

Pilgrim Holiness Church, Rt. 145, Middleburgh, New York
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September 13, 2009

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Psalm 19:7-11

A warm welcome to one and all! Let us open our hearts to the God of love, and our hands in friendship to one another. May God's grace touch us all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Today** - Missionaries Dale & Judy Sherman will be speaking in our evening service.
- **September 18** - Zone Rally at Rockwood
- **September 19** - Noon - Church Picnic at Preston Hollow
- **September 20** - 16 PVBI musicians (students and faculty) under the direction of Lucas Shroust will be ministering in song and word in our morning service. Invite your friends and neighbors! Our fellowship committee is coordinating a noon meal.
- CDs of the preaching from Binghamton Camp are available to borrow. These are practical messages that will be profitable to your soul. Listen to them all!
- Be sure to check out our church web site for updates, bulletins, and pictures of recent church events.

SERVICES — SUNDAY: Sunday School 8:45 AM Morning Worship 9:00 AM, Cobleskill 4:00 PM, Evening 7:00 PM — WEDNESDAY: Midweek Service 7:00 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- This week we are praying for the **East Worcester** church. The pastor is Warren Babcock.
- Pray for **revival** in our church and community.
- Recent requests from the Cobleskill church include Ralph, Todd, Sharon, and Laverne.
- Pray for:
 - Ed and Rosemary Snyder, who suffered a fire yesterday.
 - The Mincers and the Bowmans, coping with the fire loss
 - Neighbors, relatives and friends with spiritual needs for whom prayer has been requested
 - Our young people
 - The renovation of our church building
 - Conference President Case and the Council
 - Our armed services personnel
 - Our President, Congress, and Supreme Court, that they may make righteous choices
- Recent requests for physical needs:
 - Betty Case, Doris Cook, Doris Bates, Earl Bickford, Glenn Hockmeyer
- Continue to pray for:
 - Gary Vosburgh, Susan Ford, Claire, Kathy Moltzen, Noreen, Richard Berg, Lillian Jamison, Duane Maxey, Johnny Cuscuna

Suggested Daily Scripture Reading

	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
OT	Isaiah 12:1-14:32	Isaiah 15:1-18:7	Isaiah 19:1-21:17	Isaiah 22:1-24:23
NT	II Corinthians 13:1-13	Galatians 1:1-24	Galatians 2:1-16	Galatians 2:17-3:9
PSA	Psalms 57:1-11	Psalms 58:1-11	Psalms 59:1-17	Psalms 60:1-12
PROV	Proverbs 13	Proverbs 14	Proverbs 15	Proverbs 16
	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	
	Isaiah 25:1-28:13 Galatians 3:10-22 Psalm 61:1-8 Proverbs 17	Isaiah 28:14-30:11 Galatians 3:23-4:31 Psalm 62:1-12 Proverbs 18	Isaiah 30:12-33:9 Galatians 5:1-12 Psalm 63:1-11 Proverbs 19	

What's your excuse?

A little fellow had just finished his first day of school. Mom was outside in the SUV waiting to pick him up, anxious to hear how his day had gone.

The teacher had asked the students to bring copies of their birth certificates so the school could be sure that it had accurate records. But “certificate” is a rather big word for a first-grader to remember, although he understood the idea.

Bounding into the car, he greeted his mom with this message: “Mom, tomorrow I have to take in to school my excuse for living.”

An excuse for living!

Do we have such an excuse?

The old catechism used to say that the “chief end of man” is to “love God and enjoy him forever.”

Once, when Jesus was chatting with a small circle of the local intelligentsia which included scholars and religious leaders, he was asked a similar question.

He was asked, “What is the greatest commandment?” In other words, “What is the most important thing to do in life?”

He answered: “You should love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength and might.”

That was the common response taken from the Hebrew Scriptures.

Then he added: “And your neighbor as yourself.”

Many people, when reflecting on a hard time in their lives, will respond that it was their spouse, or their children, or their grandchildren that kept them going through their

“dark night of the soul.” They found an excuse for living in their love for others, especially their families.

And that is as it should be. Truth is, Christians have many “excuses” for living. Love of God, love of neighbor, and love of family and friends.

