

“Chaplain Paul, you’re an ‘in-betweenener!’

The other day I was visiting the family of a lady who was actively dying. Indeed she passed away just hours later. But during my visit the patient’s sister remarked, *“Chaplain Paul, you’re an in-betweenener! You help people transition from this life to the next.”*

I learned a new word that day. However, it didn’t mean the same as the Urban Dictionary’s definition of *in-betweenener*, e.g., “A teenage Sub-Group—People who are not cool enough to be popular but are not nerdy enough to be geeks.” When I read that it made me glad the lady had explained what she meant by me being an *in-betweenener*. I’m certainly not a teenager so that completely eliminates even the remotest possibility of my being nerdy, or a geek for that matter. Now I can’t wait to educate my grandkids! ☺

Humor aside, while the lady’s reference was creative, the meaning it conveyed couldn’t be more sincere, or accurate for that matter. I have the solemn privilege of tending to the spiritual needs of the dying as they teeter on the precipice of eternity. For many, it is a time of fear and of apprehension about what lays ahead. For the deeply religious, a mental self-evaluation often takes place. They size up their prospects for a day in God’s divine courtroom. A personal checklist usually includes a record of church attendance and religiosity.

It is here where a loving appeal can be made as to the purpose of Jesus’ death on the cross. Why was it necessary? I mean, if we are able to mollify God into granting us eternity with him on our own merits then what was Jesus’ death all about? For some, this is a watershed moment when for the first time they understand the substitutionary work of Jesus Christ.



In our last eGlimpse, we sent a sample picture handout titled, “My Substitute!” God has already been pleased to use its message in powerful ways. For example, I recently attended the passing of a gentleman who had eagerly received the picture and its message. It made sense. He rejoiced in his substitute! Imagine my surprise and joy as I entered his room for the last time and saw the picture pinned on the bulletin board by his bedside. No other pictures were present, just the one titled, ‘My Substitute!’

You know, I think the lady had it right; I *am* an *in-betweenener*.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support!

“Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.” Ephesians 6:18-19

P.S. See the back for a peek at some family news and pics!

- We praise God for an “all clear” report on Paul’s recent cancer surveillance screening!
- Last month we enjoyed a special day together at Wisconsin Dells celebrating our 46th anniversary!
- We had a four generations photo-op at our youngest grandchild, Alyssa’s, 10th birthday during a recent visit by her mom, dad and two brothers.
- Scott and his oldest son, Chad, who will be a senior this fall, had an UNFORGETTABLE” two-week trip to India earlier this month. Scott and Joy are launching into a ministry with Send Hope, the support arm of a ministry in India that does church planting through child sponsorships and community care. Please pray for wisdom and financial provision as Scott takes on leadership responsibilities as its co-director.
- Mark is benefitting from his involvement at his church in Post Falls, Idaho and we continue to trust God with him for a good paying job.

