

MONDAY 02.02.26 - Mark 8:34-38

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Well done my good and faithful servant. That is what all of us want to hear our Savior say on that day when we find ourselves standing before him. In the materialistic society we live in it is hard not to pursue things of the world. After all, don't I deserve to have some nice things? I guess that depends. Does having these nice things come before serving the Lord? I think often we find it easy to talk about our fast car, big motorcycle, or our beautiful home, but we are reluctant to talk about the Lord. We find time to do many fun things but struggle to find time for involvement in church ministry. Today scripture is clear, Christ needs to come first in all things, then the other things will fall into place and if we do this, when the time comes, we will hear Him say "Well done my good and faithful servant."

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 02.03.26 - 2 Peter 1:14-16

Holiness is a churchy word that we often think only applies to God. In a very real sense, it does only apply to God. And yet, these verses remind us that our lives should be described by that same word—*holy*. How can that be? Comparing key terms in vs 14 offers important clarity: *obedient children* vs. *former ignorance*. The childish tendency to do whatever feels good in the moment is overcome by reflecting the characteristics of parents, teachers, and others who demonstrate maturity. In the same way, Christians grow in maturity when the former ignorance of an unsaved life fades and our reflection of the

Heavenly Father increases. The more we know and live out God's Word, the more we reflect Him. How should our lives be described when we look like God? That's right, *holy*!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 02.04.26 - Ephesians 4:25-32

After describing the concept of putting off the old self and putting on the new (Ephesians 4:22-24), Paul spends the rest of the chapter prescribing how this can be done practically in daily life. In keeping with his "setting aside" and "taking up" image, Paul visits several realms of life, encouraging us to rid ourselves of sinful old vices and to replace them with godly new virtues. Paul presents several bad attitudes or actions that must be discarded. Then he delineates the positive attitudes or actions that must replace them. Additionally, in each case he presents a reason for doing so, either the basis for the change or a benefit derived from it.

So, in verses 25-32, Paul instructs us to put off falsehood, sinful rage, dishonest gain, unwholesome speech, and hateful attitudes and actions. Respectively, they are to be replaced with truthful speech, controlled indignation, honest labor, edifying speech, and loving attitudes and actions.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 02.05.26 - Deuteronomy 10:12-13

Being told to obey brings out in most of us an immediate negative reaction and fear, with thoughts of "What will I have to do?" and "What if I don't want to?" We are willful people. To obey means to submit our will to someone else's authority. That doesn't sit well with our own sense of self-determination.

But obedience is exactly what the Lord commands us to give Him. God wanted our voluntary fellowship; He created us with free will, and almost immediately, Adam and Eve put that free will to use and disobeyed the one commandment they had been given. God sent His Son to die for us so that fellowship could be restored if we choose to accept Him. Again, we are to obey His commands and serve Him for our own good. When man disobeyed the first time, loss of fellowship resulted. If we disobey, the punishment will be eternal separation from God and everlasting torment. Obedience is definitely the better choice.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 02.06.26 - Psalm 119:33-36

Do you not enjoy reading Psalm 119? There are so many favorite parts of it. The verses pertaining to Obedience are surely for today.

Teach me to keep your law to the end, to the END. Americans want and like quick results and are pragmatic about achieving it. We change with the wind. May our obedience to God's commands be not so. Give me understanding so that I may keep you law 'with my whole heart.' Not only with visible actions watched by others, but that my heart may be clean and purposeful. We should read the Word so we remember the commands and can Delight in them, our hearts should want that.

Finally, God's desires should be our desires. So pray to the Father that our hearts should want to be turned toward Him and not ourselves. It is a daily struggle, but He is aware of our infirmities.

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 - Randy Hutchison - began Jan. 25th
BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:
Sharing Jesus in a Post-Christian World
In recent years, our American culture has been drifting away from the foundation of Judeo-Christian teaching. But the gospel-the good news of Jesus Christ-is still relevant and needed today.

LOCATION: Rm 2 - Elizabeth Williams, Denise Whitefield, & Ali Farwell. Began 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)
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center
- LADIES THURSDAY MORNING STUDY - HEAVEN,**
When Faith Becomes Sight - began Jan. 8th at 9am - Rm 2.
Led by: Brenda Peters, Brenda Ross, & Chris Knepley.
- WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS** - began 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 4:17-24 Change Your Clothes

As believers, we're to be different than the world. We're to be different than what we used to be—before we came to Christ. We lived lives that were characterized by indulging in ignorance, immorality, and impurity (vv 17-19). So, to live differently as a Christian, you must ...

1. R_____ your _____ (vv 22, 24)

At the moment of salvation, a radical change takes place. The old self is put off, and the new self is put on. The terms "old self" and "new self" in Greek are literally "old man" and "new man." Paul isn't referring to something inside us—such as our nature or our inner being. Rather, he's referring to our spiritual position—our status.

The "one new man" Paul refers to is a group—the Body of Christ (cf. 2:15). God took both believing Jews and believing Gentiles and formed "one new man"—one new group—the Church.

So, prior to coming to Christ, you were a member of the "old man." You were on the world's team, and you were caught up in the world's lifestyle described in verses 17-19. However, when you trusted in Christ for eternal life, you switched teams. You joined the "new man" team. You joined the Body of Christ—the Church. Therefore, you're no longer on team "old man." You put off the "old man." Additionally, you can't be traded back to that team. You're now on team "new man." You have put on the "new man," and you have a permanent position on that team. You've been placed in the Body of Christ—the new man—once and for all. So, to live differently as a Christian, you must also ...

2. R_____ your _____ (v 23)

Spiritual transformation takes place by way of mind renewal. A believer's thought-life is a key component of becoming like Christ.

- Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 3:18, 10:5

As you read the Scripture and meditate on its message, you become like Christ. That's why it's so important to be exposed continually to the Word of God.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



February 2 - February 6

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, February 1st, "Change Your Clothes", with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on February 8th, "God's Training Program", with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

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