

Sermon Notes by Pr. Vincent Saunders, Jr. MDiv - "Partners With Christ" July 4, 2020 Sacramento Woodside SDA Church
We have an abbreviated service today, but we'll worship the Lord with all of our strength, might, and wisdom.

Woodside Mission Statement



- With the guidance and leading of the Lord, Jesus Christ, our desire is to help one another by:
 - ➤ Encouraging others to love God,
 - ➤ Edifying others to serve God, and
 - ➤ Equipping others to reach this community for Christ.
- Wherever you are in life, we would love to point you to the cross of Calvary and introduce you to a wonderful Savior who has a purpose and plan for you.

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Leave That Sniper Alone!

A commanding general of a line division in Korea was inspecting one sunny afternoon when three sniper bullets from a near-by hill whizzed over his hand, causing him to jump into a bunker with a bewhiskered sergeant.

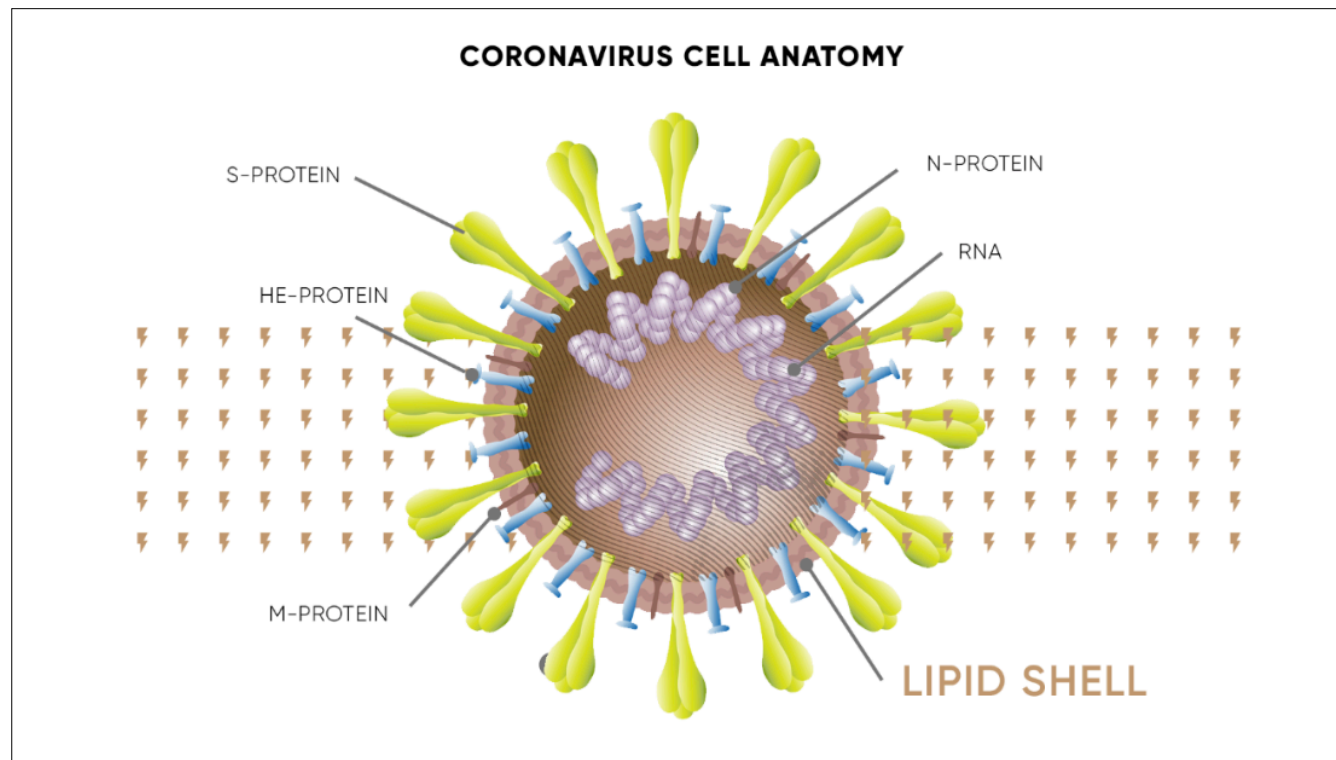
“Locate that sniper,” snapped the general.

“We know exactly where he is, sir,” the sergeant retorted calmly.

“Why don’t you shoot him then?” demanded the general.

The sergeant explained: “Well, sir, that fellow has been sniping at this hill for six weeks now and hasn’t hit anybody yet. We’re afraid if we kill him, they might replace him with one that can shoot.” —Selected

Tan, P. L. (1996, c1979). Encyclopedia of 7700 illustrations : A treasury of illustrations, anecdotes, facts and quotations for pastors, teachers and Christian workers. Garland TX: Bible Communications.



Here is a magnified image of the cell that is causing the worldwide pandemic. And the reason it's called "coronavirus" is that it resembles a crown.

Successful Partnerships

- Wright Brothers
- Watson & Crick
- Lennon & McCartney
- Page & Brin
- Ben & Jerry's



https://www.post-it.com/3M/en_US/post-it/ideas/articles/how-collaboration-changed-the-world-5-famous-partnerships/

1. The Wright brothers gave us all wings

Wilbur and Orville Wright got their start fixing bicycles, but, in 1903, developed the three-axis controls that made flying a fixed-wing aircraft possible. Their invention not only made airplanes a part of industry and trade, but also opened the world to the kind of travel most people had only dreamed about. Their work together resulted in one of the formative inventions of the 20th century – and a completely different world.

James Watson and Francis Crick illuminated the structure of life

Drs. Watson and Crick didn't know each other particularly well before they began their work together trying to understand the structure of the DNA molecule. But, by building on the work of the chemist Dr. Rosalind Franklin, they were able to describe the double helix that we now know forms the framework for the basic building blocks of all life – and to lay the foundation for understanding the human genome.

John Lennon and Paul McCartney held our hands

When John Lennon and Paul McCartney started writing and recording songs together as part of the Beatles, they had no idea how far their partnership would take them. While the band as a whole lives on as one of the most influential in history, the dynamic creative partnership that Lennon and McCartney embodied was the driving force behind the sound that changed popular music forever.

Larry Page and Sergey Brin brought the internet to our fingertips

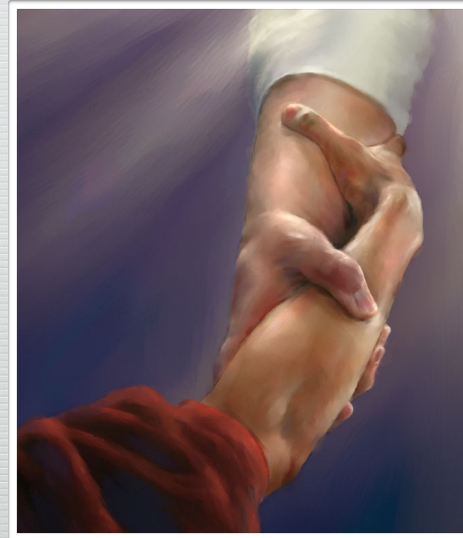
Larry Page and Sergey Brin met when Brin, a student at Stanford, gave Page a tour of the campus. They started the company that would become Google as a way to experiment with search algorithms – but it’s grown into a suite of technological wonders that have become an integral part of the lives of millions. The world’s information, and the way we’re all able to access it, will never be the same.

Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield made life taste a little sweeter

While ice cream might not seem quite as important as the rest of these inventions, Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield have done the world a favor by setting the bar high for interesting and unique ice cream varieties. Cohen's insistence on the chunky texture that makes Ben and Jerry's unique, combined with Greenfield's focus on the rich and complex taste of each ice cream, have led a veritable ice cream revolution. Making the world a better place with chunks of fudge brownie and chocolate chip cookie dough is definitely one way to put collaboration to good (and delicious) use.

Hebrews 3:12-14

“Partners With Christ”



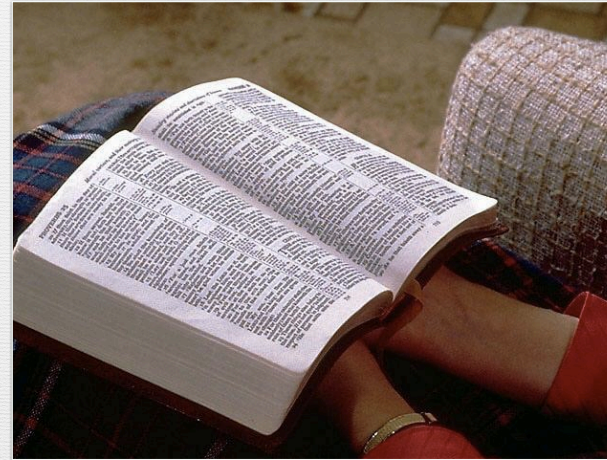
“See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has an evil, unbelieving heart that forsakes the living God. But exhort one another each day, as long as it is called “Today,” that none of you may become hardened by sin’s deception. For we have become partners with Christ, if in fact we hold our initial confidence firm until the end.” (Hebrews 3:12–14 NET)



“You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I have revealed to you everything I heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that remains, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name He will give you.” (John 15:14–16 NET)

Elements of a good partnership

- Trust
- Covenants
- Mutual Plans
- Shared Goal



“The Christian shares in the victory and character of his blessed Lord, and may partake of the benefits and blessing that are theirs to enjoy as a result of Christ’s great sacrifice upon the cross and His ministry as high priest in the courts above. Union with Christ here and now is a precious experience (see on Gal. 2:20). This is the “rest” into which we are to enter.” - SDABC



The wilderness wanderings and the attitude of the Israelites on the borders of Canaan are examples for us and we are closer to our Heavenly Canaan. Will our faith be sustained through the difficult times?

Supplemental Note: Adam Clarke's Commentary on Hebrews 3:14:

Verse 14. **For we are made partakers of Christ.** "Having believed in Christ as the promised Messiah, and embraced the whole Christian system, they were consequently made partakers of all its benefits in this life, and entitled to the fulfillment of all its exceeding great and precious promises relative to the glories of the eternal world. The former they actually possessed, the latter they could have only in case of their perseverance; therefore the apostle says, If we hold fast the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end, i. e. of our life. For our participation of glory depends on our continuing steadfast in the faith, to the end of our Christian race.

The word *upostasis*, which we here translate confidence, from upo, under, and isthmi, to place or stand, signifies properly a basis or foundation; that on which something else is builded, and by which it is supported. Their faith in Christ Jesus was this hypostasis or foundation; on that all their peace, comfort, and salvation were builded. If this were not held fast to the end, Christ, in his saving influences, could not be held fast; and no Christ, no heaven. He who has Christ in him, has the well-founded hope of glory; and he who is found in the great day with Christ in his heart, will have an abundant entrance into eternal glory."

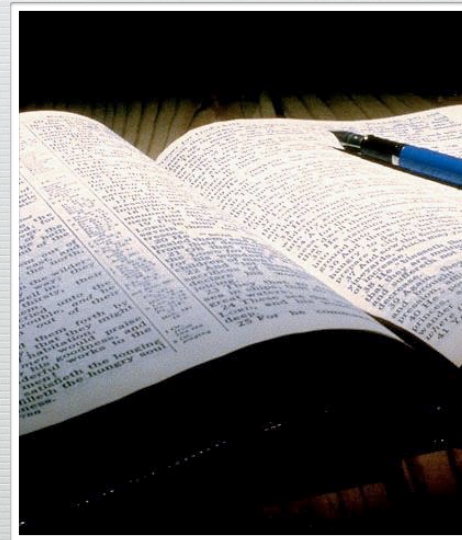


Paul points to the unbelief of the Israelites and encourages us by pointing to our relationships with Jesus as the foundation of our faith!

“An evil heart of unbelief. This has ever been the root of difficulty in the matter of man’s relation to God. Thus it was with Israel in the wilderness, and later in the land of Canaan. This same difficulty prevents nominal Christians today from entering into the experience of “rest” that is possible through genuine faith in Christ Jesus. Israel’s lack of faith stands in marked contrast with the faithfulness of Moses and Christ (vs. 1, 2).” - SDABC

Hebrews 3:15-19

Warnings Against Unbelief



“As it says, “Oh, that today you would listen as he speaks! Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” For which ones heard and rebelled? Was it not all who came out of Egypt under Moses’ leadership? And against whom was God provoked for forty years? Was it not those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear they would never enter into his rest, except those who were disobedient? So we see that they could not enter because of unbelief.” (Hebrews 3:15–19 NET)



Appeal Story - Nothing To Lose

Blaise Pascal, one of the acknowledged masters of calculus in the 16th century, was asked why he believed in eternal salvation or eternal life. His remarks were as follows: “Let’s assume that I am wrong and there is no life hereafter—then I have lost nothing. On the other hand, let’s assume that I am right and there is life hereafter, then I have gained everything.”

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Prayer