



CHRIST'S CHURCH
OF THE CANYON

Mid-Week Devotion
February 14, 2021

“What about Ash Wednesday...?”

Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Day of Pentecost are some of those events that even though literally billions (with a “b”) of Christians take part in every year, these same events cause confusion for most “Evangelicals.” Today, February 17th is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Which, is literally 40 days prior to Easter. Often times Christians will mark the occasion by making the sign of the cross from ashes on the forehead starting the 40 days of self-denial, fasting, and mourning over sin. Nowhere in God’s Word does He encourage us to practice or observe Ash Wednesday or Lent. But, He does give us examples of the principles of each event and He does expect those principles to be an important part of our lives. There are several instances in the Old Testament giving us accounts of people using dust and ashes as symbols of repentance and/or mourning. In Job 2:8, he writes,

“And Job took a piece of pottery to scrape himself while he was sitting in the ashes.”

When this passage was written Job had lost everything, wealth, family, everything except his wife (that’s another story!). He’s mourning his loss and even the loss of his health. He surrounds himself with ashes, sits on them displaying for all to see his incredible sadness for his current condition. His is an outward expression (sitting in ashes) of an inward condition (grief over complete loss).

In Daniel 9:3, he writes,

“Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.”

Daniel wants to make sure while coming to God that he is humble, contrite, and repentant. The ashes represent on the outside of Daniel what’s happening on the inside of Daniel. It’s an attitude marked by genuine humility that after all we would be less than nothing without God. God sets the record straight in Genesis 3:19, regarding who we are in the overall scheme of things,

“By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread, until you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”

Pretty sobering isn’t it?

God expects the messages of Ash Wednesday and Lent to symbolize our sins, a need for repentance, and a renewed focus on God to be a part of our everyday lives not just once per month or even once per year.

Pr. Wayne



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Prayers

- Upcoming "Road Trip" with our youth, March 22-26, Spring Break to Sedona and Grand Canyon.
- Health of several of our parishoners