

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

"Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?"

Luke 14:27-28

The gospel on Labor Day Weekend is one that fits perfectly for us on a day that we take rest from our labors and enter into the post K+5 era in New Orleans. It causes us to think about our work as the church—as a house of faith made up of disciples. What part of our tower is not complete? What work do we need to be about after we have taken Sabbath and rested? And then if we are honest with ourselves, have we estimated our personal cost, our personal commitment to finish the tower—to be the disciple God expects us to be?

These are challenging questions for us as we "RALLY" this fall to gather, learn, and worship every Sunday (might I say every day?). But I firmly believe they are questions we are embracing and tackling head on. We know the cost. We are committed to the cross and know it can be heavy to carry at times.

I just had the best summer in my life. I took some time off to do nothing overly special (other spending quality time with all my grandkids). But throughout the summer I had these defining moments that inspired and energized me. They came in some of the books I took time to read, and in people I took time to visit and care for. The point is I took time--time for building a tower of strength and confidence in me to continue the work that God has placed in our hands.

I hope you will be diligent and steadfast in your time to build your own tower. Do whatever you need to do so that you can rally with the rest of your spiritual family and complete the tower of faith we are called to build. One of those towers is your church. Grace needs you more than ever to be a disciple and help us build. Not rebuild, but build the foundation that the previous five years has given us.

I hope to see all of you at the tower! It is a wonderful place to gather to be the church!

Keep the faith . . .

Pastor Leon