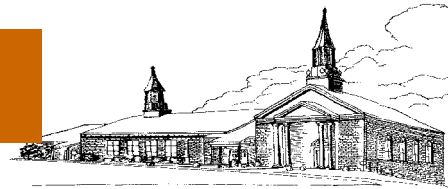


The Olivet Observer



"The little church with a big heart"

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The 130th Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church:

It was recently made clear to me that my messaging skills were developed in a by gone era. I'm referring to text messaging actually. Not long ago I saw a blurb on the news about current phone etiquette. Apparently leaving voicemails is quickly becoming a thing of the past, and people are moving more and more in the direction of only sending text messages when communicating-unless something is really an emergency. Personally I don't mind that one because I've never really liked leaving voice messages anyway. Beyond that development however, I've been learning that using punctuation while text messaging is not only often unnecessary but generally frowned upon by people of younger generations. At dinner one night a couple of weeks ago one of my daughters asked me to show her a text that I had recently written. So I complied. It contained commas, periods, and ended with a question mark. My daughter informed me that someone her age would assume that I was angry with them. So now I'm learning to text instead of leaving a voice-mail AND to ditch the punctuation marks when sending the messages. I feel like someone probably needs to check on my former English teachers to see how they are coping with all of these new customs.

The truth is no matter how messages are delivered, it's the content that ultimately matters the most. That is certainly true with the message of God for us. In our Tuesday morning Bible studies, we have recently had some discussion about different translations of Scripture. Obviously there are many available to us now. Sometimes different words are used in different verses. While there may be different, yet similar words and phrases in different translations, the truth of the message must remain the same. The message of grace, our call to repentance and an ever deepening walk with God will always be the core of what we learn as we read and study the Bible.

You may be familiar with Young's Literal Translation of Scripture that was first published in 1862. It is an extremely literal translation of the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek of the Bible. In that translation Romans 10:13 is directly translated..."for every one -- whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, he shall be saved."

The heart of the message of God's word to us will always remain the same. How grateful we are for that! I hope you have a joyful and peace filled month this October. And by the way, don't stop using punctuation in text messages if it makes you uncomfortable, and please feel free to leave voicemail on my line whenever you'd like.

Grace and Peace,