

## MONDAY 12.15.25 - Matthew 5:23-24

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Bitterness is one of the most divisive things within Christ's church. We are all sinful human beings, and we do and say things that are hurtful to our brothers and sisters in Christ. I would venture to say that everyone reading this devotional has been the object of hurt from a brother or sister in Christ. This is wrong and should not happen, but what is worse is that, all too often, we as the object of this hurt, choose to let the pain fester until it becomes deep seated bitterness that affects our relationship with those who hurt us. As children of God, we are called, not to harbor the anger and hurt but rather to be quick to forgive so our relationship with our fellow brother and sister in Christ, and more importantly our relationship with our Lord, is not adversely effected. Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? Why not let today be the day of forgiveness.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## TUESDAY 12.16.25 - 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin<sup>[b]</sup> for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Paul is writing to the Corinthians reminding them that through God's grace and unending love for us he has repaired our broken relationship with Him. We have been reconciled with Him through His sacrifice on our behalf. We are new creations in His eyes, no longer defined by our past or even present sins and failures.

With this new beginning and spiritual transformation comes privilege and a new responsibility and purpose. We are to be

ambassadors for Christ sharing the love, forgiveness, mercy and grace we have received from Christ with a world that desperately needs it.

Watch a child that has received the Christmas gift he hoped for as he excitedly shows everyone he knows and even some he doesn't know.

Through your actions and words this holiday season, are you prepared to show and tell others, as you share the "greatest gift" you've ever received?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## WEDNESDAY 12.17.25 - Luke 2:1-20

Jesus came into the world to save us from our sins. We have disobeyed God, and our sins have separated us from Him. None of our good works will forgive our sins and heal our broken relationship with God. That's why Jesus came to earth. He lived a perfectly sinless life and offered Himself on the cross of Calvary as a sacrifice for our sins. He offers us a free gift of sins forgiven and eternal life. All we have to do is accept that gift. The moment you place your faith alone in Jesus alone for forgiveness, God gives you eternal life, and when you die, you'll go to heaven to be with Him.

So, the meaning of Christmas isn't simply that Jesus was born—but that Jesus was born to die. An angel told the shepherds, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## THURSDAY 12.18.25 - Isaiah 9:6

I love to read Isaiah 6, the first several verses. The picture of God in His greatness surrounded by all His creatures, honoring and

worshipping Him as worthy! Then Isaiah realizing where he is, surrenders in humility saying, "woe is me," a mere man of the earth, frail dust, and full of sin.

Then read today's chapter 9, the first 6 verses. The land of the Israelites will see success, victory and hope. Battles will be redressed and losses restored. Hope is rekindled for a new greatness in the land of the forefathers, barren and dry though it is. Yet verse 6, offers "a child, born to us." Jesus, God, came here for you, as a mere man of the earth, frail dust, but NO sin. The victory and rebirth is through this CHILD. Resurrected, He is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and Prince of Peace. Surprise! It's Christmas.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## FRIDAY 12.19.25 - Micah 5:2

Everyone associates Christmas with gift-giving, beginning with our greatest gift, Jesus. God sent His Son to be our Savior. We know this truth from reading the Bible and the entire history of Christianity. But the Israelites did not know. They had prophets who foretold of a Messiah to come and enough information in their sacred scrolls to prepare for His coming if they diligently searched. Today's verse in Micah is part of their path of prophecy. God graciously foretold the name of the tiny village that would be the birthplace of Israel's Redeemer. Unfortunately, most of the people were oblivious to this fulfillment of God's promise and unaware of Bethlehem's importance. But the angels knew; then the shepherds; then the magi from an Eastern kingdom who were seeking for a newborn king. They were watching and ready for His appearance. We need to be like the magi: watching, ready, and prepared for Jesus's second coming when we will receive our final gift - eternal life in Heaven.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## **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. 7<sup>th</sup>.  
**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. 7<sup>th</sup>.  
**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.  
**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
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS** - Begins January 7<sup>th</sup> 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 2:11-18** **Tearing Down The Wall**

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. Unity is Paul's theme in Ephesians 2:11-18. We are one with Christ, and we are one with each other in the Body of Christ—the Church.

1. God removed the separation between you and Him (vv 11-13)

We were once ...

- \_\_\_\_\_less
- \_\_\_\_\_less
- \_\_\_\_\_less
- \_\_\_\_\_less
- \_\_\_\_\_less

Jesus died on a cross. The punishment for our sin was placed on Christ. Jesus shed His blood in payment for our sin. When we place our trust in Him for forgiveness, we're no longer separated from God. God forgives our sin and gives us eternal life.

2. God removed the separation between you and others (vv 14-18)

God tore down that wall separating Jew and Gentile. God didn't tell the Gentiles they had to become Jews, and He didn't tell the Jews they had to become Gentiles. Rather, God created an entirely new group of both Jew and Gentile believers in Jesus. This new group is called "The Church—The Body of Christ."

We experience unity through Jesus Christ our Lord, and God wants us to demonstrate that unity here at Shiloh through love and cooperation.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



December 15 - December 19

#### 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 December 14<sup>th</sup>, "Tearing Down the Wall", with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on December 21<sup>st</sup>, "What If God Was One of Us?", with Pastor Doug Lyon.

#### KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

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