

**August 27, 2017**  
**Rally Day**

Read 1 Thessalonians 5: 11 & Galatians  
6: 2

# Roots

Today is *Rally Day* here at church. We are rallying for school to begin again. Now, let me just share with you the definition of “rally:”

*verb*

1. (of troops) come together again in order to continue fighting after a defeat or dispersion.

"De Montfort's troops rallied and drove back the king's infantry"

*synonyms:* regroup, reassemble, re-form, reunite

"the troops rallied and held their ground"

2. recover or cause to recover in health, spirits, or poise.  
"she floundered for a moment, then rallied again"

I think that we just use the term to mean in general “preparing for [school] by having one last hoorah of fun.” But the dictionary definition is telling and not inappropriate for our purposes either. When I think of “back-to-School,” I am still near enough my school experiences to think of defeat and loss of the summer (I know that many of you parents and grandparents are instead thinking of victory and rest from having the kiddos fulltime, but bear with me).

With these definitions at hand and in our minds, it is appropriate that we, the church, should celebrate a “Rally Day” though, whether in celebration of the beginning of a school year or just because it doesn’t matter. Consider our readings. What is it that they encourage us to do? Bear one another’s burdens and build one another up with the message, love and mercy of Christ. If that isn’t rallying I don’t know what is!

Ephesians 6 tells us that we are fighting a battle. Jesus tells us the outcome of that battle is decided and that we are victorious, but like many enemies that know they are defeated, our enemy has decided to make life

as miserable as possible for us and continues the fight in the despair of defeat. With nothing more to lose and

many souls to gain, they fight dirty. This is the setting that we live in *every single day*. To top it all off, all of this is done in secret to the eyes of the world. This kind of warfare is exhausting, and because of all of this we need a *Rally Day* where we celebrate the victory we have in Christ. Make no mistake, the war is decided, but the skirmishes continue. Until those end when Jesus returns, we need to celebrate *Rally Day* as often as possible, bearing each other’s burdens, building one another up and reminding each other, especially in our despair, that our God is victorious and the war is won.

As we engage in our day-to-day skirmishes, whether with bodily pain, mental degradation, spiritual suffering or familiar sins (or any number of things the world and Satan and our own flesh can throw at us), we can get worn down easily. It is important for us to come together as described in our *Roots* readings today to recharge and rally together in order to get up and struggle again tomorrow. I don’t mean we need to go bowling every Sunday as a church. But, we need to wrap our arms around one another when we see each other down. We need to encourage one another with Christ when souls are somber. We need to share the mercy of Christ with each other as well as the world, so that in this life we can rally for the skirmishes. Since we know we have the victory in Jesus, we need not fear defeat, but lest the weight of the world bring us down, let us *rally* each day behind Christ our victor.

Pastor *Carol Jh*

