



## Devotional Guide for July 18-24, 2022

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

### Monday, July 18<sup>TH</sup> "The sinfulness of the wicked"

**Scripture: Psalm 36:1-12** NIV

This is the third of three psalms in which King David speaks as an individual opposed by his enemies. The mood is reflective, focusing on the nature of the wicked and on God's love. David begins by affirming a fundamental truth about the wicked: they do not fear God. He then reflects again about the nature of the wicked. The rest of the psalm is more positive in orientation, reflecting on God's love and concluding with one last reference to the wicked and their fate. David's message from God is clear: the wicked make no room for "fear of God" (v.1).

*Question: Do you grasp what it means to have a fear of the Lord?*

### Tuesday, July 19<sup>TH</sup> "If anyone is ashamed of Me"

**Scripture: Mark 8:31-38** NIV

Jesus teaches His disciples about His upcoming death and also His resurrection, yet Peter rebukes the Lord. Peter's attempt to dissuade Jesus from going to the cross contained the same temptation Satan gave at the outset of Jesus' ministry in Matthew and Luke—to receive the kingdoms of the earth without following through on God's plan of salvation. So Jesus severely rebuked Peter. Christ not only will take up His cross for our salvation, but He challenges us to daily do the same (v.34). Last week, we focused on not being ashamed of the gospel; here, Jesus explains that those who are more concerned about fitting in and pleasing this "adulterous and sinful generation" than about following and pleasing Christ will have no part in God's kingdom. The situation where Jesus is rejected, humiliated, and killed will be reversed, when He returns in glory as the judge of all.

*Question: Do you seek to daily take up your cross and follow Jesus?*

### Wednesday, July 20<sup>TH</sup> "He taught as One who had authority"

**Scripture: Matthew 7:21-29** NIV

The adage "actions speak louder than words" rings true as Jesus teaches that simply calling Jesus "Lord" but not doing "the will of My Father who is in heaven" is not sufficient for salvation. Within the parables of verses 24-27, the reference is made of a firm foundation.

God's Word often speaks metaphorically of God as a "rock." Often, a common reaction to Jesus' listeners to His teaching was one of amazement—both at His presentation and at His authority.

*Question: What foundation do you most stand upon in your life: the shaky foundation of your own doing, or the solid foundation as you stand upon the rock of Jesus Christ?*

### Thursday, July 21<sup>ST</sup> "They exchanged the truth of God for a lie"

**Scripture: Romans 1:18-25** NIV

The unrighteousness of all people is compared with the righteousness of God. Paul sets the stage by showing that all have sinned, and therefore need the righteousness that only God can provide. No one—not even one who has not heard of the Bible or of Christ—has an excuse for not honoring God, because the whole created world reveals Him. The "wrath of God" (v.18) is not an irrational burst of anger, such as humans often exhibit, but instead is a holy and just revulsion against what is contrary to and opposes His holy nature and will. God's wrath is not limited to the end-time judgment of the wicked, but the wrath of God is His abandonment of the wicked to their sin and its consequence.

*Question: How do you speak and live truth in an unbelieving world?*

### Friday, July 22<sup>ND</sup> "Not only sin... but approve of those who do"

**Scripture: Romans 1:26-32** NIV

Some Greek and Roman thinkers rejected homosexual intercourse as "against nature," because, unlike heterosexual intercourse in general, it did not fit God's design of sexual organs and also could not lead to procreation. Greek-speaking Jews adopted the "against nature" charge against homosexual intercourse, blending it with a Biblical argument from God's design in creation. Scripture already prohibited such behavior, sometimes in lists of major sexual offenses such as incest, adultery, bestiality and child sacrifice. Ancient Jewish sources disparage Jewish adulterers, prostitutes, and many other offenders, but seem to regard homosexual intercourse as an exclusively Gentile sin. Only after establishing common ground with Jewish critics, by condemning these stereotypically Gentile sins, Paul turns to a list of sins that pervaded all of humanity. He ultimately emphasizes that all of humanity has sinned and needs forgiveness in Christ.

*Question: How do you seek to know and retain the knowledge and truth you receive from your Heavenly Father?*

**Sunday, July 24, 2022**

**8:30 and 10:45 am/Sanctuary**

Online Livestream @10:45 am

**Matthew 7:21-29** NIV, **Romans 1:18-32** NIV

**Pastor Kevin's message: "Painful Truth"**

*Summer worship theme:*

*"Truth Be Told—the Letter to the Romans"*

