

MONDAY 9.4.23 - Matthew 16:25-27

Generally, we desire a life of comfort, a life of honor and happiness, and we often do all we can to accomplish this in our lives at the expense of the next. But in Christ's eyes, when we try to save our lives here on earth, it means that we will be lost in the next. We are commanded to lay up treasure in heaven and not seek after the comforts of this world. In God's economy, that is what it means to save one's life. Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Christ will find it. Just as Christ identified with us and became sin for us so we might be made the righteousness of God in Him, we too are to identify with Christ in His rejection, suffering, shame, loss, and death, so that in Him we too may rise to newness of life. A life of faith. A life lived in the power of the Spirit. A life lived in submission to the will of God. A life that says, "Thy will not mine be done."

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 9.5.23 - 1 Corinthians 3:5-7

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. I can't do that. So-and-so would do such a better job at that than I would. So-and-so needs encouragement, maybe I should call one of the pastors. I know I should give so-and-so a call, but what would I say? If you are anything like me, you are saying, "Been there done that". Could it be that God wanted to use you and in your doubt and uneasiness you found an excuse not to be used by Him? If God is making you aware of a need in another person's life, chances are He wants to use you as a vessel to channel His love to that person. Don't miss the opportunity to be used by God in the life of another person.

Remember, it is more about availability than it is about ability. Offer God your availability in every situation and let Him take care of the rest.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY - 9.6.23 - Galatians 6:11-18

When a person wants to emphasize what is written in an email or text message, he might use CAPITAL LETTERS. Paul's closing remarks to the Galatian believers were written in a way that stood out from the rest of the letter. Hopefully, it would cause Paul's readers to pay particular attention to his final words of instruction to them. In closing, the Apostle Paul reiterates the fact that the only way a person is justified is through Christ's finished work on the cross. On Calvary's cross, Jesus bore the sins of the world in His body. He died for our sins, and He offers forgiveness for all who will trust in Him for it. When a person places their faith in Jesus for forgiveness, they are justified—declared "not guilty" in the courtroom of God. They possess the righteousness of Jesus as a free gift by God's grace.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 9.7.23 - 1 Corinthians 1:18

Have you tried to 'shake' the gospel into your children or convince a co-worker to accept and believe Christ? It never works. God Himself is in the power of the cross. We do share our own experiences with others, as testimony to the working of the Lord in our lives.

But it is the power of the cross that brings them to the knowledge of God. He is the generator of the opportunity, our willingness, our content, the receptive ears and the resultant changed heart.

The cross is all about Him. When we seem to be failing in our evangelism efforts, we must remember that it is God who takes our words and uses them in His power, and that from the dead and now resurrected Lord Jesus, to work His will among the people of this world. Take heart, trust Him and the power of the cross.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY- 9.8.23 - 1 Peter 2:24

The cross is a crude instrument of torture and execution, yet God used this device to demonstrate His unfathomable love, His infinite power, and His transcendent thinking. Becoming human, Jesus suffered the most painful, cruel, ignominious death concocted by the forces of evil against humanity in order to provide redemption for anyone who trusts in Him. The physical versus the spiritual effects of Jesus' crucifixion defy human logic. The cross equates to physical death, but conversely death to sin provides life everlasting. Blood, a stain difficult to remove from fabrics, is used to cleanse our souls and provide us with spiritual garments that are white as snow. Wounds, which normally would be crippling, deforming, or debilitating, heal us. Further, symbolically, the vertical post of the cross points heavenward to God, but the horizontal bar reaches out to all humanity with His love. Praise God for His greatness and mercy.

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** FALL QUARTER - Begins Sept. 3rd
LOCATION: B8-10 with Bob Lehman
Explore the Bible - *Mark's Gospel*
LOCATION: B11 with Jack Devlin
Bible Studies for Life
LOCATION: B1-2 with Chris Domenico
Carry the Flame

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
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** SUMMER EVENING SPEAKER
LOCATION: Worship Center

E2 FALL SMALL GROUP

Women's TUESDAY EVENING STUDY

God of Deliverance - Study in Exodus - Begins Sept. 5th
in B8-10- with Denise Whitfield & Elizabeth Williams.

Men's TUESDAY EVENING STUDY

Kingdom Man - understand your position under God as well
as your position over what God has given to you.
Begins Sept. 5th in B1-2 with Mike Williams.

Women's THURSDAY MORNING STUDY

Abide -Study of the letters of 1,2,& 3 John - abide in the
truth. Begins Sept. 7th at 9am in the Youth Activity Center.

Women's THURSDAY EVENING STUDY

Desperate for Hope - find hope in your pain. Meeting at
Kulp Church in Catawissa at 6:30 pm beginning Sept. 7th.

Wednesday EVENING SMALL GROUP

Psalms - find rest, honesty, hope, courage, joy.
Begins Sept. 6th at 6:30pm in B8-10 with Barry Wills.

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

Galatians 6:6-10 **The Law of the Harvest**

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." ~ Galatians 6:7


This biblical principle shouldn't be confused with karma. Karma is a concept of Eastern religion. Karma is viewed as an unbreakable, universal law of cause and effect. It says that for every action there's a corresponding reaction. Karma says that the deeds we perform in this life will determine the condition of our lives hereafter. Fortunately, the biblical concept of reaping and sowing isn't as deterministic as karma. According to the Bible, our present deeds do impact our future, but unlike karma, there's room for God's forgiveness and deliverance.

Four Harvest Laws:

1. You harvest what you _____
2. You harvest in a different _____ than you plant
3. You harvest _____ than you plant
4. You can't do anything about _____ harvest,
but you can do something about _____

Application of the Harvest Laws:

- Plant _____ In Your Life (v 6)
 - 2 Corinthians 9:6
- Plant _____ In Your Life (v 8)
 - Cf. Galatians 5:19-21; 22-23
- Plant _____ In Your Life (vv 9-10)

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



September 4th – September 8th

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 Law of the Harvest"* with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on 9.10, *"Bragging 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