

MONDAY 6.23.25 - Matthew 11:29

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

The "yoke of the Pharisees" was burdensome and legalistic. The Pharisees had added over 600 regulations to the Law in a system of works that could never bridge the gap between man's sinfulness and God's holiness. Paul told the Romans that "no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law" (Romans 3:20). The yoke of faith is much lighter and easier than the yoke of self-righteousness and continually striving to make ourselves acceptable to God by our works.

Christ was sharing the good news that all who learn and come to him will find rest from the impossible task of trying to earn their way into heaven. In doing so, they will find rest for their souls. Christ's 'yoke is easy and his burden is light' because by obedience he fulfilled the Law of God. He carried our burden to the cross and suffered in our place. By our faith his righteousness was exchanged for our sin.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 6.24.25 - 1 Corinthians 1:8-9

⁸We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,^[a] about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. ⁹Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

How often do we find ourselves in difficult situations and forget that God is in control. Often our first response is to go into problem solving mode, or at the very least to offer God some timely advice about how He might want to fix the problem. In our country we have been taught to be tough, independent and self-reliant. This is not to say that this is always a bad thing, but it

does at times prove to be a hinderance to us giving our problems to God and letting Him work them out in His way and time. We would all be better off if we could stop believing that we are in control and start believing that God is in control and that He "always" has our backs. We need to begin to see life's problems as a gift from God, a teaching moment, an opportunity to see that God is in control and can be trusted.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 6.25.25 - John 21:19b-25

Don't worry about God's plan for others. We rarely imagine that Jesus would tell us not to be concerned about others. On one occasion, though, that's exactly what occurs. The Lord informs Peter about his forthcoming crucifixion as an elderly man. Then, Christ instructs His disciples with, "Follow Me." However, Peter wants to know what the future holds for John. Had we been there, we probably would have been shocked by Christ's response. His point conveys that it is not Peter's business what happens to another disciple. Jesus reminds Peter of what He requires—"You must follow Me."

The first thing Jesus teaches His disciples is evangelism (Matthew 4:19). So, follow Him in talking to others about Christ, regardless of what others do. As for you—just follow. Focus on God's plans for you, not what others are doing. Are you sharing Christ with the lost?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 6.26.25 - Deuteronomy 12:32

Devotion is defined as 'love, loyalty or enthusiasm for a person, activity or cause.' We have such devotion for our family and

hopefully also for our country. As believers in Jesus, we should be likewise devoted to him. He has given his all for us, including 'paying the ultimate sacrifice' for our good. This activity and cause, this person, demands our love, loyalty and enthusiasm.

Such devotion should be obvious soon after one meets us, as it should shine in our speech and actions. The world loves, too, but in a different way. Our devotion should show in the way that caused the ancients to say of the 'followers of the way', "behold how they love one another." Our love should flow from our hearts as a result of the presence of the Spirit of God demonstrating the presence of the King of Kings.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 6.27.25 - Psalm 42:1-2

Our devotion to God and desire for His presence should be an integral part of our lives (Psalm 42:1-2). The psalmist places his hope and praise in God while expressing great sorrow. Discouragement can become a heavy burden to our souls even when we faithfully serve God. Yet, even in our deep sorrow, we can still praise God. Yes, it's challenging, but the first step to finding joy during our hardships in life is giving all of it to Him. We can praise Him for what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do in the midst of our trouble. Don't stop desiring to be close to the Lord. Even in your darkest moments, God wants you to come to Him. Today, remember God's faithfulness and recognize that although your soul might be downcast, you can still put your hope and trust in 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** **SUMMER QUARTER** – Sunday Mornings at 9:40
LOCATION: B8-10 – Gene Steinruck- began June 1.
EXPLORE THE BIBLE - Psalms - Let the ancient words meet you where you are. Listen as God speaks to your heart and reminds you how much He cares about you.
LOCATION: B11 Teacher: TBD – began June 1st.
BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE (part 1)
Risk Takers: The Adventure of Walking by Faith - Though exercising our faith can feel risky, see that the God we follow turns it into a grand adventure when we place our trust in Him.
LOCATION: B11 – Teacher: TBD – July 13th & 20th.
Safe and Secure: Our Eternal Security in Christ

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
RESUMES IN THE FALL
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
RESUMES IN THE FALL
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

SUMMER SMALL GROUP

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY Starts July 9th 6:30pm – Rm. B8-B10.

FULLY DEVOTED: by: Alex Kendrick & Stephen Kendrick

This powerful, eight-session study will take you on a journey through Jesus's invitation to come to Him as you are, trust Him with your faith, surrender to Him with your heart, follow Him with your life, and then intentionally make disciples of others. Led by Barry Wills.

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

John 21:18-19a

Characteristics of a Committed Christian (Pt. 3)

Jesus Christ died on a cross on Friday, April 3, AD 33. He was placed in a tomb, but He didn't remain there. On Sunday, April 5, Jesus became alive again. He appeared to His Apostles in Jerusalem that evening. Again, He appeared to them a week later in Jerusalem. Now, Jesus appeared to His Apostles a third time along the shores of the Sea of Tiberias in Galilee.

In John 21, we learn of the characteristics of a committed Christian.

- _____ (vv 1-14)
- _____ (vv 15-17)
- _____ (vv 18-19a)

Notice the series of contrasts that Jesus makes regarding Peter.
when you were younger ... but when you are old
you dressed yourself ... someone else will dress you
went where you wanted ... lead you where you do not want to go

Three undeniable facts:

1. The A _____ with Death (v 18)
 - Hebrews 9:27
 - 1 John 5:13
2. The A _____ of Death (v 18)
 - James 4:13-14
3. The A _____ at Death (v 19)
 - Philippians 1:20-21

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



June 23 – June 27

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 June 22nd, Characteristics of a Committed Christian" (part 3)" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on June 29th, "Characteristics of a Committed Christian" (part 4)", with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
John 15:12