

CHOICES

I know I am not alone when I say “every day we are challenged with making choices.” This issue of Knox Talks challenged me to make some soul searching decisions as to what should be included. After weeks of struggling, I asked for advise.

This past Sunday, August 9, Rev. Paul’s sermon about Abrahams choice to give Lot first pick of the land, led me to believe that I had made the right choice. Since the decision was made, all of this Knox Talks fell into place. Ironically, with all the submissions in, the theme became about making choices.

I am sorry if I have offended anyone in making this decision but I choose peace over anger, advise over dictatorship, to build up our Christian faith rather than break it down. I choose this Knox Talks to be our congregational positive newsletter.

I hope that my decisions have your support and blessing.

Knox Talks Forum:

Knox Talks contains things people in the Knox Church community thought were worth sharing. The opinions are those of the writer and not necessarily of Knox Church or the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Their value, like all beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.

MINISTER’S MESSAGE



Rev. Paul Johnston

“Why do you talk so much about Jesus?” someone in a former congregation once asked me. There were so many important issues in our town that needed attention; why not talk about them. But I’ve always been taught the focus of the church is Jesus Christ. As one of my former pastors put it, “Christianity is Christ.”

Consider some thoughts just from John’s gospel. There we read the universe is a special place made by and for Jesus for “through him were all things made.” He is not one among many wise teachers of truth, but he himself is the way, the truth, and the life. He does not tell people about the light; he does not simply bear witness to the light. He himself is the light that enlightens all people.

We are finite, limited beings. So our knowledge of Jesus Christ is imperfect and incomplete. But that’s not necessarily a problem because Jesus promises his Spirit will remind us of his words and to help us grow into all truth. We can have confidence Jesus is the truth, and live with humble appreciation of how much of that truth we have yet to learn.

Some of the things we learn about Jesus are unchanging traditions. He said “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” (Matthew 24:34), which echoes the promise of Isaiah 40:8: “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”

Some of the things we learn about Jesus are upsetting to traditions. He suggested his ministry was “new wine [which] must be put into fresh wineskins” (Luke 5:58). That echoed thoughts like Isaiah 42:9, “Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them,” and Isaiah 43:19,