

MONDAY 12.1.25 - John 1:12-13

² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

The expression-as many as-means “all” or “everyone.” The offer of Eternal Life is available to everyone and is repeated throughout the gospels. To **“whoever”** in John 3:16; Paul makes the offer repeatedly. Here are two examples:

*“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to **all** men.”(Titus 2:11)*

*“There is **neither Jew nor Greek**, there is **neither slave nor free man**, there is **neither male nor female**; for you **are all one in Christ Jesus.**”(Galatians 3:28)*

*In Revelation John sees people **“from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues”** (Revelation 7:9).*

“Received him” is the act of accepting Jesus Christ into your life, acknowledging Him as Lord and Savior. It is not about following rules or rituals. Through the relationship we are “reborn” and transformed becoming a part of God’ family where we experience love, grace and the blessings God offers. We are then called to reflect the same to a lost world.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 12.2.25 - Titus 3:5-7

⁵ He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Many people know exactly when they received Christ as their Savior. Others, like me, can point to a period but not an exact date. Still others grew up in religious family attending church all

their lives but can’t point to a time when Christ became personal and real in their life. We are not going to get into heaven by the religion of our parents, or by attending church, or doing good things. Salvation comes only by personally experiencing the washing and rebirth of the Holy Spirit, and that only comes from realizing we are sinners in need of a Savior, and by accepting Christ through faith as that Savior. My prayer for you today is that you have done that, but perhaps you’re not sure. Is God speaking to you right now? Is this the time for you to accept the gift Christ is offering you? Is it time to make it personal and real?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 12.3.25 - Ephesians 2:8-10

It’s too bad that some believers minimize the place of good works in the Christian life. Because we aren’t saved by good works (vv 8-9), they have the mistaken idea that good works are unimportant. Jesus told His followers to perform good works so that God would be glorified (Matt. 5:16). Paul told believers to “abound in every good work” (2 Cor. 9:8) and to be “bearing fruit in every good work” (Col. 1:10). One result of a knowledge of the Bible is that the believer is “thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:17). As believers, we are to be “zealous of good works” (Titus 2:14). Our good works are actually “spiritual sacrifices” that we offer to God (Heb. 13:16).

Take a moment to perform spiritual inventory. Which works are you experiencing? Are you enjoying the liberty you have in Christ or are you still bound by the habits of your old life?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 12.4.25 - Proverbs 3:27

“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due. . . “Turn this statement around and it creates the question “to whom is good due?” sounding very much like the question the expert in the law asked Jesus regarding who was his neighbor. Since we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, then this command would apply to serving anyone who needs help. Scripture is full of references to aiding the poor (Prov. 13:31) or bearing one another’s burdens (Gal. 6:2). Further we are specifically commanded to defend the weak, the widows, and orphans (James 1:27; Isaiah 1:17). Faith requires action. If we see a need or someone asks for help and we are able to do so, but ignore their request, then our faith is dead. We are not showing the love of Jesus. We are commanded to give of ourselves, our time, and our resources to help others.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 12.5.25 - Psalm 34:14

“Seek peace and pursue it”! A laudable goal. It is on the lips, and even the tongue, of so many of this generation. Yet note the actions that so often accompany the words. The politics of our day are more divisive than we have known in our lifetimes. The standards that have stood the test of time are abandoned on the basis of arguments that cannot be answered, or at least no response is understood. Words are backwards and have new and different meanings. How to handle this new world?

God’s word remains true, even when all this has vanished, God’s word will remain. We can only be responsible for ourselves. Turn from evil and do good whenever we have an opportunity. Seek peace but also pursue it. Easier said than done, but it is opposite what we see. That makes our life a billboard for our God!

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- begins Dec. 7th.
EXPLORE THE BIBLE:
Matthew 1-13
We learn what to do in life by watching the example of one who's walked that path already. For Christ followers, we have no greater example than what we see in the life of Jesus. you'll get a firsthand account of what it's like to walk with Jesus each day-and learn what it means to become a citizen of God's
- LOCATION: B11 – Dave Delcamp – begins Dec. 7th.
BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:
Limited Resources, Limitless God
God never intended for us to stand alone but to rely on Him. When we look to Him, we discover that our all-gracious and limitless God is more than enough to help us live life to the fullest.
- ADVENT by Derwin Gray** - EVENING STUDY
Wednesdays at 6:30pm - 12/3, 10, & 17. Rm B8-10.
Reflect on our Savior, his purpose, and the surprising ways he invited people near to him.
Led by Barry Wills.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
NOT MEETING ON 11/30
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
NOT MEETING ON 11/30
- 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 2:1-7 From Death To Life

While under house arrest in Rome, Paul writes to the Ephesian Church in AD 60—about five years after he left Ephesus. Paul writes this letter to promote love and unity.

The Book of Ephesians is about the Church—the Body of Christ. In chapters 1-3, Paul presents The Riches of the Church. In chapters 4-6, Paul presents The Responsibilities of the Church.

After Paul delineates the spiritual possessions God has bestowed on the Church (1:3-14), Paul launches into a prayer to God for their enlightenment (1:15-23). Then, Paul describes the spiritual position of the Body of Christ (2:1-22).

1. Once we were ...

- D _____ (v 1)
- D _____ (v 2a)
- D _____ (v 2b)
- D _____ (v 3)
- _____ (v 4)

2. Now we are ...

- _____ with Christ (v 5)
- _____ with Christ (vv 6-7)

You don't have to "follow the ways of this world" any longer. You don't have to listen to Satan, "the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience," and you don't have to "live in the passions of your flesh" anymore. You're above all that because you are right now—today—seated with Christ! Live like a valued member of the Body of Christ.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



December 1 – December 5

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 November 30th, "From Death to Life", with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on December 7th, "Faith and Works", with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

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