



Unchanging

Derrick Adams

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” (James 1:17 NIV)

Many changes have taken place over the last year. Our schedules, work, school, family, and church life have all been disrupted. We’ve had to adjust to what many would call the “new-normal” regarding our daily routines. If you’re like me, you know that embracing fast and unpredictable change is not easy. In fact, sometimes it can throw us into a season of despair because of our longing for what was once a stable environment. But when we look backwards in time, we understand that change is inevitable in this fallen world. Every generation is hit by a seasonal wave of unpredictability. So how do we endure this wave of change? We must look to the One who doesn’t change.

As believers in Christ, we can take comfort in the truth that Jesus never changes. There is no surprise about His character. There is no uncertainty as to whether or not He will be the same tomorrow as He is today. There is no need to fear the stability of His promises. Jesus never changes. Friends, this means that we can trust Him with our lives. Whatever might come our way, we can trust in His sovereign rule, despite the shifting sands of this world.



January 3, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 01A



Where Do We Begin?

Ethan Callison

“So David inquired of the LORD, ‘Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hands?’ The LORD answered him, ‘Go, for I will surely deliver the Philistines into your hands.’” (2 Samuel 5:19)

It was another day in the kitchen. I was preparing a meal with my wife when we both came to that intersection yet again — you know the one where there’s more than one way to accomplish the same result. You have been there before, too — whether it be with your spouse cooking dinner, your kids building a Lego car, or with your coworker working on a project together.

Before David did anything, he first “inquired of the Lord.” This is a simple yet profound choice that David makes. In 2 Samuel 5:19, David seeks God’s wisdom and direction in how he should approach a battle. This is coming from the Man of War that David is known as. Yet, 4 verses later (2 Samuel 5:23), he does the exact same thing — he “inquires of the Lord.”

How often do we go about life without seeking out what the Spirit would have us to do? So today, stop and ask “Father, what is it you have for me to do?” Even if you have been down that road before, the Spirit may prompt you to respond differently. Yesterday’s answer may not solve today’s problem.



January 10, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 01B



A Nutrient-Rich Life

Jay Albritton

The Spirit of the Lord God is on Me,
because the Lord has anointed Me...
to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,... (Isaiah 61:3)

Our family recently started a compost pile. We are beginners and are amazed at what can go into a compost pile and what it actually does for your garden.

Just a few of the things that can be put in a compost pile include used coffee grounds, rotten vegetables, grass clippings, dead leaves, banana peels, egg shells, and ashes from your fireplace. When applied, compost loosens the particles so that roots spread, air penetrates, and water drains. It even changes the soil structure to prevent erosion and disease. It seems crazy that you can take all of these used, unwanted, and completely destroyed items to create a nutrient-rich soil by which your garden comes alive and thrives.

That is what God wants to do in us. He wants to take our regrets, failures, and inadequacies — even those parts of our lives that have been or need to be burned completely to the ground to create an enriched soul from which life will come. Let Him take the ashes from your life and turn them into something beautiful.

What areas in your life does God want to reduce to ashes in order to make you into His beautiful masterpiece?



January 17, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 01C



Imitators of God

Bill Wennerstein

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.” (Ephesians 5:1)

As children, imitating our parents comes very naturally. It is seen in the way we speak and the way we move and act. Those we love and respect are the people we want to be like — be it our parents or others that have made a positive and influential impression on us. We model ourselves by those around us that we admire and hold in high esteem. It has been said, “Imitation is the sincerest/highest form of flattery.”

In this verse, Paul is instructing us to imitate God the Father in His Holiness and righteousness, God the Son, (Christ Jesus) in His self-sacrificing love for His people. All being accomplished by the power of and reliance on the indwelling God the Holy Spirit present in every born-again believer.

Every day as God’s adopted children, we are given an opportunity to imitate the Triune God. We display his transforming work in our lives by giving glory to our creator, sustainer, and savior in how we live moment by moment, day by day until Christ returns for his bride the church. Today and everyday counts. May we be found as loving children imitating our God.



January 24, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 01D



Take Courage from the Church

Hopson Boutot

“On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage.” (Acts 28:15b)

Paul had been falsely accused, publicly beaten, wrongfully imprisoned, storm-tossed, shipwrecked, and snake-bitten. But as he neared Rome, he spent a week with a local church. And he took courage.

Imagine a boxer in a fight. He takes a beating until the bell rings, then he sits on a stool in the corner. His mouthpiece is cleaned, blood and sweat are wiped off his face. He’s given something to drink and his wounds are treated. Meanwhile, he listens as his team speaks to him. When the bell rings again, he’s taken courage by being in the corner.

That’s how we should think about gathering as a church. We’re in the middle of a spiritual battle, and we’re taking a beating. Then Sunday comes, and it’s like sitting in the corner of the boxing ring. We’re washed up, our wounds are treated, and we hear the Word that gives us courage. But just as the stool in the corner is only appealing from inside the boxing ring, so the church is only appealing when we’re in the fight. So stay in the ring and you’ll take courage from the church.



January 31, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 01E



An Appeal for Evangelism

Micah Voight

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38).

In Matthew 9:36, Jesus gives us a portrait of those who are lost and without Christ as their Savior. He says that they are “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Jesus feels their suffering, realizes their separation and is moved with compassion. He then goes on to make an appeal to His followers to share in His compassion and pray earnestly.

What do you think would happen if we earnestly prayed this prayer today? I believe that if we were earnest in praying for God to send laborers, because of our compassion for the lost, that we might find ourselves being the answer to our own prayer. In Matthew chapter 10, the very ones that Jesus commanded in chapter 9 to pray earnestly for laborers in the harvest, are the ones that Jesus sends out to labor in the harvest. Like Jesus, may we see the size of the harvest, feel their suffering, and realize their separation and go.



February 7, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 02A



Hypocrisy

Gene Lancour

“Let your love be without hypocrisy, abhor evil and cling to that which is good.” (Romans 12:9)

It is amazing how the world sees the church. They stand on the outside looking in and make judgments based off of past experiences or hear-say. The most popular excuse for not having anything to do with Jesus is the “hypocrite” excuse. Either they don’t want to be one or they don’t want to be around one.

In Matthew 23, Jesus lays out His disdain for those who live hypocritical lives. He classifies them into four categories. The posers, pushers, preventers, or preoccupied.

The Posers want everyone to see them as they act out their Christianity. The Pushers force everyone to act the way he thinks they should act. The Preventers keep everyone they know from experiencing God. The Preoccupied clean the outside of the dish but leave the inside filthy.

When people, who are looking in from the outside, see the church how are they viewing it through your life? Are you finding yourself in one of these categories? We don’t have to be. Instead, let our lives be a life of love that is sincere. Let us do our own evaluation and deal with us before we deal with others.



February 14, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 02B



The Word of God Stands Forever

Lonnie Brooks

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” (Isaiah 40:8)

Years ago, a friend was preparing for church one cold and frosty Sunday morning. He was living in his grandmother’s former home that sat a few hundred feet from where he could park.

That morning as he made the journey to his car, finding the windows covered in frost he started his car and walked inside his cousin’s home to share a cup of coffee while the car warmed up.

After a few minutes he looked outside only to find his car on fire. The fire department arrived but they couldn’t get water from the hydrant — the car was a total loss.

He went on to church. My wife and I gave him a ride home after lunch to inspect the car more closely. I opened the door and reached inside to find his large print Bible. The bible had no fire or water damage — only a little soot. Everything around it was burned. I am reminded that through all of life’s challenges the word of God cannot be destroyed. It will stand forever.



February 21, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 02C



Minister to the Crowd

Gary Horton

“When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

Jesus saw the crowds. He didn't just see a large group of people, but he saw individuals and their needs. He said they were weary and worn out. Jesus can look at a crowd and see each individual person that makes up the crowd. Oftentimes, we get distracted by the crowd and do not see the individuals. By doing this we miss seeing the needs of the individuals. Every single one of them have something going on in their lives. It maybe they just received news of a terminal diagnosis, they may be having issues with their spouse, children, or parents, or they just lost their job.

If we don't look through the eyes of Jesus then we may miss the opportunity to minister to those in need. Will you start looking today for opportunities to minister to people, who are in the crowd? If you will, then God will bless you as minister to others.



February 28, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 02D



Our Comfort vs. God's Calling

Matthew Kirkland

“Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans! Declare with the sound of joyful shouting, proclaim this, send it out to the end of the earth; say, ‘The Lord has redeemed His servant Jacob.’” (Isaiah 48:20)

We tend to be creatures of comfort. We choose clothes, vehicles, restaurants, relationships, conversations, and even churches based upon our comfort. But, is this really what God desires of us and for us? Should our decisions be based upon what is easy and comfortable? Of course, we know that we must follow God's command regardless of the cost. However, it is far too easy for us to get in the same rut as the Israelites. While enslaved in Babylon, they sadly became comfortable and complacent and didn't want to leave. They weren't fulfilling God's purpose for their lives, but they were content living in their complacency.

Jesus has called us out of our comfort zone to take the Good News to the ends of the earth and make disciples of all nations. As those who have been redeemed, let's be faithful to always choose God's call over our comfort.



March 7, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 03A



The Fixed Point

Ken Bledsoe

“Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

I’ve always loved being on the water. Many years ago, I remember an uncle of mine demonstrating the key to water navigation. He would take us out into the Chesapeake Bay. Once we were out quite away from shore, he would step aside from the helm and allow me to steer his boat. I can still hear Uncle Walter telling me, “Find a fixed point and make sure that no matter what (the current, waves, or distractions), you continue to aim toward that point.”

In life, there are waves that may slap at us, winds that will push against us, and many things that may distract us — but the key to navigating life is to fix our eyes on the Savior, making sure we stay motivated and calibrated. I know that, “He’s got this.”

Lord, thank you that you never fail or disappoint. You are that fixed point that will never shift and change. You alone are the only one who will calibrate our lives perfectly.



March 14, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 03B



Prepared for Adversity

Bobby Owensby

“...they have conquered (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives unto death.” (Revelation 12:11)

The Grand Canyon averages more rescues than any other national park in the world. It’s steep drops, soaring temperatures, and lack of water access have accounted for hundreds of deaths since it was first explored. Many of these deaths could have been avoided had precautions been taken by overly confident yet unprepared hikers.

In this life, God’s people will face adversity. Believers must prepare by heeding God’s Word. The spiritual forces behind this world system hate the things of God, and believers will experience persecution as a result. The believer must “take heart” (2 Timothy 3:12).

How do we overcome the various “troubles” of life? God’s people must be strong in conviction and truth, cultivating a love for Christ that overcomes the temptation to make comfort, safety or asset accumulation the highest priority. A Christ-centered, eternal mindset will enable us to trust him no matter the circumstances and to be prepared for the journey.



March 21, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 03C



Pray Fervently

Danny Campbell

“As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.” (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

This past year, I have often found myself praying the Lord’s Prayer. One thing I have noticed is that the prayer focuses first on what God wants for the world before it shifts to our needs.

“Our Father” makes us think about growth in our relationship with God. “Hallowed be Your name” makes us think about wanting to glorify God. “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven” should make us think of applying our Biblical outlook in our lives as well as sharing the Gospel to people who don’t yet know Jesus. Only after those initial statements does the prayer turn to praying over our physical needs (“Give us”), spiritual needs (“Forgive us”), and the spiritual warfare we will encounter (“Deliver us”).

In 2 Thessalonians 3:1, Paul asked His partner church in Thessalonica to pray for him and his team, Whatever form your prayer life takes, pray fervently for God’s work to advance among specific missionaries and places.



March 28, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 03D



Jesus: Unending Treasure

Jason Taylor

“...not be discouraged because of my sufferings for you...” (Ephesians 3:13).

Nearby our home is an elaborate corn maze. When my older son joined me for the maze, it did not take long to realize we were not going to make it. Not only was it hard, the reward for finishing was insignificant: a piece of candy (not even good candy — Smarties of all things). Not surprisingly, we gave up, took an emergency exit, and called it a day.

The Apostle Paul had a much greater tolerance for discomfort. He suffered greatly and yet tells the Ephesians to “...not be discouraged because of my sufferings for you...” (Ephesians 3:13).

Paul also had a much greater motivation. In describing preaching about Jesus, Paul said he gets to preach “the boundless riches of Christ” (3:8). “Boundless riches” can paint the picture of a labyrinth or maze. It describes riches that no matter how hard or long you search, you can never come to the end of them. The maze yields more and more treasure and never ends.

How might our view of life and suffering change if our vision of Jesus were one of boundless riches and life were an unending treasure hunt in pursuit of Jesus?



April 4, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 04A



Holy Ghost Promptings

Scooter Simmons

“...the holy Spirit of God whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption.”
(Ephesians 4:30)

Since Spirit-leading is the opposite of not grieving the third person of the Trinity, then by necessity we must begin each day with fresh bread from heaven so that we do not become admissible to the flesh’s failings, the world’s wrestings nor Satan’s slings. However, not every prompting is Spirit controlled.

How do we know when Jesus is prompting, and another spirit is wooing? Don’t we sing to our children: “Read your bible pray every day and you’ll grow?” Then, prayer, praise, precepts, combined with practice (service), rightly prepares us to walk in and to not grieve His Holiness.

Recently, I preached the funeral for a dear saint of God. For more than 10years, my wife and I visited her several times a month until we moved away. More than once did I “sense” a directive to re-visit her. Each time, I declined the Lord’s invitation. While preaching, I did not weep nor absolve myself to the family. However, I did resolve to be more faithful — to listen and to be led by the Holy Ghost.

Pray that when you feel the Spirit’s prompting, God will give you the wisdom to follow it.



April 11, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 04B



A Gift of Sacrifice

Joel Bradberry

“...I will not take for the LORD what is yours, nor offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” (1 Chronicles 21:24)

At its core, the practice of re-gifting is pragmatic yet somewhat deceitful. Gifts are costly and involve sacrifice. David understood that. Upon David’s repentance of his self-serving census, God stayed His death angel’s hand and commanded David to purchase Ornan’s threshing floor and raise an altar there. God had big plans for Jerusalem.

Ornan freely offered his threshing floor to David — along with oxen to sacrifice and wood to burn. David declined; but, instead, paid nearly \$500,000 in gold (current value) for the site. David refused to re-gift. He would not give to God that which cost him nothing. He understood that acceptable offerings to God were costly, bloody, unblemished, and offered by those with broken and contrite hearts (Psalm 51).

This threshing floor most likely had been the spot where God provided a ram substitute for Isaac and would be the future site of Solomon’s Temple. All that happened there was pointing to the Lord Jesus. While the blood of bulls and rams covered sin temporarily, the blood of Jesus made full payment for sin. Jesus’ once-for-all atoning sacrifice was completely acceptable to God the Father as payment for sin. Jesus’ resurrection is proof.

None of us can offer sacrifices for our sin sufficient to satisfy God’s righteous demands. Thankfully Jesus did. Those who call on Jesus with broken and contrite hearts are in Christ, received by the Father, and adopted into the very family of God.



April 18, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 04C



A Victory Celebration

Shane Gallagher

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Sometimes we need a reminder that we, God’s people, have much to celebrate together — mainly because of Jesus and His victory. God wants His church to move forward by focusing on our victorious Savior, and seeing how His victory points to ours. For instance, because of Christ’s victory:

- We can believe that God can handle every circumstance and situation we experience.
- We can believe that God is supreme and sovereign over all earthly things, especially our enemies.
- We can believe that we need not fear anything because Christ’s victory over death has gained eternal life.
- We can believe that we must be the body of Christ, doing the work of Christ, by the Spirit of Christ, and not of ourselves.
- We can believe that we need not be ashamed and that we cannot be condemned because Christ has had victory over our sin.

All of this victory allows and empowers us to move forward as the body of Christ — being His kingdom, and expanding His kingdom. What is it that you need to believe about Christ’s victory to help you better be part of His kingdom mission today?



April 25, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 04D



Pray to the Lord of the Harvest

Armando DeLa Merced

And He was saying to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” (Luke 10:2)

What is Christ’s solution to the great need for workers in the mission fields of the world? The solution is to pray.! God ordained prayer as a means to send out laborers into His harvest. Apart from prayer, our efforts on strategizing, equipping, and resourcing to send out missionaries and church planting teams, are doomed to fail.

Consider who the Lord of the Harvest is. Our fruitfulness in reaching the unreached peoples in our communities and beyond is dependent on Him. The One who sent Moses, Paul, and William Carey is able, willing, and ready to raise up, use, and bless the efforts of Christ-like and competent workers from the harvest and into His harvest. He is able to revive churches to become active forces in reaching the nations with the Gospel. The harvest is His, and He gets the glory.

Will you pray daily in faith, with compassion for the lost, and prevailingly for much needed Gospel workers?





Change Your Perspective, Change Your Life

Dalton Stoltz

“...Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David’s throne, has won the victory...” (Revelation 5:5)

John was weeping bitterly because no one in heaven or on earth was found to open the scroll to bring about God’s final plan of victory. John and other followers of Christ were facing severe persecution and they were hopeless that justice would ever come about for the Roman Empire.

Have you ever felt complete utter hopelessness or like there was no way out of a difficult situation? This is exactly where John is when he is told “stop weeping,” and to change his perspective and look in a new direction. In the direction John now looked stood the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, which is one of the earliest titles for Christ (Gen. 49:8-12), this title represents His strength and His authority.

Let me be clear: Changing your perspective can change your life. Jesus Christ is the hope for the hopeless, and we need to pray, give, and go into all the world so that they might “stop weeping” and behold the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, who has won the victory.



May 9, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 05B



Courage

Jon Morton

“ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”
(Acts 4:31)

Perhaps one of the greatest tests of Christian character lies in how we handle hardship, challenges, and, even, persecution. When time and circumstances apply such tremendous pressure, will we be refined by the trial or crushed under the burdens of life?

The church in its infancy offers an example for us to follow even still today. In the midst of uncertainty, intense criticism, and threats, Peter and John stood before the religious leaders of their day. They were determined to be obedient to the Great Commission rather than the warnings of an unbelieving world. That boldness galvanized the other early followers of Jesus in the church.

Far too often, we treat prayer as a last resort taken only when every human effort has failed. That wasn't the frame of mind for these early Christians. They immediately turned to the Lord and acknowledged that resistance to the Gospel is normal and persecution for Jesus' sake is to be expected. They trusted in the sovereignty of the Lord, who's perfect plan can never be thwarted. These early Christians didn't pray for security, provision, blessing, favor, or protection. Their request was simply for courage — for the boldness to remain obedient in spite of whatever pressures they might face. They put their “yes” on the table as God's servants, so let's do the same today.



May 16, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 05C



The Lord Requires You to do Justice

Steve Johnson

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

I don't know anyone who's opposed to loving kindness. Within the church, walking humbly with God is thoroughly encouraged. Yet “doing justice” is neglected by some. Is it a distraction from evangelism or is it a good work implied by the Gospel? God's people have a long heritage (prophets, apostles, and Jesus, Himself) of speaking out for those who are orphaned, impoverished, abused, helpless, sick, and discriminated against.

If we're truly pro-life, then we will speak up for the unborn as well as everything in our society that threatens the lives of African Americans, Latino Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Middle Eastern Americans. We will also obey Christ's command to make disciples of all peoples (Matthew 28:18) without neglecting weighty matters of God's Law like doing justice (Matthew 23:23).

Today, begin to listen to the aggrieved to learn how to “do good to everyone” (Galatians 6:10) for their lives now and into eternity.



May 23, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 05D



Preach What You Practice

Leroy Davis

“So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

We have all heard the expression “practice what you preach.” That phrase is used in both encouragement and rebuke and has actual Biblical roots. In Matthew 23:3, Jesus told His listeners, “Therefore do whatever they tell you, and observe it. But don’t do what they do, because they don’t practice what they teach.” He was both rebuking the Pharisees and encouraging His disciples.

Let me ask you to think about the value of flipping that phrase so it reads like this, “preach what you practice.” Although the phrase is not found verbatim in Scripture, it has strong Biblical roots in Romans 10:17. The core of this verse and the context surrounding it is the critical importance of the Gospel being verbally communicated by someone who has previously heard it, believed its message, and called on the name of the Lord for salvation. The issue at stake is that those who have believed the Gospel must verbally communicate the Gospel to those who have yet to hear so that they might believe and be saved. There will not be one soul in heaven if we merely live the Christian life before them. Saving faith comes from believing the message about Christ that is heard, not just seen.



May 30, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 05E



Don't Miss What God Is Doing

Michael Harrison

“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.” (Philippians 2:3-5)

What defeats you? What gets you down? The biggest thing that gets me down is missing what God is doing. It is kind of like being at a place where something just happened. You may have just missed a celebrity or something cool that nature did.

But think about missing what God is doing. What would keep us from seeing God, or best yet, from being part of what God is doing?

My prayer is that we will see and be part of things God is doing.

“We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated.” -Maya Angelou



June 6, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 06A



Be Refreshed

Mike Cauthorne

“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.” (John 7:37)

Many people in the world are dependent on the rainy season for water. This creates a great dependency on the rain. If the rainy season is short, they have less water; if it is longer, they can endure great flooding.

We, on the other hand, can go to our refrigerator or kitchen sink at any time and get water. Despite the ability to get physical water whenever we desire, we live in a time where many are spiritually dehydrated or lack the refreshing power of water. Being hydrated is something we must continually do even when we do not feel thirsty. Spiritually speaking, far too many Christians wait until they are dehydrated to get water. Jesus said come to Him and drink.

Are we regularly being hydrated by the Word of God through the Spirit of God? Stop today and make time every day to drink from the fountain that is always plentiful, refreshes and renews.





You Can't Get There from Here

Bill Wennersten

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

There is a saying in Vermont I learned a few years ago, “You can’t get there from here,” meaning can’t always get ‘there’ in winter. Vermont is a beautiful place. It is known as “The Green Mountain State” and it lives up to that name in the summer. But winter is another matter. A drive over the mountain to a nearby village in summer can be quick, but the same drive in winter often can’t be made due to snow blocking mountain passes.

I am reminded of the adage when I hear people say that there are many roads to heaven, and it is dependent on your good deeds outweighing your bad deeds. That belief is not Biblical and can’t get you to heaven, “You can’t get there from here.”

When Jesus says “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” he is stating the fact that He is God’s exclusive way to salvation and eternal life by Grace through faith in His death and resurrection. There is no other way. He is the only way to get there from here.



June 20, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 06C



Confident Hope

Monty Guice

“...born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...” (1 Peter 1:3)

Hope is the confident, eager expectation that God is going to do what He says. Peter tells us that hope comes along with our salvation because Jesus has been raised from the dead.

I get nervous watching my favorite football team, the University of Georgia, play. Suppose my Bulldogs are down by five points with five seconds to go in the game. We’ve got the ball, but we need to score a touchdown. So, I can anxiously “hope” they score the touchdown and win the game. But the truth is, I have no guarantee. Now, suppose that I had the game paused on my DVR, and just before I watch that last play, someone texts me, “Wow, what an amazing last play! Congratulations! Go Dawgs!” Now, I will watch that play, not with fear and anxiety, but with “confident, eager expectation.” I will be confident that we have already won, and eager to see how we will win. That’s the kind of hope we have because of Jesus’ resurrection.



June 27, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 06D



Good News

Derrick Adams

“...for ‘All flesh is like the grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.’ And this word is the good news that was preached to you.” (1 Peter 1:24-25)

It seems that no matter where you turn today, you run into a wall of bad news. From television, to web articles, to social media — bad news seems to take center stage. Sometimes it can even feel like we are drowning in a sea of news that reflects nothing but brokenness and death. So, we begin to wonder if there is any good news at all.

The wonderful thing about the Christian life is that no matter the amount of bad news we come across; we are people who are grounded in good news. In fact, we are people who find our identity in the best news of all — the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection reminds us that no matter the severity of the pain we experience nor the darkness we witness in this life, the Gospel shines like a bright beacon of hope. By faith in the Gospel we are forgiven — credited a righteousness not our own, adopted into God’s family, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and have been promised an eternal inheritance that can never be stripped away. That is glorious news! So Christian, when you feel overwhelmed by the sorrows of this world, set your gaze heavenward and dwell deeply upon the Gospel of King Jesus.



July 4, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 07A



Worship

Gene Lancour

“I urge you therefore brothers in view of God’s mercies that you present yourself and a living sacrifice holy and acceptable unto God which is your reasonable act of worship.” (Romans 12:1)

The modern church has a confusion over the truth of worship. For many, it’s an event that occurs once a week — typically, on Sunday. It’s a place you go to, not an action of the will. It’s a service of singing praise songs or hymns, but not giving or instructing.

Yet, Paul tells us worship is a result of contemplating the mercies of God that leads to a surrendering of ourselves to Him. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that a day was coming and had arrived when God would be worshipped in spirit and truth.

Before you can worship the God of all mercies, you must first contemplate such mercy. Then make the presentation of yourself to Him and it will lead to worship in spirit and truth. This isn’t a once-a-week vitamin, but a daily activity of contemplation and surrender.

Prayer: Father, when I consider your mercies towards me I can only present myself to you wholly and devoted. I bow in worship before you thanking you for such an opportunity. In Jesus name Amen!!!



July 11, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 07B



Your Heart's Point of View

Jay Albritton

As water reflects the face,
so the heart reflects the person.
(Proverbs 27:19)

When we see our reflection in a mirror or in the stillness of water, we see the adjustments that need to be made to our appearance. Some necessary adjustments are missed because we don't look closely, can't quite get the right angle, or things are just completely out of view. At this point, we need help to know the problem.

Just as the reflection in the water shows our face, our heart reflects the person. This is also true — the person reflects the heart. The problem with the person always begins in the heart. If we are honest, we know there are things that are hard to see in this "mirror." While you may say your "heart" belongs to Jesus, if your actions, words, and thoughts reflect something different, then there is a disconnect. This is where we need help.

What if you asked the people closest to you this question: "What is it like to be on the other side of me?" This may create an awkward and painful moment, but it could bring to light a much needed view of your heart and provide an opportunity for spiritual growth you haven't experienced in years.



July 18, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 07C



Take One More Step

Shane Gallagher

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:10-12)

You might feel like someone or something is daring you to “take one more step” when you are seeking to serve God and introduce Jesus to the world. But in Scripture, God gives us a healthy and helpful perspective on the opposition and persecution that we experience while trying to take steps to make Jesus known through our lives. Persecution is a real occurrence. Satan is busy orchestrating all kinds of ways to discredit, discourage, and disillusion those who are actively serving Jesus in this world. However, Jesus is telling you here to keep your focus on heaven, and the reality of your future and your reward there for eternity. Such powerful truth about where you are going can help you immensely when you feel stagnant here on earth, and strengthen you to take one more step.



July 25, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 07D



“My” Can Change Your Life

Michael Fitzgerald

“My Lord and my God.” (John 20:28).

Two dates are indelibly etched into my memory as life-changing moments. They are the days my daughter and son were born. Human life took on a greater depth of meaning when I realized that out of the billions of people on earth, only two can say, “That’s MY dad.” I am awed and honored that part of me lives in them.

The Bible teaches us that the most important word of everlasting life is “my.” In John 20, we read the familiar account of Thomas, who had missed the original visit of Jesus with His disciples on resurrection evening. Upon hearing the news of Jesus’ resurrection, Thomas says, I will not believe until I literally feel His wounds. Eight days later, Jesus comes to His disciples again and offers His hands and side to Thomas’ touch. Without the need for physical proof, Thomas makes the greatest statement of faith in the Bible: “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28).

Many people in the world acknowledge that Jesus went to the cross. But true forgiveness and eternal life hinges on the personal decision to ask Jesus to be my Savior. At that moment, our sin-debt is paid, and He comes to live in us. Today, believer, thank the Lord that the word “my” changed your life forever.



August 1, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 08A



Go and Work

Micah Voight

“For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.” (Matthew 21:32)

In Matthew 21, Jesus tells this short little Parable about a father, who has two sons. The father goes to his first son and says to him, “Son, go and work in the Vineyard.” The first son replied, “No, I will not.” However, sometime later, we are told that the son changes his mind and does go and work in his father’s vineyard. Then the father goes to his second son and says, “Go and work in the Vineyard.” The second son says, “Yes Sir, I will,” but he doesn’t actually go and work in the vineyard.

Think about that in terms of our relationship with God as our Heavenly Father, who has a vineyard that needs laborers to work the harvest. He has come to us and said, “Go and work in the harvest field.” Which of the two sons will we be? It seems to me that we are often like the second son that says, “yes,” but doesn’t go. I pray that God would do something incredible in our lives to give us the heart of a son that sees the harvest and goes.



August 8, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 08B



Nothing Can Stand in His Way

Hopson Boutot

Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood. (1 Peter 1:2)

It would be my wife's best birthday ever. I made plans for a week in Chicago, eating the world's best pizza, visiting the country's best improv comedy club, snacking on the world's best popcorn, and taking pictures from the country's highest skyscraper. I paid the price to make it happen. Airfare, a 4-star hotel on the Magnificent Mile, and money for food and attractions.

The day before her birthday, we visited Wrigley Field. Moments later, my wife was hit by a car while crossing the street. We spent the day in the hospital. Her birthday was an emotional mess as I rolled her in a wheelchair across the city. I learned that I could make great plans and pay a high price, but I didn't have the power to determine the outcome.

Not so with God. When He makes plans and pays the price, nothing can stand in His way. The Father planned our salvation, the Son paid the price, and the Spirit guarantees the outcome. Thanks be to God!



August 15, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 08C



The Gospel's Progress Through My Problems

Matthew Kirkland

Everyone faces trials, circumstances, and problems in life. This is a sobering reality of life. However, no matter how many problems we face and no matter how great the struggle, the good news of the Gospel is still good news. In fact, it is often in the midst of our greatest problems that God works through us to take the good news to others who may otherwise never hear. We may at times be arrested by grief, disease, hurt, pain, fear, and all sorts of disappointments, but the Gospel is never in chains. This was Paul's experience. As he was chained to a prize soldier of the Praetorian Guard he boldly explained, "Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the Gospel." (Philippians 1:12)

It is incredible to remember that God isn't working in spite of our circumstances. He is working through our circumstances to further point people to Jesus. Don't let your problems hinder you from telling everyone the good news of Jesus. In fact, it will be through your victorious testimony in the dark times that God will use you to bring others to the Light.



August 22, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 08D



God Delights In You

Sean Couch

“Who is a God like you, forgiving iniquity and passing over rebellion for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not hold on to his anger forever because he delights in faithful love.” (Micah 7:18, CSB)

Micah is one of those Old Testament prophets whose books are hard to read. The leaders of Israel have, “...hated good and loved evil (3:2),” the prophets have lied and led the people to follow other gods, and even “... the most upright is worse than a hedge of thorns (7:4).” God is about to bring devastating punishment on His people for their sin.

Thankfully, that is not how the book ends. Micah concludes the book remembering the goodness of God. God is rightly angry with sin, but He doesn’t hold onto His anger forever. He delights in showing his faithful love to His people.

Are you in a season where you have sinned, and God is disciplining you to bring you back? Receive the forgiveness that is found in Christ. Lean into what God is teaching you in this season. Rest in Micah’s words — God delights to show you His faithful love.



August 29, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 08E



Where is Your Trust?

Mike Cauthorne

“The Lord states “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.”
(Genesis 28:15)

My family and I recently drove out to Wyoming and Montana. We happened to go during Sturgis Bike Week. It was a fascinating scene, and I was blown away at the number of people riding along the Interstate at 80 miles an hour without a helmet. Each of these individuals trusted in their own abilities to keep them safe. The danger is that you cannot predict what other drivers or animals may do. In fact, you really cannot trust yourself that well either. As a Christ follower, often we find ourselves trusting in ourselves rather than the Lord.

We have an enemy who seeks to destroy each of us. We never know when danger may be right around the corner. However, the Lord does. We are called to place our full trust in the Lord. Only the Lord knows what lies ahead for each of our lives. So why not trust him fully today, and everyday, as He leads us. We don't need to avoid the danger, but He will guide us through.



September 5, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 09A



You Are the Fragrance of Christ

Armando DeLa Merced

“For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.” (2 Corinthians 2:15)

An airline company hired a perfume maker to produce the scent of a flower for which its aircrafts are named after. However, the perfume maker failed. The airline retained the name but without the scent. The Scripture says, “We are a fragrance of Christ to God....” Could it be that some of us bear the name of Christ but without His fragrance?

We diffuse the fragrance of Christ through our lives that reflects Him and through spreading the Good News of salvation wherever His Spirit leads us. Such fragrant life is a sacrifice of worship, an aroma pleasing to God. It is also the fragrance of Christ’s glory, spreading abroad to draw lost people into a saving relationship with God.

Let us never give up in this sacred task for He promised to “always lead us in His triumph in Christ, and manifest through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.” (2 Corinthians 2:14)



September 12, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 09B



Work Together to Advance the Gospel

Danny Campbell

“And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia – also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia...These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas.” (Acts 20:4-5)

One of the great lessons we find when we study the life of Paul is that he was absolutely committed to teamwork as he carried out the Great Commission. There are more than 70 of Paul’s coworkers mentioned in the New Testament, and multiple references to Paul viewing individual churches as partners in extending the Gospel’s impact. Think of it like a “beehive.”

As part of discipleship, Paul invited people to join what God was doing. Many people left their home churches for a time to join Paul’s team. As Paul travelled, he would leave coworkers behind in cities to keep the work going, he would send teammates ahead to places he was going, and he would send partners back to other churches to exchange progress reports. They were teammates working together to advance Christ’s work. Let’s do our part as teammates within our churches, among our churches, and with our state and national partners to advance Christ’s work.



September 19, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 09C



Praise God In All Your Circumstances

Gary Horton

“I will praise the LORD at all times;
His praise will always be on my lips.” (Psalm 34:1) HCSB

It is easy for us to praise the Lord, when everything is going well in our lives. However, when things are not going as we expected, then can you sing praises to the Lord? During these times of difficulty is when our faith is tested. David tells us that we are to praise God at all times.

When we stop and think of all the Lord has done for us then this should help us to praise Him even, during difficult times. The Lord has provided for our every need, He walks with us daily and, most importantly, He has provided a way for us to be with Him forever in heaven. God is the same in the good times and the bad times. He is faithful and just to help us in all circumstances. Today will you be faithful to praise God in all your circumstances?



September 26, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 09D



Peace is Possible

Monty Guice

“Jesus said, “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

I recently saw a Twitter post where a person struggling with life stated, “I’m living in Spain, and the “s” is silent.” Many people are experiencing some kind of tribulation in their life. Christians are not exempt from problems and pain. We will have them...it’s not a matter of if but when. Jesus does not sugarcoat that fact. He is not being pessimistic, but realistic.

But the good news is also realistic: He offers us His peace. When tribulation hits, many choose to wallow hard, and feel sorry for themselves. Others tend to swallow hard, without sharing their hurts and pains with God or others. They grin and bear it, and carry on until that pain, confusion, doubt or frustration catches up with them.

But we can have the peace that Jesus offers. Jesus does not promise us the grace to remove our trials, but the grace to receive trials. So, take heart in this world, problems are permanent, but in Christ, peace is possible.



October 3, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 10A



We Believe, But Do We Act?

Ken Bledsoe

“He [Jesus] said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” (Matthew 14:29)

There is a difference between belief and faith that produces action. As has been well said, Faith is belief with legs on it.

I can't help but wonder, what was the sea like for Peter? Was it slippery? Was it like concrete, or was it like Jell-O? I don't know. But here's fisherman Peter out there; he's made his living on that water. So, trusting in the word of the Lord to “come,” Peter steps over the side of that boat, puts his feet down on something solid, and begins to walk. He says, “This is wonderful, look at this! I'm walking on the water.” Then, about that time, he sees some wave, maybe it slaps him in the face. He looks around and he stops saying, “This is wonderful.” He now says, “This is impossible, I can't do this!” And he begins to panic. Peter takes his eyes off Jesus and puts them back on the storm. And when he does, he begins to sink.

Before we think too harshly about Peter for taking his eyes off Jesus, just remember that there were 11 other guys back in the boat watching this whole thing. As long as you stay in the boat, you'll never sink — but you'll never walk on water, either. Faith is investing everything in God's faithfulness. It is committing yourself to the Word amidst the waves.



October 10, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 10B



His Purposes will not be Thwarted

Dalton Stoltz

“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted” (Job 42:2)

I recently met with a couple who lives in one of the most dangerous places in the world for the purpose of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our conversation reminded me of the C.S. Lewis classic series, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, in which a dialogue occurs about Aslan the Lion, who represents Christ. The conversation was between a child named, Susan, and Mr. Beaver. Susan asked Mr. Beaver if Aslan was quite safe. Mr. Beaver’s response still impacts my own soul: “Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.”

Have we forgotten that children of God are not called to safety and security? Have we forgotten that we are also thoroughly indestructible until we have completed the task that God has called us to? Let us live in such a way that we recognize that our lives are built upon the promises of God and that His purposes will not be thwarted.





Controversy is the Good News

Scooter Simmons

“...without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh...” (1 Timothy 3:16)

Ironically, many Biblical “3:16s” are laden with controversy. From Genesis 3:16 to the world-famous John 3:16, and, equally astounding, 2 Timothy 3.16. The scriptures are contention-laden for the person trusting religion’s works and not Redeemer’s words.

So, how can the Creator, revealing himself as created, not be controversial? Paul’s words annunciate the reality of our faith. Since faith comes by hearing the words of God, apparent disagreement becomes understanding from the Spirit and acceptance with the beloved. The sinner becomes the saint upon receiving Emmanuel as Lord and Savior.

In the early 2000s, I had the privilege to serve in a SBCV-sponsored church plant. While doing the work of an evangelist, I encountered a young man who said that he had no idea why Christmas or Easter was celebrated. After explaining the precious words of the Lord to him, we prayed together. He did not say, “Yes,” to Jesus, but he heard the word. He heard that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. That’s not controversial — that’s good news.



October 24, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 10D



Superheroes in Action

Michael Harrison

“Now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” (Acts 20:32)

There are many people who are unlikely heroes but really are. A hero is someone who serves others with no thought of return. They don't look like bodybuilders or supermodels. They aren't superstars or billionaires. They are simple people.

The lady who gives unselfishly to help others.

The person willing to serve and will do whatever is asked.

The man who helps people in need and finds many more resources.

The kid who got a new backpack and realizes a friend didn't, but they make sure their friend gets what they need.

I am grateful that in my line of work that I meet lots of superheroes. It is even more exciting when I get to help them do even more.

God calls us to help, serve, encourage, and build others. This happens because God is for people. He is about giving hope where there seems to be very little.

May we get to see superheroes in action and be all for the glory of God.



October 31, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 10E



What Are Your Thoughts Focused On?

Ethan Callison

“But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.” (Timothy 6:11)

We see so much in the scriptures about ‘not doing’ this or ‘not doing’ that; however, I think Paul has some insight in his letter to Timothy that changes our perspective. In Timothy 6:6-11, Paul told Timothy to pursue contentment and flee from worldly possessions in search of the fruits of the spirit.

When we pursue being content with what we have, we no longer covet or envy or any of the other ‘don’ts’ in scripture. I recently thought about Jesus’ temptation in Matthew 4:1-11 and how He sets the example for us on how we defeat temptation. One thing I realized was that Jesus was thinking about His Father, and the Word. He wasn’t focused on the temptations the tempter had for him.

So today, realize that you think about what your thoughts are focused on. Think about being in the presence of Jesus. Think about the Word. This perspective empowers us to be content in who we are in Christ and content with where our Father has placed us in life.



November 7, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 11A



Waiting

Jon Couch

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; Wait for the Lord!” (Psalm 27:14)

Waiting is brutal. The phrase: “God’s never early, He’s never late, He’s always right on time,” sounds good on a coffee mug. But when your life is unravelling at the seams, waiting upon God to reveal His will can be painful. There is a struggle to trust God’s timing. Our culture celebrates impatience, but the Bible beckons us to wait on God.

Why is waiting upon God so difficult yet necessary?

1. Waiting is work to the flesh. Strenuous work. We face a tug-of-war between our nature that hungers for independence, and God who desires for us to be dependent upon Him.

2. Waiting is worship to the Lord. During dark nights of seeming hopelessness, we may cry out to God in desperation. This pleases God. We are worshipping Him with our trust as we wait.

3. Waiting is worth it in the end. Remember: It’s not how you start, but how you finish. Life’s most satisfying moments are when we ponder trials that have served to strengthen our faith. We are being sanctified through our waiting.

Be encouraged as your confidence in God flourishes. Wait joyfully, and don’t lose heart.



November 14, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 11A



God's Sovereign Grace

Joel Bradberry

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad. (Psalm 126:3)

Hindsight is 20/20. Have you ever heard that? It rings true, doesn't it? In other words, as we survey our past, God's providence and sovereign rule over us is made crystal clear.

When our son was 12, I had to tell him we were leaving Georgia and moving to Virginia. He was devastated. He had to say goodbye to all he had ever known — church family, close friends, and an amazing Little League program. Today, 15 years later, he is married to his Virginia sweetheart, and they are expecting a son. Had he known back in 2005 what he knows now, I don't think the move to Virginia would have been so overwhelming. He now sees how God's plan played out.

So, when our futures seem cloudy or uncertain — when we get anxious or even devastated about tomorrow — look back at God's sovereign grace in what He has done in our lives. Trust that He will finish what He has started. After all, "the LORD has done great things for us; we are glad."



November 21, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 11C



Wisdom

Jon Morton

“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking” (James 1:5).

A dear pastor and mentor used to describe wisdom in this way: “It’s knowing not only what to do, but when and how to do it.”

The reality is that we will often come to one of life’s many crossroads and stand with uncertainty, doubting which path to pursue. In other seasons, we may have a firm grasp on what action to take or which words to speak, but the when or how seems to evade us. Whenever I arrive at such a juncture requiring discernment, it’s crucial to remember that there is a prayer God loves to answer on our behalf — a plea for wisdom.

Often, we can become guilty of rushing headlong into our decision-making process. Prior to praying, we might launch into any number of endeavors — even wonderful ministry projects. Oh, and what tragedy usually results. Our great God is lavishly open-handed with the discernment only He can bestow. We aren’t harshly judged for our lack of wisdom — except when we foolishly refuse to take hold of such a valuable gift. Instead, let’s all take the time each day to pray for wisdom — to ask for the discernment we need for every decision we’re sure to face.



November 28, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 11D



The Church: God's Wisdom on Display

Jason Taylor

“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold (multi-faceted) wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 3:10)

Imagine for a moment that you are in college signing up for classes. One class stands out: “The Multi-Faceted Wisdom of God.” Over the course, you learn about how wise God is and examine His wisdom from every angle like a precious jewel on display.

God actually offers just such a class. Even more amazing is that we get to not only see God's wisdom on display, we are actually the textbook for the class.

You see the church is where God displays His wisdom not only to humans but to angels. When Paul says “rulers and authorities,” it is clear that he at least means demons, but I think he means all angels.

Can you imagine angels with mouths gaped open as they see the church? Can you hear their exuberant “WOW!”?

God, help us to see the church as this valuable in your plan and to give ourselves for her just as Jesus did to create her.



December 5, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 12A



Jesus Calms the Storm

Lonnie Brooks

“He said to his disciples, ‘Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?’ They were terrified and asked each other, ‘Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!’”(Mark 4:40-41)

One of my favorite Bible stories is Jesus crossing the sea of Galilee with His disciples.

Most of these men were skilled fishermen who made their living catching fish from these very waters before following Jesus. They had weathered many storms and labored day in and out there upon the waters

As they made their way across the lake this evening Jesus lays down to rest while the disciples tend to the needs of the boat. And like a lot of life’s moments, a storm came up. A storm so powerful that the disciples were afraid of the boat sinking, they were afraid they might not make it out of this alive. So, they cried out to Jesus, “. . .do you not care that we are perishing?” Jesus awoke and rebuked the wind and the waves, and it was still.

Do you realize that He can calm the storms of your life? He can bring peace and clarity, sustain you with faith and hope when we see nothing but hopelessness.



December 12, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 12B



Joy Rather than Joy-Rides

Bobby Owensby

“Two things I ask of you... 8 Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches...lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the Lord?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.” (Proverbs 30:7-9)

What would you do if you won an Italian luxury sports car valued at over \$350k? Utah resident David Dopp had the rare opportunity to make that decision, winning a Lamborghini in 2011. Instead of carefully taking care of his new possession, he carelessly took joy rides around town, recklessly crashing his new car within hours.

For the Christian, lasting joy is found pursuing what cannot be lost in a moment, leaving only “wrecked” hope. Every believer would be wise to pursue the two treasures of Proverbs 30:7-9. Believers should seek character, an integrity that models Christ, and contentment, an attitude that affirms God’s loving sovereignty in our lives. Fallen character and earthly distractions will rob us of joy and draw our affections away from Christ and His calling for our lives.

Lord, provide for us exactly what we need that our lives may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:7).



December 19, 2021

Coordinates with Resources: 12C



God's Word is Fully True and Trustworthy

Steve Johnson

“As for God, His way is perfect: The Lord’s Word is flawless; He shields all who take refuge in Him.” (Micah 6:8)

After a year during which much of what Americans placed their trust in for security proved less than certain, Christians have learned to rely even more on God, who has and will not ever fail us. Moreover, our faith is founded not in legends passed along orally through the centuries, but in God’s written Word which retains every bit of God’s authority, truth, and trustworthiness.

Southern Baptists have joined other evangelicals in affirming the inerrancy of Scripture, which means we believe that every part of the Bible is fully true and trustworthy. David used a similar word to express this doctrine, when he wrote: “The Lord’s Word is flawless...” The Bible may not answer every question you might think of, but it contains everything we need to know. For this reason, we can and should “take refuge in Him” because as “for God, His way is perfect.”

Following Jesus is not only a wise decision, He is the way to peace, happiness, and life in abundance.



December 26, 2021
Coordinates with Resources: 12D