

## MONDAY 9.23.24 - John 17:18-21

As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. <sup>20</sup>My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

We talk about sharing the love of Christ with people, and we should always be looking for opportunities to do this. It is great to share the love of Christ with those whose paths cross ours, but we must be prepared to go further. I hear people say, "I share Christ through my lifestyle." The problem with that is that I know many non-Christians who are very loving, kind and generous, perhaps more so than some Christians I know. Living in a way that is honoring to Christ is important, but we must be prepared to take the next step. We must be ready to tell people about the completed work of Christ on the cross. We must let them know that it is through faith in Christ and what he did for us on the cross that we obtain salvation, and that salvation is obtained by no other means. Are you ready to share Christ with someone today?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## TUESDAY 9.24.24 - Romans 10:13-15

<sup>13</sup>for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."<sup>14</sup>How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? <sup>15</sup>And how can anyone **preach** unless they are **sent**? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Paul's logic could not have been any clearer. To be saved we must "call on the name of the Lord." But what if I don't even know of his existence?

I'm reminded of Paul's acknowledgment that the Athenians were a very religious people when he viewed all of their idols and even one altar "TO AN UNKNOWN GOD." Since they were "ignorant of the very thing they claimed to worship," Paul was there to proclaim Jesus. That is how Paul lived his life. In these verses, he reminds us of our responsibility to do the same.

So often and in so many areas in life, we come to the realization that if something is going to get done, we are going to have to do it. After we reach such conclusions, we typically commit and move forward. Why do so many of us balk at this responsibility when we attend a church that proclaims, "Christ's Last Command is our First Priority"?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## WEDNESDAY 9.25.24 - Mark 16:15

In 1851, Queen Victoria and the city of London played host to "The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations." It was an opportunity for inventors to show the most innovative industrial equipment of the day. The machine that won first prize was a masterpiece of 7,000 moving parts. There were gears, pulleys, pistons, bells, and whistles—all perfectly synchronized. However, the machine made nothing—absolutely nothing! Those thousands of parts just pumped, twisted, and turned together. All that power and all that work served no useful purpose. The same thing can happen to a church. It can have a multitude of programs and activities and yet accomplish nothing of eternal value. A church must focus on fulfilling the command of Christ given to His followers: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." Ask God to give you an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with someone this week.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## THURSDAY 9.26.24 - Isaiah 45:22

This concise verse tucked away among the profound prophecies of Isaiah covers the various dimensions of salvation.

"Turn to me ..."

- the simplicity of salvation—turning to Christ, trusting in Him is a simple act of faith.

"... and be saved ..."

- the certainty of salvation—a person can be assured that he has eternal life.

"... all you ends of the earth ..."

- the inclusiveness of salvation—God's offer is available to everyone, including you!

"... for I am God, and there is no other."

- the exclusiveness of salvation—there is no salvation apart from Christ—He is the only way.

Share the simplicity, certainty, inclusiveness, and exclusiveness of salvation with someone this week.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## FRIDAY 9.27.24 - Psalm 105:1-2

Life has a funny bend to it. One can actually go through life and never see God working or notice His hand at work. Yet with spiritual eyes, it is possible to see God working everywhere every day. He is an active God, interested in all that happens here, including being involved in the lives of people who love Him. Part of the mission of those people who love God and are called according to His purpose, is to 'pass the word' so that others can hear about Him, too.

Scriptures ask, 'how shall they call on Him of whom they have not heard?' They hear when we speak. But what should we say? Today's verses claim that even when we just praise Him for His acts of kindness to us, His miracles and benefits, the watching world hears and may come to know and trust His love. His praise on our lips is a mission statement. Go give one today!

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** **FALL QUARTER** – began September 1<sup>st</sup>  
  
LOCATION: B8-10 - Lane Kemler - began Sept.1<sup>st</sup>.  
**Explore the Bible** – Acts 13-28. As we study the missionary movement of the early church, we're reminded of our own call to share the gospel – our own responsibility to fulfill the Great Commission.  
  
LOCATION: B11 - David Hamilton - began Sept.1<sup>st</sup>.  
**Bible Studies for Life** – Thrive: Living on a Purpose. See how life takes on a meaning and richness the world cannot offer when we discover our purpose in Christ.  
  
LOCATION: B1-2 – Randy & Treva Hutchison – This 6-week class begins Oct.13<sup>th</sup>.  
**Parenting: Getting it Right.** This study helps parents of children from newborn through high school identify and embrace their *IT*; their win as parents. Offered at 9:40 & 11:00. Childcare is provided for Nursery to grade 4.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

**Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level  
**No Messiah Kids This Week**

**Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)  
*5th–8th Grade meet downstairs.*  
*9th–12th Grade meet upstairs.*  
**No Youth Group This Week**

**Adults** **No Service This Week**  
LOCATION: Worship Center

E2 FALL SMALL GROUPS

**Evening Study** – Began Wed. Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Rm. B8-10.  
**Philippians** – Rejoice in the Lord, with Barry Wills.  
  
**Morning E2 Ladies Study** - Begins Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9am in Rm. B8-10.  
**Luke in the Land**, Walking with Jesus, with Brenda Ross.  
  
**Evening Study** – Begins Tues. Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the YAC.  
**The Titus Ten**, Foundations for Godly Manhood, with Vince DiLoretto & Mike Williams.

**The Conversion of a Maniac**  
**Mark 4:35-51, 5:1-15**

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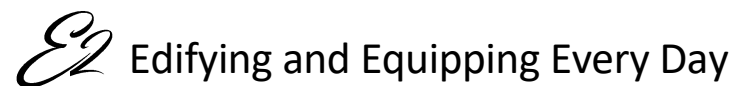
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TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



September 23 – September 27

**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:**  
September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Jim Kline will be sharing at 9:00am.  
Pastor Doug Lyon will give the message at 10:00am the Fair Bandshell.  
September 29<sup>th</sup>, Quarterly Missions Speaker, Rev. Ken Lorow – Pre-Field Ministries Director- ABWE will be sharing the message.

**KEY/MEMORY VERSE:**  
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.  
John 10:10