

Weekly Connector: Trust Issues?

October 11, 2018

Hello, Church!

Over the years, I have struggled with visiting the dentist for anything more than teeth cleaning. Why?

I do not like needles. I do not like drills. I do not like them, Sam-I-Am!

As he leans in to give me a shot or I hear the whine of the drill getting louder and climbing higher, my hands have a death grip on the arms of the chair. I shut my eyes tight. In short, I expect the pain to escalate at any moment.

To be fair, my dentist does a great job at making sure I am sufficiently numb and, thankfully, the outcome comes with very little discomfort at all. But, for me, that reality changes nothing - it does not stop me from holding fast, squeezing my eyes shut, and acting like he is about to cut off a limb rather than clean out an old filling.

Last week, as he replaced that filling, my dentist asked this simple question: "Don't you trust me?"

"Of course!", I think to myself. "If I didn't trust you, I wouldn't be here!" And, when I could talk again, I said as much.

But, later, I looked at it from my dentist's perspective. Here he is, doing his best to make me comfortable inside a few minutes of potential discomfort, and all I can do is react to all my past panics of pain in another dentist's chair.

Then, a few days ago, I looked at the situation from HIS perspective - from Jesus' perspective, that is. How many times do I declare that "I trust Jesus", but my hands are white upon the chair as I lean back, my eyes shut, waiting for the trial to be over?

Jesus has every place to ask me that same question: "Don't you trust Me?"

James puts it this way:

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:3-4

There is joy in the trial. There is a lesson in the loss. There is completion and perfection in the chaos and perseverance.

So, join me in letting loose the grip a little. Open our eyes and let's look around. Jesus is right there and will always be, as He promised: *"For surely I will be with you to the very end of the age."* Matthew 28:20

This Sunday is a special Sunday for us. This summer, when Sherry and I went to Alaska to serve in a "Family Camp", we had the privilege of serving with Nathan Stewart, a worship leader in the Columbus area, and meeting his wife, Laurie. I not only esteemed his leadership in worship, I also appreciated his leadership of the worship team there - even, bringing an otherwise timid instrumentalist onto the platform for a special music offering, to his (and his parents') surprise and joy.

On Sunday morning, Nathan will come alongside our own worship team and lead us in worship. Then, in the afternoon, he will lead the worship team in a workshop as they seek to grow in their ministry of music and worship. Please pray for Nathan and the team as they quickly bond to lead us in unified worship, together!

For the worship and the spoken word, be sure to bring a friend and sit close to the front. Let's demonstrate the unity that only the Spirit can offer as we keep our eyes focused on Jesus!

I love you, Church!

Pastor greg