

MONDAY 01.05.26 - Luke 2:29-32

²⁹ *“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.*

³⁰ *For my eyes have seen your salvation,*

³¹ *which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:*

³² *a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”*

This passage, known as the Song of Simeon, starts with the fulfillment of a promise. Simeon has waited patiently in anticipation of this moment. As God’s promise to Simeon is fulfilled he is rewarded with a vision of the salvation Christ will make available to all of mankind. It underscores the truth that God’s word will never return void and that His faithfulness spans all generations. We can trust in the promises of God as well.

Simeon experiences a profound sense of peace. It is the same peace the believer can experience when he meets Christ for the first time and is available in any situation to those who continue to walk with Him.

Simeon recognizes that he has seen the “Light of the World” and for those of us that have moved from the darkness into the ‘light,’ this passage challenges all of us to be that light and share that light with everyone we encounter.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 01.06.26 - Romans 3:28-29

We firmly believe that a person is made right with God because of their faith. They are not saved by obeying the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Isn’t he also the God of Gentiles? Yes, he is their God too.

I have shared the gospel with many people. I often start this time of sharing by asking this question, if you found yourself standing before God and He asked you, “why should I let you into my heaven?”, what would your answer be? The most common answers I get are:

- I have lived a good life
- I am kind and loving person
- I go to church
- Etc.

I respond by saying, these are all good things but in the end what they make you is a “good sinner”, and it is our sin that separates us from God. Praise God that our salvation is not based on our ethnicity, religion, or good works, but through faith in believing that Christ paid a price for me that I could not pay myself. If it were not for Christ’s death and my believing by faith in what He did for me, I would not get into heaven, and neither would you!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 01.07.26 - Ephesians 3:14-21

In the last moments spent with the elders of Ephesus, the Apostle Paul dropped to his knees and prayed with them (Acts 20:36). The leaders would always have this image of Paul kneeling with them in prayer riveted in their memories. Years later, Paul writes to the church in Ephesus, and he begins the last segment of the doctrinal part of his letter with the words, “For this reason I kneel before the Father” (Ephesians 3:14). More than likely, the leaders of the church recalled that last emotional meeting with the great apostle.

In the prayer itself, Paul voices four requests for the Ephesians. He prays that they would be strengthened through the Spirit (3:16), rooted and grounded in love (3:17), comprehend Christ’s love (3:18-19), and filled with His fulness (3:19)

Take a moment right now to talk to God and to pray these requests for yourself and fellow believers.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 01.08.26 - Lamentations 3:55-57

Lamentations was written by Jeremiah and he is lamenting the condition of the Israelites, who will not turn back to the God and Lord whom they have abandoned. It was their lust for foreign women and gods that caused God’s wrath to come upon them and a foreign nation to overtake them. Through it all, Jeremiah alone called on the people to repent, change mind, heart and ways, and on God to relent. But while God would have, the people would not. Yet for inner strength, Jeremiah tells us that he called on OUR God and his, and God did not disappoint. He heard, came near and promised to meet all needs. Does He do that for us? Has he done it for you this very year? A short time of reflection in the New Year season would be good. Remembering God’s goodness through prayers is valuable.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 01.09.26 - Psalm 145:18-21

Dr. David Jeremiah tells us that this psalm is attributed to King David, reflecting his deep personal relationship with God moving from prayer to praise as his enemies were subdued.

When you ask Jesus to be your Savior, you not only receive the gifts of the forgiveness of your sins and eternal life, but a promise to be near to all who call on His name in *truth* and *sincerity*... but making sure worship and praise are not a *ritual*. These verses are also a powerful promise of God’s faithfulness. The passage emphasizes God’s presence (His Omnipresence) to all believers ending with His judgement on the wicked.

Only God can offer a stable foundation in trying situations, especially in the times experienced in our world today. We as Christians must boldly testify to God’s greatness, making His kingdom known, realizing that He is helping us all the way!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

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** **WINTER QUARTER** – Sunday Mornings at 9:40
LOCATION: B8-10 - Gene Steinruck- began Dec. 7th.
EXPLORE THE BIBLE:
Matthew 1-13
For Christ followers, we have no greater example than what we see in the life of Jesus.
LOCATION: B11 - Dave Delcamp - began Dec. 7th.
BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:
Limited Resources, Limitless God
God never intended for us to stand alone but to rely on Him. God is more than enough to help us live life to the fullest.
LOCATION: Rm 2 - Elizabeth Williams, Denise Whitefield, & Ali Farwell. Begins Jan. 4th - 9:40 am.
THE WAY OF WISDOM - Ladies Study of Proverbs.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
NOT MEETING UNTIL JANUARY 11th
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center
- LADIES THURSDAY MORNING STUDY - HEAVEN,**
When Faith Becomes Sight - begins Jan. 8th at 9am - Rm 2.
Led by: Brenda Peters, Brenda Ross, & Chris Knepley.
- WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS** - begins January 7th Meal starts at 6pm, Bible Study begins at 7pm. Bring your place setting for the meal. Sign up at the Information Table or Connect Card.
Studies Offered:
Everyday Revolutionary by J.D.Greear - Book of Daniel
Tame Your Thoughts by Max Lucado - Thought Management

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

Ephesians 3:1-13 **God's Secret**

The Book of Ephesians is about the Church—the Body of Christ. That is, those who have placed their faith in Jesus for eternal life.

In chapters 1-3, Paul reveals the _____ of the Church. In chapters 4-6, he reveals the _____ of the Church.

In chapter 1, Paul tells us of our _____ in Christ. We are spiritually rich because of our union with Jesus.

In chapter 2, Paul tells us of our _____ in Christ. Believers are fellow members of a special group. It doesn't matter if you're Jew or Gentile. If you have placed your faith in Jesus for eternal life, you're a member of the Church—the Body of Christ.

In chapter 3, Paul explains further about this special group, and he does so by repeatedly using the word "mystery" (vv 3, 4, 6, 9).

In the Bible, the word "mystery" doesn't mean something spooky or eerie. Rather, it means something that was hidden in the past but now revealed in the present time. In Old Testament times, there were certain spiritual truths that God didn't reveal. God kept them secret, but in New Testament times, God revealed the secret to us.

The mystery is that believing Jews and believing Gentiles are no longer separate. Rather, they are one group—namely, the Church—the Body of Christ.

What does God want you to do concerning this mystery—this secret? God calls you to ...

1. _____ the Mystery (vv 1-6)
2. _____ the Mystery (vv 7-12)
3. _____ the Mystery (v 13)

God chooses to use the likes of you and me! We don't have to be perfect to be used of God. However, we do have to work together to rescue people from the clutches of Satan himself.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



January 5 – January 9

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:

Monday and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message from, January 4th, "God's Secret", with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on January 11th, "Following on our Knees", with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever
Hebrews 13:8