

## From the Pastor

Week of August 3, 2008

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This past Thursday I ‘celebrated’ my 59th birthday. I find it hard to celebrate birthdays after turning 50, but I think I will start being excited about it once again when I reach 80. Of course I tell everyone that I’m twenty nine...with 30 years experience! I also noticed Thursday that the clock in my office was losing time and showed to be two hours earlier than it really was. Wouldn’t it be something if we could turn back the clock and live our younger years over? WOW! What changes would we make? How would we make things turn out better if we had a second chance at life? It’s an exciting as well as a fearful thought. I just don’t know if I would want to go through it all again. At the same time, I am so thankful for all the blessings that God has bestowed upon my life and allowed me to enjoy. I thank Him for my family, for being raised in a Christian home, for my wife and children, and of course, our grandchildren. I also give Him thanks for allowing me to be a part of the ministry and for the church family we so love and appreciate. This Homecoming marks 20 years that Sue and I have been blessed to minister here at Plum Grove. I look forward with great anticipation to all He has in store for our lives in the years to come.

The truth is, even if we wanted to, we can’t turn back the clock of our lives. That which is past is gone forever. But I am so glad that God is the God of second chances. We may not be able to go back in time to change the past, but He is able to change us and give us a future and a hope. Because of His grace, our lives can become worthwhile and meaningful....and eternal! What is 59 years when compared with eternity?

Rom 5:1-2;5

<sup>5:1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

...<sup>5</sup> And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

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