



April 2, 2025

MESSENGER

QUOTE FOR TODAY

" We find we need the word of God, even more, to remind us of where we came, and to remind us of where we are going and that we need the power of God to get there."

Pastor Connie in this week's sermon

INFO

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MY "REGARDLESS" FRIENDS

When I was a new Pastor in my first church leadership position, Rufus R. Purdy was a man to be reckoned with. He was one of two founding Deacons in that young church, and the three of us worked together tirelessly to nurture the small congregation. Rufus was also a builder by trade, and erecting the actual church building was a major part of our service together through the decade of the 1960s.

I had never known a "Rufus" before, and this one definitely intrigued me. He was Nova Scotia born and bred, and he held on to some pet idiosyncrasies, including pronouncing "about" in that typical Canadian way: "It's *aboat* time." He had an answer for everything, and he was always sure he was right (in a kind and gentle way).

I remember one time I was talking with a worker who for years had been his right-hand-man in the building company. I pointed out that his boss's name was "Rufus R. Purdy," and I asked him what the "R" stood for. His answer was immediate: "**REGARDLESS!**" That explained a lot. Knowing that I was dealing with Rufus **Regardless** Purdy helped me to realize that what often came across as unreasonable stubbornness was really his inner strength, and it was a gift from God.

Since then, God has always kept one or two "regardless" people in my life. I've usually seen them as a thorn in my side, a burr under my saddle . . . or, at least, a pain in the neck. I've frequently felt that my life would be a lot simpler without them and wished they'd go away. But in retrospect, I realize that these "regardless" people have been gifts from God. Sometimes they've confronted me or openly opposed me. Usually, however, their influence has been more subtle: gently applying the brakes to my ideas or steering me in a slightly different direction.

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(Continued from other side)

Winnie the Pooh is memorable for being positive and hopeful in all circumstances. Why in the world did he have Eeyore in his life, who always manages to come with the opposite attitude? Among that donkey's most memorable quotes are:

"Don't pay any attention to me. Nobody ever does."

"Good afternoon --- if it is a good afternoon, which I doubt."

"After all, what are birthdays? Here today and gone tomorrow."

"The nicest thing about the rain is that it always stops. Eventually."

"It's not much of a tail, but I'm sort of attached to it."

"They're funny things, accidents. You never have them till you're having them."

"Sure is a cheerful color. Guess I'll have to get used to it."

"I never get my hopes up, so I can never get let down."

He was Eeyore Regardless! And Winnie wouldn't be Winnie without him.

I'm at the place in my life where I have learned to thank God for the "regardless" people I have to deal with. Well, almost! They're still hard to be around. They think they know all the answers when, in reality, I'm the only one who does.

Pastor George "Regardless" Van Alstine