

## MONDAY 03.09.26 - Matthew 7:24-27

<sup>24</sup> "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

The weight and veracity of these verses were powerfully illustrated for me one Sunday as I taught an adult Sunday School class years ago. Several of our retired Shiloh men worked part-time for local funeral directors. They spoke of the dramatic difference between the funerals of Christians and non-Christians. There was weeping and grieving at both, but non-Christians screamed, languished in despair, hopelessness and could not be solaced. The Christian funerals were totally different. Calm and peace permeated the mourners because they knew this was not the end and that they would be with their loved ones again. It all had to do with the foundation upon which each group had built their lives.

Would you build your house on rock or sand? Will the happiness you have chased serve you when you face the storms of life?

Maybe it's time for you to consider: A life built on the Rock of Christ is the answer to the challenges and troubles you face.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## TUESDAY 03.10.26 - James 3:17

Wisdom: aspired by many, attained by those who humbly seek God in His Word. James is pointing us to the very best kind of wisdom: wisdom from above. Wisdom *from* above will always reflect the One who *reigns* above. That's what makes the descriptors that follow in this verse so meaningful—they are evidence of calm reliance on the God who reigns rather than on self.

When wisdom drives us to push for our own way, it's not godly wisdom. Godly wisdom keeps us in check; it recognizes that all truth is God's truth. If it's God's truth, it should be applied in God's way. If it's applied in God's way, it will bear the fruit of God's character, regardless of the situation. Are you walking in wisdom, revealing the God who reigns above? If so, thank Him. If not, ask for His help—a wise request.

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## WEDNESDAY 03.11.26 - Ephesians 5:22-24

Paul states that a Christian wife is to submit to her husband. The idea of submitting yourself to someone is not a popular topic of our day. We are living in a time when people are demanding their rights and rebelling against all forms of authority. A Christian wife should not conform herself to those people. Rather, she should obey God by submitting to her husband. Paul is nowhere suggesting that women are inferior to men, or that all women must be in subjection to all men in every situation of life. The fact that Paul uses Christ and the Church as his illustration is evidence that he has the Christian home in mind. Paul encourages the wife to recognize that her husband is the divinely appointed spiritual head of the home, and as the Church submits to Christ, she ought to submit to her husband.

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## THURSDAY 03.12.26 - Proverbs 31:10-12

*Proverbs 31:10-12, A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.*

God established that men should be the leaders of the home, but few would argue that true success in marriage, family and life requires a partnership. Further without a good partner true success in these areas is fleeting. As today's scripture points out, a wife of noble (Godly) character instills confidence in her husband to be the Godly leader he is called to be. Her presence brings stability to the marriage and the family. Her husband will not see her as his subordinate but rather his equal. He will see her as wise and will be quick to seek her counsel, and in so doing he will more likely make good Godly decisions. He will not put her down but lift her up realizing she is a precious gift to him from the Lord. The marriage and family that is functioning as the holy institution that God created it to be, will always be a team effort. Go team!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## FRIDAY 03.13.26 - Psalm 31:30-31

God was so kind to include these verses in His Forever Book. While Christianity in America over the years has been blamed for placing women in subservient roles and treating them as 'second class citizens,' the truth is that where there is no Christianity women fare far worse than that. It is our God, the True God, who so prizes women, and wives especially, as to include these verses.

Commercials selling passions remind all watchers how youthful looks are the only satisfaction in life. But the truth is not found there. Experience shares that these fade away in time. The Lord God only is wisdom and honor and strength, and women who fear God enjoy possessions far greater than what the world offers. Men and husbands especially should speak publicly about the great and endless work done by such women. To have such a help-mate is of great value.

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## **E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES**

THURSDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY- 9:00am

**“In View of God’s Mercies”, by: Courtney Doctor  
Led by Brenda Ross; Rm 2**

This 9-week study walks through the book of Romans to discover that salvation doesn’t just change your eternal future; it changes your present reality. Because of God’s salvation, hope, peace, life, faith, trust, and endurance are yours.

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** **SPRING QUARTER** - Sunday Mornings at 9:40  
  
LOCATION: B8-10 - Dave Heineman- began Mar. 1  
**EXPLORE THE BIBLE:**  
**Matthew 14-28**  
Gaining a better understanding of what it means to live out our faith each day.

LOCATION: B11 -Dave Delcamp - began Mar. 1  
**BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:**  
**Understanding the Character of God**  
Through the revelation of Scripture—and His ultimate revelation through Jesus Christ—we can see exactly who God is.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

**Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

**Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

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

## **Ephesians 5:15-21 A Word To The Wise**

The Book of Ephesians is about the Church—the Body of Christ.

In Ephesians 1-3, Paul presents the Church’s R\_\_\_\_\_.

In chapters 4-6, Paul presents the R\_\_\_\_\_.

Paul issues commands using the word “walk” or “live.”

The 1<sup>st</sup> “walk” is to live in u\_\_\_\_\_ (4:1-16).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> “walk” is to live in h\_\_\_\_\_ (4:17-32).

The 3<sup>rd</sup> “walk” is to live in l\_\_\_\_\_ (5:1-7).

The 4<sup>th</sup> “walk” is to live in l\_\_\_\_\_ (5:8-14).

The 5<sup>th</sup> “walk” is to live in w\_\_\_\_\_ (5:15-21).

### Contrasts

- Unwise v. Wise (v 15)
- Foolish v. Understanding (v 17)
- Drunk by wine v. Filled by Spirit (v 18)


### Comparison

- Ephesians 5:18-20 with Colossians 3:16

The Holy Spirit desires to fill you with the Word of God so that you’ll live a life of wisdom.

How will you know if you’re truly filled with Christ’s Word by His Spirit? In verses 19-21, Paul reveals the results or characteristics of a walk of wisdom.

Are these qualities evident in your life today?

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



March 9 – March 13

### 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, March 8<sup>th</sup>, “A Word to the Wise”. Wednesday through Friday’s devotions will help prepare us for the message on March 15<sup>th</sup>, “A Marriage That Goes The Distance”.

### KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children  
Ephesians 1