

## MONDAY 2.19.24 - 2 Corinthians 3:18

*“And we all with unveiled faces, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”*

In Exodus 34, the Israelites could not bear to look at the face of Moses, as it reflected God’s glory. As believers, we have such a treasure in that the Holy Spirit allows us freedom from the veil that keeps us from seeing God’s glory in Christ. It is so easy to get caught up in the hurry and worries of this world, neglecting to spend time with Christ. We need to be intentional each day and not waste this opportunity for growth. The more we rely on and look to Jesus in our daily lives, the more we will look like Jesus to a lost world; as the Holy Spirit transforms us into the image of Christ, one degree at a time.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## TUESDAY 2.20.24 - Romans 12:2

One of the great verses to a growing believer. Well, a Believer of every age and spiritual maturity benefits from this verse. Who cannot use transforming power? Every day the world, the flesh and the devil entangle the activities of life and misdirect our paths and interactions. None of us is exempt from this degradation. Without God’s transforming power we remain helpless against such attacks from without and within.

Yet, more than only finding power to overcome, which alone is a wonderful benefit, God gives us a way to find answers to many of our probing questions. Inquiries about what to do, where to go and who to be with, can be answered by transforming power. The verse concludes with using this power to learn God’s will for us in some very personal sense. How wonderful!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## WEDNESDAY 2.21.24 - John 2:12-25

As an 18-year-old Nova Scotian farm boy, Quincy Collins wanted adventure, so he decided to join the Navy. He reported to the naval base in Halifax where he encountered a guard at the front gate. The guard looked at him and asked, “What is your sin?” Being a good Christian, Quincy knew what sin was, but he thought, “What do my sins have to do with me joining the Navy?” The guard repeated the question, but Quincy said nothing. Finally, the guard barked, “What is your SIN—your Social Insurance Number?” Red-faced, Quincy quickly gave the guard the information on his new I.D. card.

Can you identify your sin? Even as believers, we disobey God, committing sin against Him (1 John 1:8). However, as Jesus cleansed the Temple in Jerusalem, He will cleanse you of your sin when you confess it to Him (1 John 1:9).

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## THURSDAY 2.22.24 - Isaiah 1:16-17

Isaiah doesn’t tell us of his prophetic call until he experiences the thrice Holy God in chapter 6. In chapters 1-5 however, he outlines the widespread problems of Judah in his day. Idolatry was rampant. Injustice was to be found everywhere and there was endemic mistrust of God. Sound familiar?

What should God’s people do as society crumbles? Part of the answer, at least, is found in our passage today. God commands us to repent of our sinful deeds; to cease to do evil. But that coin has two sides! We need to **learn to do good!** It takes effort! It takes action! It takes learning!

How do we do that? David’s answer? “Search me, O God, and know my heart.” (Psalm 139) “Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow” (Psalm 51) “and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139)

There is cleansing power to be found in our God!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## FRIDAY 2.23.24 - Psalm 51:7-10

*Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sin and blot out all my iniquity.<sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

Where are you at in your Christian walk? Do you think you are more Christ-like today than you were a year ago. Are there things in your heart or life that are separating you from God? Life is full of ups and downs. Sometimes we feel very close to God, and at other times He may seem far away. God has promised to never leave us or forsake us. If you are feeling far away from God today it is because you have chosen to walk away from Him. Let me ask you again. are there things in your heart or life that are separating you from God? If so, today’s scripture is for you. Come to God today with a repentant heart and a contrite spirit and ask God to create in you a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within you.

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  
NURSERY (through Age 3) \*9:40AM ONLY  
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** **WINTER QUARTER** - Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>  
LOCATION: B8-10 with Gene Steinruck  
**Explore the Bible** - *Genesis 1-1*.  
LOCATION: B11 with Lane Kemler  
**Bible Studies for Life** "Owning a Faith That Matters"  
LOCATION: ROOM B1-2 with Joel Day  
**Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table**

### 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)  
5<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> Grade meet downstairs.  
9<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> Grade meet upstairs.
- Adults** Dive Deep with Doug  
LOCATION: Worship Center

### E2 WINTER SMALL GROUPS

- Women's** THURSDAY MORNING STUDY - Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> - Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**When You Pray** by Kelly Minter, Jackie Hill Perry, Jen Wilkin, Jennifer Rothschild, Jada Edwards, and Kristi McLelland - with Christine Knepley 9:00am in B8-10
- Women's** THURSDAY EVENING STUDY - begins March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Kulp UMC, 1395 Old Reading Road, Catawissa. (Take note of the location) 10-session study of Exodus 19–40, with Elizabeth Williams. Sign up on the Connect Card.

### WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS 2024

- Wednesdays beginning January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**  
Bring your place settings and come to the FAC for a meal followed by small group studies in the lower-level classrooms. Join author and pastor David Platt in his ten-session series as he examines foundational truths for becoming mature disciples of Christ.

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

## **John 2:1-11** **Gift for the Bride and Groom**

John records the miraculous signs that Jesus performed so that his readers will place their trust in Jesus for eternal life (20:30-31). There are seven miraculous signs that John records in this book.

- Healing the Nobleman's Son—chapter 4
- Healing the Lame Man—chapter 5
- Feeding of the 5,000—chapter 6
- Walking on Water—chapter 6
- Healing a Man Born Blind—chapter 9
- Raising Lazarus from the dead—chapter 11

The first miraculous sign that John records is found in chapter 2.

1. The Setting—a wedding celebration (vv 1-5)

The word "*disciple*" is the Greek term which simply means *student* or *pupil* or *learner*. It's not synonymous with being a believer. The word doesn't indicate a person's spiritual status.

Jesus told His mother, "*My time has not yet come.*" The word "*time*" is used repeatedly in John's gospel (7:6, 8, 30; 8:20; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 16:32; 17:1). It's a reference to Jesus' death on the cross and His glorification as the risen Lord.

2. The Sign—miracle of changing water into wine (vv 6-10)


The large stone jars can hold upward to 180 gallons of liquid.

3. The Significance—purpose of the sign (v 11)

The miracle is meant to engender faith. Jesus performed the miracle so His disciples would put their trust in Him for eternal life.

What does God want believers to do based on this miracle?

- Turn \_\_\_\_\_ (v 3)
- Do \_\_\_\_\_ (v 5)
- Remember \_\_\_\_\_ (v 10)

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



## February 19th - February 23rd

### 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, "Gift for the Bride Groom" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on 2/25, "Cleaning House" with Pastor Doug Lyon.

### KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.  
John 20:31