

MONDAY 08.03.26 - Matthew 10:16

Times have certainly changed in the span of our lifetime. The Leave it to Beaver days are over. They had their detriments, mostly for women and minorities, but much was good. Free love and psychedelics was expressive but shallow and thankfully short lived. Then came the search for truth, which proved elusive so long as God was left out of the equation. Most political discussions are fruitless and have divided families like the Civil War did.

God’s call is to be ‘innocent as doves’ in this culture of ‘wolves’. A friend recently wrote: what is my purpose in life anyway. This personal expression shares a search for truth, present today despite the loud clamor by the wolves. The doves must be wise and share the Truth of the Gospel to whomever will listen. And searching they are. If they have ears, let them hear.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 08.04.26 - Ephesians 5:15-16

Ephesians 5 offers guidelines for effective Christian living, first providing commands for Christians in general, then prescribing what Christian family life should be. Today’s verses offer words of caution and the reason for following God’s dictates reminding us: “the days are evil” because “the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour”(I Peter 5:8). Therefore, we should live wisely, seeking God’s guidance in our daily lives and decision-making. We are also enjoined to use our time wisely by “making the most of every opportunity.” We must use our time to live for the Lord in ways that will reach others and increase His Kingdom. People are always watching to see whether we “walk the talk.” Plus, I Peter 3:15 tells us to “always be prepared to give an answer ...for the hope [we] have.” Let us live so that others see and seek the joy, peace, and love of the Lord.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 08.05.26 - 2 Peter 1:16-21

Peter was an eyewitness to the transfiguration of Jesus (Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28-36). On that day long ago, Jesus had taken Peter, James, and John to “the holy mountain.” There, before their very eyes, Jesus was transfigured in brilliant and translucent light. On either side of Jesus stood the great Hebrew prophets Moses and Elijah. Then, Peter and the others heard the voice of the Lord declaring that Jesus is His Son, and He is pleased with Him. Peter witnessed this incredible experience firsthand. Yet, Peter tells us that there is something more reliable than an experience, namely, the Word of God. Scripture is sure (2 Peter 1:19a), authoritative (vv 19b-20), and inspired (v 21).

We can depend on the written Word of God. We can be saved through it (1 Peter 1:23-25), matured by it (1 Peter 2:2), and guided and protected as we trust and obey.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 08.06.26 - Isaiah 40:8

*“The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever.”*

What is it that refreshes you and allows you to get refocused. Maybe it’s cars, or motorcycles, or golf or fishing, or gardening or home renovation. There is nothing wrong with these things. It is good to get away from the hustle and bustle of the world and relax. I hope that for you getting away and finding rest and

refreshment also includes spending time in the Word of God and listening to what He wants to tell you. Most of the aforementioned activates will provide temporary relief from the stress and anxiety of your world but spending time in the Word of God can provide you with peace and joy in the mist of life’s hurtles. Most things provide us with temporary relief from the pain of this world. God’s Word can provide us with the cure for the pain of this world. Maybe it’s time to stop settling for the treatment and to start looking for the cure.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 08.07.26 - Psalm 19:7-11

While creation displays God's power, His Word reveals His character, His will, and His ways. God's Word revives the soul, gives wisdom to the simple, brings joy to the heart, enlightens the eyes, and stands forever because it is perfectly true. It is more valuable than gold and sweeter than honey. Through it God not only teaches His people but also warns and guides them for their good.

It is easy to treat God's Word as another item on our to-do list instead of the life-giving treasure it truly is. Yet every time we open the Scriptures, we have the opportunity to hear from the living God! Do you approach God's Word as something you *have* to read, or as something you *get* to receive? Treasure His Word today, trusting that He uses it to shape your heart and direct your steps.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNING LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Began June 7th - 9:40am in Room 2

Ecclesiastes: "Finding Meaning When Life Feel Meaningless"

By Lydia Brownback.

This 10-week study helps women understand the themes of sin, vanity, enjoyment, and death, ultimately encouraging believers to follow the will of God for their lives, no matter their current circumstances.

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

Kids	CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade) LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
Youth	E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade) LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
Adults	SUMMER QUARTER - Sunday Mornings LOCATION: B8-10 - June 7 th - August 30 th EXPLORE THE BIBLE: Joshua; Judges; Ruth By studying these books, we see that God is still at work, raising leaders from the most unlikely places. We are challenged to reserve our loyalty for our ultimate Leader. Teachers: Joel Day & Lane Kemler

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

Youth	ON SUMMER BREAK
Adults	Worship Center

MEN'S BREAKFAST

August 15th at 8:00am in the FAC
Sign up at the Welcome Center

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES,
USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

2 Peter 1:12-15
Important Reminders

Thinking about death clarifies your life.

Peter doesn't bring up the topic of death to be morbid. Rather, he brings it up to encourage us to live well. So, what will help you to live life well? By remembering ...

1. That You Will _____
- 2 Peter 1:12
 - Psalm 90:10-12
2. That You Are Living _____
- 2 Peter 1:13-14
 - 2 Corinthians 5:1-2
3. To Live For The _____
- 2 Peter 1:14
 - John 21:18-19
4. To Leave A _____ That Will _____ You
- 2 Peter 1:15
 - Luke 9:30-31

Before I die, I want to _____

E2 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



August 3 - August 7

INTRODUCTION:
Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:
Sunday, August 2nd, we will hear a message from 2 Peter 1:12-15, "Important Reminders". Sunday, August 9th, our message will be from 2 Peter 1:16-21, How to Tell the Truth.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:
His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.
2 Peter 1:3-4