

MONDAY 3.4.24 - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Birth, physically, changes everything. So true it is also with new birth. It changes everything. If we repent of our sins and trust Christ's payment for our sins, then the result is eternal life. A new righteousness is given to us, a new spirit to live and dwell within us. A new heart to view others and a new desire to serve our master and Lord finds a home. A new interest in doing away with the old habits of sin appears. A new interest in developing righteous fruit of the spirit as consistent with Ephesians 5:22-23 commences.

But this is not by magic. It is the gift of God if we truly trust in Christ. It is what James claims is proof of a faith that is alive and not dead. It is hope that never fails and is the evidence of things not seen. It is new desires of our heart given from above. No magic here. It is a new birth.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 3.5.24 - 1 Peter 1:23-25

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever."

And this is the word that was preached to you.

I was listening to Mike Secula teach in Wonderful Wednesdays when I became convicted of the fact that in all my business of life, much of which would be considered good things, I had been neglecting spending quality time in the Word of God and in quiet prayer and reflection. I am totally convinced that Satan is very pleased to see us busy in doing good things if these things are keeping us from spending quality time with God. There is nothing we can be involved in that will produce more Godly character in our lives than to be spending regular time in God's Word and in prayer and reflection.

What about you? Are you busy, perhaps doing good things, at the expense of spending time in God's word and prayer and reflection? Starting the day off spending time with God will greatly enhance the likelihood that you will keep Him in the rest of your day as well.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 3.6.24 - John 3:17-21

The central thrust of the Gospel of John is the same as the main thrust of Christ's ministry—not to condemn people with bad news, but to bless people with good news. While it is necessary to tell the lost about the penalty we deserve for our sin (separation from God forever), we share it in light of the good news. Through trusting Jesus Christ, we can be assured of our place in heaven and an eternal relationship with God. So, the basis of condemnation is rejection of Christ. If anyone refuses to trust Christ's payment for sins, God has no choice but to allow them to pay for their own sins in an eternal hell (Revelation 20:11-15). We ask, "Why would a person choose not to come to Christ?" The answer is: Unsaved people love darkness and prefer to remain in their lost condition instead of coming to the light.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 3.7.24 - Genesis 18:25

In our passage today we find words that are both sobering and comforting. "Will not the judge of all the earth do right?" Of course, we know from His Word that he always has, always does, and always will do what is right!

For those outside of Christ, these are sobering words. In their sins, they have committed, as one writer says, cosmic treason before a thrice holy God. A righteous Judge cannot, indeed will not allow such treason to go unpunished. The lost are blind to the reality of eternal punishment at the hands of a holy and righteous God.

But for the child of God, these are comforting words for we know, with certainty, that our punishment, though deserved, has been meted out on the cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The Judge of the earth looks upon us, and sees His Son! Praise God!!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 3.8.24 - Psalm 96:13

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples."

Paul states in Philemon 6, that we must share to understand and as we understand we have more to share which is the circle of spiritual development. It demands we give away our faith in order to make it stronger!

- (1) We must sing a new song in our hearts day by day! We all have something to share. A Christian's message of sharing Christ should always be fresh and passionate.
- (2) The most important message we must share with others, is the message of salvation or becoming a Christian.
- (3) Finally, we must declare the great deeds of the Lord that we read about in the word of God and what we have experienced in our own lives.

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 3:1-16 **Nic at Nite**

"In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.'" ~ John 3:3

1. Why do I need to be born again? (vv 1-3)

Nicodemus was ...

- R _____
- R _____
- R _____

Even though Nicodemus was a very important and influential man, he needed to be born again to enter God's kingdom.

2. What does it mean to be born again? (vv 4-13)

"Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.'" (v 5)

Jesus is referring to spiritual cleansing—a spiritual birth—not a physical birth (cf. Ezekiel 36:25-27).

3. How do I become born again? (vv 14-16)

Jesus refers to an Old Testament event in the Book of Numbers chapter 21. Jesus uses this story as an illustration of what He will do. Jesus died on a cross, paying for our sins. Jesus' death accomplished what our good works, religion, charity, and morality couldn't do.

Belief in Jesus is the way we experience spiritual cleansing. It's the way we become born again. The word *believe* means "to have faith, confidence, trust."

So, the way we receive God's pardon for our sins is by placing our trust in Jesus for forgiveness. When we do that, God gives us eternal life.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



March 4th - March 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, "Nic at Nite" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on March 10th, "The Road to Perdition" 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