



JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Stand out in the Crowd!

In the beauty of God's Creation, He has given us an array of colors, animals, sights and sounds all because He wanted to and it is a sight to see! In the brief moments where we are privileged to see creation on display in a gorgeous sunset or breathtaking view during a hike, it tends to stick with us for some time after. Hopefully we are truly thankful for what we have experienced and receive a gentle reminder that God is still with us. He has never left our side!

One of the animals God created that intrigues me is the Chameleon. An animal that can change the color of its skin to match its environment. This God-given camouflage suit is an aide to its survival and it is truly something to watch.

This got me thinking about what God calls His children to do as Christians. As followers of Christ we are "New Creations" born from above and changed from within. True Believers don't blend in very well. Many Christians today struggle with what is happening to the world around us. Surrounded by every conceivable sin, there is pressure to adapt. That leads to the key question; what is God calling us to do?

***"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Romans 15:4-6)**

As I walk this oh-so-challenging path, it is a constant reminder that God calls me to Stand out in the crowd for HIM! This scripture highlights two things I often need, endurance and encouragement. This passage links the two together. These verses are pretty explicit as to where we find endurance and encouragement . . .and the outcome of the two? Hope!

Endurance is something that can be learned. Perhaps, it must be learned. Who is our teacher? God Himself. Through encouragement - the Scriptures provide hope and again, that encouragement originates in God. Whether we read, hear, or witness God at work, we can be encouraged that God is teaching us as well. God may be using them to teach us the very qualities we need.

May each of us be open to his Leading! - Pastor Derrick

Church Events

- **Sunday July 12th**

Target date to be back in the Sanctuary for church!

- **Fri 7/31 - 8/1
CWF Rummage Sale**