

Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

December 22, 2020

Well, here we are at my last “official” *Laptop*. I’ve been writing these every week for at least nineteen years, so there have been a few of them (!).

I have three primary goals in writing these musings. In the first place, I think best on paper, and writing about things helps me clarify my own thinking. Second, I hope through these musings to help all of us learn to think more carefully and thoughtfully about God’s work in and through us in our daily lives. And third, I use these columns to comment on things that I usually wouldn’t talk about on Sunday mornings.

There are several reasons for my third point. First of all, most of us come on Sunday morning both to worship and to be encouraged. Guests often get their first feel for the congregation in worship; and if you bring friends and family to worship, you need to feel safe that I’m not going to go on a rant about something, or even to make you think *really* hard. I save the really hard thinking and more difficult subjects for this setting.

I certainly do try to encourage rigorous theological thinking, but Sunday morning is not usually the place for that. Whether I’ve achieved any of these things—or not—is for you to judge.

As I transition to a different schedule and set of responsibilities, I do intend to continue writing *Laptops* from time to time, but most likely not every week. **In order to respect your privacy, I am with this *Laptop* disenrolling everyone from my distribution list. If you wish to be on my “retirement” *Laptop* list, simply reply to this email and tell me so.**

Although our condo and our lake house won’t be sold for several weeks yet, as of December 29, our address will be: **1143 Rockwall Drive, Abingdon, VA 24210**. Once we get a bit settled and the vaccines are hard at work, we’d love to see you!



You’ll be able to recognize my car, because this will be my license plate. It stands for “Whatever Jill Wants” 😊.



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Archived Laptops are available at http://www.dcstancil.com/daves_laptop

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Jill and I want to thank you again for your **OVERWHELMING** generosity to us in these recent days. I'll get notes written eventually, but it may take me a bit to get them done with all that has to happen straightaway.

Far more than material gifts, of course, Jill and I are grateful beyond words for the privilege of having sojourned with you for these nine wonderful years; and we are grateful beyond that for the anticipation of lifelong connections and friendships.

As Paul wrote to his beloved Philippian congregation, I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the Day of Christ Jesus.

Indeed, it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, and you are partners with me in grace . . . and in the defense and confirmation of the Gospel. For God is my witness, how deeply I [love] all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, so that you may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the Day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God!

I love you from the bottom of my heart . . . and there's not a thing you can do about it!

Always,

Dave

