

MONDAY 2.26.24 - 1 John 1:7-9

⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all^[a] sin. ⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

When we think about sin, we tend to think about the big sins. Things like adultery, murder, evil thoughts, outburst of anger and the like. The word sin means to miss the mark, not hitting a bullseye if you will.

1 Peter 1:15 says, But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ... That is a small bullseye to try and hit! I just gossiped, oops! I am a little to the right. I just had an unkind thought; oops! I am a little to the left. I know this is extreme. I do not think that God is setting up in heaven counting all our sins. I do believe that in every situation we should be striving to be more like Christ. You might say, "that means I should have Christ on my mind at all times throughout each day". I would say, that is not a bad idea!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 2.27.24 - 2 Timothy 2:20-21

D. L. Moody didn't want any sin to disrupt his intimacy with God. Because of this, Moody kept short accounts with God, immediately confessing any known sin. Each night, he also allowed the Lord to shine an interrogating spotlight on all the events of the day. Before retiring for the evening, Moody would review his day with the Lord, asking God to reveal anything that displeased Him. D. L. Moody exemplifies the kind of heart preparation needed to be a clean instrument for God's work. When we perform service for the Lord, we must make sure we have a clean heart, confessing any known sin in our lives.

It is also good to prayerfully ask God to examine our actions, thoughts, motives, and words. Because God is perfectly holy, He won't tolerate sin or commune with unrighteousness. Light has no fellowship with darkness (1 John 1:5-7).

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 2.28.24 - John 3:1-16

"No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit" (v 5).

Jesus doesn't add baptism as a requirement for salvation. The entire Book of John emphasizes that we are saved through belief (trust) in Christ alone (v 16). Christ moves Nicodemus from the concept of physical birth to the second birth or becoming a child of God. Water is an integral part of the physical birthing process. Jesus simply explains that physical birth was one of water. To enter into God's kingdom, Nicodemus needed a second birth made possible only through the Holy Spirit. As Jesus elaborates to Nicodemus several moments later, if he would believe in Christ, this second birth and entrance into eternal life would be his (v 15). The Old Testament predicts this spiritual transformation (Ezekiel 36:24-27), and as a teacher of Israel (v 10), Nicodemus should have understood Jesus' illustration.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 2.29.24 - Ezekiel 36:25-27

The first thing that comes to view in these verses is that each of the three verses begins with the pronoun "I". The active person is God Himself. If our ever-present sin, which does so easily and

persistently entangle us, is ever to be dismissed, it is because God would do it, not we ourselves. Try as we might, we cannot purify ourselves.

If we think we can desire God or want to please Him or even seek Him, these verses claim God makes that happen in our lives. He provides a desire in us to repent, seek Him and want Him.

Even after our point of salvation, we are unable to grow in the spirit without God's active participation. Just think, your salvation and love of the Lord and His daily Lordship in your life is His working His good pleasure in you. Praise Him.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 3.1.24 - Deuteronomy 30:6

Just like the Israelites in the Old Testament, Christians are a separated people. As part of the Abrahamic Covenant, God initiated the rite of circumcision so that the Jewish people would be set apart. This physical act made them different from all other people groups and marked them as followers of Yahweh. As Christians, we are spiritually circumcised by God when we accept Jesus as our Savior. He sets us apart by circumcising our hearts so that we can fully love and honor Him -- as He commands - with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30-31). This is still the first and greatest commandment. Only by fully loving the Lord can we show His love to others - the second greatest commandment - and draw them to Him. The best part: God works in our hearts to make this possible. We do not do this in our own strength.

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
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** **SPRING QUARTER** - March 3rd - May 26th
LOCATION: B8-10 with Dave Decamp
Explore the Bible - *Genesis 20-50*.
LOCATION: B11 with Shawn Devlin
Bible Studies for Life - "It's All About Jesus"
LOCATION: B1-2 with Chris Domenico
" Kingdom Authority"

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** Dive Deep with Doug
LOCATION: Worship Center

E2 WINTER SMALL GROUPS

- Women's** THURSDAY MORNING STUDY - Beginning March 14th.
A study on **Isaiah** by Melissa Spoelstra - with Brenda Ross
at 9:00am in B8-10.
- Women's** THURSDAY EVENING STUDY - begins March 14th 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 will continue through March 13th 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 2:12-25 **Cleaning House**

John 2 contains story of Jesus cleansing the Temple in Jerusalem. The Synoptic Gospel writers—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—record Jesus cleansing the Temple at the end of His ministry—the day after His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. So, Jesus cleansed the Temple twice—once at the beginning of His ministry and once at the end of His ministry.

There are three lessons God wants us to learn and to apply to our lives based on this first Temple cleansing:

1. Don't _____ of People (vv 12-14)
 - Worshippers needed to pay the _____
 - Worshippers needed to offer an _____


When you see people in need, how do you view them? Do you see them as a neighbor to serve or a victim to exploit?

2. Respect _____ (vv 15-22)
 - Show respect in _____
 - Show respect in _____
 - Show respect for the _____

What do you allow to enter your body? Consider not just what you eat—what enters your mouth. Also consider what you think—what enters your mind.

3. Develop A _____ with Christ (vv 23-25)
 - John 14:21; 15:14-15

A close, personal fellowship with Jesus is based on obedience. After you trust in Christ for eternal life, He wants you to be baptized. Baptism is a public declaration to others that you belong to Jesus—that you are His disciple—that you are His follower.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



February 26th - March 1

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, "Cleaning House" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on March 3rd, "Nic at Nite" 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