

MONDAY 12.29.25 - John 17:21-23

²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

We all know what it means to unify around a cause, but for Christians it means something more. The power of God living in us should supersede anything else that might cause disunity within our ranks. Our unity in Christ should stick out to a lost world as something that they see in us and desire to have within themselves. True unity for the Christian is not about when we worship, or where we worship, or how we worship, but rather it is about who we worship. True unity within Christ’s church will only happen as we come together with a singular focus on the worship of Christ. As we put the things of the world behind us and focus on Christ and Christ alone, we will experience God in fresh new ways, and the world will see in us a sense of unity that they desire and that will draw them to Christ.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 12.30.25 - Hebrews 10:5-7

We have all joined organizations, whether little league or other sports teams, civic clubs. In all those, we joined by some procedure that was the same for everyone who arrived there. Funny thing about the Christian church, it is made up of people who look so different. These people behave differently and have preferences that differ. In no way are these folks alike save in one. They came to the Christian organization, the world-wide Church, which is established by God Himself, by trusting Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins, and then following Him for the rest of their days.

Oh sin encroached along the way, but a change that had occurred in our hearts told us that we have joined the church and He kept us and will, till the very end. Unity is knowing that all the members of this church came and stay the same way.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 12.31.25 - Ephesians 3:1-13

Paul is under house arrest in Rome (Eph. 3:1, 4:1). No doubt the Ephesian believers were asking, “Why is Paul a prisoner? Why would God allow such a thing?” In Ephesians 3:1-13, Paul explains his situation and, in doing so, also explains one of the greatest truths in this letter, the “mystery” of the Church. In the New Testament, a *mystery* is not something eerie or inscrutable, but rather a truth that was hidden by God in times past and is now revealed to those who are in His family. Paul explains the mystery—the Gentile believers are now united to the Jewish believers in one body, the Church (Eph. 3:6). Yes, God had a “secret”—but God does not want it to be a secret anymore! If you understand your wonderful position in Christ, then live up to it and share the blessing with others.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 1.1.26 - Jeremiah 31:33-34

Happy New Year! Happy new life in Jesus! II Cor. 5:17 tells us that if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away, and all things have become new.

Today’s Scripture foretold of the day when people would obey God and serve the Lord because they love Him. The law wouldn’t just be written on stone tablets and scrolls; it would be in the hearts and minds of His people. The new covenant provided by Jesus’s sacrifice for the sins of the world would make that possible. Great news! We are part of that covenant. Jesus loved us enough to die for us. We should ask ourselves whether the words of the Lord are truly written in our hearts and minds? If we love Him, we should be living to honor God and please Him in all that we do. That should be our New Year’s resolution.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 1.2.26 - Psalm 117

People around the world are making New Years resolutions this week. Whether you make resolutions for 2026 or you don’t, there is something you can do every day of 2026, and that is praise the Lord for His blessings and faithfulness in your life. Regardless of the challenges you faced in 2025, the Lord was with you. His love for you is steadfast, and that is something worthy of daily praise. An attitude of praise changes your whole outlook on your circumstances, and that positive grateful heart is attractive to all in your sphere of influence. It is good to be reminded by Psalm 117 that His faithful love is for everyone. Every person you meet is a potential co-heir with Christ, a potential brother or sister in the Lord. Praise the Lord, Jesus is for all nations. Let us strive to live with praise-filled hearts through all of 2026.

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 - Dave Delcamp - began Dec. 7th.
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.
LOCATION: Rm 2 - Elizabeth Williams, Denise Whitefield, & Ali Farwell. Begins 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)
NOT MEETING UNTIL JANUARY 11th
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center
- LADIES THURSDAY MORNING STUDY - HEAVEN,**
When Faith Becomes Sight - begins Jan. 8th at 9am - Rm 2.
Led by: Brenda Peters, Brenda Ross, & Chris Knepley.
- WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS** - begins 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 2:19-22 **From Alienation To Unification**

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 2:11-22. In the closing verses of this chapter, Paul paints three pictures that illustrate the unity of believing Jews and Gentiles in the Church.

1. One _____ (v 19a)

This doesn't mean that the Church has replaced Israel or that God is done with the Jewish people. God will fulfill the promises that He made to Israel when Jesus returns to set up His kingdom on earth for 1,000 years. At this present time, God is working through the Church. All believers—regardless of national background—belong to the Body of Christ whose citizenship is in heaven.

2. One _____ (v 19b)

We're spiritual brothers and sisters in Christ regardless of racial, national, or physical distinctions.

3. One _____ (vv 20-22)

Paul uses the image of a temple to describe the Christian faith community in which both Jews and Gentiles are welcome.

We don't go to a temple to worship God. We *are* the temple where God resides. Each of us is a part of a grand and glorious structure designed to honor the God who lives within.

Pursue unity and reconciliation even with those who don't deserve it. After all, that's how God loved us.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



December 29 - January 2

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 28th, "From Alienation To Unification", with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on January 4th, "God's Secret", with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

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