



Devotional Guide for August 12-18, 2019

These devotional thoughts are prepared 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 12TH “The law of God is in their hearts”

Scripture: Psalm 37:27-31

King David—a man known to have a heart for God—led the people of Israel not only as their monarch but also as a spiritual leader. He taught his nation that they were to “depart from evil and do good” (v.27). He then describes the benefits of living as the righteous children of the Lord—safety, inheritance, and life. The righteous “utter wisdom” and “speak justice” (v.30), and righteousness becomes an attribute as they possess and cherish within their hearts the law of God.

Question: How have you come to cherish righteousness in your life, and how do you feel this has taught you wisdom from God?

Tuesday, August 13TH “Persevere in prayer”

Scripture: Romans 12:9-21

In this passage, the apostle Paul reveals the marks of the true Christian, including genuine love, rejoicing hope, patient suffering, and persevering prayer. One of the greatest ways to persevere through any difficulty is to always recognize the presence of the Lord in your journey of faith. Perseverance comes through practice—**thus** the exercise of faith comes through rejoicing “with those who rejoice” and weeping “with those who weep” (v.15), through harmonic living and an intentional peace-keeping lifestyle.

Question: Do you persevere in prayer when facing a trouble as your first recourse, or does prayer come only after trying everything else?

Wednesday, August 14TH “Show wisdom and discernment”

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

In our Old Testament lesson for this coming Sunday, Moses commands obedience from the children of Israel, teaching them to “give heed to the statutes and ordinances” (v.1) given them from the Lord. Diligent observance to God’s law will “show

your wisdom and discernment to the peoples” (v.6) which will serve as a witness to the world of their beliefs. These commands from Moses still stand the test of time, even today, for God’s people on our spiritual journey of faith.

Question: How do you “diligently” observe the law of the Lord?

Thursday, August 15TH “Consider it pure joy”

Scripture: James 1:1-8

When I was in elementary school, one of my very least favorite classes was gym. Perhaps it had to do with the fact that I was an overweight child who was physically strong yet slow in running, not enjoying playing or watching sports in my early years. Yet, there were many important lessons that I learned in gym (even if, at the time, I refused to admit that I was learning anything from such a despised class). Those lessons included perseverance with a positive, faith-filled stance when facing “trials of many kinds” (v.2). It is a tough lesson to learn, but it is also an important and life-changing essential one.

Question: When problems arise, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? Is it relief that you do not face the situation alone, or do you panic and wonder how you are going to get through this?

Friday, August 16TH “Blessed is the one who perseveres”

Scripture: James 1:9-12

In the second part of this week’s New Testament lesson, James takes us to “Jim Class” with a back-to-basics course with faith. Those who find themselves at the top in life (“the rich” in v.10) need to be humbled, while those “in humble circumstances” are able to “take pride in their high position” (v.9). Jesus had said that “the first shall be last and the last shall be first,” as found in Matthew 19:30. I think that believers in the church today should return to “Jim Class” from time to time, to learn the basics of our faith again, which is primarily learning to trust God.

Question: How do you use your trust in God to persevere?

Saturday and Sunday, August 17 and 18, 2019

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 NIV

and James 1:1-12 NIV

Pastor’s message: “Jim Class”

