

**MONDAY 2.13.23 – John 14:27**

Jesus told us that ‘in the world you will have trouble.’ Of course, we do not have trouble because He said so, but because of sin, both ours and the world’s. Sin makes trouble for all of us; some more bothered than others, but all are well experienced with it. Sometimes it seems overwhelming, and we succumb to its travail and are not overcomers as our friend, Christ Jesus, said we are. Overcomers we are, indeed, because the Holy Spirit lives inside us and possesses all the power of the Godhead. The world gives concerned with image and peer pressure, always meaning to help those who can offer some reward. The world gives and then takes it back. The world gives fame, prosperity, and peace on a short-term basis. But Christ offers His peace deep and abiding, never to be withdrawn. His gift does not depend on our worthiness or faithfulness. Thank heavens! No, thank Heaven. Are you His? Does His Spirit abide in you? Draw on Him today to face today’s trouble.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**TUESDAY 2.14.23 – 2 Corinthians 4:8-1**

<sup>8</sup>We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup>We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup>For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. We live in a world where so many of us can identify with what the Apostle Paul is saying in today’s verses. If you are like me, you often feel hard pressed, perplexed, persecuted, and struck down. These are not isolated feelings. We all struggle with them from time to time, both believers and unbelievers alike. If you go back and reread today’s verses, you will quickly see the difference between those who know Christ as Savior and those who don’t. Apart from Christ there is no hope. When we have life in Christ there is always hope. Are you discouraged today? The best medicine for discouragement is encouragement.

Find encouragement in words the Holy Spirit gave the Apostle Paul in today’s verses. Then take that encouragement and pass it along to someone else who is in need of encouragement. Doing this will help you to get your focus off yourself and onto Christ, and that will make all the difference in the world.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**WEDNESDAY – 2.15.23 – Acts 23:23-24:27**

Under Roman guard (470 soldiers!), Paul was escorted from Jerusalem to Caesarea for trial. There Paul appeared before the Roman governor, Antonius Felix. Charges were brought against Paul, and a lawyer, Tertullus, acted as the prosecutor. Tertullus flattered Felix, and he slandered Paul. He accused Paul of being a revolutionary, a leader of a fanatic cult, and a desecrater of the Jerusalem Temple. As his last weapon, Tertullus called on false witnesses who supported his lies about Paul. With conviction and courage, Paul’s proclaimed his threefold defense—his life, his faith, and his service to the nation of Israel. Although his enemies could not prove their accusations, Paul did not go free. He remained imprisoned in Caesarea for two years. You might not understand why God permits lies to triumph, but leave it all in His hands. He is in control, and the final judgment rests with Him.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**THURSDAY 2.16.23 – Joshua 1:8-9**

Three times. Three times in four verses God encourages Joshua to be strong and courageous. That is how important this command is.

We are reminded throughout the Bible that our faith journey will not be easy. Satan is prowling, waiting to devour us. The world around us envelopes us with sin. Fear, worry, anxiety, tragedy, sadness... all very real on this earth. Yet God encourages us just as He encouraged Joshua... do not be afraid! Do not be discouraged! The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Do you find yourself going through a season of fear? Are you discouraged? Please read John 16:33 after you are finished with this devotional. Imagine yourself in the room with Jesus and the disciples. Jesus did not say you *might* have suffering or tribulation in this world. You **WILL**. He knows this and He wants us to know this. But... He offers up that same command again. “Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**FRIDAY 2.17.23 - Psalm 119:1-2**

Psalm 119:1-2 provides the prelude to a psalm filled with references to the delights, desires, and benefits of keeping the laws, precepts, and statutes of the Lord. These opening verses tell us that those who do so are *blessed*. But what does blessed mean? Spiritually, it means receiving God’s favor, being made holy, or experiencing Divine kindness, mercy, and goodness. Who wouldn’t want those things? These verses also explain how to receive God’s blessing by walking according to His law, keeping His statutes, and seeking Him with all our heart, steps repeated throughout Scripture. Perhaps the nineteenth century songwriter summed it up best in his hymn, “Trust and Obey”: “When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word. . . There’s no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.” Keeping that song in our hearts will remind us to live daily according to His commandments.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**SUNDAY MORNINGS – 9:40am**

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level  
*available during the 9:40 service*  
NURSERY (through Age 3)  
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level  
*available during the 9:40 service*
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** SPRING QUARTER BEGINS MARCH 5TH  
LOCATION: B8-10 with Lane Kemler  
**Explore the Bible** - *John, chapters 12-21*  
LOCATION: B11 with David Hamilton  
**Masterwork** - *Unfailing Love in Uncertain Times, a study of 1 John by J. Ryan Wicker*  
LOCATION: B1-2 with Barry Wills  
**God Owns it All** - *A 6-week study of financial principles that are affirmed by the authority of scripture and tested by the marketplace by author, Ron Blue*  
LOCATION: Rm 2 (next to office) with Irene Hess  
**Share Your Story** - *This 4-week study for ladies will help you share your faith by recognizing God's presence in your life, identifying, and sharing your story and living out your faith*

**SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00pm**

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)  
*5th-8th Grade meet downstairs*  
*9th-12th Grade meet upstairs*
- Adults** DIVE DEEPER WITH DOUG  
LOCATION: Worship Center

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS - 6:00pm**

Meal followed by the study Ephesians by J.D. Greear  
LOCATION: FAC and lower-level classrooms

**WOMEN'S STUDIES**

- Tuesdays** LOCATION: B8-10 6:00 - 7:30pm through 2/28  
**Amos by Jennifer Rothschild**  
*Soup & study - Childcare provided*
- Thursdays** LOCATION: YAC 9:00am - 11am through 3/2  
**Amos by Jennifer Rothschild**
- Mondays** LOCATION: *more information coming soon*  
**Decluttering by Faith by D. Madsen & D. Kokku**

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY GROUPS OR CLASSES, PLEASE USE THE CONNECT CARD IN YOUR BULLETIN. THANK YOU!

**Acts 22:22-23:24**  
**Troubling Times**

*In this world you will have trouble ~ Jesus*

Jesus didn't say you might have problems. He said you *will* have problems. However, not everyone handles problems well. You probably know people who have relatively minor problems who fall apart. Yet, others handle big problems with dignity and grace. From Paul's example, we learn ...

1. When facing problems, \_\_\_\_\_  
with \_\_\_\_\_ (22:22-23:10)
  - When you're in the right, \_\_\_\_\_  
the \_\_\_\_\_ (22:23-29)
  - When you're in the wrong, \_\_\_\_\_  
(22:30-23:10)
2. When facing problems, \_\_\_\_\_  
in the \_\_\_\_\_ (23:11-24)
  - God helps you by His \_\_\_\_\_  
(23:11a)
  - God helps you by His \_\_\_\_\_  
(23:11b)
  - God helps you by His \_\_\_\_\_  
(23:12-24)



**February 13<sup>th</sup> – February 17<sup>th</sup>**

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's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message "Troubling Times" from Senior Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on 2.19.23, "The Peril of Procrastination" from Senior Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE: "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified." Acts 20:32