



The Rainbow

What do you think of when you see a rainbow in the month of June? God gave the rainbow as a sign of His promise that He would never destroy all flesh with a flood. After Noah and his sons disembarked from the Ark, He said to them, **“I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh”** (Gen. 9:13-).

Sadly, some have tried to make the rainbow a symbol of man’s prideful rebellion against God. Some emblazon flags with a rainbow to say that they are proud of the sinful desires they have for a person of the same sex. They claim that such desires are not sinful, evil, and perverse, but are to be celebrated and welcomed.

In that case, the rainbow should remind them that God does indeed punish sin as He did when He brought a worldwide flood to punish men and women for their sins against Him. It should remind us that we must not follow the desires of our hearts wherever they lead us. We should not be proud of our desires when they are contrary to God’s Word. We read in Genesis 6:5, **“The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”** It was because of this evil that the LORD chose to kill all those on the earth except Noah, his wife, and his three sons and their wives. Man’s evil desires were not something to be proud of. Instead, man’s evil desires prompted the near destruction of the entire human race.

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We cannot justify our sinful desires by saying, “I was made to have these desires; let’s have a whole month to celebrate these desires.” A thief cannot claim that he was made with the orientation to steal the belongings of others and then have a pride month to celebrate these desires. God, our creator, designed us to have particular desires and man’s fall brought corruption so that our desires are not pure. We are tempted to satisfy sexual desires outside of the holy estate of marriage between one man and one woman that God instituted in the Garden of Eden. It is a perversion of what God has made to indulge in sexual satisfaction outside of marriage through homosexuality, adultery, or fornication. Sinful desire cannot be made right if we decide to be proud of it and even convince others to celebrate it.

But even though the rainbow can serve as a reminder of what happened when man embraced sinful desires and God brought punishment, it is primarily a reminder of God’s promise never to destroy the earth with a flood. As is pointed out in Genesis 9:13-15 (see above), God intended the rainbow as a sign of His promise that He will never destroy all of mankind again with a flood. God will not use this particular means of destruction on the whole earth, even though He will one day bring fire upon the earth (see 2 Peter 3:5-7).

The rainbow can also serve as a reminder of Jesus. The Hebrew word for “bow” used in Genesis 9 most often (in

the Old Testament) refers to a weapon of war (as in the bow used to shoot arrows). When we see the rainbow, we can be reminded of a weapon of war. And that weapon of war is pointed upward toward the heavens and away from us. God Himself took the hit for us in Jesus. On Jesus, the wrath of God was poured out for all the sin of mankind so that we might have forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Now, God uses the water of Holy Baptism to bury us with Jesus and drown our sinful nature with its evil desires and give us a new life. Now water means new life and forgiveness even while it means death to sin.

The only One whose desires were perfectly ordered and who lived a sinless life lived with humility rather than sinful pride. He humbly took on the form of a servant (see Philippians 2) and the humiliation of the cross for our salvation. We humbly confess our sinful desires rather than trying to justify them by telling everyone we are proud of our sin. We acknowledge our sin and receive the promised salvation given through Jesus as we receive baptism and His body and blood for our salvation.

The rainbow is a reminder of God’s promise that He will never destroy the earth again with a flood. It can remind us that our sins and evil desires must be confessed and that we have forgiveness through the blood of Jesus.

– Pastor Burfiend

Senior Citizen Lunch – Join us at 11:30 on June 29 for lunch and a program featuring artist Meghan Schultz. Call 260-415-1462 to reserve your spot.

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JUNE/JULY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 25 Trinity 3 Micah 7:18-20 1 Peter 5:6-11 Luke 15:1-10 Pastor on Vacation	26 Pastor on Vacation	27 Pastor on Vacation	28 No Bible Study Pastor on Vacation	29 Senior Citizen Lunch, 11:30 am Program: Artist Meghan Schultz on Christian Art and Symbolism in Everyday Life	30	July 1
2 Trinity 4 Gen. 50:15-21 Romans 12:14-21 Luke 6:36-42 Installation of Officers	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5 No morning Bible Study Bible Study, 7pm	6	7	8
9 Trinity 5 1 Kings 19:11-21 1 Cor. 1:18-25 Luke 5:1-11 Pastor on Vacation	10	11 Pastor at ACELC Conference, Indianapolis	12 No Bible Study, Pastor at ACELC Conference, Indianapolis	13 Council Meeting, 6:30 pm	14 Mary Martha Meeting, 10 am	15
16 Trinity 6 Exodus 20:1-17 Romans 6:1-11 Matthew 5:17-26	17	18	19 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. Bible Study, 7pm	20	21	22
23 Trinity 7 Gen. 2:7-17 Rom. 6:19-23 Mark 8:1-9 24 Pastor at Bugenhagen Conference, Racine, WI	24	25 Pastor at Bugenhagen Conference, Racine, WI	26 No Bible Study, Pastor at Bugenhagen Conference, Racine, WI	27	28	29
30 Trinity 8 Jer. 23:16-29 Acts 20:27-38 Matt. 7:15-23	31					