

**MONDAY 7.17.23 - Matthew 5:14-16**

Today’s scripture teaches us to be the light and to shine bright, out from under any baskets that may dim us. I would argue that we must also MOVE! If we shine in one place, no matter how brightly, shadows remain behind the earthly barriers in our lives. Imagine the brightest light in your own kitchen. It illuminates the counter, the table, the floor, and the sink. But what about under the cabinets where all the crumbs seem to settle? What about under/behind the oven where small toys and kitchen implements go to be forgotten? Sure, be the light. Absolutely! But if we remain stagnant and only shine on static pieces of our lives the shadows remain. Those dark places provide a foothold for temptation and sin for us and those around us. I encourage you to crank up those lumens and take steps to brighten as many shadows as possible today and every day! Do not sit and let the shadows of this world remain darkened!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**TUESDAY 7.18.23 - 1 John 3:1-3**

<sup>1</sup>See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears,<sup>[a]</sup> we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The idea of being one of God’s children conjures up the idea of family. Family is just about one of the most important things I have on this side of heaven. I love my wife, kids, grandkids, and siblings in a way that is different than the love I have for others. I long to be with them and I am sad to see them leave. I am willing to make great sacrifices for them. I hurt when they hurt and feel joy when they feel joy. I believe that is how it is with God and His kids. He loves all mankind, but I think He loves His kids in a special way. He wants

to spend time with them. He sacrificed Christ for them. He hurts when they hurt and is pleased when they find joy in Him. I look forward to the day when I am in His very presence talking to Him like my kids talk to me. Are you one of God’s kids? If not, you don’t know what you are missing.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**WEDNESDAY - 7.19.23 - Galatians 4:12-20**

*“I plead with you, brothers ... .”* This is the appeal of a concerned spiritual father for the welfare of his spiritual children. Paul founded the churches of Galatia on his first missionary journey (Acts 13-14). He led these believers to Christ, sharing with them the pure gospel of Jesus. Additionally, Paul helped them to grow in their walk with the Lord, demonstrating Christlikeness. He reminds the Galatians that it was through some physical affliction that he first came to them, and that they treated him like an angel. Now, unfortunately, they were treating him like an enemy because he was telling them the truth. Paul encourages these Galatian Christians to turn from the false teaching that they have embraced and to become like he is—true and loyal to Jesus Christ. May the Lord help us not to stray from the truth, but to be faithful followers of the Savior.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**THURSDAY 7.20.23 - Jeremiah 17:7-8**

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.<sup>8</sup> They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

A few summers ago we followed the Oregon Trail heading west. Crossing the parched, barren plains the trail always remained in sight of, or within a short distance of the only greenery that dotted the dry landscape. Trees and shrubs signaled the way to streams and life-giving water; the way to survival in an inhospitable environment. To stray from the ‘trees planted by the water’ meant suffering and death to the settlers. There’s a lesson to be learned. We must never stray far from the Lord.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**FRIDAY- 7.21.23 - Psalm 92:12-15**

An interesting example given here, palm and cedar trees. Both sturdy and strong, able to withstand mighty storms. When the hurricanes of the south are over, the palm stands proud and straight. The cedar after its onslaughts remains firm and steady. That is how believers should be against the struggles of the world. Jesus said, “in this world you will have trouble.” But these struggles, some very heady, some even finding their resolution in the ending of a believer’s earthly life, these struggles should not break a believer. For the power of the Holy Spirit in a believer’s life is greater than all that is against us.

Even as believers age, becoming physically frail, they remain full of spiritual sap, tapping into that Holy Spirit on behalf of themselves and others. Prayer warriors is the ministry of many older saints. And our God hears those prayers on behalf of those others, so these saints bear fruit even in their old age.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## 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 4<sup>th</sup>*  
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 6<sup>th</sup>.  
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 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

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

## **Galatians 4:1-11** **Know Your Rights**

Paul begins by discussing your past, present, and future.

1. In the Past— \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 1-3)

In the ancient world, a child was no different from a slave. A slave didn't have freedom, and he couldn't do whatever he wanted. The same was true of a child.

We put restrictions on children for their own safety. That's what God did for His people by giving them the Old Testament Law. Now that Christ has come, things are different.

2. In the Present— \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 4-5)

The word "adoption" or "full rights as sons" as used in the Bible describes a father declaring that his natural-born son is now officially a mature adult with all the rights and privileges of the household.


When the right time came, God sent Jesus to redeem you as an adult son. God set you free from the Old Testament Law which was your guardian and manager. Now, God has granted you full rights as His adult son.

3. In the Future— \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 6-11)

You possess part of your inheritance right now—the Holy Spirit lives within you. The moment you trusted in Jesus for eternal life, the Holy Spirit entered your physical body, and it's a permanent indwelling. However, there are more benefits God has in store for you in the future.

- A better \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Romans 8:23)
- A better \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Revelation 21, 22)

Just think of what God has in store for you as His heir! So, why would you want to go back to the A-B-C's of your childhood (vv 8-11)?

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



## July 17th - July 21st

### 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, "Know Your Rights" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on 7.23, "Pilgrims Progress" 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