



# First Things First

## Daily Devotionals

### Devotional Guide for July 25-31, 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 25<sup>TH</sup> "Who speaks the truth from their heart"

**Scripture: Psalm 15:1-5** NIV

King David wrote many psalms to glorify God and for use in temple worship. This psalm addresses "who may dwell in Your (God's) sacred tent?" (v.1). In sharp contrast to foolish atheism and also living an ungodly life, this psalm focuses on the quality of a God-honoring life. David reflects on the royal ideals he should live up to, in ways that also imitate this psalm. He begins with two rhetorical questions in verse 1, which he then proceeds to answer in the rest of the psalm. He lists twelve requirements that would qualify a person to dwell with God at His holy mountain.

*Question: How can we learn to speak God's truth more from our hearts?*

#### Tuesday, July 26<sup>TH</sup> "Truth is nowhere to be found"

**Scripture: Isaiah 59:12-15** NIV

Even though the Lord had commanded the nation of Israel to seek to live righteous lives, they were unable to do so in their own strength. Instead, the prophet Isaiah identifies three ways that Israel was living in defiance of the Lord: offenses, sins, and iniquities (all in verse 12). Using these three terms, Isaiah gives a comprehensive confession. When Almighty God does His full work in the life of the believer, then the people of God, helpless in themselves, will indeed be the lamps through which the light of God will shine in the world. Yet for now, the prophet laments that "truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey" (v.15) which is very reminiscent of our culture and world today.

*Question: What is your truth source: God and His Word, or the world?*

#### Wednesday, July 27<sup>TH</sup> "There is now no condemnation"

**Scripture: Romans 8:1-4** NIV

When Paul wrote "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (v.1), condemnation does not mean the passing of a sentence of guilt, but rather the punishment that follows. Though we stand guilty before a righteous and perfect God, Christ took on the punishment (or condemnation) for our sin. The Law was not able to

overcome sin; it could point out, stimulate, and pronounce guilt over sin, but it could not remove it and it could not enable believers to obey that Law perfectly. Christ then took the full penalty mandated by the Law and fully met that obligation for us. The Law still plays a role in the life of a believer—not as a means of salvation but as a moral and ethical guide, obeyed out of love for God and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Question: Do you grasp and understand what Jesus Christ did for you?*

#### Thursday, July 28<sup>TH</sup> "The Spirit gives life because of righteousness"

**Scripture: Romans 8:5-11** NIV

Two mindsets are described here: that of the flesh and that of the Spirit. The mindset of the flesh leads to death, the mindset of the Spirit leads to life and peace. The realm of the flesh is bound up with death (v.6), hostility to God (v.7), insubordination (v.7), and also unacceptability to God (v.8). Paul makes it unmistakably clear that "the Spirit of God lives in" every believer" (v.9). Because of the truth of the resurrection of Christ, believers will also be resurrected. The resurrection of our bodies is guaranteed to believers by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit—whose presence is evidenced by a Spirit-controlled life, which in turn provides assurance, even now that our resurrection is certain.

*Question: Is your life's mindset focused more on the flesh or the Spirit?*

#### Friday, July 29<sup>TH</sup> "We have an obligation to the truth"

**Scripture: Romans 8:12-17** NIV

Paul reveals how God is the Father of all in the sense that He created all, and His love and providential care are extended to all. But, we can see that not everyone is His child. Jesus had said to the unbelieving Jews, "You belong to your father the devil" (John 8:44). People become children of God through faith in God's unique Son, and also by being led by God's Spirit—this is the defining hallmark of this relationship as a child of God. The concept of adoption was quite common among the Greeks and Romans, who granted the adopted child all the privileges of a naturally born child. The Aramaic term used in verse 15, Abba, expresses more than another mere title for God—He is our Heavenly Father, as we are adopted through our faith and obedience as His children!

*Question: In what ways do you see God as your Abba (Father)?*

**Sunday, July 31, 2022**

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

Online Livestream @10:45 am

**Isaiah 59:12-15** NIV, **Romans 8:1-17** NIV

**Pastor Kevin's message:**

**"Obligation with the Truth"**

*Summer worship theme:*

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

