



WOW: Word Of the Week

Nevertheless

July 30, 2025

A couple of years ago, I read an excellent devotional thought penned by Bruce Henderson. He described what he referred to as “the great nevertheless.”

Life is filled with neverthelesses. In spite of, notwithstanding, all the same. The past is history -- nevertheless. Nevertheless says that the past does not necessarily define the future. Now add in God! What do you get? You get what Henderson describes as “the Great Nevertheless.”

Change is constant. Nothing remains the same. Change may move us backward. Most often, changes are designed to move us forward.

Our world is different than it used to be. I remember no electricity. No phone. Does it go without saying, “no TV?” My sons can barely remember pre-microwave. Air fryer? Society has changed. Politics has changed. Economics has changed. Physics has changed.

Change generates new problems—problems which will not be solved with the same kind of thinking that worked previously. A different world—technology, AI.

How will the church adjust? How should ministry change? How should missions change?

Past methods become ineffective. New thinking is needed. Doing the same old things will bring the same old results – often out-of-step with our contemporary world.

Bible classes and preaching were information transfer 60 years ago when I began ministry. Preachers who could mix in persuasion were in demand for gospel meetings.

Mere information transfer is “old hat.” Classes must motivate -- emotional learning, behavioral learning. Touch emotions; change attitudes. Change lives; generate action.

Down at the churchhouse, how often are we stuck in a rut that was in vogue in the last century—yea, in the last millennium? Think of a recent sermon, or Bible class. What was the speaker/teacher trying to get you to do? What kind of emotional involvement and change was being sought, demanded? How was your daily life challenged?

If what I am saying seems new and strange—it is only because we are not doing it. The church must be a place where people grow, change, mature, act.

The Greeks defined logos (mental learning), pathos (emotional change), and ethos (behavioral change). Here’s my prayer for the next few days. The word: nevertheless. In spite of.... I / you / we have a history. Nevertheless!

What could be different? How intense is our desire? How invested are we? What do we love? What gives us pleasure? What rewards us emotionally? What actions are expected?

Taking the gospel to our changing world will require changing us – evangelism is more than information transfer. Touch hearts. Touch emotions. God, help me hurt for the lost. Help me with the “what to do”—and teach me how.

It is not too late. We may have been stuck. Nevertheless....

God energizes us, works within us, to accomplish his purpose. Do we know his purpose? Is his purpose as important to us as it is to him? Will we act?