

Staying in Touch June 18

Living in the Meantime

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13), 14-17

What do Prince Harry, Elon Musk, T.S Eliot, Ashley Judd, Matthew McConaughey, Emma Watson and Hugh Jackman have in common?

They all took a gap year, or a year off to study abroad. (A gap year is an interim period typically between high school and the first year of college). It is now mid-June. High school seniors got their diplomas within the past three weeks. And many of them are now on "gap." During a gap year, students are "living in the meantime," that is, between the end of high school and the beginning of college. They're living between the past and their future. They're in a twilight zone that they know will not last forever — which is fortunate because, like the twilight zone, some weird stuff often happens. Sometimes, the weird stuff is what others simply call "growing up."

The apostle Paul's life was a "gap life." That is, it was life in parentheses. He writes, *"While we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord ... we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him"* (2 Cor.5: 6, 8-9). Paul is living in the meantime.

You've checked in to the airport, paid all the extra fees, cleared security and now you're putting your shoes back on. This is the "now" part. Your flight doesn't leave for another 90 minutes. That's the "then" part. So between the *now* and the *then*, you decide to get a bite to eat at a little café and check your email.

Perhaps you have a little work to do. You might read a book. You're living in the meantime.

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he says that he's packed and ready, but he suspects a delay: *"For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again."* (Phil. 1:21-26).

The apostle Paul had a plan for his "living in the meantime." He was called to be an "ambassador". And his message was reconciliation. His

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Fellowship Time Starts Again Sunday, June 27

Immediately following
worship service.

See you there!



Dads, grandpas, and all you guys who are part of raising children, you're the best, and we appreciate you! **Happy Father's Day!**

**Want to view Sunday
Worship by
Live Stream?**

www.stjohnsthornton.org

click "watch live here"

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

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mission while living in the meantime was to urge people to be reconciled to God.

This was *his* mission; it might not be yours. But when you're living in the meantime, when you're going through an interlude because of sickness, a layoff, an economic downturn or a failed relationship — just what *is* your mission?

The Bible's advice about living successfully in the meantime was a major theme for the apostle Paul. It was a tune he played continually, and it dominates his writings. **“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”**

“So we are always confident. For we walk by faith, not by sight.” For the apostle Paul, *it is always about faith*. He isn't saying we should fake it until we make it. Rather, he simply urges us to recall our core values and begin to live by them. He's convinced that when we do this, our purpose and mission will reveal itself.

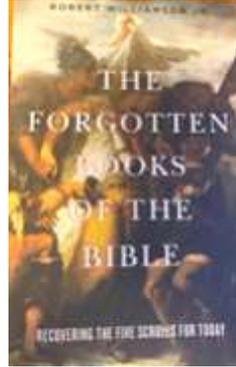
Most high school students who take a gap year do so voluntarily. But life doesn't always work that way, does it? Sometimes, we have no choice. A gap life is thrust upon us. Something happens, and suddenly we are living between two points: what was, and what we hope will be. Meanwhile, we've got to figure this out.

Paul walked by faith, and so can we. When was your gap life? What did you do during your gap life? God does have a purpose for us, and God is working out that purpose right now — one day at a time. Amen.

Peace,
Pastor Wes



Book Study on Sundays!



The Forgotten Books of the Bible

Sundays, 10:15 a.m.
Fellowship Hall



May 31, 2021 Account Balances

SJL is in the process of changing banks in May and June. To be sure all automatic payments and deposits were properly moved to the new bank, we left money in both banks until it's clear that everything moved successfully to the new bank. Reports will be made in the newsletter on account balances beginning with end of July, 2021.

May 31, 2021 Budget Information

| | |
|---|-------------|
| YTD Income | \$105,223 |
| YTD Expenses | \$247,766** |
| Thrivent Mortgage Principal Owed | \$130,124 |

**includes taxes pd to IRS



You are Invited!

Taylor Cliburn's Graduation Party

Saturday, June 26
1:00—6:00 p.m.

Grange Creek Park
4200 E. 110th Ave.
Thornton, CO



June Volunteers

Readers

20 A Ross-Velasquez
27 L. Jones

Ushers

TBD

Counters

21 R. Stover & T. Berry
28 R. Stover & T. Berry

Assistant Ministers

20 L. Meier
27 J. Stallsworth

Would you be interested... Fall Craft Fair...?

Our regular group who organizes the fall craft fair will not be doing so this year. If you might be interested in organizing a craft fair, contact Kristi Kindschuh, and she will be happy to give you information to help organize the event. You can contact her at dvrkind@comcast.net or 303.918.5029.

Summer Fun in Thornton!

Twist and Shout Summer Concerts

Enjoy the outdoors and free music with your family and friends on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m., June 24-August 12. This year's concert series will also feature the new Arts in the Parks entertainment on four nights starting at 5:30 p.m. For schedule: <https://www.thorntonco.gov/festivals-events/Pages/default.aspx>



Thornton's Neighborhood Movie in the Park

Bring your family, invite your friends to the next Movie in the Park. All movies begin at dusk. To view the scheduled days

and list of movies, visit gocot.net/movies

Donate Your Old Phone

Thornton Community Connections is accepting phones that are no longer in use to help people who are experiencing homelessness. A phone allows them to make calls for interviews, emergency services, keeping in contact with resources, services providers, and more. Phones will be cleared and reset. To donate, visit Community Connections at 9471 Dorothy Blvd, front desk.



*Give all your
worries and
cares to God,
for He cares
about you.*

I PETER 5:7

