



Devotional Guide for November 20-26, 2023

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, November 20TH "Grace in which we now stand"

Scripture: Romans 5:1-8^{NIV}

The apostle Paul spoke about grace quite frequently. In his letter to the church at Rome, Paul explains that while God has always acted towards people in grace, the new era of salvation is especially seen through an outpouring of God's grace. The future glory that God has promised for believers is a share we will receive of His glory. The road to glory is strewn with rocks and strange turns. But, far from lessening our hope, these "sufferings" (v.3), in God's providence, become the means of strengthening us and thus deepening our hope.

Question: How does God's grace enable you to stand in your faith?

Tuesday, Nov. 21ST "It is fitting for the upright to praise God"

Scripture: Psalm 33:1-5^{NIV}

This great psalm begins with a joyful call to praise (vs.1-3) which is anchored in God's unending love and Word (vs.4-5). There are seven words of praise that add to the urgency of our need to praise: 'Sing joyfully... praise... praise (or 'give thanks to')... make music... sing... play skillfully... shout for joy. (vs.1-3). God's faithful Word is the basis for our praise. His revelation matches His character: it is always good, right, and true. His word and His actions are without error. The whole earth, ordered perfectly by the Lord, reflects His unending love. And because of this, we can praise and live grace-filled lives!

Question: In what ways do you give praise to God throughout the day?

Wednesday, November 22ND "We put our hope in God"

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at 7:00 pm tonight!

Scripture: Psalm 33:18-22^{NIV}

God's watchful eyes signify protection for His people, and should not be seen as an infringement on our privacy. We want God to look after us in our lives. Those who hope in God receive His attention. The psalmist thus invites the community to express together their hope. God's words remain true, His plans will stand, and He rescues His own.

Question: How do you feel knowing God is always watching over you?

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23RD 

 "Give thanks to Him and praise His name!"

Have a blessed and happy day with thanksgiving to God!

Scripture: Psalm 100^{NIV}

So like sheep, we get wounded. And like sheep, we have a shepherd. The psalmist reminds us all, "We are His people, the sheep of His pasture" (v.3). God will do for you what the shepherd does for the sheep—He will tend to you. If the Gospels teach us anything, they teach us that Jesus is a good shepherd. "I am the Good Shepherd," Jesus announces. "The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep" (John 10:11). Didn't Jesus pray and protect His disciples? He equipped them before He sent them out. He revealed to them the secrets of the parables. He interrupted their arguments and calmed their fears. Because He was a good shepherd, He protected them against disappointments. Not only did Jesus prevent wounds, but He also healed them. He touched the eyes of the blind man. He touched the disease of the leper. He touched the body of the dead girl. Jesus tends to His sheep. He touched the searching heart of Nicodemus. He touched the open heart of Zacchaeus. He touched the broken heart of Mary Magdalene. He touched the confused heart of Cleopas. And He touched the stubborn heart of Paul and the repentant heart of Peter. This Thanksgiving Day, allow your Good Shepherd to touch your heart with His love and care!

Question: How many ways has God touched your heart this year so far?

Friday, Nov. 24TH "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul"

Scripture: Hebrews 6:9-20^{NIV}

There are two unchangeable things upon which we base our hope in God: His confirming oath and His completely reliable promise (v.17). God gave His iron-clad pledge to Abraham about His purpose to bless him, and through him to bless the whole world. God intended it to give great encouragement also to all those who would take hold by faith of the hope set before us through Christ. Hope is "an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (v.19) in the midst of struggles, because it is based on God's unchanging purpose: to accomplish our salvation through Christ. Hope gives us access, through prayer and worship, to the very presence of God in heaven. What an anchor indeed!

Question: Do you have a solid grip on the anchor of your soul in Christ? If not, what do you need to let go of, in order to get a stronger grip?



Christ the King Sunday, November 26, 2023

8:30 and 10:45 am (Livestream @10:45 am)

Psalm 33:1-5,18-22^{NIV} , Hebrews 6:9-20^{NIV}

The Pastor's message:

"Actively Living with Grace-Filled Hope"