



Sunday Edition

Penn-Del Tips

The official newsletter of the American Baptist Men of Pennsylvania and Delaware

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Happy Sunday! Let's Recap

After a great Friday, we were raring to go for Saturday and the day did not disappoint. Several men gathered in the Naugle lounge for devotions led by Rev. Bill Scott. Bill spoke about power and authority and how it is all derived from God. You can read all about it in the Saturday edition of the Penn-Del Tips.

We shook up the program a little this year and had a Saturday morning general session. The men gathered lifting up their hands in praise and worship. Even when one of our members took ill during the service, the praise never stopped. Everyone gathered in prayer over our brother and supported him while the emergency personnel tended to him. Praise God, Ron was back to spend the afternoon with us and is feeling much better.

Phil Downer spoke in the morning session about surviving life's wars and combat. All of us are fighting a battle for our souls. The blood of Jesus Christ covers our sins and if we can accept the grace of forgiveness,

the pardon is ours. We can't work our way to forgiveness because it's not WHAT you know, it's WHO you know.

The evening program shifted into high gear and we crowned a new Layman of the Year, Mr. George Young. After George's emotional acceptance speech, Robert Stein took the opportunity to give an impromptu testimony during the time of offering. God is certainly moving among us, gentlemen!

Bruce Montgomery gave a great testimony and must to prove how eclectic Baptist Men can be, he showed that his musical talent ranges from Hendrix through Mercy Me and Josh Groban.

Phil finished us out with a moving message on discipleship. If we can reach just one guy and disciple him and truly lead him to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, then he can in turn lead another and then another. Don't worry about the "stuff" - if we are making disciples, the "stuff" all gets done.

Sunday Devotions with Rev. Bill Scott

Power is demonstrated in many ways: (1) The destructive power of nature in hurricanes, tornadoes, and typhoons; (2) the well-developed and exercised muscles of a champion weight lifter; (3) the power of electricity derived from plants that converts other sources of energy into electricity; (4) power devised by human ingenuity, like dynamite; (5) the power of numbers, like armies massed to face each other in battle; and (6) spiritual power that may not be visible but is clearly at work in the struggle between God and evil.

In the ancient world, the power of nature was attributed to deity. But Yahweh, God of Israel, was not a God of nature, but rather the Creator and Controller of the natural world and of history itself. His divine power is repeatedly described in the Hebrew texts with two specific foci: creation and the Exodus--God's creative power and His might acts (think plagues and Red Sea crossing).

With this knowledge of God's power, God's people, Israel, were constantly being urged to be strong and courageous. Their power came from God and His power was available to them in times of crisis.

The first disciples were given both authority and power over demons and disease by Jesus when he sent them out to minister (Luke 9:1). They awaited the promised coming of the Spirit who would bring a greater power that would enable them to continue the work of Jesus in the world. Pentecost celebrates the arrival of that power.

Significantly, in Paul's prayer for the Ephesians Christians, he utilizes most of the Greek vocabulary for power. He wants them to know, among other things, "what is the exceeding greatness of his power (dunamis from which we get dynamic and dynamite) to us-ward who believe, according to the working (energia from which comes energy) of his mighty

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(kratos) power (ischus) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places," (Ephesians 1:19-20). Dunamis refers to natural, general and inherent ability. It is the capability, resources and capacity to carry something to its completion. It is used in the contexts of physical, spiritual, military and political activities. Energia is power exercised or operative power. Always used of supernatural activity working in a human, it occurs in James where "the effective (energia), fervent petition of a righteous man aails (ischus) much". Kratos denotes the presence and significance of relative and manifest strength, not its actual exercise. It is the root in autocrat or democrat, signifying that supreme power rests with the individual (autocrat) or the people (democrat). In the New Testament it is used only if God, with the exception of Hebrews 2:14' where the devil has the power of death. This word reminds us of God's supreme power in which His strength is made known (in contrast to all other forms of power and strength. Ischus speaks of indwelling power, of strength as an endowment. It is the general word for the power, ability, and capability that one possesses.

Paul's prayer is that the believer's ministry would be grounded in and proceed from God's indwelling power, which is linked with the energy and effectiveness that God as supreme power deems best. Believers are called to seek God for the greater power that He will provide. From Him we receive (1) courage and confidence to stand alone, if necessary, in the face of adversity and the enemy; (2) resources for personal growth and development; (3) effectiveness for personal and corporate witness; and (4) ability and competence for quality ministry.

Rather than seeking power we can employ for ourselves, we need to avail ourselves of God's grace which will empower us to do His will.

Congratulations to the 2015 Layman of the Year Mr. George F. Young



On Saturday evening, the American Baptist Men of Pennsylvania and Delaware honored Mr. George F. Young as the 2015 Layman of the Year. George has been a faithful servant of the Lord for many years.

George was joined by his church family from Parkesburg and we join them in offering our sincere congratulations. An honor well, deserved. Congratulations, George!

Before You Go...

- Linens should be placed in your pillow cases and brought to the TV lounge area on the first floor
- When you check out, make sure you turn in your key to ABMOPAD registration personnel in the CUB. These keys will cost you \$100 if you lose one.
- Please complete your evaluation forms and drop them off in the registration area when you turn in your key. If you need more time to complete the evaluation form, you can mail it to the address shown on the form.



Last night I mentioned about the blessing that it was to have a four-month sabbatical from ministry here in the region. As a part of that sabbatical, Carolyn and I spent a month exploring both the Republic of Ireland as well as Northern Ireland—enjoying the beauty of the countries and having the privilege to interview a number of pastors to discover how they see God moving in their midst. All told, we put about 5000 miles on the car we drove during that month. While that may seem like a lot to you, it really isn't too much more than most of the Regional Pastors drive in ministry here in ABCOPAD each month, so I felt right at home behind the wheel....well almost right at home!

You see, in Ireland, the steering wheel is on the right side of the car, and instead of shifting with your right hand (Yep, nearly ALL of the cars are standard, so you better be good with a clutch!) you had to use your left. Oh yeah, one more change—you drive on the left hand side of the road---oh, oh, one more—they like to grow their shrubs and build their fences right out to the edge of the road, so turns (and there are a BUNCH of those!) can be pretty 'up close and personal', if you catch my drift. That's A LOT of change when it comes to trying to maneuver a 2000 pound vehicle around roads that you've never been on before, and honestly there are times it became overwhelming. The secret to making it through was remembering to do two things: 1. check the map (my wife was an awesome navigator!) and 2. keep your eyes on the road and do what you always do (ie. DRIVE!), but just from a different perspective.

Truth is, we're confronted by the same challenges in life every day, aren't we? The world looks different from the way it looked as many of us grew up—Ozzie and Harriet has been replaced by Ozzie Osborne, and even HE is looking tame by today's standards! It can be overwhelming—just like our auto adventures in Ireland—but the same truths remain: keep your eye firmly fixed to the map—God's Word, and do what you always do—obediently follow after the One who's 'God Your Six'...live your life as obedient disciples of Jesus.

God bless you as you strive after the King,

Frank