

**Bellefield  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**Bellefield.org  
412.687.3222**

Today is University Sunday here at Bellefield. Our University Ministries Council by way of our Cornerstone Ministries team will be leading in worship for our second service from 11:00 to 12:15. Please join us for that & Spiritual Growth classes at 9:45.

**Preparation for Worship: Hymn #338, v.1**  
**Call to Worship: Romans 11:33-36; 8:28**  
**Hymn of Worship: #244**  
**Confession of Sins: page 9 (small #s)**  
**Assurance of Pardon**  
**Gloria Patri**  
**Scripture: Ruth 1:1-18**  
**Prep for Prayer: Hymn #338, v. 2**  
**Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**  
**Response to Prayer: Hymn #338, v. 3**  
**Offering**  
**Offertory Music**  
**Doxology**  
**Prayer of Dedication of the Offering**  
**Hymn of Preparation: #365**  
**Sermon: Ruth, A Progeny of Providence**  
**Hymn of Response: #302**  
**Benediction**  
**Benediction Response: #338, v. 4**

**4. Top Trait for Providence: Devotion**

**Finally, we must, like Ruth, manifest the top trait of devotion to God.** The poet Keats implied that Ruth had tears of regret. But not so. For Ruth stands



*Be devoted to the giver of all good gifts.*

for all those whose decision is solid for the Savior, Jesus Christ, for all those whose hearts are devoted with sacred passion to Him and His glory. Please remember here that Oprah turned back. Does she not represent a common enough person today? The ones who have some semblance of alignment with Jesus yet never break with the world? *Grace & Providence call us to live lives based in Ruth 1:16-17!* Go hard after God for His glory.



**Bellefield Presbyterian Church**

**Today's  
Sermon Helps**

**Worship  
3/29/09**

**Ruth, A Progeny\*  
of Providence**

**\*Progeny means offspring or child.**

**Ruth  
1:6-18**

When Ben Franklin was abroad as our representative to Europe, he would sometimes gather together a fashionable crowd and

tell them that he had come upon a most remarkable piece of Oriental literature. Then he'd read to them the *Book of Ruth*, its 4 short chapters. They



**Ruth & Naomi**

would express great delight & ask where it came from.

**Why so Remarkable? How?**

Franklin would then say, "It's in the Bible!" *Ruth* is a book of divine revelation inspired by

God to tell us that all our Christian lives like Ruth's are covered by Providence. Yet Ruth's

story is fascinating because her actions are not unimportant to Providence. They seem to invite it.

**Sermon  
Moves at a  
glance**

- ♦ Today's theme is: *We glorify God when we trust His Providence at all times over our lives in the Lord Jesus Christ;*
- ♦ *First, a moment to define the doctrine of Providence;*
- ♦ *Then a look at 4 qualities God's grace worked in Ruth that go hand in hand with Providence:*
  - 1. Determination;**
  - 2. Diligence;**
  - 3. Deference;**
  - 4. Devotion.***Let us follow.*

## God Is Glorified in Our Trusting His Providence

Do your heart and mind warm when you hear Ruth tell Naomi that no matter what happens, she's sticking with Naomi's God? What devotion! "Do not urge me to leave you

or to return from following you. For where you will go I will go and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your peo-



**God's Providence leads Ruth where to glean...**

ple shall be my people, and your God my God...." Is not God greatly glorified in this passion?

## The Power of Christian Passion for Action

Probably at one time or other, we've heard this prayer: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, let me sow

**Ruth shows us how to be blessed to be a blessing.**

pardon; where doubt, faith; where despair, hope..." etc. The prayer captures us because we

see in it the awareness that the grace of God in Providence blesses us to be a blessing to others and bring great glory to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Such a prayer inspires.

## Owning Providence Promotes Blessings

The entire cast of characters are both owning & seeking divine providence in the *Book of Ruth*. Let us define it then: it is that cease-

less exercise of the divine energy whereby God the Creator preserves all His



creatures, is operative in all that comes to pass, and directs all things to their appointed ends: **His glory.**

## 1. A Progeny of Providence Loves Determination

**Our Determination should be like Ruth's....** Did you notice the depth and intensity of



*Be rooted in determination.*

the discussion going on by the banks of the river Jordan? Naomi says to Ruth and Orpah, "Go

back." Orpah does. But Ruth is solidly unyieldingly determined not to go back but to stay with Naomi and follow Naomi's God. This occasions

## 2. A Progeny of Providence Loves Diligence

**Our diligence should be like Ruth's....** Ruth 2:2 says, "And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, 'Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I

shall find favor.'" The Hebrew indication is earnest pleading to get out and work hard! 2:7 shows she went early in the morn, and 2:17 shows she didn't stop til eve. **God sees &**

**knows all!**

**Romans 8:28 is God's all-comprehensive coverage of us in His good Providence for our ultimate good & His great glory.**

## 3. A Progeny of Providence Loves Deference

**Our deference to authority should be like Ruth's....** Her first address to the reapers (2:7) is anchored in the politeness of the day. She

says, "Please!" Her first response to Boaz is to fall flat on her face. And then she wonders why she's

found favor in his eyes. In constant humility, she related in love to her Naomi.

