

MONDAY 5.8.23 - Matthew 7:15-20

Nobody likes rotten fruit. But sometimes we are deceived by its appearance: it looks good on the outside, but is decaying from the core. Matthew 7 warns us about the rotten spiritual fruit that is produced by false teachers. False teachers offer appealing messages that we like to hear, but their substance leads us to spiritual destruction. Just as we are warned about new scams and given ways to identify fraudulent business offers, the Bible warns us about spiritual scammers (false teachers) and provides the way to identify them: by their fruit. Galatians 5:19-21 clearly lists the fruits of the flesh, which include acts of sexual immorality, idolatry, jealousy, divisiveness, and drunkenness. We need to examine the message and the lives of would-be instructors against the standards of Biblical truth. That way we will not become the victims of those who would gain from leading us astray spiritually.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 5.9.23 - 2 Timothy 4:3-5

These are interesting verses. They call to us to bear the truth to all we meet. In past days, these verses may have implored us to be bearers of God’s good news but if we failed, well our neighbor may hear it from someone else. But in today’s economy, as is true in farther reaches of the world, we may be the only source of truth our neighbor has. Especially as telling the truth becomes increasingly difficult in this woke world. In such an instance, the urgency of this charge to Timothy becomes our urgency, too. Read these verses again, this time imagining that only you hold the truth of God’s good news and a neighbor or storekeeper, government official, contractor, friend, or family member has inquired about it from you. Perhaps they have not inquired but exhibit a need that only God answers, and you hold the key.

There might even be a consequence if we speak. These verses end with this advice, “Fulfill your ministry.” God bless us, every one.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY - 5.10.23 - Galatians 1:11-24

Following his salvation experience on the Damascus Road, the Apostle Paul attended ABC (Arabia Bible College), and had Jesus as his sole instructor. So, Paul received his message directly from the Lord Himself. No man—apostle or otherwise—taught Paul the gospel. Paul went on to impact people’s lives powerfully with the good news of Jesus, and he demonstrated to believers how to live the Christian life. Many Christians were influenced by Paul’s example.

After serving the Lord for over fifteen years in Pakistan, missionary Warren Webster was invited to speak at the Urbana Missionary Conference. In his message, he stated: “If I had my life to live over again, I would live it to change the lives of people, because you have not changed anything until you’ve changed the lives of people.”

Ask God to use you to influence others to trust Christ and to follow Him.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 5.11.23 - Proverbs 13:20

²⁰ Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

It is important that we interact with the world, otherwise how can we be an influence for Christ in the world? Still, we need to ask ourselves why we are interacting with the world?

As we interact with the world do we have a positive influence for Christ or does the world have a negative influence on us. Golfing with your non-Christian friends may be fine, but golfing with them on Sunday in place of attending church with your family may not be wise. Joining your neighbor for a backyard picnic may be fine, joining your neighbor for a drink at the neighborhood bar may not be wise. The world, with all of its worldly pleasures, can be an enticing place. If we are going to influence the world for Christ we need to interact with the world, but we must do so purposefully, and we must do so wisely.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY - 5.12.23 - Deuteronomy 6:6-9

For today’s devotional, I would like us to spend some time thinking about the places we spend the most of our time. Our home, our workplace, our daily commute... where do you spend your time? Is your faith there with you? Do you think about it? Pray about it? Talk about it? Take the time to focus on the commandments of your Father as you go about your life? Today’s scripture reminds us, commands us, to make our faith the center of everything we do. It is easy to forget God when things are going well or when the normalcy of our routine puts us in life’s cruise control. But that is precisely what Satan desires from us. From Satan’s perspective, it is just as effective for us to be distracted from God’s commandments as it is for us to walk away from them willingly. We are encouraged to impress, talk, sit, walk, lie down, get up, tie, bind, and write... all in the name of God.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



May 8th – May 12th

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 1:6-10, "No Additives" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on 5.14.23, Galatians 1:11-24, "Radical Transformation" with Pastor Doug Lyon.

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

SUNDAY MORNINGS – 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service
NURSERY (through Age 3)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh 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.*

In the introduction of the Book of Galatians, Paul states that the gospel the false teachers are peddling isn't the _____ kind of gospel that he's preaching. It's a _____ kind of gospel—which isn't good news at all!

In verse 8, the word "if" is a _____-class condition in Greek. It conveys the idea of _____. It's something that could happen. Could Paul preach a gospel contrary to what he delivered to the Galatians? The answer is: "_____."

Application:

- 2 Peter 3:17-18

The word "anathema" is found six times in the New Testament. It refers to temporal judgment—not eternal condemnation. It refers to being under God's discipline here and now, and it can include physical, mental, emotional, or financial harm.

In verse 9, the word "if" is a _____-class condition in Greek. It conveys the idea of _____. It's something that is happening. Are there religions today that preach salvation by works? The answer is "_____."

Application:

- Romans 16:17

In verse 10, the word "if" is a _____-class condition in Greek. It conveys an idea that's contrary to _____. It's something that isn't happening. Is Paul trying to please men rather than God? The answer is: "_____."

Application:

- R_____ yourself to the Lord each day
- R_____ Scripture
- R_____ yourself of the _____ of Christ
- R_____ the _____ of Christ

SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
Studying: "The Life of Jesus"
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh 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!