

MONDAY 10.30.23 - John 13:34-35

God is love, the Scriptures say. If we love Jesus we will obey his commands, the Scriptures say. He gave us a new commandment, love one another. Love is God’s over-arching theme. It extends everywhere and never ends. Yet it is the polar opposite of the chief motivators of the world. The world loves darkness and hates the light. Our interest in loving and our ability to love comes from God and Him alone. Without Him and left to our own efforts, we are self-serving, self-focused and selfish. We are depraved.

But a new command, to love one another, along with the power to perform it by the Holy Spirit of God, is evidence of the new me. Jesus living in me makes old things pass away and all things become NEW. I can appreciate, desire and perform God’s great command, to love others, sometimes even as myself.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 10.31.23 - Colossians 3:9-10

Removing the odor of a skunk from clothes is next to impossible! Often those unfortunate enough to have had this happen burn the offensive clothes, forever eliminating the memory. Putting off and putting on is a common theme in Scripture. Here in Colossians, Paul writes that we, as Christians, have **already** put off the smelly, stained, sin-permeated clothes of our *old* self and have **already** put on the *new* clothes of Christ’s righteousness! A qualitative change of **identity** has occurred! It has already happened! We have been renewed in our knowledge of the image of our creator to whom we are to be conformed (Romans 8:29). Now, brothers and sisters, Paul exhorts us to bring our *behavior* into line with that new identity! We have been clothed in Christ’s righteousness. Paul wants us to live like it!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY - 11.1.23 - Romans 1:16-17

Justification (or righteousness) is a legal term. It means to pronounce a favorable verdict. To justify means to declare that a person is in a right standing with God. It doesn’t mean to make a person righteous. So, how does God declare that a person is right in His sight? It’s by faith. A person must trust in Jesus alone for the forgiveness of their sins. In verse 17, Paul quotes the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk (2:4). In doing so, Paul shows that becoming right with God has always been by faith—not by works.

Are you right with God? If not, you can be. Simply place your faith in Jesus—plus nothing else—for the forgiveness of your sins, and God will give you eternal life. This is good news! That’s why Paul wasn’t ashamed to proclaim it—and neither should we.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 11.2.23 - Isaiah 52:7

“I have good news and bad news”. I am certain many of us have heard and/or used this common expression. It amazes me how often we are prepared to share our “bad” news with those around us, but we are reluctant to share the best news of all! Many claim that the gospel is hard to share because the audience is not receptive. Not receptive?!?!? Do you think your friend WANTS to hear about the bunion on your foot, or your car’s transmission trouble, or just how rotten the weather has been recently? Let us be a beautiful beacon of both good news and **THE** GOOD NEWS to those around us.

To our believer friends, our good news can encourage them to be patient and persistent in their faith as they go through their struggles. To our non-believer friends, our good news shows them an example of positivity and hope not always present in their lives. To all you encounter, sharing **THE** GOOD NEWS points everyone to the source of that patience, persistence, positivity, and hope.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY- 11:3.23 - Psalm 96:3

Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Shiloh is a mission minded church. We see the value of missions and show this through our support of over 20 missionaries. The board of missions is always looking for ways to keep our missionaries before the congregation. On November 5th-7th Shiloh will be holding our yearly missions conference and once a month we show a missionary of the month video. However, belonging to a mission minded church does not automatically make you mission minded. Let me ask you a few questions: How often do you think about any of the Shiloh missionaries? Do you pray for any of the Shiloh missionaries on a regular basis? Does the idea of seeing people from every nation, tribe, and language group in heaven excite you? I believe that God is mission minded and that He is calling us to be mission minded as well. My challenge to you today is, ask God to show you how you could become more mission minded in the days ahead.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION
