

# JUNE NUGGETS

H O L Y

*"Making the most of your time, because the days are evil."  
Ephesians 5:16*

In 1842 Robert Murray M'Cheyne, pastor of St. Peter's Church in Dundee, Scotland, wrote a pastoral letter to an individual who was an unbeliever. The following is an excerpt from his letter:

*"I was reading this morning (Luke 2:29), what old Simeon said when he got the child Jesus into his arms: 'Now let Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word, for my eyes have seen Thy salvation.' If you get a firm hold of the Lord Jesus, you will be able to say the same.... God is leading you to the very spot where the Redeemer is; a lowly, despised, spit-upon, crucified Savior. Can this be the Savior of the world? Yes, dear soul; kneel down and call Him your Redeemer. He dies for such as you and me."*

M'Cheyne lived unselfishly, caring for the spiritual welfare of both believers and unbelievers. Because of poor health, he died at age twenty-nine after ministering a short seven and a half years. His spiritual legacy of passionate love for the Lord and pastoral love for people continues to serve as an inspiring example for believers today.

M'Cheyne's life illustrates what the apostle Paul was saying to the Ephesians believers: make the most of your time. In Ephesians 5:16 the Greek term translated "making the most of" means "buy up for yourself." That doesn't mean you're to hoard your time for your own use; rather, you're to buy up for yourself time that will give God glory. Every day brings new opportunities to be seized for God – opportunities for good, for righteousness, for holiness.

Like M'Cheyne, buy up opportunities daily for God's glory and the good of others. Be committed to minister to the spiritual needs of believers and unbelievers. By doing so, you will make your time, talents, and resources count for eternity.

Suggested prayer: "Lord, teach us that time is only redeemed from triviality when it is seen to be the preparation for eternity, and earth is never so fair as when we discern and use it as the vestibule of heaven."

**Steps:**

1. Pray for focus.
2. Read twice.
3. Mark key words, repeated words, mark what seems to JUMP OUT at you as important, and write down questions you have over words or phrases.

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Answer questions using connected scripture and study Bible notes.

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5. What does this teach me about God?

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6. Application:

1. How do I need to think differently?

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2. What behavior(s) do I need to stop doing?

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3. What behavior(s) do I need to start doing?

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**Friday July 2nd**  
**Internalize Scripture**

As we finish up the book of Galatians it is important to make a plan to remember what we have learned. Memorizing and meditating on the key verses is important. David reminds us here of the value of God's word.

Psalm 119:9-16

9 How can a young man keep his way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

10 With my whole heart I seek you;

let me not wander from your commandments!

11 I have stored up your word in my heart,

that I might not sin against you.

12 Blessed are you, O LORD;

teach me your statutes!

13 With my lips I declare

all the rules of your mouth.

14 In the way of your testimonies I delight

as much as in all riches.

15 I will meditate on your precepts

and fix my eyes on your ways.

16 I will delight in your statutes;

I will not forget your word.

**Sin Not** - by Dan Baker

*"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1*

We often read this and think, "I know God doesn't want me to sin, but I'm going to anyway; thank goodness I have an advocate, someone to go alongside me in the presence of God." But should that be our mindset? Reverse the first part of the verse; we sin not by reading what God says through John and the rest of Scripture.

In Romans 6:1 it says, "Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" Romans 6:6 - "Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with." Romans 6:11 - "Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

This sounds to me like we should not be passive about assuming we are going to sin, but take an active role in saying to ourselves, "I'm not going to sin."

Ephesians 4:22 - "...in reference to your former way of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been credited in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

Even though we are saved, our old self is still being corrupted by deceitful thoughts. How do we fix it? By actively saying no to our old sinful nature and saying yes to our new nature. When sinful thoughts come, meditate on verses; specific verses we've picked out ahead of time to quote to ourselves and overcome the old nature.

Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

## *Women Who Worship*

### **Let It Go!**

*"Cast your burden on the LORD,  
and He shall sustain you" (Psalm 55:22).*

Long ago, a farmer was walking along carrying a huge bag of potatoes. A horse and wagon drew up next to him and offered him a ride. The farmer climbed aboard but continued to hold the burdensome bag. When the driver suggested that the farmer set the bag down in the wagon, the man replied, "Oh, I don't want to trouble you too much, sir. You're already giving me a ride, so I'll just carry the potatoes."

We may laugh at the silly farmer but think for a moment how often we do something very similar as God's children. We have "burdens" that we bear in our souls, genuine concerns that weigh us down. We know that the Bible says to pray and talk to God about these things. So we go to Him, pour out our hearts to Him, and lay these burdens upon Him. We find Him very willing to carry the weight of them. But often, we no sooner pray than we "take up" and carry those heavy burdens again! We have refused the relief that the Lord offers us.

"How do I let go?" Perhaps that's your question, and it's a good one. We must by faith release the care to Him by continually trusting His ability to work in our needy situation. Remind yourself Scripturally of God's power and control. Quietly wait for Him to work things out. And when your MIND begins to dwell on worries and fears, pray and give them over to the Lord once again. Do this as many times as it takes to let go. He has promised to support you, to sustain you in your burden. But He will only do this as you throw your weighty care upon Him and then let it go!

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**Thursday July 1st  
The End**

Galatians 6:17-18 "From now on let no one cause me trouble...."

2 Corinthians 11:23-30

Paul's seriousness is seen here in his closing. He does not want the Galatians to struggle anymore. As we mentor people we need to set the bar high. Be graciously firm with them and layout what God wants them to do. We ought to model this in our own life. The Christian life is about constant progress, never become complacent!

Paul then ends the book by repeating the big idea. Let the grace of God be constantly in your mind and heart. Let it transform you, conform you, and bring you to freedom.

What were the highlights of the book of Galatians for you?

Make a list of the key verses of Galatians, and then make a plan to memorize them.

As you pray, thank the Lord for the gift this book of the Bible is to us!

Wednesday June 30th  
Perseverance and Priority

Galatians 6:9-10 "... for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up...."

1 Timothy 6:17-19

How easily do you give up on people? I know for me it is tempting to give up very easily. If someone doesn't want to listen to a pastor - forget them! Let them flounder on their own! How dare they not respect my advice! Paul here encourages us to practice patience, to endure, to persevere forwards. Keep praying and keep encouraging. You never know when they will have a break through!

It is also interesting here that Paul tells us to give priority to those in the household of faith, to believers. As a family we have to look out and care for one another. Our eyes and ears should be aware of needs our church family has. We ought to help them, encourage them, and treat them as we would our own family.

Who have you "given up on" spiritually in your life? If there is a way to re-establish that connection - reach out today.

Pray for everyone in your church you can think of. If the Holy Spirit points out a need - do something about it!

### *Connie's Corner*

This month's recipe is a simple and quick meal for serving your family or company. Meat that cooks all day—tenderizing and soaking in its own homemade gravy served with green beans and bacon.

#### Simple Crock Pot Salisbury Steak

4-6 ground beef patties (use lean beef to avoid excess grease)  
1 TBSP steak seasoning                      1 1/2 cups chopped onion  
1 pkg sliced mushrooms                      1/4 cup flour  
1 1/2 cups beef broth

Sprinkle steak seasoning on the beef patties. Spray the bottom of the crock pot with non-stick spray; place beef patties in the bottom of the crock. Layer onions and mushrooms on top of patties. Whisk flour into the beef broth then pour over contents of the crock pot.

Cover and cook 6-8 hours on low setting. If you like thick gravy, use 1/2 cup flour—always making sure to mix it first with water or broth so it will not be lumpy. For creamy gravy, add 1/2 cup heavy cream to your broth. Note: Since the patties are cooked in broth, the meat may have a pinkish hue inside. This is normal and they are cooked. Serve with mashed potatoes and Southern Style Green Beans.

#### Quick Fix Southern Style Green Beans

5 slices of bacon (or more)                      1/2 cup chopped onion  
1 lb fresh, frozen, or canned (drained) cut green beans  
4-6 tiny new or red potatoes, cut into chunks (optional)  
Chicken stock or broth to cover                      Salt & Pepper to taste

Cut up bacon and cook in a large saucepan; cook until it begins to brown. Remove 1 TBSP bacon and set aside. Add onions and cook until softened. If using fresh or frozen green beans, saute them in the cooked bacon and onion for a few minutes. Cut potatoes into medium chunks; add to green beans. Pour enough chicken broth into the skillet to cover the beans. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover, and simmer 15-20 minutes. Taste. Add salt and pepper. Place in a bowl to serve; sprinkle with reserved bacon.

Add a salad or applesauce then finish the meal with a piece of the Rhubarb cake that was in last month's Nuggets.

**"What is the inner man?"** Human beings are created by God with a spirit, soul, and body (Genesis 1:27; 1 Thessalonians 5:23). Paul often uses the term 'inner man' in his epistles (2 Corinthians 4:16; Ephesians 3:16). The "inner man" is another way of describing the spiritual aspect (soul and spirit) of a person. The "outer man," by contrast, would be the visible, external aspect (physical housing) of a person through which we experience the world. Our bodies function primarily through the five senses and by meeting needs that drive us to eat, drink, and sleep.

When we accept God's gift of salvation through Christ, our bodies become temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19–20; 3:16). God desires that we surrender our bodies as living sacrifices to Him (Romans 12:1–2) as a "reasonable service" (NKJV) or "our spiritual worship". (ESV)

Our souls are the personality centers of our beings from which our mind, will, and emotions operate. It is with our souls we choose either to listen to and obey the desires of our flesh or the desires of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16–17; Romans 8:9; Mark 14:38). The soul of a person is the courtroom where life decisions are made. It is the source from which character traits such as self-confidence, self-pity, self-seeking, and self-affirmation originate.

Our spirit contains the 'inner man' about which the Scriptures speak. Our spirit is where the Spirit of God communes with us. Jesus said, "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). It is within our spirit that we are born again (John 3:3–6). The "inner man" contains the conscience upon which the Holy Spirit moves and convicts of sin (John 16:8; Acts 24:16). Our spirit is the part of us most like God, with an innate knowledge of right and wrong (Romans 2:14–15). 1 Corinthians 2:11 says, "For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

Romans 12:1–2 implores us not to be conformed to this world's way of thinking; rather, our "inner man" must be transformed by the "renewing of our minds." This mind-renewal comes about as we allow the Holy Spirit free reign within our "inner man." He begins to change our actions and desires to match His.

It is God's desire and design for born again people to live always directed by the born-again nature, which is in step with God's Spirit. The extent to which we surrender that "inner man" to the control of the Holy Spirit is the extent to which we walk in continual victory over our fallen flesh.

## **Tuesday June 29th Conceit and Comparison**

Galatians 6:3-5 "... each will have to bear his own load."

Matthew 25:21-23; Romans 12:3

Pride is the root of all evil. No one is immune to pride, even people who are dedicated to serving others spiritually. Paul identifies two struggles we can have in our ministry. First, we can become conceited. We think we are vital to what the Holy Spirit is doing and believe that it is in our own ability and power people are growing. Secondly, we can compare ourselves to other people. How many people are they helping? How big is their group or class? How many people have they led to Christ this year?

Paul clearly outlines the solution "... each will have to bear his own load." Focus on the people God has placed in your life right now. What connections do you have? Who in your life needs encouragement or correction? Who does your heart break for? Keep your blinders on and stay focused.

List the people in your life God has called you to minister too.

Identify in your heart and conceit and comparison toward other people or ministries - repent!

**Monday June 28th**  
**Prepare for Battle**

Galatians 6:1-2 "... Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted..."

Ephesians 6:10-20

Much of scripture teaches to avoid temptation. It trains us to look the other way, control the mind, and to put up guardrails to keep you from your common sins. But here, we face a tension. We are commanded to go into environments that may be tempting as we seek to help our fellow brother or sister in Christ.

The word "keep watch" is a military term. It has the idea of "guard," "spy," or "scout." We have to keep a close lookout for temptation to slip into sin ourselves. In what ways? Externally as well as internally. Our frustrations with our fellow Christian could stir up anger and frustration inside of us. We must make sure we are following the Spirit as we work with people.

What common temptations have come when you have worked with other people?

How can you work on patience to allow the Holy Spirit's plan for someone's life?

Pray for the "armor of God" to defend you as you minister to people this week.



**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Bob & Ruth Strong (A)       | 18 Bob Flatt (B)                |
| Kathy Besemer (B)             | 20 David & Ann Owens (A)        |
| 2 Mark & Michele Thurston (A) | 22 Gerry & Connie McMichael (A) |
| Savannah Donnelly (B)         | Hamilton & Kelly Donnelly (A)   |
| 3 Howard & Helen Walter (A)   | 23 Tom & Gail Sarge (A)         |
| 5 Gerald McMichael (B)        | Scott & Mary Wood (A)           |
| 6 Jeff Ford (B)               | 25 Craig Golden (B)             |
| Joanne Williams (B)           | 26 Ava Fiedler (B)              |
| 7 Ed & Kathy Goodrich (A)     | Bonnie Sikorski (B)             |
| Robert Merwin (B)             | 27 Pastor & Liz Lloyd (A)       |
| 8 Pastor Ben & Natalie (A)    | 29 Valerie Donnelly (B)         |
| 11 Mike & Joanie Spiegel (A)  | 30 Dan & Susie Baker (A)        |
| 12 Don & Gloria Lowe (A)      | Justin Demmer (B)               |
| John & Bonnie Sikorski (A)    | Casey Rosenberger (B)           |
| Emily Schneider (B)           |                                 |
| 14 Dale & Dot Davis (A)       |                                 |
| 17 Shirley Golden (B)         |                                 |

**Sunday June 6th Sermon Notes**

Series or Message Title: \_\_\_\_\_

List all Scripture Used: \_\_\_\_\_

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Notes:

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What is ONE THING you took away from todays sermon:

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<p>Adoration: I praise God for...</p>	<p>Things I need to work on ...</p>
<p>Verse to memorize ...</p>	<p>Things I am thankful for and are on my heart...</p>



**Sunday June 27th Sermon Notes**

Series or Message Title: \_\_\_\_\_

List all Scripture Used: \_\_\_\_\_

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Notes:

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What is ONE THING you took away from today's sermon:

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<p>Adoration: I praise God for...</p>	<p>Things I need to work on ...</p>
<p>Verse to memorize ...</p>	<p>Things I am thankful for and are on my heart...</p>

**Monday June 7th**  
**Remember Who We Were**

Galatians 4:1-7 "... so you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."

John 15:12-17

Paul here develops the privilege that we have in Christ. Paul reiterates something he had brought up in 3:13; the fact that Christ "redeemed us," literally that Christ "bought us as condemned slaves." We then were adopted as sons in to the family of God. This comes with all the privileges of being a son. We can access God and refer to Him as "Father," we inherit the Father's blessing, and we are given the Holy Spirit.

Many people treat the blessing of God as something they deserve, that a good God ought to give them everything. We must remember who we were - condemned slaves of sin. We were bought, set free, offered adoption, and endowed with privilege and honor.

How does the transition from slave, to son, to heir inspire worship?

What will being God's "heir" in heaven mean for you?

As you pray as a family, thank the Lord for all He has done for you!

**Steps:**

1. Pray for focus.
2. Read twice.
3. Mark key words, repeated words, mark what seems to JUMP OUT at you as important, and write down questions you have over words or phrases.

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4. Answer questions using connected scripture and study Bible notes.

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5. What does this teach me about God?

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6. Application:

1. How do I need to think differently?

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2. What behavior(s) do I need to stop doing?

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3. What behavior(s) do I need to start doing?

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**Friday June 25th**  
**Forgiving One Another**

If you didn't do yesterday's devotional, go back and look that over quickly. This situation in 2 Corinthians 2 is the conclusion of a situation first addressed in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5. Read that to gain some context for this study on how to discipline, forgive, and restore a fellow believer.

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

[5] Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. [6] For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, [7] so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. [8] So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. [9] For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. [10] Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, [11] so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

**Tuesday June 8th**  
**'Far too easily pleased.'**

Galatians 4:8-11 "... how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world?..."

James 4:8

Paul here is frustrated with the Galatians lack of faith. They were turning back to what they used to do, they were once again enslaved to following a list of rules. Paul did not know how they could do it. Once one has tasted Christ, how can following rules seem appealing again?!

C.S. Lewis helps us put this in perspective; "*We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.*"

What sin, or system of living, do you resort back to when Christ does not feel close?

What habits can you start to follow James' advice on "drawing near to God?"

As you pray, confess before God the sins and systems you slip back into that keep you from enjoying Him.

**Wednesday June 9th**  
**The Mindset of Legalism**

Galatians 4:12-16 "... What has become of your blessedness..."

Matthew 10:40-42

The context here is confusing, and doesn't tell us everything. When Paul visited them before something was wrong with him physically. The Galatians had treated him "as an angel" in caring for him. Now, they thought of him as an enemy. What changed?

What changed is their mindset. Grace and love no longer filled them. They were sucked back into a system that taught them that behavior earns God's favor. And the better one behaved, the more God loved them. Grace, love, and forgiveness were the antithesis of this belief. Therefore, Paul was no longer in their favor as Paul preached a different way to life and godliness.

Legalism turns us into un-loving, self-focused people. Grace gives us lenses of love. Make sure you see people properly.

In what ways do you struggle to show grace to people in your life?

Pray for people today you disagree with, get frustrated with, and often overlook as people who need God's forgiveness.

**Thursday June 24th**  
**Restoring One Another**

Galatians 6:1-2 "... you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness..."

Romans 15:1-7

This is one of the key passages of Galatians, and the New Testament. As Christians we have a responsibility to walk alongside struggling believers. This may cause some tension in your mind. You may be thinking, "shouldn't we avoid people who are in sin?" The answer is - NO!! It is at that point that people need you more than ever! The inclination to run away from them maybe a sign of some residual legalism in your heart.

Warren Wiersbe states this; *"The legalist is not interested in bearing burdens. Instead, he adds to the burdens of others (Acts 15:10). This was one of the sins of the Pharisees in Jesus' day: "For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers" (Matt. 23:4). The legalist is always harder on other people than he is on himself, but the Spirit-led Christian demands more of himself than he does of others that he might be able to help others."*

When you have been caught in sin, who in your life came alongside of you to help you out?

Who in your life is currently caught up in sin, and needs you more than ever!

Pray for those in your life affected deeply by sin.

**Wednesday June 23rd**  
**The Surprise of Sin**

Galatians 6:1-2 "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression..."

1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 John 1:8-10

Sin is deceptive. Sometimes temptation is in the back of our minds and we eventually cave, or sometimes temptation comes quickly and we give in without thinking. The word here, "caught up," indicates that in this metaphor the individual has surprisingly failed. Temptation came out of nowhere and they caved quickly.

You and I sin like this too. We know our typical sins, and we know how to look out for them. We set up guardrails to keep us far from temptation. But, often temptation comes unexpectedly and it catches us off guard. If we are not always looking for temptation, we may not recognize it. Make sure your mind is focused on Christ so you can ignore the temptation that comes so quickly at times.

Why do you think we isolate ourselves when we sin?

Who in your life could become an accountability partner for you in areas that you struggle?

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you power to endure sin.

**Thursday June 10th**  
**Grace Leads to Growth**

Galatians 4:15-17 "... Have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?..."

2 Corinthians 3:16-18

Warren Weirsbe makes a comment on this section; "*They had not lost the experience of salvation—they were still Christians, but they were losing the enjoyment of their salvation and finding satisfaction in their works instead. Sad to say, they did not realize their losses. They actually thought they were becoming better Christians by substituting law for grace, and the religious deeds of the flesh for the fruit of the Spirit. Is your Christian life moving forward into liberty or backward into bondage? Think carefully before you answer.*"

I love what Wiersbe noticed, "*they actually thought they were becoming better Christians by substituting law for grace.*" We often do this as Christians. In order to grow we focus on doing, obeying, showing up, saying no, and lists of other things. Grace not only is the foundation for salvation, but is the foundation for everyday growth and maturity!

How much time did you spend enjoying God with your mind yesterday?

Does any part of the Christian life seem like bondage? Think through your conclusions and decide if that part is actually mandated in the Bible.

Thank the Lord for His grace!

**Friday June 11th**  
**Spiritual Fathers**

Throughout the book of Galatians we have seen Paul address the Galatians very sternly. Paul saw his role as a Spiritual Father to many groups and individuals. This passage in 1 Corinthians reveals many aspects of "spiritual parenting."

1 Corinthians 4:14-21

14 I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. 15 For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 16 I urge you, then, be imitators of me. 17 That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. 18 Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. 19 But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. 20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. 21 What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

**Tuesday June 22nd**  
**Self-Control**

Galatians 5:22-23 "... self-control..."

Proverbs 25:28; 2 Timothy 1:7

Expositors Bible Commentary has this to say about self-control, *"The quality that gives victory over fleshly desires and which is therefore closely related to chastity both in mind and conduct. As Barclay says "Enkrateia(Greek word used here) is that great quality which comes to a man when Christ is in his heart, that quality which makes him able to live and to walk in the world, and yet to keep his garments unspotted from the world."*

This is something only the Holy Spirit can implement inside of us. Every single one of us wants more self-control in some area. What is the secret? As our definition says - Christ must be in your heart. So the question is, in what ways do you need to increase your joy in Christ?

What specific area do you KNOW you need more self-control?

How can you find contentment and joy in Christ so that area doesn't have as tight of a hold on you?

Ask the Spirit for help you navigate self-control in your life!

**Monday June 21st**  
**Sexual Sin**

Galatians 5:17-19 "... sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality."

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

It has been a discussion since the beginning of time on what God allows when it comes to acting upon our sexual impulses. Today, some is accepted by culture and some is still deemed wrong. However, tomorrow that may change. The church often gets weird. They don't want to offend so they just go along with the morals culture has adopted.

Scripture is clear. ANYTHING sexual outside of marriage is sin. Paul uses these three words above to cover any debate. "Sexual immorality" refers back to prostitution and spontaneous sexual behavior. "Impurity" is anything dirty or questionable. "Sensuality" is acting upon impulses whenever they come and not caring of results.

Is there any sexual sin, mental or physical, that you need to repent of?

Who in your life may need accountability to work through sexual sins?

Pray for purity of mind and heart for yourself and others.

**Steps:**

1. Pray for focus.
2. Read twice.
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4. Answer questions using connected scripture and study Bible notes.

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5. What does this teach me about God?

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6. Application:

1. How do I need to think differently?

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2. What behavior(s) do I need to stop doing?

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3. What behavior(s) do I need to start doing?

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# Sunday June 13th Sermon Notes

Series or Message Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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What is ONE THING you took away from today's sermon:

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Adoration: I praise God for...	Things I need to work on ...
Verse to memorize ...	Things I am thankful for and are on my heart...



# Sunday June 20th Sermon Notes

Series or Message Title: \_\_\_\_\_

List all Scripture Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

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What is ONE THING you took away from today's sermon:

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Adoration: I praise God for...	Things I need to work on ...
Verse to memorize ...	Things I am thankful for and are on my heart...

**Monday June 14th**  
**The Importance of Growth**

Galatians 4:18-20 "... for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!...

Romans 8:9-11

Here we see Paul perplexed. He is concerned, frustrated, and in anguish. He wants them to become like Christ! The word "formed" here has the idea of "molded or fashioned." Our focus is to "mold" our character, mind, and heart to the "form" of Christ.

Paul was not concerned about their salvation. He has referred to them as "brothers" and "children" throughout this book, his concern is that they are not growing any further. We need to have this same concern for ourselves and others. Are we frustrated with our lack of growth? Do our hearts break for the "baby" Christians around us?

What in your life needs to be addressed next in your spiritual growth process?

Think of others around you that are still "baby Christians," what can you do to help Christ be formed in them?

Pray for the boldness and the power to grow in Christ!

**Steps:**

1. Pray for focus.
2. Read twice.
3. Mark key words, repeated words, mark what seems to JUMP OUT at you as important, and write down questions you have over words or phrases.

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4. Answer questions using connected scripture and study Bible notes.

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5. What does this teach me about God?

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6. Application:

1. How do I need to think differently?

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2. What behavior(s) do I need to stop doing?

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3. What behavior(s) do I need to start doing?

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**Friday June 18th**  
**The Gospel**

This week we have discussed the pure and perfect gospel. Let's look at a passage where Paul explains to the Corinthians the perfectly clear gospel.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

**Tuesday June 15th**  
**Legalism Leads to Rebellion**

Galatians 5:1 "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

Matthew 11:28-30

This is one of the most powerful verses in all of Galatians. What did Christ set us free for? FREEDOM!! We do not have to submit to another system, we are free to enjoy, serve, and rest! This gift of grace is well explained by Warren Wiersbe.

Warren Wiersbe observes this; *"Paul turned now from argument to application, from the doctrinal to the practical. The Christian who lives by faith is not going to become a rebel. Quite the contrary, he is going to experience the inner discipline of God that is far better than the outer discipline of man-made rules. No man could become a rebel who depends on God's grace, yields to God's Spirit, lives for others, and seeks to glorify God. The legalist is the one who eventually rebels, because he is living in bondage, depending on the flesh, living for self, and seeking the praise of men and not the glory of God."*

How does this quote help you understand those who walk away from God?

How have you experienced the "inner discipline of God?"

Praise God for the work the Spirit has done in you!

**Wednesday June 16th**  
**Say What?!**

Galatians 5:3-4 "... you have fallen away from grace."

Hebrews 12:15; 2 Peter 3:17

This is a section that can easily be taken out of context. Grace, as we discussed at the beginning of Galatians, has two main definitions in scripture. The first referring to salvation. If this definition was being used, it would mean that Paul is stating here you can lose your salvation.

But remember, this word has another definition. Grace also refers to "spiritual energy." A power to endure and overcome that is facilitated by the Holy Spirit. That is what is being referred to here. What Paul is saying here is that if you fall back into following the law, you are not taking advantage of the "spiritual energy" the Spirit gives you to endure life.

In what ways do you need "spiritual energy" in your life right now?

When this week can you find quiet place to refresh yourself in the Lord?

As you pray today, ask God for the grace (spiritual energy) to endure your difficulties.

**Thursday June 17th**  
**Did Paul really say...**

Galatians 5:7-12 "... I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves."

This is one of the strangest verses in the Bible. What is Paul saying? Paul's frustration with the Judaizers is seen here. They are pulling the Galatian believers away from their freedom in Christ by mandating circumcision. Paul wishes the false teachers would operate on themselves again instead, and remove any chance of them producing anymore "children of slavery."

As I reflect on this I realize that I don't get frustrated enough with the false teachers of our day. The "cool" thing to do is be kind, hug each other, work together, and pretend like we hang out on the weekends. But Paul's frustration is a model for us. Let us stand firm for the gospel!

What denominations/religions around us do you know for sure preach a false gospel?

Who do you know that has been deceived by them that you need to explain the gospel too?

Pray that God will give you boldness to do what you know you ought to do!