

Greetings to all who are called by His name,

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 2:7 (MSG) – Larger reading: Genesis 2:4-7

“God formed Man out of dirt from the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. The Man came alive - a living soul!”

STORY:

Some years ago a man wrote the following:

“You’re not going to wear that are you?” Grammatically it was a question but in reality it was not a question at all. I was a teenager! When your mother asks in “that” tone of voice you do understand that it is really a declarative statement precipitating a change! You’ve been through this conversation on other occasions. You know what’s coming next. “Suppose you had a wreck or something and were carried to the doctor’s office or the hospital. That undershirt is worn out you know. Take it off and get another one!” ... Can you imagine my dismay when in later years married to a registered nurse I learned that personnel in emergency rooms never check the patient for worn out underwear or holes in their socks? ... However, the old question about underwear may raise a more pertinent thought of due relevance for today. What about our “inner-wear?” What is the condition of our psyche or soul? What is the state of our emotional self?

OBSERVATION:

I’ve been told that one of John Wesley’s questions asked during the Class Meetings was: “How is it with you soul?” I believe that Mr. Wesley had it right. We should always be asking about our soul’s condition.

It was through the “breath” of God. The Greek word for “breath” is Pneuma and in a religious context it represents "spirit" or "soul." Therefore, what God was giving to us was his spirit or his soul and at that point we came alive! So, when the question is asked, “How is it with your soul?” What is really being asked is how are you handling the very essence of God that he has planted deep within our being ... that which causes us to be alive!

QUOTE:

“The spirit is one of the most neglected parts of man by doctors and scientists around the world. Yet, it is as vital to our health as the heart and mind. It's time for science to examine the many facets of the soul. The condition of our soul is usually the source of many sicknesses.” – Suzy Kassem

PRAYER:

May we handle the thing most precious, our very soul, with tenderness. It is such a precious gift that we simply cannot live without. Help us live so well that we can give a good report on what we have done with the greatest gift of all ... life itself. Amen.

And the faith journey continues, Pastor Jim
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Worship in the sanctuary begins again this morning at 10:30 with music provided by Stephanie and Mikal.

If you still desire to worship via our Facebook page (Manatee United Methodist Church) you may do so. The service will be slightly delayed because of trying to test a new procedure.

Please mail in your financial support for the church and its ministry to 315 15th Street East, Bradenton, FL 34208. Thank you for your faithfulness.