

MAY NUGGETS



A Tribute to Mothers

Well may we pause to pay honor to who, after Jesus Christ, is God's best gift to men – Mother. It was she who shared her life with us when as yet our members were unformed. Into the valley of the shadow of death she walked that we might have the light of life. In her arms was the garner of our food and the soft couch for our repose. There we nestled in the hour of pain; there was the playground of our infant glee. Those same arms later became our refuge and stronghold. It was she who taught our baby feet to go and lifted us up over the rough places. Her blessed hands plied the needle by day and by night to make our clothes. She put the book under our arm and started us off to school. But best of all she taught our baby lips to lisp the name of Jesus and told us first the wondrous story of a Savior's love.

The pride of America is its Mothers. There are wicked mothers like Jezebel of old. There are unnatural mothers who sell their children into sin. There are sin-cursed, rum-soaked and abandoned mothers to whom their motherhood is an exposure of their shame. I am glad to believe that there are comparatively few in this class.

(Written in 1928, Author unknown)

– Submitted by Chuck Wetzal, May 2020



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.

Answer questions using connected scripture and study Bible notes.

5. What does this teach me about God?

6. Application:

1. How do I need to think differently?

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

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

Friday June 4th Life in the Spirit

This week we looked at the promises of God and the law. It is often confusing to think through some of these deep theological issues. Thankfully, you and I have been given the Holy Spirit to guide us in life. The passage we will study today makes it clear what we should be doing in our spiritual lives. Enjoy studying this with your family or small group!

Romans 8:1-9

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.

"Only Begotten" by Dan Baker

John 3:26, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Growing up, John 3:16 was **the** verse to memorize. The word 'begotten' seems like a classic, archaic KJV word and a good example of a reason to find a more modern translation. The NIV says 'one and only', the ESV 'His only'. In studying the Greek meaning of 'only begotten' I stand corrected.

In reading Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, it's shown me how vital the word 'begotten' is in the Greek text and makes me wonder why the NIV and ESV changed it.

Vine's says, "We can only rightly understand the term 'the only begotten' when used of the Son in the sense of unoriginated relationship. The begetting is not an event of time, however remote, but a fact irrespective of time. The Christ did not *become*, but necessarily and eternally *is* the Son. He, a Person, possesses every attribute of pure Godhead...thus He is eternal...not after the Father. The expression also suggests the thoughts of the deepest affection."

In other words, at the incarnation, Jesus didn't suddenly become His Son, He always had been from eternity past, John 1:1. At His birth, Jesus was fully divine and became fully human. Jesus had to be both to appease God by sacrificing His sinless (divine) human body for our sins (propitiation).

Much of what John wrote in the gospel and epistles was addressing the philosophy of Gnosticism: spirit is good, matter (human body) is evil. Thus, Gnosticism teaches that Christ had to be a spirit, He only *seemed* to have a body (Docetism), while others believed the divine Christ joined the man Jesus at baptism and left Him before He died (Cerinthianism). John 3:16 certainly spoke to this heresy infiltrating the infant church. No wonder the apostle John focuses on "we have heard...seen...looked at intensely...touched with our hands", 1 John 1:1, to assure us of our faith in a sure salvation!

Women Who Worship

A Mom's Mission

"From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

An online search of the words "a mom's mission" yielded 82,100,000 results! A mother could feel overwhelmed by reading all the advice put out there by well-intentioned people. She could also become misled, confused, frustrated, or just plain depressed! Many speak as if they're "experts" in raising children. That's interesting to me as a writer because I've never had the courage to write any advice on child-rearing!

But, dear mom, there is one Source of advice you can totally trust: God's Book, the Bible. Written on its pages is the mention of two mothers who apparently fulfilled their mission (2 Timothy 1:5). Lois was the grandmother of a young man named Timothy, and Eunice was his mother. From what we know, Timothy's dad was not a believer in Christ. These two women had a tremendous influence on Timothy's life.

First, in his letter to Timothy, Paul mentioned both ladies with high praise because they had a genuine, vibrant, impactful faith that Timothy saw in the reality of their lives. This is important because we can't expect our children to respect our faith in Christ if we don't set a genuine example for them. No mom is perfectly godly, but our kids should see that "we mean business" about loving, trusting, and obeying the Lord. Second, Paul also mentioned that Timothy knew the Scriptures from early childhood. That is one thing we can determine to do as mom's: get the Word of God into our children's minds. Children have so many worthless things crammed into their hearts and minds today, coming at them from a hundred directions. Mom, make it a priority to show them how precious and valuable God's Word is and that they need it for life! Set that example in your own life.

In short, a mom's mission according to the Bible is to be, as much as possible, a living example of the Word in her daily life and a teacher of the Word in everyday opportunities. Lois and Eunice did this, and Timothy grew up to be a godly person. Isn't that what we all want to see from our children?

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Thursday June 3rd

Temporary Law

Galatians 3:19 "Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary."

Romans 7:4, 8:1-4

The verses in today's reading stress the fact that the Mosaic Law was a temporary system until Jesus came and fulfilled the law. This creates a bunch of theological questions and concerns. Many think that because of this, we don't have to follow the Old Testament anymore. This is partly true. There were different sections of the Mosaic law. There was a civil law that applied to how to function as a nation. There was a ceremonial law that gave direction on how to make sacrifices and worship. Lastly, there was the moral law that outlined God's instruction on holy living.

The civil and ceremonial sections of the law have been laid to the side, but the moral section is still in tact. How do we know what is the moral part of the law that is still to be followed? What God wanted us to do is often repeated in the New Testament. Another test is the test of love. Jesus talked about how love is the supreme command, everything else falls under it. If a command involves loving God or others, it would be wise to follow it.

The ten commandments are part of the moral law that should be followed. How many can you list? Turn to Exodus 20 to check yourself.

Which one of the ten commandments is the hardest for you to follow?

Today, thank the Lord for His clear direction on how to live.

Wednesday June 2nd
Angels as Messengers

Galatians 3:19 "Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary."

Acts 7:53, Hebrews 2:2, 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

We don't know a lot about angels. We know that they are servants of God that do what He wants. But, often they are doing incredibly important things. These passages teach us that the Angels gave the law to Moses. They received it from God, and then told Moses what to write down. This is pretty neat, could you imagine being one of these angels? For all of history you have framed on your mantle the section of scripture that God told you to give to Moses.

Now, this was part of the argument Paul was making to the Galatians on why the promises of God is more important than the Law. God interacted and made the promise Himself with Abraham. When it came to the law, He sent His angels.

2 Corinthians 5 tells us that we have been given the gospel to transmit to others. This is even more important! The angels passed along the law that would be annulled, we have the greatest news anyone has ever heard!

When you think about sharing the gospel with others, do you think of it as a privilege or a duty?

Who in your life needs to hear the gospel or be shown the love of God?

Pray for those in your who do not Christ as their savior.

Connie's Corner

It is officially here! We did our first lawn mowing of the season! All the spring flowers are blooming, the lilac bushes are budded as well as the dogwood trees. The birds are very active at the feeders and the rhubarb is getting ready to be picked this month. Most years I post one of my rhubarb recipes and this year will be no different.

Rhubarb is a vegetable which provides healthy amounts of vitamins K, C, potassium, manganese, and other vitamins and minerals plus a high fiber content. It does require sweetening to become palatable. Because of this, most recipes seem to be desserts - but think of it as dessert with health benefits!

Rhubarb Upside-down Cake

Cake Batter:

1/4 cup melted butter	3/4 cup sugar
1 large egg, room temperature	1 1/2 cups flour
2 tsp Baking powder	1/2 tsp nutmeg
1/4 tsp salt	2/3 cup milk

Rhubarb Mixture:

3 cups sliced rhubarb	1 cup sugar
2 TBSP flour	1/4 tsp nutmeg
1/4 cup melted butter	

1. Place rhubarb in a greased 10" cast iron skillet or other oven proof dish. Combine sugar, flour, nutmeg and sprinkle over the rhubarb. Drizzle 1/4 cup melted butter over rhubarb and dry ingredients.
2. Prepare cake batter by beating the butter and sugar until blended. Beat in egg. Combine flour, baking powder, nutmeg and salt; gradually add to egg mixture, alternately with milk, beating well after each addition.
3. Spread cake batter over rhubarb, bake at 350° until done, about 35 minutes. Loosen edges and immediately invert onto a serving dish. Serve warm with whipped cream.

1. "Why don't we do ashes for Lent?"

Lenten observations are deeply rooted in Roman Catholic doctrines and traditions originating in the 4th century. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Ash, is a symbol of repentance in the ancient world, is applied by the priest to forehead of the penitential participant heralding the start of the Lenten season

In the Roman Catholic tradition to "do penance" means to do something good in order to make up for something bad. The sacrament of penance requires that a Roman Catholic confess his sin to a priest, who then grants pardon, which is conditioned upon the confessor doing something, some act to counteract the sin and to procure God's forgiveness. Biblical repentance however is not about "good deeds" or human effort, but a change of heart and a trusting in the cross work of Christ alone as sufficient payment for sin - the sole basis of God's forgiveness.

We don't observe these Lenten observances because they are contrary to the teaching of the Bible.

2. The second question, why don't we observe Pentecost?

After Jesus arose from the dead he remained here on earth for 40 more days doing "many infallible proofs" and "teaching concerning the kingdom of heaven" (Acts 1:3) then, He ascended bodily into heaven (Acts 1:8). When the day of Pentecost was 'fully come' (Acts 2:1) God sent the Holy Spirit and birthed the church age (Acts 11:15). The Feast of Pentecost occurs 50 days after "the feast of Firstfruits." Jesus' resurrection is a 'firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20)

The primary importance of the Day of Pentecost is the birth of the church (Acts 11:15) not the sending of the Holy Spirit. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is one of calling attention to God the Father or to glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 16:12-13) The purpose of the rushing wind, the tongues of fire (Acts 2:2-3) and the difference languages, was to give those who witnessed the event a confirmation of what the Old Testament Prophet Joel had prophesied concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-32) and that this event (the events on the day of Pentecost) was a valid act that God was doing.

Since the Holy Spirit's purpose is to not draw attention to Himself but to glorify the Father and the Lord Jesus we chose to remember the Father's and the Son's work on earth in establishing the church and fulfilling the church's mission on earth through believers who are led, taught and indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8 & Matt. 29:19, 20).

Galatians 3:16-18 "... the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void."

Hebrews 13:8, James 1:17

Warren Weirsbe has this to say about this section, "*In the final analysis, God made this covenant of promise with Abraham through Christ, so that the only two parties who can make any changes are God the Father and God the Son. Moses cannot alter this covenant! He can add nothing to it; he can take nothing from it. The Judaizers wanted to add to God's grace (as though anything could be added to grace!) and take from God's promises. They had no right to do this, since they were not parties in the original covenant.*"

Many times we read scripture and think God is different in different periods of time. Some have said, "I like Jesus, but I don't like the God of the Old Testament." It is important to understand this, God is always consistent with His people, salvation is always by faith, but God has a different mission for His people at different times in Biblical history. God did not adjust His promises as the Judaizers had stated. God doesn't change His mind about our salvation. God always does what is for our good.

How have authority figures, or people close to you, in your life hurt you because of broken promises?

Knowing that God is always good to us (Romans 8:28), how does this help us face the stress of tomorrow?

Monday May 31st
One-Sided Promises

Galatians 3:15-16 "... even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified."

Genesis 15

Today's reading may have been very confusing, don't worry, I don't even understand all of the contextual details. Here is the big idea - God makes one-sided promises to us. The passage in Genesis is God making a promise with Abraham that was one-sided, "On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram (Genesis 15:18)." Usually a covenant is an agreement between two people. Both must keep promises in order for the covenant to remain valid. God knew that Abraham would break any promise he made with God, so God didn't require anything from Abraham. Could you imagine a marriage covenant where only one person committed to being faithful, care for the other, and live forever with them?

This truth is one of my favorite parts of our faith. My performance does not affect God's promises to me. Though my performance does affect reward, God's guarantee of salvation and hope will always be there for me!

What promises from God are your favorite?

How does the truth we look at today inspire your worship of God?

Adore the Lord for His specific promises to us!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 Isaac Donnelly (B) | 26 Leah Gilbert (B) |
| Zachary Donnelly (B) | Scott & Amanda Paris (A) |
| 4 Logan Donnelly (B) | 29 Ev Ellerson (B) |
| 6 Darlene Bowen (B) | 30 Brandon Jacobson (B) |
| 8 Jo-Ann VanDeventer (B) | Harry Morrison (B) |
| 10 Bill & Nel Briggs (A) | 31 Mer & Joanna Barrett (A) |
| Marlene Browngardt (B) | |
| 12 Dale Davis (B) | |
| Roland Horton (B) | |
| 16 Mike Davies (B) | |
| 19 Brian Riechers (B) | |
| 21 Lindsey Davey (B) | |
| 22 Emma Donnelly (B) | |
| 24 Dot Davis (B) | |

Sunday May 2nd Sermon Notes

Series or Message Title: _____

List all Scripture Used: _____

Notes:

What is ONE THING you took away from todays sermon:

<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 May 30th Sermon Notes

Series or Message Title: _____

List all Scripture Used: _____

Notes:

What is ONE THING you took away from todays sermon:

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 May 3rd
Holy Spirit is Pledge of Salvation

Galatians 3:1-2 "... Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?..."

2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:4,13

"How do I know that I am saved?" This is a question I have received a number of times. You may have answered this for others before. You probably have asked this question also. An answer to this question is - *If you have received the Holy Spirit, you know you have salvation and are sealed in that salvation. Now, the logical next question is - how am I certain I have the Holy Spirit?*

Yesterdays sermon, and this week's devotionals, talk about the active work of the Holy Spirit in the life of someone who is saved. After salvation our focus on God and dedication to Him should leave no doubt in the fact that the Holy Spirit is actively working in us to transform us. The reason we don't often sense the activity of the Spirit is because we aren't striving in holiness.

How have you seen the Holy Spirit's work in your life since you have been saved?

What is an area in your life you need the Holy Spirit to transform?

As you pray, ask the Spirit to work in you and ask for the strength to yield to sin in that area.

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.

Answer questions using connected scripture and study Bible notes.

5. What does this teach me about God?

6. Application:

1. How do I need to think differently?

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

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

Friday May 28th

Over the last two weeks you have been reading about Abraham in the book of Genesis. We skip ahead in his life story to the important event where God asks Abraham to be willing to sacrifice his son. It would be good to read the conclusion of this story, vs. 9-14, so you can see how the points you pull out of this text concludes. Enjoy!

Genesis 22:1-8

1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. 7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

Tuesday May 4th

Indwelling and Baptism of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 3:16 "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13

This week we are continuing to look at some of the activities of the Holy Spirit. First, we see in scripture that the Holy Spirit indwells us from the moment of salvation on. As Paul clearly told the Corinthians above, our bodies are to be considered a temple that the Spirit lives in. The Holy Spirit will live in us for the rest of our lives. It is neat to think that even though we cannot see Jesus, we are in the presence of the Lord at all times.

Another aspect of the Holy Spirit's ministry is that He Baptizes us. This is not to be confused with our water Baptism where we publicly display our salvation through immersion into water. The Baptism of the Spirit is what joins us into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13) and happens at salvation. It signifies our unity, our privilege as a child of God, and our responsibility to serve one another. This is something that happens to us at salvation, not something that happens later in our spiritual lives.

Knowing that the Holy Spirit resides with you at all times, how does this change what you do and think about?

Knowing that you have an equal status in the eyes of God with every other believer, how does this change how you think of yourself?

As you pray, confess any sin you know the Spirit has seen in your life.

Wednesday May 5th
Resisting, Yielding, and Filling

Acts 7:51 "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you."

Ephesians 4:30; 5:18

This week we have looked at some things the Holy Spirit does to us at the point of salvation. Now, we discuss an area we can control. The passages above indicate that we can control how much influence the Spirit has in our lives. If we continue in sin then we do not enjoy the benefits of the Spirit making us holy. We must resist the desire to sin, and allow the Holy Spirit to fill us. This filling of the Spirit is like handing God the car keys, and we sit shotgun as He controls our life and guides us to where He wants to take us. Charles Ryrie says this regarding us allowing the Spirit to fill us, *"When I am willing to allow the Spirit to do what He wishes, it is up to Him to do with me whatever is His pleasure."* Just to review, there is a difference between the indwelling of the Spirit and the filling of the Spirit. Indwelling is a permanent reality that happens after we are saved. Filling has to do with the control of our heart and mind that we allow the Spirit to have.

In what ways do you KNOW you restrict the Spirit from working in your life?

What is something you think you could accomplish before you die if you allowed the Holy Spirit to have complete control of your heart and mind?

Thursday May 27th

Proverbs 27, Genesis 19, James 4-5

Observations:

How should I think or act differently based upon what I observed?

Refer back to your weekly prayer page and add anything else God brings to mind.

Wednesday May 26th

Proverbs 26, Genesis 18, James 3

Observations:

How should I think or act differently based upon what I observed?

Refer back to your weekly prayer page and add anything else God brings to mind.

Thursday May 6th
Responsibility to Holy Spirit

Warren Wiersbe explains very well the responsibility we have to the Holy Spirit. Look up the scripture passages that are referenced as you read through this.

Since the Holy Spirit does so much for the believer, this means that the believer has a responsibility to the Holy Spirit, who lives within his body (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). The Christian should walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16, 25) by reading the Word, praying, and obeying God's will. If he disobeys God, then he is grieving the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30), and if he persists in doing this, he may quench the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19). This does not mean that the Holy Spirit will leave him, because Jesus has promised that the Spirit abides forever (John 14:16). But it does mean that the Spirit cannot give him the joy and power that he needs for daily Christian living. Believers should be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18–21), which simply means "controlled by the Spirit." This is a continuous experience, like drinking water from a fresh stream (John 7:37–39).

In looking at the "walking in the Spirit" list of reading the Word, praying, and obeying God's will - which one do you struggle with the most?

Why are "joy and power" so important for the Christian life?

As you pray - thank the Spirit for all He does for you.

Friday May 7th
Walking By the Spirit

This week we have looked at what the Holy Spirit has done for us, and what we are to do. This passage clearly outlines how our desires, and our responses to them, reveal where our hearts are at. There is clear instruction on what we are supposed to be doing.

Galatians 5:16-25

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Tuesday May 25th

Proverbs 25, Genesis 17, James 2

Observations:

How should I think or act differently based upon what I observed?

Refer back to your weekly prayer page and add anything else God brings to mind.

Monday May 24th

Proverbs 24, Genesis 16, James 1

Observations:

How should I think or act differently based upon what I observed?

Refer back to your weekly prayer page and add anything else God brings to mind.

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.

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

5. What does this teach me about God?

6. Application:

1. How do I need to think differently?

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

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

Sunday May 9th Sermon Notes

Series or Message Title: _____

List all Scripture Used: _____

Notes:

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

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 May 23rd Sermon Notes

Series or Message Title: _____

List all Scripture Used: _____

Notes:

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

<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 May 10th
Imputation

Galatians 3:5-6 "... just as Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness?"

Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:11, 22-25

Here is your word of the day; *Imputation - to attribute or reckon or ascribe something to someone (Ryrie)*. It basically means to place or put something on someone else. For example, my brothers always imputed their sinful actions on me growing up. On a serious note, imputation clearly explains how Jesus was able to save us from our sins. Ryrie describes the three basic imputations:

1. *The imputation of Adam's sin to the race (Romans 5:12-21).*
2. *The imputation of Man's sin to Christ (2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 Pet. 2:24).*
3. *The imputation of Christ's righteousness to believers (2 Corinthians 5:21).*

To summarize, we impute our sin onto Christ, and He imputes His righteousness onto us. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

This is a complicated principle. See if you can explain imputation in your own words:

How does your "imputed righteousness" give you confidence to approach the difficulties of tomorrow?

As you pray, thank God for this amazing truth!

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.

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

5. What does this teach me about God?

6. Application:

1. How do I need to think differently?

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

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

Friday May 21st

This week we have been reading James and making basic observations. Today, let's get a little in depth. Utilize your study bible as you look at this great passage on suffering.

James 5:7-11

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Tuesday May 11th Abraham's Seed

Galatians 3:7 "Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham."

John 8:33-47

"God doesn't have grandchildren." I forget where I read this, but it is a great theological point. Just because someone's parents loved God and served Him well, it does not mean their children have a special standing with God. Each person is responsible for their own faith. If your kids/grandkids are not actively pursuing a relationship with God - pray for their salvation!

The Jewish people assumed they were right with God merely because they were biologically related to Abraham. But Paul, and Jesus, points out that this was not true. They must have the faith Abraham had.

Side-note for you theology nuts. This verse does not teach that the promises made to Abraham regarding land, material blessing, and number of descendants (Genesis 12,15) transfer to believers in the church age. Those promises still apply to the Jewish people that will be fulfilled in Jesus' future plans.

Why do so many people assume they are "good with God" because they went to church with their parents when they were kids?

Is there someone in your life that professed salvation, but now is not living for God?

Pray today for those in your life who are far from God.

Wednesday May 12th
Just Shall Live by Faith

Galatians 3:11 "Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."

This is clearly the key theme of Galatians. We have seen this truth over and over again. But, it is not just the key theme of this book, it is a key theme in the whole of scripture. Warren Weirsbe makes this astute observation on this verse, "Paul next quoted Habakkuk: "The just shall live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:4). This statement is so important that the Holy Spirit inspired three New Testament books to explain it... Romans explains "the just" and tells how the sinner can be justified before God (see Romans 1:17). Galatians explains how the just "shall live"; and Hebrews discusses "by faith" (see Hebrews 10:38)."

In what ways do we try impress God with our actions?

In what areas do you need to strengthen your faith in God?

As you pray, ask God for a complete reliance on his power and wisdom.

Thursday May 20th

Proverbs 20, Genesis 15, James 4

Observations:

How should I think or act differently based upon what I observed?

Refer back to your weekly prayer page and add anything else God brings to mind.

Wednesday May 19th

Proverbs 19, Genesis 14, James 3

Observations:

How should I think or act differently based upon what I observed?

Refer back to your weekly prayer page and add anything else God brings to mind.

Thursday May 13th

"Hanged on a Tree"

Galatians 3:12-14 "... Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us - for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree."

Here we have a confusing verse. Does the "curse" refer to the sin He took on himself? Not exactly, it has more to do with shame and mockery. New American Commentary explains this verse, "Paul quoted Deuteronomy again: "He that is hanged is accursed of God" (Deuteronomy 21:23). The Jews did not crucify criminals; they stoned them to death. But in cases of shameful violation of the law, the body was hung on a tree and exposed for all to see... After the body had been exposed for a time, it was taken down and buried (see Joshua 8:29; 10:26; 2 Samuel 4:12)."

Jesus not only completed the transaction of salvation for us, He took the shame that sin puts on someone when they are exposed for what they have done. Jesus was mocked, spit upon, harassed, laughed at, and didn't fight back. He endured it, so we wouldn't have to.

In what ways have experienced "shame" in your life for what you did or who you are?

Knowing that Jesus didn't even want you to experience the shame of your sin, how does this inspire your worship?

As you pray, praise the Lord for what he has done for you!

Friday May 14th
Faith

This week we learned quite a bit about our faith. Faith isn't just passive, it is active. Faith inspires us and energizes us. Check out all our faith does for us in this passage.

Hebrews 10:32-39

32 But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, 33 sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. 34 For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. 35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. 37 For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; 38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." 39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Tuesday May 18th

Proverbs 18, Genesis 13, James 2

Observations:

How should I think or act differently based upon what I observed?

Refer back to your weekly prayer page and add anything else God brings to mind.

Monday May 17th

Proverbs 17, Genesis 12, James 1

Observations:

How should I think or act differently based upon what I observed?

Refer back to your weekly prayer page and add anything else God brings to mind.

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.

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

5. What does this teach me about God?

6. Application:

1. How do I need to think differently?

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

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

Adoration: I praise God for...

Things I need to work on ...

Verse to memorize ...

Things I am thankful for and are on my heart...

Intro for May 17th through May 27th

Yesterday and next week we will have guest speakers at church. We will take a break from the book of Galatians and do something different for our devotions. You have probably already noticed that doing devotions the same way seems to get boring or dry. I don't think this is a bad thing, it is just a sign that we need to change up how we approach our time with God. So for the next few weeks we will just be reading some scripture and making note of our observations. This is a little harder than reading a commentary about the scripture we just read, but it allows the Spirit to point out things to us that we need to see. One practice I was taught when I was younger was to read the Proverb that correlates to the date. We will be doing that each day. We will also be reading a chapter a day from the book of Genesis. We will also be going through the book of James twice. Re-reading books of the Bible are important as they help us see new things.

As you read the daily reading for the day, look for a thought or two from each chapter to write down. Maybe expand on the thought. Why do you think it stuck out to you? What do you need to do in response to it? What other scripture comes to mind as you read it?

I challenge you to find someone in your life to review the scripture with. Maybe someone in your home, maybe a friend, maybe someone in your Small Group at church. Discussing what we learn helps us solidify thoughts and creates an accountability that is important for us to grow.

I also challenge you to fill in the weekly prayer sheet. Add a little to it everyday as the Spirit brings things to mind. Also utilize the "verse to memorize section." This can be any verse that comes up in reading, in a sermon, or just one you know you need to memorize.

I hope you enjoy the next two weeks reading and reflecting!

Sunday May 16th Sermon Notes

Series or Message Title: _____

List all Scripture Used: _____

Notes:

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

