

MONDAY 7.10.23 - Luke 6:35

³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

I think this is one of the most difficult things we are called to do as Christians. You may be saying, if you only knew. I have been hurt, really hurt! Falsely accused. Inaccurately betrayed. My reputation has been tainted. And every time I see this person my mind is filled with anger and bitterness. I just can't forgive them.

Let me say that is simply not true! Forgiveness, like so many other things in our Christian life, is a choice. The power to forgive comes from realizing two things:

1. Choosing not to forgive is self-destructive. It has a negative effect on my physical and emotional health, and it negatively affects my walk with the Lord.
2. God wants you to forgive, and the power to do so will come from Him if you will only receive it.

Let God go to work in your life to bring you to the point of being able to forgive that person in your life that needs forgiveness. It will be to your benefit and God's Glory if you do.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 7.11.23 - 1 Peter 2:5

1 Cor. 5:17 tells us that in Christ we are new creations; the old is gone. As such we have a new identity. 1 Peter 2 helps clarify that identity. Verse 5 states that we are to be like **living stones**, being built into a spiritual house to be **a holy priesthood**. Earlier in 1 Peter 2, Jesus is referred to as the **living Stone** (v.4). Thus we are to be like Jesus, who is the foundation and the **chief cornerstone** (Eph. 2:20) of our faith, the spiritual house we are part of. Continuing this thought, the Church is not made of brick and mortar, but living stones of believers who are to serve the Lord, **offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ**.

The rest of Chapter 2 details how Jesus lived and how we should be like Him as **a chosen people, a royal priesthood, God's special possession, the people of God** by praising God, living godly lives, and submitting to human authority. What a wonderful identity we have received!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY - 7.12.23 - Galatians 4:1-11

In Roman society, a child was not an adult until the father said he was. While a minor, the boy's status was no different from that of a slave, even though he was the future owner of an estate. He couldn't make decisions, and he had no freedom. When the father determined that the child was now an adult, he was formally adopted by the father as his acknowledged son and heir. A great celebration took place, and he entered into his responsibility and freedom as a son. Likewise, before becoming a Christian, you were a child—a slave! However, since placing your faith in Jesus for eternal life, *"you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir"* (v 7). Enjoy your freedom from sin and death as a full-fledged son of God.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 7.13.23 - Proverbs 3:11-12

Verses that discuss a believer's reproof always cause a little up-tick in anxiety. After all, God is love, He cares for and provides for His own. Yet we understand completely the need to discipline our own children, whom God has given to us for a time. The children we bore and raised do not belong to us, they are merely a gift for a season. That is why many dedicated them to the Lord in early days.

We do our best as parents, to provide guidance and resources, encouragement and discipline, when necessary, to make them most profitable in their own adult years.

Our heavenly Father does the same with us. He loves us completely and knows what is best for His children. That is why He provides guidance and resources to us, and gives us encouragement and discipline, when necessary. We must remember that whatever comes our way from our Father, is for our good. We should accept it and appreciate it.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY- 7.14.23 - Psalm 103:13

An adult can see right through a child who does not have the skills to hide selfishness, impatience, and a lack of wisdom. Parents know their children's flaws. Yet, a good parent loves their children anyway. In fact, the more weak and needy a child is, the more a parent's heart goes out to them. God knows us to our weakest depths and yet he loves us to His infinite heights! God does not just pardon our sins, He adopts us into His family, giving us love, access through prayer, a share in the inheritance of glory, and the Holy Spirit, which reproduces God's character within us.

Lord, we praise you for making yourself not just our King and our Shepherd, but our Father. To think of the omnipotent God as our Father... infinite power... loving us and working all things for our good! Transform our prayer life through a deeper grasp of Your fatherly love to us. AMEN.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

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** SUMMER QUARTER BEGINS *JUNE 4th*
LOCATION: B8-10 with Scott Naus
Explore the Bible - *Jeremiah and Lamentations*
LOCATION: B11 with Barry Wills & Shawn Devlin
Masterwork
6/4 - Good Life by Dr. Derwin L. Gray
7/23 - Gideon
LOCATION: B1-2 with Joel Day & Vince DiLoretto
6/4 - Everything You Need - by David Jeremiah
7/23 - In the Steps of the Savior - by Max Lucado

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
Break for summer. Resumes August 6th.
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

E2 SUMMER SMALL GROUP - Beginning 7/26 at 6:30pm

LOCATION: B8-10 with Barry Wills
The Awe of God, by John Bevere

UPCOMING EVENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
"KEEPERS OF THE KINGDOM"
Standing Strong in Today's Battle for Truth
July 16 - 20, 2023 - 6:00pm - 8:15pm
Ages 3 - through 6th Grade

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

Galatians 3:23-29 **The Tutor**

Nationally, we were born as free people in a free country. However, that's not the case spiritually. Spiritually, we were born as prisoners.

1. You were _____ by the Law (vv 23-25)

The *paidagogos* was "a slave employed by Greek or Roman families, whose duty was to supervise young boys in behalf of their parents. They took their young charges to and from school, made sure they studied their lessons, and trained them in obedience. They were strict disciplinarians, scolding and whipping as they felt it necessary."

The Old Testament Law acted as a supervisor or guardian who was a strict disciplinarian to keep people in line. That all changed with the arrival of Jesus Christ. When Christ came, the Law was set aside.

2. You are _____ by Jesus Christ (vv 26-29)

Paul lists the spiritual benefits you possess since placing your faith in Christ.


➤ God's _____ (vv 26-28)

You're no longer a child needing a guardian to keep you in line. You're now a mature adult with full rights and responsibilities in God's family.

Spirit baptism (v 27) is the act of the Holy Spirit placing you in God's family. That event occurred the moment you placed your faith in Jesus for justification (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:13).

➤ Abraham's _____ (v 29)

You enjoy the spiritual blessing that God has promised to Abraham—justification. You're declared "not guilty" in God's court of law. Your sins are forgiven. You have eternal life.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



July 10th - July 14th

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 Tutor" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on 7.16, "Know Your Rights" 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