

**MONDAY 7.7.25 - John 17:17**

17 Sanctify them by<sup>[a]</sup> the truth; your word is truth. It seems that in today’s world so many people see truth as a relative concept. What is true for me is not necessarily true for you. This may sound good on the surface, but as we dig deeper, we come to see that believing this allows us to justify any behavior because there is no absolute standard to compare our behavior to in determining if it is right or wrong. God tells us in His word that truth is not relative but absolute. He has established the standard to which we must compare our behavior to determine whether is right or wrong, good or bad, pleasing or unpleasing to God. God did not determine this standard to punish us, but out of His love for us and His desire to see us do what is pleasing in His sight. Make the Bible your absolute standard for righteous living and your manual for life.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**TUESDAY 7.8.25 - Hebrew 4:12**

Words are never static. And the Word of God is particularly active. Reading the wisdom and truth in God’s Word allows us to fill our minds with godly thoughts to direct our lives and make good decisions. Further, it corrects us when we go astray or start to drift from the life God wants us to live. It convicts us when we sin and draws us back to the Lord. The comparison of God’s Word to a sword that can penetrate, pierce, and judge is a powerful image that can perhaps frighten. But consider: a sword is a both a defensive and offensive weapon. Abiding in the Word protects us from thinking sinful thoughts and engaging in sinful activities. At the same time, wielding the Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17) fights off the attacks of the enemy and the allure of temptation. God is our mighty Protector, and He gives us the weaponry to fight the battle with Him and through Him.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**WEDNESDAY 7.9.25 - Genesis 1:1**

The God of the universe is the One that brought all things into being. God is omnipotent—He is all powerful. Now, being all powerful doesn’t mean that God can do anything. There are certain actions that God cannot perform. Perhaps you’ve heard the old question that skeptics have raised: “Can God create a stone so large that He can’t lift it?” The answer to that is “No, of course not!” If He could do that, then He wouldn’t be God. The fact of the matter is that there are certain things God cannot do because they are inconsistent with His nature. For example, Titus 1:2 tells us that God cannot lie. Lying is contrary to His nature. It inconsistent with who He is. So, God is powerful. He can do anything that is in harmony with His nature. This all-powerful Creator loves us and desires that we know Him.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**THURSDAY 7.10.25 - Deuteronomy 6:4-5**

God is a person. He has revealed Himself to us in His Word as Trinity—one God in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This mystery is beyond our comprehension, but it’s what the Bible teaches. The Trinity is taught in the New Testament (Matthew 28:19), but it is implied in the Old Testament as well. For example, Genesis 1:1 states: “In the beginning God ... .” This Hebrew word for “God” is *Elohim*, and it is plural in Hebrew. Deuteronomy 6:4 reads: “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.” *Elohim* (plural)

is *echad*—“one.” The Hebrew word *echad* means “one in plurality. “It is used elsewhere in the Old Testament to describe a cluster of grapes—a plurality in one. We belong to a marvelous Creator God who we can personally know and love.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**FRIDAY 7.11.25 - Psalm 139:7-10**

He is everywhere. In our sin, do we not on occasion hope that He does not see us, or is not aware of our thoughts or worse, our behavior? But He is. Whether we are enjoying the bliss of a momentous occasion or suffering in the deepest lowest point of our life, He is there.

Verse 8 is special as it references God in Sheol. That hidden compartment containing an upper portion called Paradise and a lower portion called Hell, is not hidden to our God. One place knows Him in wonder and the other in terror, but His presence is clearly seen.

Fly east or west, lie down or rise up, sing praise or sin badly, He is with us and knows all. But take heart all the day long, for during our hardest trials He holds us with His right hand. What a God!!

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** **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 1<sup>st</sup>.  
**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 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.  
**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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **We Believe ... In The Scriptures**

Four common crutches:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1. Scripture is Reliable

- ✓ 2 Timothy 3:16a
- ✓ 2 Peter 1:21

#### 2. Scripture is Beneficial

- ✓ It \_\_\_\_\_ us—2 Timothy 3:16-17
- ✓ It \_\_\_\_\_ us—Romans 15:4

### **How To Spend Time In the Word**

#### 1. Find a Quiet Space and Time

- Choose a consistent \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Eliminate \_\_\_\_\_
- Make it \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Engage with God

- Start with \_\_\_\_\_
- Read the \_\_\_\_\_
- Meditate on \_\_\_\_\_
- Conclude with \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. Be Patient and Consistent

- Don't be \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't be \_\_\_\_\_

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



July 7 – July 11

#### 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 July 6<sup>th</sup>, "We Believe... In The Scriptures" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on July 13<sup>th</sup>, "We Believe ... In God", with Pastor Doug Lyon.

#### KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness  
2 Timothy 3:16