



Commit your work  
to the  
**LORD,**  
and your plans  
will be established.

PROVERBS 16:3, ESV

May 26, 2021

First Church of the Brethren  
730 Church Street Eden, NC 27288

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Reflections:

I made a mistake. I know it wasn't the first and I am also sure it won't be the last. In my sermon on Sunday, I made a mistake. I referred to Jesus telling Peter that he was the rock on which he would build his church. So far, so good. But during my message I stated that this happened in the Upper Room during Christ's last meeting with the disciples. Here is where I went astray. This, in fact, was not when and where this encounter took place. It actually took place in Caesarea Philippi when Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" and then followed up that question with, "But what about you? Who do you say I am?"

Peter, who often opens his mouth and makes you doubt whether he put any good though into it, replies "You are the Christ, the son of the living God." That is when Jesus tells him that he is a rock. That is when Jesus tells him that he will build his church on that rock and that the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

I appreciate that someone in the congregation, in humility, shared with me my error. He wasn't condemning or criticizing, simply trying to help me avoid confusion. Not a big deal, just a little guidance. That is the role that we should have in one another's lives as brothers and sisters in Christ. We should be able to humbly let one another know when we have strayed – not to gain an upper hand or to feel superior, but to help one another be the best followers of Christ that we can. God created us as a family and scriptures often use family relationships as an analogy for the church. May we live out our lives together as the family that God intends for us to be!

*My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.*

*James 5:19-20 (ESV)*

## GOD OFFERS US A FRESH START

### Right from the Heart Ministries

*"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." Jeremiah 31: 33*

Too many people have bought the lie: "If I *do* enough, then I will be *good* enough." But, the truth is – we will never be good enough. And that's ok; because God offers us forgiveness through Jesus' death on the cross. The problem, however, is that too many people are still trying to earn their way to God. They are stuck with a head-knowledge of God, rather than a personal, life-changing experience of the heart.

You see, when we finally experience the truth of the good news of Christ on a personal level – lives begin to change. The undeserved grace and forgiveness that comes from faith in Jesus begins to transform our hearts. And as hearts change, lives change.

Suddenly, our desires begin to line up with God's desires. We have an inner *want to* and an empowerment to *do so* because of the grace that we've received. Life change begins in the heart.

Are you struggling with restlessness in your life? An uneasiness in your spirit? Maybe you've never *really* encountered God on a 'heart' level. Maybe you're like too many people calling themselves Christians, but who have a head-based faith. You believe the Bible but have never really understood it on a personal level. Or, maybe you've rejected God because of the actions of flawed people in the name of religion. The truth is simple: no matter your past, your pain or your doubts, God's love offers us peace. God's grace offers us a fresh start. God's forgiveness frees us from our past sins and shame. Knowing God's heart begins to transform our own hearts – and that is life-changing. The greatest miracle in life is a transformed heart.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

May 26, 2021

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**Pray Without Ceasing**

Sheila Barnes, Eugene Barton, Lucy Bradford, Katherine Bridges, Carolyn Combs, Melissa Dalton, Donnie Gilley, JT Hale, Barbara Janney, Gary Janney, Tania Martin, Salem Nelson, Marie Priddy, Aaron Roach, Arnie Roberts, Jutta Shelton, Roger Shockley, Louise Tudor, Patsy Underwood, Gail Walker, Danny Whitley, Frankie Wilson

**Thinking of You**

**Eugene Barton** - 218 Dunn Street Eden, NC 27288

**District Prayer Request**

Pray for the students and staff of the Christian Growth Institute as they gather online June 12 for Orientation Day. Let us express gratitude to God for those who are engaged in formation for the Gospel Ministry in Virgina and Shenandoah Districts.



The Home and Family Life Committee is now accepting donations for the Father's Day Bulletin. Along with your donations, please include the names you would like listed (indicate if they are In Honor or In Memory). You may also email any pictures you would like included in the slide show to the church office. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, June 6.

Thank you for continuing to honor your commitment to the work of Jesus Christ through your tithes.

Would you rather send your tithes by PayPal?

You can find us listed as Ncbrethren.tithe@gmail.com



If you cannot attend regular Sunday service do not forget that you can watch a live stream of Sunday Worship service on YouTube. Find us on YouTube as Eden NC Church of the Brethren, where you can view the live stream each Sunday, or watch any of our recent sermons online.

Attendance and Offering for the week of May 23, 2021

Offering	\$	2,364.00
Home & Family Life	\$	<u>205.00</u>
Total	\$	2,569.00

Camp Bethel's "Sounds of the Mountains" festival is available to stream until June 19<sup>th</sup> at

**[www.soundsofthemountains.org](http://www.soundsofthemountains.org)**

Listen to 6 of the world's best storytellers and their original stories online anytime and be sure to donate to Camp Bethel as this is one of their largest fundraisers each year!

Need to restock flavorings?

The Home & Family Life Committee can help!

\$3 per bottle

Regular Vanilla Flavoring

Clear Vanilla Flavoring

Almond Flavoring

Lemon Flavoring

Upcoming Birthdays

May 31: Hunter Murray

June 2: Nate Barton

June 5: Levi Richardson



