

What Does God Choose to Care About?

In writing these bi-monthly reflections I generally begin by listening to my heart and the tenor of the District. What is stirring in my being, what have I been reflecting about, what seems to be of relevance to District life?

Well...This morning I cannot shake the spectacle of Michigan Wolverines being thoroughly embarrassed by Ohio State Buckeyes in their annual rivalry football game on Thanksgiving weekend. To give you an idea how deep the rivalry runs: Ohio State had a coach who refused to buy gas in Michigan. He also never referred to Michigan by name, only as “that team up North.”

This was supposed to be Michigan’s year but once again they were outclassed and outcoached by Ohio State. Oh me, oh my....That was indeed heartache to my soul! (For those of you who aren’t familiar with my biases, University of Michigan football ranks high on my list of passions.)

What, you might ask, has this to do with anything, including District Conference and the Advent season? Well, to be honest, not much. However, during my crisis with Michigan football I found myself grappling with the question “what does God choose to care about?” Even pondering what would happen if I prayed for a Michigan victory! (My official theological position is God doesn’t care who wins football games but instead cares deeply about football’s impact on those involved.)

What does God choose to care about? That is a question worth pondering this Advent season.

We sang together, *On Christ the Solid Rock We Stand*, in wonderful harmony at District Conference. How does confessing together our common foundation affect our answer to the above question?

“What God cares about?” is one central question of Advent. God’s answer was to risk His very life in Jesus so that we might reorder our lives. Confessing that Jesus is our rock means we begin to look at the world through those eyes. “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.” Luke 3:4-6 NIV.

What does God care about? Preparing a way for Jesus. Ensuring that all people will see God’s salvation. Perhaps that is our question as well. How do we go about “preparing the way for our Lord?” We are not merely spectators in Advent but active participants paying heed to these words. God calls us to be the ones assisting in the construction, in removing obstacles so that people can clearly see the source of our salvation.

May God’s richest blessing rest upon each of you this Advent season. May we together continue to work at “preparing the way for our Lord”.



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