

MONDAY 10.13.25 - John 8:34-36

"I tell you the truth..." What wonderful assurance from Jesus!

Sin has a way of enslaving us, dominating us, and dictating our actions. In this passage, Jesus says that if the Son sets you free, you are not a slave to sin anymore. What a great promise! What you do with it is your choice.

This scripture gives us:

The Problem - everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

The Solution - Jesus can set us free; we are no longer slaves to sin if we simply ask Him to forgive our sins. We will be free indeed to live a life pleasing to Him!

You cannot serve two masters; be it sin or obedience to Christ.

The question is which will you choose... the freedom only Jesus can grant for the forgiveness of sin, and sin's power over our life... **OR** live in the bondage of sin?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 10.14.25 - Galatians 1:1-2

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Most people's concept of freedom is "not being told what I must do". Freedom in Christ means we have the freedom to do what Christ wants us to do, even if it is not what we want to do. As we grow in our faith, we realize we are no longer slaves to our personal desires but have been set free to let God have His way in our lives. This manifests itself in our lives as the fruits of the Spirit and comes out in practical ways as we "love our neighbor as we love ourselves". In doing this we allow the people of the world to see Christ in us, and we open doors to share Christ with them.

Are you growing in your faith? Is that growth evidenced by the fruits of the spirit in your life? Are you showing this growth to the people in your world through your interactions with them?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 10.15.25 - Ephesians 1:1-2

A riot occurred in Ephesus because of the ministry endeavors of Paul in that city. During that trouble and turmoil, Paul remained at peace. How was he able to stay calm through that dangerous and difficult time? The reason is because Paul trusted in the Lord. The Prophet Isaiah states it in these terms: "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you" (26:3). Why do so many people have so little peace? Is it because we want to be in charge of our lives? We want to control uncontrollable situations and manipulate our uncertain futures. This way of thinking, though, leads us down the miry path of worry and panic. In contrast, as Isaiah reminds us, people who rely on God experience perpetual peace. Trust in the Lord—it's the only way to find peace amidst the anxiety of the world.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 10.16.25 - Isaiah 26:3

Oh, how this verse has been a great comfort in times of deep distress. Experience being in need of peace and calling directly on our God. He is always ready to provide. But reading in context, as we always should, it takes on even deeper meaning.

From verses one through nine, the scriptures describe the salvation which we believers have received as a strong city with high walls and towers. His multitude of fighting angels must man those walls and how we need them there.

But when we are not doing well, perhaps fighting sin, or perhaps not even fighting, our hearts convict us and our souls yearn and earnestly seek for our Friend. He makes our path straight when we cannot. We must fight, but He defends. He built the walls, mans the walls and watches day and night over His people. He gives perfect peace.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 10.17.25 - Psalm 4:8

We have all experienced it: that uncomfortable feeling in the pit of your stomach, anxiety. David was not a stranger to that same feeling. He wrote about it in many of the Psalms and gave us a guide for how to overcome that awful feeling. It involves trusting in and surrendering to God. David knew that God was his deliverer and sustainer. He brought all his cares and concerns to God in prayer and surrendered his will to God. He trusted that God would provide and care for him. It worked for David and will work for us, too. When I feel anxious, I go to the Psalms, praying those verses that David wrote to the Lord. There is peace in knowing that God already knows my struggle and its outcome. Rest comes when we trust that God is in control and cast all our cares on Him.

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** **FALL QUARTER** – Sunday Mornings at 9:40
LOCATION: B8-10 – Lane Kemler- began Sept. 7th.
EXPLORE THE BIBLE: Numbers& Deuteronomy
Recount how the nation of Israel wandered in the wilderness for four decades and how God taught them to be His people as they approached the promised land.
LOCATION: B11 – Shawn Devlin – began Sept. 7th.
BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:
The Greatest Truths of All Times
We begin with the one truly “Greatest of All Time”, God Himself, and consider five great truths that lead us to the greatest hope of all time.
LOCATION: B1-2 – Joel & Tara Day – began Sept. 7th.
Sacred Marriage
What if God Designed Marriage to Make Us Holy More Than to Make Us Happy. It can become a doorway to a closer walk with God.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
WILL NOT MEET TONIGHT - 10/12
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

LADIES FALL STUDY - DARING JOY - by Nicole Zasowski
Began Oct. 2nd at 9am - Rm B8-10 – 7-week study. (No class on 10/9)
Experience God's heart for your joy. Led by Chris Knepley.

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY - REVIVE US – by Robby Gallaty
Began Oct. 1st at 6:30pm – Rm. B8-10. Begin with a clear definition of revival. Spread revival to your church & community. Led by Barry Wills.

Ephesians 1:1-2 (Part 1) **Breaking Free**

Many people in Ephesus were in bondage. They were in bondage to the world, the flesh, and the devil. That was 2,000 years ago, but things haven't changed. People today are still in bondage. How do you break free? It involves three commitments.

1. Place your _____ (Acts 19:8-10)
 - John 8:32

The Bible teaches us that we're sinners. We've broken God's laws. Because we've disobeyed God, we must be punished. That punishment is going to hell—a place of torment and pain. The good works we do in life won't prevent us from going there. That's why Jesus came to earth. He lived a sinless life, and He died on a cross for our sins. When you put your faith in Him to forgive your sins, He gives you eternal life. So, when you die, you won't go to hell. Rather, you'll go to heaven—into the very presence of God.

2. Put on _____ (Acts 19:11-16)
 - Mark 16:20
 - Galatians 5:19-23

God doesn't expect you to perform miracles, but He does want you to live an extraordinary life—a life different from the world, exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit.

3. Put off _____ (Acts 19:17-20)
 - Proverbs 28:13
 - Job 31:1
 - Psalm 101:3

You might not be involved in the occult like these Ephesians were. You might not be involved in Ouija boards, tarot cards, seances, or Wikan. However, you might be involved in another life-dominating sin like many people are today such as sexual sin.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



October 13 – October 17

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:

On Sunday, October 12th, we heard the message “To The Saints” part.1, with Pastor Doug Lyon. On Sunday, October 19th, Pastor Doug Lyon will share part 2 of “To The Saints”.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

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