



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Messenger

“PROCLAIM CHRIST, MAKE DISCIPLES, SERVE THE LORD”

625 W. Gibson Road, Woodland, CA * Phone (530)662-1935 * June 2023

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Saints at St Paul's,

Someone asked me the other day what is my favorite Bible verse. I appreciate many, but one does stand out to me. Romans 14:4 (niv84) 4 *Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.* This verse was significant for a teenager dealing with peers and learning to stand up with my convictions of faith in Christ Jesus. I know I could trust GOD to take care of me in any situation, and he would help me stand up under it.

Years later the verse had a gained new significance as I meditate on the word of God. The second part of the verse: “for the Lord is able to make him stand” has given me a new perspective. The cross reference to this verse calls this ENABLING GRACE. What is enabling grace? When we do not feel we are strong enough, tough enough, not worth or able... we may be correct. Yet one writer puts it this way: “God never calls us to do something or requires something of us without first giving us the ability to do it. He gives us grace—an enablement, an endowment, an empowerment. His grace is the great equalizer to human inability and inadequacy.” God gives us what we need in the moments when we need it. I do not have to solve every struggle that I face, but trust that God will guide me through. 2 Cor 9:8 put it this way: *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.* And in Phil 4:13, *I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*

In ALL situations God give to us by grace the way to stand up in the difficult parts of life. Once again, I want to encourage you to have hope, but not in yourself, but in the Lord God who can and will provide for those who trust and call on him.

Blessings in Christ Jesus,

Pastor David Hardin

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