



Pastor Hanke's Blog

Sept 1, 2019

In Between Series

Bible Reference: Romans 9

This weekend some families will say “so long” to summer vacation with a short trip. My family will be one of those as we head to the lake. Being in St. Louis near the Seminary and the International Center, we have the wonderful blessing of having other pastors as members of our congregation. While I’m gone this weekend, you are privileged to have Rev. Dr. Leo Sánchez leading the service & preaching. He is passionate about the Holy Spirit, who is the gift Jesus said would guide us through this life.

This Sunday is also a break week in between our fall series topics, so I’d like to share with you some thoughts I have that connect our first series, The Battle, with the next one, Remote Control (starting Sept. 8th).

When reading the Bible, many tend to focus on reading the New Testament because it’s easier to understand, and because it’s where you’ll find the words of Jesus. Over the last several weeks we spent time in Joshua, a book that you may or may not have spent much time reading in the past. I pray that through our study of Joshua you heard that Jesus knows you are facing many battles. I also pray you heard the reason Mt. Calvary believes the discipleship model is so important—because it prepares you for the battles you will face. When you Read 1, Love 1, Pray 1, and Worship 1 you are much more prepared with the words of the Lord to know that no matter what battle we face Jesus will be with you.

In my personal devotions I have been reading from Romans 9. It reminds the readers that the battles we face are real. It connects them back to the Old Testament passage of Exodus 9:12, which says, “*And God hardened Pharaoh’s heart...*” It tells us that there are vessels of wrath that seek to destroy us, which are outside of our control. It points us back to Joshua, to see how he returned to the Lord to find refuge and wait on the day when he would not face any wrath ever again.

This leads perfectly into our next series. Every year we have a stewardship series to remind us how Jesus has given us everything we have in our lives. Ultimately, we don’t have control, even over our life, but rather we have only “remote control”. Knowing this, wouldn’t it be good to look to the One who controls it all, and gives it all to us, especially when life seems out of control? This perspective can help with whatever battles we are

facing. It brings us back to the truth that no matter how well we think we know our bodies, our finances, our families, or even our own passions, Jesus knows them better. He even knows the battles we will face before we face them, and can help us through them, all of them, until the day He returns. I can't wait to dive into this new series with you.

I pray you have a great Labor Day weekend.

God's Peace,

Pastor Will