

MONDAY 4.24.23 - Luke 1:68-75

God chose Zechariah to be the father of the Messiah’s forerunner—John the Baptizer. Zechariah received this amazing news while performing his priestly duty in the Temple in Jerusalem. At first, Zechariah didn’t believe the angel Gabriel’s message. Because of his unbelief, Zechariah became mute, but his tongue was loosened at the time of his son’s circumcision eight days after his birth. Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he proclaimed the greatness of God—how the Lord promised the people of Israel both physical deliverance from their enemies and spiritual deliverance from their sins. This deliverance would come through Israel’s long-awaited Messiah. Zechariah’s son, John, would have the privilege of announcing the coming of the Messiah and encouraging the nation to repent in light of His arrival. Join Zechariah in praising “the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.”

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 4.25.23 - Philippians 1:19-21

for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my eager expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but *that* with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Today’s passage is a great expression of Paul’s trust and hope in Christ. The last line of this passage is probably familiar to many of us. As believers in Christ, we know that death in is not the end but simply a passage into a new beginning, but what about the first part of the familiar phrase? “ For me to live is Christ” Paul was committed to live each day and in every way for Christ. In 1 Corinthians 10:31 Paul admonishes us to have the same attitude as we go about our daily life when he tells us “

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all things for the glory of God.” If you are getting gas, driving the kids to school, doing the banking, or talking to your neighbor, in whatever you do, purpose to do it for the glory of God.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY - 4.26.23 - Luke 18:15-17

I miss my children. They still live at home with my wife and me, but I miss them. My two oldest have both turned into fine young men and my “baby” is eleven years old. I miss some of the things they have outgrown. Their innocence... their sense of awe... their level of trust... even their dependence on their parents. It fills my heart knowing they are growing up to be independent, strong, and capable young men but, as a parent, you want them to know they can always depend upon and trust you. Today’s scripture reminds us that we should think of our relationship with God in a similar fashion. While we hope we are on the right path, maturing as people, we need to have complete trust in God, not on ourselves or other things in this earthly life. We need to depend on Him, not ourselves or our works, to enter the Kingdom of God.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 4.27.23 - Proverbs 22:6

This verse wrecks fear in the hearts of parents everywhere. Surely almost every child has chosen different ways than those their parents instilled in them. Where did these parents go wrong? Yet this verse may not be a stand-alone.

It may cohabit with the need for a good name, hiding from danger and keeping one’s soul from thorny areas, as described in earlier verses. These good practices need to be exercised by us, and thus surely by the children.

‘Training’ is exercise and takes time. ‘The way they should go’ is likely in tune with the bent God has placed within them. It may be hard for parents to discern these bents. ‘When they are old’ could refer to maturity. Perhaps in some cases it refers to a time much later, after the parents have waited and waited and waited. Someone once said that God is writing His story in the children’s lives just as He is writing it in ours. Pray to fulfill these parental duties with diligence, and trust God for His results.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY - 4.28.23 - Psalm 127:3-5

“Children are a heritage from the Lord.” As all parents know, children are a blessing, but also a responsibility to love, nurture, care for, and provide for. But how many parents think of children as their teachers? Children teach us about God. God, as our Father, created us to fellowship with Him, but our sin and disobedience broke that fellowship. Still God loved us – so much that He sacrificed His own son to provide the way to restore our fellowship. While I can’t begin to fathom the depths of God’s love, I do know how much I love my own children. I would do anything in my power to care for them and keep them safe, even to the point of self-sacrifice. God in His infinite wisdom has given us an inheritance that not only provides earthly joy for us, but also teaches us to understand Him better. Amazing!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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 Lane Kemler
Masterwork - Beginning 4/23, a six-week study,
The Overcoming Life by D.L. Moody with Jack Devlin.
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.*

SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
Studying: "The Life of Jesus"
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 4/26, a six-week study

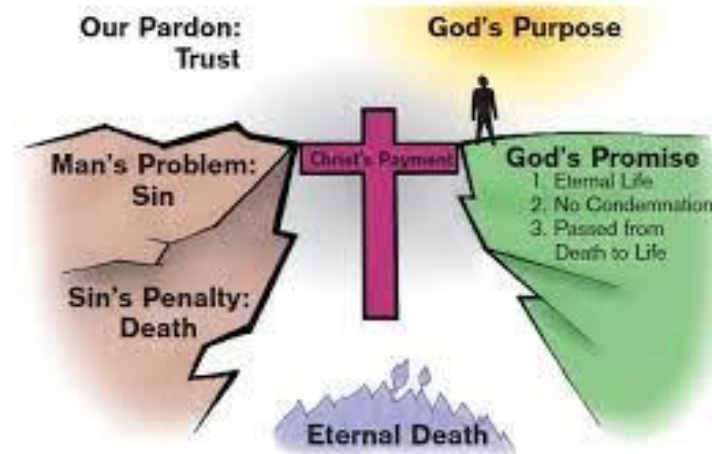
- Wednesdays** LOCATION: Rm B8-10 - 6:30pm
God Owns it All, by Ron Blue

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 3/27
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!

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. ~ Paul to the churches of Galatia



"We have taken it upon ourselves in the Lord's name to lecture on this Epistle of Paul to the Galatians once more. This is not because we want to teach something new or unknown, for by the grace of God Paul is now very well known to you. But it is because, as I often warn you, there is a clear and present danger that the devil may take away from us the pure doctrine of faith and may substitute for it the doctrines of works and of human traditions." ~ Martin Luther, Preface to Commentary on Galatians, 1535

That clear and present danger is still with us today. There are cults and false religions that want to convince us that we merit God's favor and earn salvation through works and human traditions. So, we must continually remind ourselves as Paul does in Galatians that forgiveness of sins and eternal life is a free gift of God. It's received by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



April 24th – April 28th

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 *Galatians 1:1-5, Operation Rescue* with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on 4.30.23, *Family Sunday*.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE: "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Galatians 1:3-4