



## Devotional Guide for August 15-21, 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, August 15<sup>TH</sup> "The righteousness that comes from God"

**Scripture: Philippians 3:1-14** NIV

In this letter to the church at Philippi, Paul contrasted his previous life of boastful confidence in his Judaism with his new righteousness from God through Christ. He listed his Jewish pedigree as a part of his former boasting; he had also lost his career and also connections with fellow Pharisees. Yet, he cheerfully gave all that up as he followed Jesus. He had a deep personal relationship with Jesus, seeing the worthlessness of what he had previously relied upon.

*Question: What is it that was in your life, before knowing Jesus, that you now consider worth nothing but garbage?*

### Tuesday, August 16<sup>TH</sup> "Christ will transform our lowly bodies"

**Scripture: Philippians 3:15-21** NIV

The church at Philippi was to imitate Paul's mindset of the new perspective he had on life because of Jesus. The need for strong models of the Christian faith is heightened by the constant presence of those modeling a lifestyle opposed to the gospel (even in the days now in which we live). Paul taught the Philippians to eagerly await the return of the Savior, because they could not put their full trust in Roman citizenship alone. Our lowly bodies will be transformed by Christ into glorious bodies.

*Question: How do you imagine you will look after this transformation?*

### Wednesday, August 17<sup>TH</sup> "Do not consider yourself superior"

**Scripture: Romans 11:13-20** NIV

Throughout Paul's letter to the Roman church, he has those who are Gentile Christians in mind, to not feel superior to Jewish Christians. Because so many Gentiles had come to Christ and made up such a large part of the church, they were beginning to look down upon their Jewish brothers and sisters. Believers should not presume the security God promises them in Jesus Christ. They remain within the people of God, only as long as they persist in faith. This is the only way to experience the transformation of grace upon your life.

*Question: Have you ever felt superior to someone due to your faith?*

### Thursday, August 18<sup>TH</sup>

**"You are the Messiah!"**

**Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20** NIV

When Jesus asked His disciples who the people were saying that He was, most felt that He was a prophet. His message of an alternative kingdom—and the fact that He would openly criticize the religious establishment—were examples of His prophetic voice. Jesus wanted to get at the real question of whether or not He was "the Prophet," the promised Messiah (see John 6:14). There are two distinct claims in Peter's words: first, Jesus is the Christ (in the Greek, 'Christos' meaning 'anointed'), which was an image for king. The Greek here draws on the Hebrew word for Messiah ('masiach'), which means "anointed one." Peter was saying plainly that Jesus is the promised Messiah, drawing on the wealth of Biblical allusions to the Messiah. Second, Jesus is the Son of the living God, a claim that had particular Roman implications. Caesar claimed to be not only the king, but that he wanted also to be considered a son of god. He even minted his claims of divinity on his coins. Peter uttered these words while in Caesarea Philippi, where, according to the Jewish historian Josephus, there was a temple to Caesar Augustus. This challenge to the claims of the emperor's divinity eventually led to the capture, torture, and killing of many of Jesus' followers, including Peter.

*Question: Who do you say that Jesus is in your life?*

### Friday, August 19<sup>TH</sup> "Be transformed by renewing your mind"

**Scripture: Romans 12:1-8** NIV

The last major section of the letter to the Romans sets forth general principles and some specific applications of the gospel. The gospel provides not only salvation from God's wrath but also the power to live changed lives. Christ cannot be our Savior without also being our Lord. The "true and proper worship" (v.1) recognizes all that God has done for us. Such worship is not confined to Sunday morning, but rather, it embraces all of life. The present age has its own pattern of thinking and living that redeemed believers must avoid. The work of God's Holy Spirit within us must reprogram the depraved mindset.

*Question: How does Jesus transform and renew your mind?*

**Sunday, August 21, 2022**

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

Online Livestream @10:45 am

**Matthew 16:13-20** NIV, **Romans 12:1-8** NIV

**Pastor Kevin's message:**

**"Transformed by the Truth"**

*Summer worship theme:*

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

