



Devotional Guide for Dec.28,2020-Jan.3, 2021

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, Dec. 28TH

“The road that leads to life”

Scripture: Matthew 7:7-14 NIV

As we approach a new year, we always face the crossroads of how we live our lives—for our own gain or for the glory of God. If we desire the latter, then we set about the task of asking God for wisdom, seeking His presence, and knocking to enter in each day. Jesus stands at the crossroads, inviting us to follow Him on the straight and narrow path... but He does not paint it falsely as a rosy picture, minimizing that it is filled with trouble. The path of Christ is indeed narrow and hard. Yet as I say every Sunday, God is with us every step of the way: behind us to keep us from falling, in front of us to be our guide, beside us as our companion, and underneath us as our strength.

Question: How tempting does the wide worldly path seem to you?

Tuesday, Dec. 29TH

“My Lord, what do I look for?”

Scripture: Psalm 39:4-7,12-13 NIV

The lament in this psalm is more personal and autobiographical than most psalms written by King David. When he writes of “the number of my days” (v.4) and how short-lived life is, he is relating to the prevalent attitude of the people of Israel at that time. Their own short, hard lives tempted the faithful as they compared them to the prosperity of the wicked, and some questioned God’s wisdom and justice. Moving from anger to weeping, the strong emotion of this psalm makes its final prayer especially vivid.

Question: If you knew that today was the last day of your life, what would do differently than you are now? Why wait for the change?

Wednesday, Dec. 30TH

“Walk in the way of love”

Scripture: Ephesians 5:1-7 NIV

When Paul writes that we are “dearly loved children” (v.1), he is indicating that a firm knowledge of God’s love and our place in His family can motivate the self-sacrifice necessary for the Christian life. Acts of sexual immorality, impure lives, greedy hearts, obscene talk—

—all of these are out of step with our identity as God’s holy people. Instead, to bear God’s restored image for us, we are to accept God’s gifts of sexuality and purity with thanksgiving, restoring them to their proper usage. In the day of God’s judgment, He will make a final separation between disobedient people and His obedient, beloved children.

Question: How do you focus on purity in life rather than impurity?

Thursday, Dec. 31ST

“Find out what pleases the Lord”

Scripture: Ephesians 5:8-14 NIV

Paul wants followers of Jesus to do more than abstain from the things that bring God’s wrath. They are to live as “children of light” (v.8). A result of our union with Christ is that He who is the light of the world has also made us the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). Paul believes that certain sins are so shameful that bringing them to light will shame some non-believers into repentance. When the body of Christ openly exposes sin, that contrast in the life of a non-believer may be the impetus to draw them to repentance and confession. The contrast drawn out here of darkness and light is quite appropriate with the light dawning on us with a new year.

Question: What causes you to “awake” to the reality of your sin?

Friday, Jan.1ST “Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord”

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-20 NIV

We are cautioned to “be very careful” as we seek to live “not as unwise but as wise” (v.15) people. If we only lean upon our own understanding and wisdom, we can become foolish which makes us more vulnerable to the evil in our world. Instead of filling ourselves with worldly things (wine, etc.), we are to be filled with God’s Holy Spirit. This filling is not only repeatable, but it is to be sought after again and again in our lives. Worship is offered to God alone. At the same time, in corporate worship, there is a human audience as well, since people worship together and address each other for their mutual benefit and growth as disciples. As you enter this new year, don’t settle for the same old you—but “sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!” (vs.19-20)

Question: What can you focus upon on this first day of the new year that will make your heart sing to God?

Sunday, January 3RD Epiphany Sunday

Worship @10:45 am Livestream only

via the church’s Facebook page

or a link on our website at greensburgfirst.org

Psalm 39:4-7 NIV, **Ephesians 5:15-20** NIV

Pastor’s message: **“Same Old You?”**

