

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

Proper 22 - 1 Chronicles 29:1-2,10-18

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October 6, 2019

Marvel over this great wonder of the world: the desires produced by God's grace.

In 2007 100 million voted for the 7 New Wonders of the World. Results: *the Great Wall of China, Christ the Redeemer Statue, Machu Picchu, Chichen Itza, the Roman Colosseum, Taj Mahal, Petra.*

Inspired by the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World: *Great Pyramid of Giza, Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Temple of Artemis, Statue of Zeus at Olympia, Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, Colossus of Rhodes, and the Lighthouse of Alexandria.* The Temple in Jerusalem? Not included. Destroyed by Babylon.

David invites us to see a greater wonder - unknown to most. Not the impressive tonnage of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and precious stones offered for the Temple.

Marvel over this great wonder of the world: the desires produced by God's grace.

¹⁴ *“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. ...”* ¹⁷ *I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.* ¹⁸ *Lord, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you.*

- ❖ Marvel with David over the wonders Yahweh worked in his people
 - It was clear from the super abundance - this was from God!
 - Even more stunning - the **eager desire** of Israel's leader to give
 - ♦ They had not been manipulated into giving with guilt or shame.
 - ♦ Their desires were transformed by God's grace - new hearts & minds
 - Our desires lead, even drive us. We follow the desires of our hearts.
 - ♦ Desires - the longings for fulfillment, lifted above a dreary life
 - ♦ Perverted by sin's corruption - human desires seek fulfillment in:
 - empty self-exaltation - satisfaction in looking out for #1
 - desires seeking fulfillment in creature comforts and thrills
 - What we're longing for is found only in the Real God - in his kingdom
 - ♦ *Our hearts are restless, until we find rest in our Creator*
 - ♦ Desiring him, we find what we were designed for - life, abundant, full
 - ♦ David states in Psalm 37:4 - *Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

- ❖ These desires are gained with the frame of mind that knows:
 - How awesome the true and living God is.
 - ♦ He is *from everlasting to everlasting*
 - ♦ Greatness, power, glory, majesty, and splendor - exclusively his!
 - ♦ Yahweh reigns over all - the exalted head over everything.
 - ♦ How can you be impressed with yourself when living in this reality?!
 - Everything - including you and *yours* - still belongs to God
 - ♦ God did not make things then turn them over to us!
 - ♦ He made you - uniquely you. You & I still fully belong to him.
 - It's a delusion to say, *It's my body. I can do with it what I want.*
 - Every human is entrusted to serve our Creator. It's our duty/calling.
 - ♦ Every thing I call *mine* is God's possession that I'm to use for him
 - Frame of mind: not for me & my satisfaction! Honored to use for him
 - This frame of mind comes with God's undeserved adoption
 - ♦ *Who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give...?*
 - ♦ Luther echoes: *We are beggars, that is true.*
 - ♦ We have no claim on God - no rights. As creature - as sinners!
 - ♦ Our hands are open, relying exclusively on God's undeserved love
 - ♦ Only those who know Yahweh's pledge of undeserved love:
 - delight to be beggar of such a gracious God.
 - can see the Awesome God without terror
 - are honored to be servants who own nothing - fulfilled by serving him
 - Gospel: *We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.*
 - For we see our *duty* as a **high calling** - pure privilege - fulfillment
- ❖ Marvel over God's great wonder worked among us.
 - Don't let our little flock (Peace/WELS) rob you of seeing this wonder!
 - This building testifies to the wonder God has worked here!
 - Expanding WELS kingdom work - marvel over this great wonder!
 - Marvel to keep and spread this mindset and wonder.
 - Don't let guilt, fear, and a *mine-mindset* rob you of the new desires.
 - Affirm these new desires in giving to God offerings, service, love, care, encouragement, fellowship, prayer, devotion to word and sacrament
 - *Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*
 - ♦ The new desires for him & his kingdom - gifts that truly satisfy!
 - Pray for all of God's people: ***keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you.***

These new desire are the greatest wonder of the world grace.