3:00 p.m.

Cross Walk, 6:00 p.m. Zion Lutheran Parking Lot.