

MONDAY 3.13.23 – John 15:20

John 15:20

Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they would obey yours also.

Do you want to know the best way to never encounter persecution for Christ? In a word it is complacency. Just remain comfortable where you are. Don’t ever step outside of your comfort zone. Don’t ever take risks for Christ, and you will never be persecuted for Christ. You know what else, God will be sad, but Satan will be happy. Satan is quite content to let you be content. If you are part of an army, but you choose to stay in your nice warm bunk rather than getting into the fight you are not of much use to the cause. The same is true for us as God’s warriors. Maybe we need to get out of our beds and into the fight. You are likely to be persecuted if you do, but you know what? It will be worth it because then God will be happy, and Satan will be sad.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 3.14.23 – Romans 8:35-39

What tremendous verses, in a tremendous chapter. Read the whole chapter into these verses. Paul was writing to the church at Rome, not a paragon of good government. His list of maladies and injuries and hardships have been common in the world regarding God’s people, and were in his day; but we have not yet suffered in like manner. Our society is changing, however, and these verses teach that God will support our efforts to live out the Gospel life in our society no matter what.

If our precious American freedoms and liberties are taken away or if the government turns its fangs toward Christians in a strong way in years to come, the latter list of support and benefits from verses 38 and 39 shall resound in our ears. Pray that these truths from God’s word will sink deeply into our hearts, never, no never, to leave.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY – 3.15.23 – Acts 28:1-31

Endurance can be defined as the ability to withstand hardship or adversity, especially the ability to sustain a prolonged stressful effort or activity. Endurance is a word that uniquely describes the Apostle Paul. Beaten in Philippi, forced out of Thessalonica and Berea, mocked in Athens, threatened in Ephesus, falsely accused in Jerusalem, imprisoned in Caesarea, shipwrecked on the Mediterranean, and bitten by a poisonous snake in Malta—yet the Apostle Paul endured. He would not quit. He kept on going—like the Energizer Bunny. One of the secrets to Paul’s perseverance is that he didn’t focus on his problems; he focused on his Lord. “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2). Remember—it’s too soon to quit!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 3.16.23 – Lamentations 3:19-23

Sorrow and joy. Two opposite emotions we all feel, but we so often dwell on the sorrowful aspects of life and sink into emotional agony. Lamentations 3:19-23 begins with that depth of anguish, but ends in rejoicing in the hope that we have in the Lord. God surrounds us with His love and reminds us over and over in Scripture that He is faithful and compassionate, and that joy will be triumphant. Even in nature God plants reminders of

His enduring love. We see the sun rise each day, the rainbow after the storm, the renewal of life in the spring after the cold of winter.

When we face trials whether in relationships, employment, finances, health, or spiritual doubt, we need to look at God’s reminders and refresh ourselves in His Word. Psalm 30:5b ...”weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 3.17.23 - Psalm 37:23-24

I fondly remember the cleanup efforts of a recent flood. The dirt, mud, grime, and filth seemed endless. I remember thinking, ‘We will never get this cleaned up’. Yet, with the love of God in our hearts we prayed and worshipped and worked together until the job was done and it turned into one of the most enjoyable, easiest, most rewarding seasons many of us had ever experienced. We often think the journey before us is hard. Our tasks seem to be laced with difficulties. The finish line seems so far away or impossible to reach. We may be burdened. We may be struck down. But we will not be destroyed. We may stumble, sin, fail, or suffer, but God will not let us go into a free fall. He will use these troubles, if we trust Him, to turn us into something great and beautiful.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION



March 13th – March 17th

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 *The Perfect Storm: Courage in Danger* with Senior Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on 3.19.23, *The End of the Beginning: Courage in Endurance* with 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

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

EVENING E2 STUDIES - Beginning the week of 3/20

- He Chose the Nails by Max Lucado**
Wednesdays LOCATION: YAC 6:30pm
Thursdays LOCATION: Vance Home, Orangeville

WOMEN'S STUDIES

- Thursdays** LOCATION: YAC 9:00am - 11am - Beginning 3/16
Jude, by Jackie Hill Perry
- Mondays** LOCATION: B8-10 - 6:30 - 8:30pm - Beginning 3/20
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!

As a Roman citizen, Paul had the right to appeal to Caesar. So, arrangements were made to send Paul to Rome where he will stand before Emperor Nero. Paul is to be transported to Rome by ...

1. Ship (vv 1-6)

One historian describes the ship: "Chief among its drawbacks was that it couldn't sail into the wind." This piece of information is important because the ship encounters a ...

2. Storm (vv 7-20)

How to make a bad decision:

- Be I _____ and Demand I _____ Gratification (v 11a)
 - Proverbs 21:5
- Accept "E _____ Advice" Instead of G _____ Wisdom (v 11b)
 - 1 Corinthians 3:19
- Always Choose C _____ (v 12)
- Always Follow the C _____ (v 12b)
- Trust In Ideal C _____ (v 13)

3. Sermon (vv 21-26)

Anchors to weather the storms of life:

- ✚ Hold Onto God's P _____ (v 24) 123church
 - Psalm 30:5
 - Romans 8:28
 - Isaiah 40:29
- ✚ Be Aware of God's P _____ (v 23)
- ✚ Know That You're God's P _____ (v 23)
- ✚ Trust God's P _____ (v 25)