

Notes:

Enter to Worship. Depart to Serve.

Sermon Text

Subject

A few years ago the Russians sent a submarine under the arctic ice at the north polar cap and ordered it to dive about 1.5 miles to the ocean floor. Under the freezing sea, on top of the world, they planted the Russian flag in the goo.

In so doing, they let the world know that they, too, had a stake in the development of the arctic region. It didn't just belong to Canada, the United States, Sweden, Norway and others. Russia intends to be an active player in the science, research and development of the snow zone.

It was a bold move. It recalled to some how the Americans went to the moon, hit a golf ball with a 7-iron and then stuck Old Glory in the moon dust. But not even the Americans regarded this as a territorial claim.

Sometimes, however, we need to drive a stake in the ground. We need to claim some new ground, or reclaim some lost ground. In the Old Testament, there's a story about Caleb, one of the elders of Israel, who - when everyone else was choosing fertile pasture for their inheritance - eschewed the easy route, and pointed to a mountain and said, "I'll take that!"

Do you have a mountain that needs claiming? Is there an area in your life that has somehow slipped away? It might take a little huffing and puffing to get it back, but we know it's the right thing to do.

Perhaps that's what the hymn writer had in mind when he wrote, "I'm pressing on the upward way, / New heights I'm gaining every day; / Still praying as I onward bound, 'Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.' Lord, lift me up and let me stand, / By faith, on heaven's tableland, / A higher plane than I have found; / Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

O God, sometimes I choose the easy way. I've lived a lot of years, and the thought of climbing a "mountain" seems beyond my capability. Give me strength and courage to reclaim my spiritual life, the things I've lost, and give me the discipline to keep the things I've gained.

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SERVICES — SUNDAY: Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Cobleskill 4:00 p.m. Evening 7:00 p.m. — WEDNESDAY: Midweek Service 7:00 p.m. — FRIDAY: Women's Fellowship 10:30 a.m.

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Seek the LORD
while he may
be found,
call upon him
while he is near.
Isaiah 55:6

Spiritual "To Do List"
(things God has shown me today)

