

SECRET CHURCH™

KNOW HIS WORD. KNOW HIS PERSECUTED.

For millions of believers around the world, faith in Christ and belief in the teachings of the Bible are not only discouraged but actually dangerous.

KNOW HIS WORD.
KNOW HIS PERSECUTED.

Periodically, Secret Church gatherings are held to engage in an intense six-hour Bible study as we identify with and pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters around the globe.

The objective of Secret Church is for you to pass along what you learn in these gatherings to others so that you can make disciples of Christ in all nations for God's glory.

secretchurch.org

What Is Secret Church?

Secret Church began at The Church at Brook Hills based on time Pastor David had spent with brothers and sisters in underground Asian house churches. In those contexts, they gather together at the risk of their lives for 8-12 hours at a time simply to pray, worship, and study the Word. It's simple, raw, dangerous, and satisfying...all at the same time.

The leaders at Brook Hills began asking if they could do the same thing and decided to try it. They set up a Friday evening where people could gather from 6p.m. until midnight for two main purposes: to worship through intensive study of the Word, and to identify with our persecuted brothers and sisters by praying intentionally for them. Simply six hours of straight teaching and prayer.

At the first gathering there were about 1,000 people, and after that it began to grow. "Secret Church" now takes place with thousands of believers joined together in homes, church buildings, and other locations all around the world. One of Dr. Platt's favorite sights as a pastor is to look out across a room packed with people at midnight with their Bibles open just soaking in the Word of God.

The objective of Secret Church is not just to come and learn for one night but to take what we've learned and pass it along to others. We also want to recognize the great need to pray and come alongside our brothers and sisters who live in places around the world where there is little to no gospel witness or where the gospel is met with resistance. We want to use what we've learned during this gathering to make disciples of Christ—both locally and globally.

Beyond These Walls

We're glad you've decided to attend tonight's Secret Church meeting. But even if no one showed up, it would still be worth the effort. Actually, this Bible study will hopefully benefit far more people than just those who were in attendance.

Here's how...

Whenever we gather together for Secret Church we record the teaching sessions. Those recordings are then transcribed and translated into many different languages, including Spanish, Mandarin, Hindi, Arabic and others. The foreign language versions of Secret Church will be available online as translations are completed. But that is just the beginning.

Most Christ-followers around the world don't have access to seminaries or Bible colleges. In fact, Christ-followers in many parts of the world have no formal Christian teaching at all. Pastor David will lead additional Secret Church studies, creating numerous hours of Bible teaching on various biblical and theological issues. We will then be able to distribute those resources worldwide. The sessions together will comprise a portable seminary, so to speak, with mini-courses in biblical training accessible to anyone.

At each Secret Church gathering we take up an offering. All the proceeds will support persecuted Christians worldwide through ongoing ministry initiatives and provide Secret Church Bible teaching materials in multiple languages. Imagine a house-church leader in Asia or the Middle East, now able to hear hours of Bible teaching as he listens to Secret Church in his own language. With your help, this can become a reality.

If you would like to make a donation to Secret Church or would like any of the Secret Church resources in another language go to Radical.net.

Program

TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

5:00pm	Simulcast Pre-Roll Begins
6:00pm	Local Announcements
6:05pm	Welcome from Pastor David
6:10pm	Musical Worship
6:30pm	Teaching Segment 1
7:30pm	Break
7:45pm	Teaching Segment 2
8:45pm	Secret Church Special Guest
9:00pm	Offering
9:05pm	Break
9:20pm	Teaching Segment 3
10:20pm	Secret Church Prayer Focus
10:45pm	Break
11:00pm	Teaching Segment 4
12:00am	Musical Worship
12:10am	Simulcast Concludes

(Times are approximate, and the schedule is subject to change.)

Program Notes:

Pastor David will be teaching tonight from the English Standard Version (ESV). Scriptures and references are included in the Study Guide.

So as not to distract from the study, please turn all cell phones to the “silent” or “off” mode during our time together.

* If you are attending a simulcast of Secret Church and your host site is taking up an offering we encourage you to participate with them in your giving. If you would like to give to the Secret Church Offering directly you can give online by going to Radical.net/Offering.

THE CROSS AND EVERYDAY LIFE

Secret Church

The Question Before Us ...

- How do I obey the _____ radical _____ commands of Christ ...

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

Luke 9:23-24

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:25-33

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death."

Revelation 12:10-11

- ... in the normal _____ routine _____ of everyday life?

... for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you ...
1 Thessalonians 4:10-11

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
1 Timothy 5:8

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.
Titus 2:1-5

The Plan Ahead Of Us ...

- A Gospel Foundation for Understanding Everyday Life
 - The Purpose of our Everyday Lives
 - The Problem in our Everyday Lives
 - How the Death of Christ Changed Everything in History Then
 - How the Death of Christ Changes Everything in our Lives Today
- A Gospel Framework for Approaching Everyday Life
 - Living Every Day to Love God with All Your Heart and Soul
 - A Call to Daily Prayer
 - Questions About Daily Prayer
 - Living Every Day to Love God with All Your Mind and Strength
 - Fill your mind daily with truth from God's Word.
 - Sharpen your mind daily with truth in God's world.
 - Take care of your body daily as a temple of God's Spirit.
 - Honor God in what you wear.
 - Honor God in what you eat.
 - Honor God in how you exercise.
 - Keep control of your body daily in accordance with God's will.
 - A biblical expression of physical denial: Fast regularly.
 - A biblical expression of physical discipline: Flee sexual immorality.
 - Living Every Day to Love Your Neighbor as Yourself.
 - A husband's daily approach to his wife.
 - A wife's daily approach to her husband.

- A parent's daily approach to children.
- A single's daily approach to others.
- A Christian's daily approach to other Christians.
- A Christian's daily approach to non-Christians.
 - The Cross and Waking
 - The Cross and Working
 - The Cross and Playing
 - The Cross and Listening, Watching, Reading, Texting, Receiving, Sending, Posting, Tweeting, Instagramming, Blogging, Messaging, Tumbling, Liking, Poking, Following, Unfollowing, Emailing, Snapping, Chatting, Vining, Networking, and All Sorts of Othering
 - The Cross and Resting

A GOSPEL FOUNDATION FOR UNDERSTANDING EVERYDAY LIFE

"The gospel isn't one class among many that you'll attend during your life as a Christian—the gospel is the whole building where all the classes take place! Rightly approached, all the topics you'll study and focus on as a believer will be offered to you 'within the walls' of the glorious gospel [Nothing in the Christian life] can be rightly understood apart from God's grace through Jesus' death. They, and indeed all topics, should be studied through the lens of the gospel."

C.J. Mahaney

The Purpose of our Everyday Lives ...

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 1:26-31

- We have been created to _____ enjoy _____ God's grace in a relationship with Him.
- We have been created to _____ exalt _____ God's glory to the ends of the earth.

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12:1-3

And the LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and

will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”
Genesis 26:2-5

And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”
Genesis 28:13-15

“And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD.” And they did so.
Exodus 14:4

Our fathers, when they were in Egypt, did not consider your wondrous works; they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love, but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea. Yet he saved them for his name’s sake, that he might make known his mighty power.
Psalm 106:7-8

“See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?”
Deuteronomy 4:5-8

And Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself.”
1 Samuel 12:20-22

*And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods?
2 Samuel 7:23*

*"For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake
and for the sake of my servant David."
2 Kings 19:34*

*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is
fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
Psalm 16:11*

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down
in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my
soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Psalm 23:1-3*

*For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.
Psalm 25:11*

*Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Psalm 37:4*

*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon
us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all
nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all
the peoples praise you! The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God,
shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!
Psalm 67*

*I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving. This
will please the LORD more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs. When the
humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive. For the
LORD hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners.
Psalm 69:30-33*

*May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those
who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"
Psalm 70:4*

*The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!
Psalm 97:1*

*Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore
he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a
God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.
Isaiah 30:18*

*But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed
you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you
are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the
rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be
burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the
Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in
exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love
you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. Fear not, for
I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will
gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring
my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is
called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."
Isaiah 43:1-7*

*"I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own
sake, and I will not remember your sins."
Isaiah 43:25*

*"For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for
you, that I may not cut you off. Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I
have tried you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I
do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another."
Isaiah 48:9-11*

*From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has
seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.
Isaiah 64:4*

*For as the loincloth clings to the waist of a man, so I made the whole house of
Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, declares the LORD, that they
might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory, but they would not listen.
Jeremiah 13:11*

*"Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not
for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake
of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which
you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has*

been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.”
Ezekiel 36:22-23

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
Habakkuk 2:14

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”
John 6:35

“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”
John 12:27-28

Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
John 14:13

He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
John 16:14

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
John 17:24

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
Acts 1:8

What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared

for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory ...
Romans 9:22-23

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.
Romans 11:36

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."
Romans 15:8-9

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31

But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone ...
Galatians 1:15-16

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.
Ephesians 1:3-14

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
Philippians 1:9-11

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.
Colossians 3:23-24*

*They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
2 Thessalonians 1:9-12*

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
Titus 2:11-14*

*Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.
Jude 24-25*

*And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
Revelation 5:9-12*

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped

God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Revelation 7:9-12

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 21:22-27

No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Revelation 22:3-5

"The great end of God's works, which is so variously expressed in Scripture, is indeed by one; and this one end is most properly and comprehensively called, the glory of God."

Jonathan Edwards

"God glorifies Himself toward the creatures also in two ways: 1. By appearing to ... their understanding. 2. In communicating Himself to their hearts, and in their rejoicing and delighting in, and enjoying, the manifestations which he makes of Himself God is glorified not only by His glory's being seen, but by its being rejoiced in. When those that see it delight in it, God is more glorified than if they only see it He that testifies his idea of God's glory [doesn't] glorify God so much as he that testifies also his approbation of it and his delight in it."

Jonathan Edwards

"[God's] glorifying himself and the saving of his people are not two decrees with God, but one decree, to glorify his mercy in their salvation, though we may say that one is the end of the other: so I think they should be with us together indeed."

Richard Baxter

"May the Living God, who is the portion and rest of the saints, make these our carnal minds so spiritual, and our earthly hearts so heavenly, that loving him, and delighting in him, may be the work of our lives."

Richard Baxter

"The New Testament has lots to say about self-denial, but not about self-denial as an end in itself. We are told to deny ourselves and to take up our crosses in

order that we may follow Christ; and nearly every description of what we shall ultimately find if we do so contains an appeal to desire. If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion has crept in from Kant and the Stoics and is no part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

C.S. Lewis

"The chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever."

John Piper

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

John Piper

The Problem in our Everyday Lives ...

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...

Romans 3:23

- **God is glorious ...**

- He is sovereign over all.

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Psalms 24:1-2

- He created all things.

"You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you."

Nehemiah 9:6

- He knows all things.

Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge ...

Job 37:16

*... for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.
1 John 3:20*

- He sustains all things.

*O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it. These all look to you, to give them their food in due season. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.
Psalm 104:24-30*

- He owns all things.

*Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.
Deuteronomy 10:14*

- He is holy above all.

*"There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God."
1 Samuel 2:2*

*And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"
Isaiah 6:3*

*And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"
Revelation 4:8*

- He is righteous in all His ways.

*"Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"
Genesis 18:25*

*“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”
Deuteronomy 32:4*

*The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.
Psalm 145:17*

- He is just in all His wrath.

*But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world?
Romans 3:5-6*

*This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.
2 Thessalonians 1:5-10*

- He is intolerant of sin.

*... you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions ...
Psalm 45:7*

*You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?
Habakkuk 1:13*

- He is indignant toward sinner.

*The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.
Psalm 5:5-6*

*And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you."
Exodus 32:9-10*

*And Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent of meeting, and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Get away from the midst of this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment." And they fell on their faces. And Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer, and put fire on it from off the altar and lay incense on it and carry it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone out from the LORD; the plague has begun."
Numbers 16:43-46*

*"Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel, in that he was jealous with my jealousy among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in my jealousy."
Numbers 25:11*

*Remember and do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD. Even at Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, and the LORD was so angry with you that he was ready to destroy you.
Deuteronomy 9:7-8*

*"Did not Achan the son of Zerah break faith in the matter of the devoted things, and wrath fell upon all the congregation of Israel? And he did not perish alone for his iniquity."
Joshua 22:20*

*"Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."
2 Kings 22:13*

*He let loose on them his burning anger, wrath, indignation, and distress, a company of destroying angels. He made a path for his anger; he did not spare them from death, but gave their lives over to the plague. He struck down every firstborn in Egypt, the firstfruits of their strength in the tents of Ham.
Psalm 78:49-51*

Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her

out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.
Acts 5:10-11

- He is loving toward all His creation.

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.
1 John 4:16

- We are sinful ...
 - We have denounced His sovereignty.

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.
Genesis 3:6-7

And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness.
Leviticus 16:21

- We have dishonored His holiness.

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes."
Ezekiel 36:22-23

- We have despised His righteousness.

... as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."
Romans 3:10-12

- We have disregarded His wrath.

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Ephesians 2:1-4

- We have _____ denied _____ His love.

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Romans 2:4

- The ultimate problem ...

- How can a just God _____ save _____ rebellious sinners who are due His wrath?

He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD.

Proverbs 17:15

- How can God express His holiness without consuming us in our sin?
- How can God express His love without condoning us in our sin?
- How can God judge sin and justify the sinner at the same time?
- How can God _____ satisfy _____ His character and _____ save _____ our souls at the same time?

How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

Hosea 11:8-9

How the Death of Christ Changed Everything in History Then

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed

over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
Romans 3:23-26

- God satisfied His character by _____ sacrificing _____ His Son in the place of sinners.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus ...
1 Timothy 2:5

- See who Christ is ...

"The possibility of substitution rests on the identity of the substitute."
John Stott

- Jesus is fully _____ man _____.

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
Hebrews 2:17

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.
Luke 2:7

And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.
Luke 2:40

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.
Luke 2:52

Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me."
Matthew 26:38

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet

*without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Hebrews 4:15-16*

*In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,
with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from
death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he
was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.
Hebrews 5:7-8*

- Jesus is fully _____ **God** _____.

*"The doctrine of Christ's divinity seems to me not something stuck on
which you can unstick but something that peeps out at every point
so that you'd have to unravel the whole web to get rid of it."
C.S. Lewis*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the
Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were
made through him, and without him was not any thing made that
was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
John 1:1-4*

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all
things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones
or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and
for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
Colossians 1:15-17*

*For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily ...
Colossians 2:9*

*He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and
he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification
for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high ...
Hebrews 1:3*

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who
is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."
Revelation 1:8*

*"He suffered not as God, but he who suffered was God."
John Owen*

- The person of Christ on the cross ...
 - Not Jesus alone.
 - Not God alone.
 - _____ God _____ in _____ Christ _____.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
Colossians 1:19-20

- See what Christ did ...

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
Luke 19:10

- He lived a _____ sinless _____ life.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.
Hebrews 4:15

You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.
1 John 3:5

- He was obedient.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
John 15:10

- He was righteous.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
1 John 2:1

- He died a _____ substitutionary _____ death.

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the

service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
Hebrews 2:17

- He died in the place of the disobedient.
- He died in the place of the unrighteous.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:6-8

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” ...
Galatians 3:13

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.
1 Peter 2:24

- The ultimate problem solved at the cross ...
 - The totality of God's _____ character _____ was expressed.
 - First and foremost, the cross is a demonstration of the character of God.

This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
Romans 3:25-26

- God's forgiveness of our sin is a threat to His character.

David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.”
2 Samuel 12:13

“Forgiveness is for God the Father the profoundest of problems.”
John Stott

- Before the cross is for anyone else's sake, the cross is for God's sake.

“If I would appreciate the blood of Christ I must accept God's valuation of it, for the blood is not primarily for me but for God.”
Watchman Nee

- The _____ glory of God _____ drove Jesus to the cross.

*"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name."
Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."
John 12:27-28*

- The cross shows us that sin is infinitely offensive.
 - There is no room for self-exaltation at the cross.
 - Everything at the cross is _____ God _____-exaltation.
- The cross shows us that God is infinitely glorious.
 - The cross is not a display of the finite worth of man.
 - The cross is a display of the _____ infinite _____ worth of God.

*Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.
Psalm 85:10*

*O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.
Habakkuk 3:2*

- Salvation through God's _____ Son _____ was achieved.

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21*

- At the cross, God expressed His judgment on sin.
- At the cross, God endured His judgment against sin.
- At the cross, God _____ enabled _____ salvation for sinners.

How the Death of Christ Changes Everything in our Lives Today

*"The gospel is not only the most important message in all of history; it is the only essential message in all of history. Yet we allow thousands of professing Christians to live their entire lives without clearly understanding it and experiencing the joy of living in it."
Jerry Bridges*

- Christ is the _____ basis _____ of our salvation.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
Ephesians 2:4-10

- Faith is the _____ means _____ of our salvation.

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.
Galatians 2:15-16

- By initial faith in Christ, we are made right before God the _____ Father _____.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:1

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.
Romans 5:10-11

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
Romans 8:14-17

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
Galatians 4:4-5

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:1-2

- We experience new birth .

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

John 3:5-8

- God opens our eyes.

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:3

- God changes our heart.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7

... since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God ...

1 Peter 1:23

- God enables our belief.

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:44

When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Acts 11:18

And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.
Acts 14:27

*... and he made no distinction between us and them,
having cleansed their hearts by faith.*
Acts 15:9

One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.
Acts 16:14

- By His grace, we _____ **turn** _____ from our sin and ourselves.

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
Acts 2:38

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out ...
Acts 3:19

- By His grace, we _____ **trust** _____ in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."
Acts 2:36

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."
Acts 16:31

... because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
Romans 10:9

- By continual faith in Christ, we now walk with God as our _____ **Friend** _____.

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that

*I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.
John 15:15*

- We experience new _____ life _____.

*But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.
Galatians 2:17-21*

- Today, we are united with Christ.

*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
John 15:5*

- Christ is in _____ us _____ today.

*To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
Colossians 1:27*

*“Oh, it is joy to feel Jesus living in you; to find your heart all taken up by Him; to be reminded of His love by His seeking communion with you at all times, not by your painful attempts to abide in Him. He is our life, our strength, our salvation ... I am no longer anxious about anything ... for He, I know, is able to carry out His will, and His will is mine. It makes no matter where He places me, or how. That is rather for Him to consider than for me; for in the easiest position He must give me His grace, and in the most difficult His grace is sufficient. So if God should place me in great perplexity, must He not give me much guidance; in positions of great difficulty, much grace; in circumstances of great pressure and trial, much strength. I have no fear that His resources will be unequal to the emergency! And His resources are mine—for He is mine, and is with me and dwells in me.”
Hudson Taylor*

- We are in Christ today.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
2 Corinthians 5:17*

- We _____ live _____ in Christ.

*Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted ...
2 Timothy 3:12*

- We rejoice in Christ.

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
Philippians 4:4*

- We find encouragement in Christ.

*So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
Philippians 2:1-2*

- We find _____ strength _____ in Christ.

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.
Ephesians 6:10*

*So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

*I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13*

- We find confidence in Christ.

*And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
Philippians 1:14*

- We have freedom in Christ.

Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might

bring us into slavery—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.
Galatians 2:4-5

- We have peace in Christ.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:7

- We have _____ wisdom _____ in Christ.

We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute.
1 Corinthians 4:10

- We have victory in Christ.

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.
2 Corinthians 2:14

- We have _____ hope _____ in Christ.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.
Ephesians 1:11-12

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you.
Philippians 2:19

- We obey our parents in Christ.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
Ephesians 6:1

- Wives submit to husbands in Christ.

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
Colossians 3:18

- We agree in Christ.

*I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.
Philippians 4:2*

- We stand in Christ.

*Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.
Philippians 4:1*

*For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord.
1 Thessalonians 3:8*

- We _____ work _____ in Christ.

*Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord.
Romans 16:12*

- We are blessed in Christ.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places ...
Ephesians 1:3*

- We are _____ with _____ Christ today.

*Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.
Romans 6:8*

- We have been crucified with Christ.

*We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.
Romans 6:6*

*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20*

- We have been buried with Christ.

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory

*of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
Romans 6:4*

- We have been resurrected with Christ.

*For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall
certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
Romans 6:5*

*In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by
putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been
buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through
faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you,
who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God
made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses ...
Colossians 2:11-13*

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,
even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by
grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him
in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show
the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
Ephesians 2:4-7*

- We now fellowship with Christ.

*God is faithful, by whom you were called into the
fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
1 Corinthians 1:9*

- We now work with Christ.

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we
might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him,
then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.
2 Corinthians 5:21-6:1*

- We now suffer with Christ.

*... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and
may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death ...
Philippians 3:10*

- We will reign with Christ.

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
Romans 8:16-17

I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.
Philippians 1:23

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.
1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

- Christ is with us today.

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.
1 Corinthians 16:23

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter of mine; it is the way I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
2 Thessalonians 3:16-18

- He is with us in the church.

“Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”
Matthew 18:19-20

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
Romans 16:17-20

- He is with us in the world.

And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.
Acts 18:9-11

- He is with us _____ forever _____.

"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:20

- Today, we are being _____ conformed _____ to Christ.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.
Romans 8:28-30

- A daily _____ struggle _____ ...

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
Galatians 5:16-18

- Mortification of the flesh (*sarx*).

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
Galatians 5:19-21

- Vivification of the Spirit (*pneuma*).

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.
Galatians 5:22-25

But that is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:20-24

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Colossians 3:5-10

What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:15-23

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body

of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.
Romans 7:15-25

- A gradual transformation ...

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
Philippians 2:12-13

- He is transforming our _____ minds _____ today.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:1-2

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ ...
2 Corinthians 10:3-5

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.
Colossians 1:9-10

- He is transforming our emotions today.

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.
1 Peter 2:11

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
1 John 2:15

- He is transforming our _____ wills _____ today.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
Philippians 2:12-13

- He is transforming our bodies today.

What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.
2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

- He is transforming our _____ relationships _____ today.
 - In the church.

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:35

It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!
Galatians 4:18-19

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
Hebrews 10:24-25

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.
1 John 3:16-18

- With the lost.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:18-20

... but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.
1 Peter 3:15-16

- Two daily dangers ...
 - Beware _____ legalism _____.

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?
Galatians 3:1-3

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.
Galatians 5:1-4

- You lose the benefits of Christ.
- You gain the burden of the law.
- You miss the grace of God.

"What can be more insane and wicked than to want to lose the grace and favor of God and to retain the law of Moses, whose retention makes it necessary for you to accumulate wrath and every other evil for yourself?"
Martin Luther

- Beware _____ license _____.

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?
James 2:14

- Gospel truth is never intended only to be *accepted* in our heads; gospel truth is always intended to be *applied* in our lives.

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel ...
Philippians 1:27

- We are not free from Christ; we are free *to* Christ.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20

- We are not free to sin; we are free *from* sin.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.
Romans 6:12-14

- We are not free to flout God's commands; we are free to *follow* God's commands.

... through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations ...
Romans 1:5

- Two daily implications ...
 - We rest with radical confidence in the grace of God.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:28-30

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and

believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:11-14

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

1 John 5:13-15

- We work with radical obedience for the glory of God.

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

Luke 9:23-24

- Works are the evidence of our salvation.

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

James 2:14-26

- Faith compels daily work.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works

in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12-13

- Not negative work that is fueled by the _____ **flesh** _____ to earn favor before God.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."

Galatians 3:10

- But positive work that is fueled by _____ **faith** _____ to bring glory to God.

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Galatians 5:6

- Daily work completes our faith.

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

- God glorifies Himself in salvation that is _____ **free** _____.

"For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

John 3:20-21

- God glorifies Himself in lives that are _____ **full** _____.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
Matthew 5:16

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
John 10:10

- The basis (Christ), the means (faith), and the evidence (works) of our salvation are all ultimately involved in eternal _____ judgment _____ before God.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."
Matthew 7:21

But the one who endures to the end will be saved.
Matthew 24:13

He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.
Romans 2:6-8

... he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.
Colossians 1:22-23

Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.
1 Timothy 4:16

"Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance."
Acts 26:19-20

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you

did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Matthew 25:41-46

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

- The basis (Christ), the means (faith), and the evidence (works) of our salvation are all only possible by everyday _____ grace _____ from God.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:8-10

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Colossians 1:27-29

- God's pleasure in you is NOT based upon your performance for Him.
- God's pleasure in you is based upon _____ Christ's _____ performance for you.

"The law is divine and holy. Let the law have its glory, but yet no law, be it never so divine and holy, ought to teach me that I am justified, and shall live through it. I grant it may teach me that I ought to love God and my neighbor; also to live in love, soberness, patience, etc., but it ought not to show me how I should be delivered from sin, the devil, death, and hell. Here I must take counsel of the gospel. I must hearken to the gospel, which teaches me, not what I ought to do but what Jesus Christ the Son of God hath done for me: that He suffered and died to deliver me from sin and death. The gospel wills me to receive this, and to believe it. And this is the truth of the gospel. Most necessary it is, therefore, that we should know this article well, teach it unto others, and beat it into their heads continually."

Martin Luther

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

1 Corinthians 15:3-10

A GOSPEL FRAMEWORK FOR APPROACHING EVERYDAY LIFE

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:28-31

Living Every Day to Love God with All Your Heart and Soul

- A Call to Daily Prayer

*O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning
I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.*

Psalms 5:3

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

Psalms 63:1-8

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive

others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
Matthew 6:5-15

- Questions About Daily Prayer

- Why do we pray every day?

- To express the depth of our daily _____ need _____ for God.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

- Our conviction every day in prayer: We can do nothing without Him.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

- Our confession every day in prayer: Lord, teach me to pray.

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

Luke 11:1

- To explore the mystery of daily _____ intimacy _____ with God.

Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

Exodus 33:7-11

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house

of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
Hebrews 10:19-22

- Set aside a time.
- Go to a place.
- Receive your reward.
- To experience the _____power_____ of daily being used by God.

“... and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”
Psalms 50:15

Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
John 14:13

- The design of prayer:
 - We get the help.
 - God gets the glory.
- The power of prayer is useless.

Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it.” And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.” And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.
1 Kings 18:25-29

- The power of people who connect with Almighty God is _____unstopable_____.

Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down. Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, “Israel shall be your name,” and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed. And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, “Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.” And he said, “Do it a second time.”

And they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time." And they did it a third time. And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water. And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God."
1 Kings 18:30-39

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.
James 5:16-18

- o Who do we pray to every day?

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."
Matthew 6:9

And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
Luke 11:5-13

- God our Father, who has all _____ authority _____.

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein ...
Psalm 24:1

- He has the supply.

"Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me. I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine."
Psalm 50:7-12

- He has the sovereignty.

"Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me."
Job 42:4

The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.
Psalm 33:10-11

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.
Proverbs 19:21

The Lord of hosts has sworn: "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand ..."
Isaiah 14:24

- God our Father, who is always approachable.

You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."
Psalm 27:8

- God delights in revealing Himself to those who are bold enough to bother Him.
- God invites us to bother Him anytime ...
 - It is never too early.

But I, O Lord, cry to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you.
Psalm 88:13

- It is never too late.

Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice.
Psalm 55:17

- God invites us to bother Him in everything ...

*... pray without ceasing ...
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

- There is nothing too small.

*For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands.
Nehemiah 6:9*

- There is nothing too great.

*"For nothing will be impossible with God."
Luke 1:37*

- God our Father, who is ever active.

*But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."
John 5:17*

- The picture we need to see ...

- God is not asleep.

*Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.
Isaiah 40:28-31*

- The privilege we need to embrace ...

- Intercession is the means by which we participate in the daily activity of God in other people's lives.

And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you." But Moses implored the Lord his God and

said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the Lord relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.
Exodus 32:7-14

Therefore he said he would destroy them—had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him, to turn away his wrath from destroying them.
Psalm 106:23

- The promise we need to remember ...
 - Prayer to God is never, ever in _____ vain _____.

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.
Jeremiah 33:3

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"
Matthew 7:7-11

- What do we pray for every day?
 - The daily secret to prayer:
 - Make your wants God's wants.

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Psalm 37:4

- Ask for _____ whatever _____ you want.

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
John 15:7

- Our daily requests in prayer:
 - Ask God for His _____ glory _____.

*Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
Matthew 6:9-10*

- Our Great God ...
 - He is the Sovereign Father.
 - He is the _____ Holy _____ One.

*Therefore you are great, O Lord God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.
2 Samuel 7:22*

*And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.
Ezekiel 36:23*

- He is the Coming King.
- Our Consistent Cry ...
 - Cause people to hallow Your name.
 - Bring people to submit to Your _____ kingdom _____.
 - Enable people to obey Your will.
- Ask God for His _____ gifts _____.

*Give us this day our daily bread ...
Matthew 6:11*

- He satisfies our hunger on a daily basis.

*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."
John 6:35*

- He sustains our faith on a daily basis.

*And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.
Deuteronomy 8:3*

- Ask God for His _____ grace _____.

... and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:12

o Experience His forgiveness ...

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Psalms 51:3-4

- Continually
- Specifically

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Psalms 66:18

o Extend His forgiveness.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:14-15

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Matthew 18:21-35

- Ask God for His _____ guidance _____.

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Matthew 6:13*

- He gives protection amidst temptation we face.

*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
1 Corinthians 10:13*

- He gives perseverance amidst trials we encounter.

*... for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
James 1:3-8*

- An alternate way to think about daily prayer ...
 - **P** _____ raise _____: Worship God for who He is.
 - **R** _____ epent _____: Confess your sin to God and acknowledge your need for Jesus.
 - **A** _____ sk _____: Intercede for particular needs in your life and others' lives.
 - **Y** _____ ield _____: Surrender your life to following Jesus wherever and however He leads you.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed! For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and

shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!
Psalm 84:1-12

Living Every Day to Love God with All Your Mind and Strength

- Fill your mind daily with truth from God's Word.
 - Why we often don't read, study, and memorize the Bible ...
 - "I don't see how the Bible really applies to my life."
 - "I've tried, but I just don't know how to study the Bible."
 - "I'm not a professional; isn't that the pastor's job?"
 - "I just don't have time."
 - "I'm not sure if the Bible is even true."
 - "To be honest, it just seems boring to me."
 - Why we must daily read, study, and memorize the Bible ...
 - Because it's essential for growth and maturity.

About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.
Hebrews 5:11-14

*Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk,
that by it you may grow up into salvation ...*
1 Peter 2:2

- Because it's vital for life and ministry.

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
Joshua 1:8

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.
Matthew 4:1-11

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness ...
2 Timothy 3:16

- Because it's key to _____ joy _____ and satisfaction.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
Psalms 19:7-11

In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.
Psalms 119:14

I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.
Psalms 119:16

Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.
Psalms 119:24

Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!
Psalms 119:40

... for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love.
Psalms 119:47

Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my sojourning.
Psalms 119:54

*The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.
Psalm 119:72*

*Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.
Psalm 119:97*

*Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart.
Psalm 119:111*

*I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.
Psalm 119:162*

- Dangerous approaches to daily Bible reading ...
 - The emotional approach: What feels right to me?
 - The spiritual approach: What deep, hidden meaning is there for me?
 - The pragmatic approach: What works best for me?
 - The superficial approach: What does this mean to me?
- A dependable approach to daily Bible reading ...
 - REAP: Read, Examine, Apply, Pray
 - **R**ead _____.

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."
Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

- Read the Bible prayerfully (we never study the Bible alone).

*Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.
1 Corinthians 2:12-14*

- Read the Bible humbly (we want to know God!).

Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."

Jeremiah 9:23-24

- Read the Bible carefully (we want to understand it rightly).

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

- Read the Bible joyfully (we want to experience it fully).

I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!

Psalms 119:32

- Read the Bible _____ confidently _____ (the Holy Spirit is in you!).

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."

John 14:15-17

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 16:13-15

- Read the Bible diligently (knowing God deeply doesn't happen overnight).
- Read the Bible consistently (don't skip over certain parts).
- Read the Bible expectantly (read with a way to record your thoughts).

And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

1 Samuel 3:10

- Read the Bible _____ personally _____.

I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.
Psalm 119:15-16

- You will fall in love with the Author of the Book.

I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules.
Psalm 119:7

- You will find true life under the authority of the Book.

Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!
Psalm 119:40

- As you read, memorize ...

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
Psalm 119:11

- Key verses.
- Key passages.
- Key chapters.
- Spend concentrated time _____ learning _____.
- Spend continual time _____ reviewing _____.
- **E** _____ examine _____.
 - What is happening in this passage?
 - What words, phrases, or ideas seem particularly important?
 - What does this text teach you about the _____ gospel _____?
 - About God?

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
Ephesians 1:15-23

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
Colossians 1:9-14

o About man?

*And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done."
Genesis 8:21*

*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
Hebrews 4:12-13*

o About who Christ is and why we need Him?

*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"
Luke 24:27-32*

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been

announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

1 Peter 1:10-12

- About trusting and following Christ?

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Romans 10:17

- About the hope of heaven and the horror of hell.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40:8

▪ **A** _____ pply _____.

- What sin(s) do I need to repent of and/or avoid?

Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Psalms 19:12-13

- What truth(s) do I need to believe?

"... and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:32

- What _____ command(s) _____ do I need to obey (what do I need to give up, stop doing, start doing, or continue doing)?

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

James 1:22-25

- What principle(s) need to change the way I think, speak, and/or act, and how will I implement this change?

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be

transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:1-2

- What relationship(s) do I need to establish, strengthen, or change?

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another."
John 15:12-17

- By the power of God's Spirit, what can I do _____ today _____ to apply God's Word to my life?
 - **P**_____ray_____.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
Colossians 3:16-17

- Sharpen your mind daily with truth in God's _____ world _____.

I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.
Psalms 119:15

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ ...
2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- Read and study widely and _____ wisely _____.

Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
Proverbs 1:5-7

Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you.
Proverbs 4:5-6

*Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he
who walks in wisdom will be delivered.*
Proverbs 28:26

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.
1 Corinthians 3:18-23

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.
Colossians 2:8

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.
1 John 4:1-3

- Listen and learn _____ humbly _____ and continually.

*Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but
he who rejects reproof leads others astray.*
Proverbs 10:17

An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.
Proverbs 18:15

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
Philippians 4:8

- Avoid the _____ pattern _____ of this world.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:1-2

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.
Romans 1:21-25

- Disordered worship.
- Disordered thought.
- Disordered desire.
- Disordered behavior.

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.
Romans 1:28

- Think as _____pilgrims_____ in this world.

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.
1 Peter 2:11

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of

the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.
2 Corinthians 3:17-4:7

- Continually savor the person of Christ in all things.

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ ...
2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- Humbly depend on the _____ Spirit _____ of Christ in all things.

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
John 16:7-15

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."
John 16:33

- Constantly focus on the mission of Christ in all things.

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.
Hebrews 11:13-16

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.
Hebrews 13:8-14

- Take care of your body daily as a temple of God's Spirit.

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- Your body has been created by God.
 - Your body is invaluable to Him.

"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.
1 Corinthians 6:13-14

- He has made an eternal investment in it.

Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15:51-57

- Your body has been purchased by Christ.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute?

*Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh."
But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.
1 Corinthians 6:15-17*

- He has united you with Himself.
 - Christ took on a new body like us.
 - Christ gave His body for us.
- He has set us free to ...
 - Enjoy God's great purpose for our bodies.
 - Exalt God's great glory in our bodies.

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31*

- Your body has been filled by the Spirit.

*Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
1 Corinthians 6:18-20*

- The temple ...
 - The place where God's presence dwells among His people.
 - The place where God's holiness draws the nations to Himself.
- Our bodies ...
 - We possess His presence in our bodies.
 - We display His holiness through our bodies.
- Honor God with what you wear.

*I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.
1 Timothy 2:8-10*

- Adorn yourself with modest dress.

*Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.
Romans 14:13*

- Do not draw attention to physical beauty.

*And behold, the woman meets him, dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart.
Proverbs 7:10*

- Do not draw attention to worldly wealth.

*“Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes,
and love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in
the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts ...”
Luke 20:46*

- Adore God through a _____ Christ-like
demeanor.

*Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman
who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Proverbs 31:30*

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see
your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
Matthew 5:16*

*Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting
on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning
be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a
gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.
1 Peter 3:3-4*

- Honor God with what you _____ eat _____.
 - God created us to eat.

*And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is
on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall
have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the
heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the
breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.
Genesis 1:29-30*

*And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna,
which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might
make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man
lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.
Deuteronomy 8:3*

*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."
John 6:35*

- God _____ cares _____ about what we eat.

*And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
Genesis 2:16-17*

*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.
Genesis 3:6-7*

*"Speak to the people of Israel, saying, These are the living things that you may eat among all the animals that are on the earth."
Leviticus 11:2*

*And the pig, because it parts the hoof but does not chew the cud, is unclean for you. Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch.
Deuteronomy 14:8*

But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king." Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see." So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables. As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. And the king spoke with them,

and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.

Daniel 1:8-20

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.

One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Romans 14:1-4

Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

1 Corinthians 8:13

- God condemns excessive eating.

Be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters of meat for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and slumber will clothe them with rags.

Proverbs 23:20-21

*If you have found honey, eat only enough for you,
lest you have your fill of it and vomit it.*

Proverbs 25:16

Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it.

Ezekiel 16:49-50

“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.”

Amos 6:4-7

For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is

their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.
Philippians 3:18-19

- So control ...
 - _____ Why _____ you eat.

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31

- How and _____ what _____ you eat.

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- And even _____ who _____ you eat around.

When you sit down to eat with a ruler, observe carefully what is before you, and put a knife to your throat if you are given to appetite. Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food.
Proverbs 23:1-3

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
Romans 13:14

For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?
1 Corinthians 5:11

- And crave ...
 - The day when we will see the King.

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."
Matthew 26:26-29

- The _____ feast _____ we will enjoy in His kingdom.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
Isaiah 25:6

The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the Lord.
Isaiah 65:25

- Honor God in how you _____ exercise _____.

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.
3 John 1:2

- Be careful not to _____ ignore _____ the care of your body.

She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.
Proverbs 31:17

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- Be careful not to _____ idolize _____ the care of your body.

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."
1 Samuel 16:7

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.
1 Timothy 4:6-10

- Keep _____ control _____ of your body daily in accordance with God's will.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:1-2

But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
1 Corinthians 9:27

- o A biblical expression of physical denial: Fast regularly.

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”
Matthew 6:16-18

- Why fast regularly?
 - Because we're hungry for God's Word in our lives.

But he answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”
Matthew 4:4

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”
John 4:31-34

*Because we're hungry for God's power in His church.
Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth
that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but
God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*
Psalms 73:25-26

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid

their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.
Acts 13:1-4

And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
Acts 14:23

- Because we're hungry for God's _____glory_____ in all nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.
Isaiah 62:1-7

- When we fast regularly ...
 - We express our _____delight_____ in God's glory.

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.
Psalm 63:1-8

- More than we enjoy food, we enjoy God.

"Thus says the Lord of hosts: The fast of the fourth month and the fast of the fifth and the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth shall be to the house of Judah

seasons of joy and gladness and cheerful feasts. Therefore love truth and peace.”
Zechariah 8:19

- We confess our _____ need _____ for
God's grace.

*Consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants
of the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord.*
Joel 1:14

*Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the
people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children,
even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.*
Joel 2:15-16

- More than we need a meal, we need His mercy.

*Then all the people of Israel, the whole army, went up and came to Bethel
and wept. They sat there before the Lord and fasted that day until evening,
and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord.*
Judges 20:26

*Then Ezra withdrew from before the house of God and went to the chamber of
Jehohanan the son of Eliashib, where he spent the night, neither eating bread
nor drinking water, for he was mourning over the faithlessness of the exiles.*
Ezra 10:6

- We seek and _____ submit _____ to God's will.

*Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble
ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves,
our children, and all our goods. For I was ashamed to ask the king for a
band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way,
since we had told the king, "The hand of our God is for good on all who
seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him." So we
fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty.*
Ezra 8:21-23

*As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for
days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.*
Nehemiah 1:4

*Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer
and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.*
Daniel 9:3

- More than we want our hunger to cease, we want His kingdom to come.

*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Matthew 6:10*

- We anticipate the _____ return _____ of God's Son.

*Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."
Matthew 9:14-15*

- More than our stomachs long to be full, our souls long to see Christ.

*He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
Revelation 22:20*

- A biblical expression of physical discipline: _____ Flee _____ sexual immorality.

*"If we could transport Christians from almost any other century to any of today's 'Christian' countries in the West, I believe what would surprise them most (besides our phenomenal affluence) is how at home Christians are with sexual impurity. It doesn't shock us. It doesn't upset us. It doesn't offend our consciences. In fact, unless it's really bad, sexual impurity seems normal, just a way of life, and downright entertaining."
Kevin DeYoung*

*Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
1 Corinthians 6:18-20*

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever

*disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.
1 Thessalonians 4:3-8*

- Everyday application ...

"The simplest way to understand porneia is to think about the things that would make you furious and heartbroken if you found out someone was doing them with your husband or your wife. If someone shook your wife's hand you would not be upset. If someone gave a casual side hug to your husband it probably wouldn't bother you. A kiss on the cheek or even a peck on the lips in some cultures might be appropriate. But if you found out another person had sex with your wife or saw her naked or touched certain parts of her body you would be furious. If you found another person made out with your husband or talked about sexual activities or made certain gestures you would be heartbroken. Why? Because these are all activities that are appropriate for a married couple but are inappropriate when practiced outside of the lawful relationship of a man and a woman in marriage. Any sexual activity between those who are not married, or between two men, or between two women, or among more than two persons, or between family members, or between those married to other people – any sexual activity in these contexts is sin and can be included in the prohibitions against porneia."

Kevin DeYoung

- Eternal exhortation ...

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell."

Matthew 5:27-30

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Living Every Day to Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

- Remember the work of the Father and the Son ...

But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.

John 5:17-21

- Jesus knew that God the Father was working.
- Jesus knew that apart from the Father, He could do nothing.
- Jesus looked and listened to know where and how the Father was working.
- Jesus joined the Father wherever and however He was working.

"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

John 12:27-28

"And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

John 12:50

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

John 15:10

- Jesus knew that the Father involved Him in His work because the Father loved Him.

As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.

John 6:57

"I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

John 8:38

"I and the Father are one."

John 10:30

- Jesus knew that the Father's everyday work in Him had eternal ramifications.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."

John 5:25-29

- Consider the work of the Spirit in your life ...

"Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father."

John 14:10-12

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."

John 14:15-17

"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

John 14:25-26

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning."

John 15:26-27

"But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment ..."

John 16:5-8

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 16:13-15

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."

John 17:20-23

- Be aware ...
 - God is already at work in the lives of people around you.
- Be available ...
 - God desires to include you in His work.
- Be alert ...
 - Look and listen for evidence of God at work.
- Be active ...
 - Sacrifice your agenda each day to join God wherever and however He is working.
- Be amazed ...
 - Remember that God has involved you in His work not because He needs you, but because He loves you.
- Be assured ...
 - God's work in and through your life will bear fruit that will last forever.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12-13

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

- A husband's daily approach to his wife.
- A wife's daily approach to her husband.
- A parent's daily approach to children.
- A single's daily approach to others.
- A Christian's daily approach to other Christians.
- A Christian's daily approach to non-Christians.

A husband's daily approach to his wife ...

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ...

Ephesians 5:25

- Reflect Christ through daily _____ **sacrifice** _____ for your wife.

Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.

Luke 22:26

- _____ **Love** _____ your wife daily.

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Ephesians 5:33

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

Colossians 3:19

- Love her selflessly.

When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.

Deuteronomy 24:5

- Provide for her.

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Timothy 5:8

... for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

1 Thessalonians 4:10-12

Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

Proverbs 6:6-11

- **Protect her.**

"And is there any man who has betrothed a wife and has not taken her? Let him go back to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man take her." And the officers shall speak further to the people, and say, "Is there any man who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go back to his house, lest he make the heart of his fellows melt like his own."

Deuteronomy 20:7-8

When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.

Deuteronomy 24:5

Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed before your brothers and shall help them ...
Joshua 1:14

Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go." And she said, "I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. And Barak called out Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. And 10,000 men went up at his heels, and Deborah went up with him.
Judges 4:8-10

So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."
Nehemiah 4:13-14

A sword against her horses and against her chariots, and against all the foreign troops in her midst, that they may become women! A sword against all her treasures, that they may be plundered!
Jeremiah 50:37

Behold, your troops are women in your midst. The gates of your land are wide open to your enemies; fire has devoured your bars.
Nahum 3:13

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ...
Matthew 2:13-14

- Love her _____ effectively _____.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
Ephesians 5:25-27

- Husbands are responsible for leading marriages to be holy.
- Husbands are responsible for leading wives to be lovely.

- Love her carefully.

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

Ephesians 5:28-30

- Nourish her.
- Cherish her.

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1 Peter 3:7

- Love her _____ completely _____.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:39

- Husbands, as Christ serves you each day, _____ outserve _____ your wife each day.

But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:43-45

A wife's daily approach to her husband ...

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Ephesians 5:22-24

- Revere Christ through daily _____ submission _____ to your husband.

*Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
Colossians 3:18*

*Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.
1 Peter 3:1-6*

- Respect your husband daily.

*However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.
Ephesians 5:33*

- _____ Help _____ your husband daily.

*Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."
Genesis 2:18*

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet. She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.
Proverbs 31:10-31

- That he might trust you with his heart.

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.
Proverbs 31:10-11

- That he might trust you with his household.

She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
Proverbs 31:13-16

She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet.
Proverbs 31:21

She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Proverbs 31:27

Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.
Titus 2:3-5

- That he might trust you with his good.

She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.
Proverbs 31:12

Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.
Proverbs 31:23

- Wives, as Christ serves you each day, _____ observe _____ your husband's leadership each day.

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

1 Peter 3:1-2

A parent's daily approach to children ...

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-4

- Two primary commands ...
 - Daily instruct your children so they know the Word.

Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way. The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him."

Genesis 18:16-19

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,

and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
Deuteronomy 6:6-9

- We must have a verbal commitment to the Word in our homes.
- We must have a visible commitment to the Word in our homes.
- What we do ...
 - We _____ teach _____ the Scriptures.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast ...
Psalm 78:2-8

- We tell the stories.

I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph. When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled. The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side. The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook.
Psalm 77:11-20

- We _____ warn _____ against sinfulness.

The Ephraimites, armed with the bow, turned back on the day of battle. They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law. They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them. In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan. He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap. In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light. He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like

... rivers. Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert. They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved.

Psalm 78:9-22

- We exalt the Savior.

And David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. For the waves of death encompassed me, the torrents of destruction assailed me; the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I called. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry came to his ears. Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations of the heavens trembled and quaked, because he was angry. Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him. He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet. He rode on a cherub and flew; he was seen on the wings of the wind. He made darkness around him his canopy, thick clouds, a gathering of water. Out of the brightness before him coals of fire flamed forth. The LORD thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered his voice. And he sent out arrows and scattered them; lightning, and routed them. Then the channels of the sea were seen; the foundations of the world were laid bare, at the rebuke of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils. He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters. He rescued me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my support. He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me."

2 Samuel 22:1-20

- Help in doing it ...
 - A simple guide for _____ family _____ worship ...
 - _____ Read _____ the Word together.
 - Include your children.
 - Explain difficult concepts.
 - Discuss the Word together.
 - _____ Pray _____ together.
 - _____ Sing _____ together.
 - Memorize together.
 - A few suggestions for family worship ...
 - If the father is not a Christian ...
 - Mother, take initiative in a non-_____ offensive _____, non-threatening way.
 - If the mother is not a Christian ...

- Father, take initiative with compassion and _____ sensitivity _____.
- In a single parent home ...
 - Trust God's _____ grace _____ to supply your need.
- Incorporating children ...
 - Keep it _____ simple _____.
 - Make it enjoyable.
 - Involve them throughout.
 - Shepherd their _____ hearts _____.
- Inevitable benefits of family worship ...
 - It brings _____ glory _____ to God.
 - It produces joy in the home.
 - It affects change in the _____ world _____.

"I am content to fill [just] a little space if God be glorified No one can, without renouncing the world, in the most literal sense, observe my method; and there are few, if any, that would entirely devote above twenty years of the prime of life in hopes to save the souls of their children, which they think may be saved without so much ado; for that was my principal intention, however unskillfully and unsuccessfully managed."

Susanna Wesley

- What we hope ...
 - That they will know God in their minds.

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

Jeremiah 9:23-24

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Psalms 111:10

- That they will trust God in their _____ hearts _____.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

- That they will obey God in their lives.

*And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments;
this is the commandment, just as you have heard from
the beginning, so that you should walk in it.
2 John 1:6*

- Daily train your children so they obey the Word.

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when
he is old he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6*

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training
us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled,
upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope,
the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ ...
Titus 2:11-13*

*For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord.
1 Thessalonians 3:8*

- Our children will not be what they cannot see.

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.
1 Corinthians 11:1*

*What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—
practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
Philippians 4:9*

- One primary caution ...
 - Daily discipline your children with love that leads them toward God, not with anger that leads them away from God.

*Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who
loves him is diligent to discipline him.
Proverbs 13:24*

*Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will
not die. if you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.
Proverbs 23:13-14*

*And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son,
do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by
him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom
he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you*

as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:5-11

- One particular encouragement ...

Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

Proverbs 31:23-31

- A mom who fears the Lord, honors her husband, and nurtures her children on a daily basis is worthy of deep praise.

"Few women realize what great service they are doing for mankind and for the kingdom of Christ when they provide a shelter for the family and good mothering—the foundation on which all else is built. A mother builds something far more magnificent than any cathedral—the dwelling place for an immortal soul (both her child's fleshly tabernacle and his earthly abode). No professional pursuit so uniquely combines the most menial tasks with the most meaningful opportunities. It is hard to locate an aging mother who believes she made a mistake of pouring her life into her children, and it would certainly be more difficult to find a child to testify that his mother loved him and poured herself into his life to his detriment and demise. Homemaking—being a full-time wife and mother—is not a destructive drought of usefulness but an overflowing oasis of opportunity; it is not a dreary call to contain one's talents and skills but a brilliant catalyst to channel creativity and energies into meaningful work; it is not a rope for binding one's productivity in the marketplace, but reins for guiding one's posterity in the home; it is not oppressive restraint of intellectual prowess for the community, but a release of wise instruction to your own household; it is not the bitter assignment of inferiority to your person, but the bright assurance of the ingenuity of God's plan for complementarity of the sexes, especially as worked out in God's plan for marriage; it is neither limitation of gifts available nor stinginess in distributing the benefits of those gifts, but rather the

multiplication of a mother's legacy to the generations to come and the generous bestowal of all God meant a mother to give to those He entrusted to her care."
Dorothy Patterson

A child's daily approach to parents ...

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
Ephesians 6:1

- Two primary commands ...
 - Daily honor your parents with your _____ attitude _____.

Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death.
Exodus 21:15

Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.
Exodus 21:17

Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.
Leviticus 19:3

- Daily obey your parents with your _____ actions _____.
 - Hear what they say.

Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.
Proverbs 1:8-9

- Do what they say.

The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.
Proverbs 30:17

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
Colossians 3:20

- One primary caution ...
 - To dishonor or disobey your parents is to _____ rebel _____ against God.

"If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them, then his father and his mother shall take hold of him

and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives, and they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear."
Deuteronomy 21:18-21

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.
Romans 1:28-32

A single's daily approach to others ...

- Remember how singleness portrays the gospel.
 - Marriage portrays ...
 - Christ's sacrificial love for the church.
 - The church's submissive obedience to Christ.
 - Singleness portrays ...
 - The Christian's ultimate identity in Christ .

For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.
Isaiah 54:5

You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, "I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him." The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete.
John 3:28-29

"Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
Revelation 19:7-8

I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.
1 Corinthians 7:35

*Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple."
Luke 14:25-26*

*"There is joy, joy found in nowhere else, when we can look up into Christ's face when He says to us, 'Am I not enough for thee, Mine own?' with a true, 'Yes, Lord, thou art enough.'"
Amy Carmichael*

- The Christian's eternal identification with the _____ church _____.

*For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.
Matthew 22:30*

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ...
Ephesians 2:19-22*

*I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.
1 Timothy 3:14-15*

- Take daily advantage of the _____ times _____ you're in.

*Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that.
1 Corinthians 7:25-28*

- Maximize daily opportunities in the _____ mission _____ you're on.

The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of

the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."

Matthew 19:10-12

"Being single has meant that I am free to take risks that I might not take were I a mother of a family dependent on me. Being single has given me freedom to move around the world without having to pack up a household first. And this freedom has brought to me moments that I would not trade for anything else this side of eternity."

Rhena Taylor

"The first advantage [of being single] is that it's best adapted to perilous situations In rugged life among primitive tribes, in guerrilla-infested areas, or in disease and famine, the single man has only himself to worry about Paul claims that being single and male best fits the "shortness" of the time. Doing God's work is a momentary thing. Advantages and opportunities come and go very quickly. The single lifestyle enables one to get the most out of the time God gives for his work One of my chief delights is that I don't have to fit my ministry around a family schedule. I don't have to be home at a certain time each night. My time is the Filipinos' time."

Trevor Douglas

- Daily guard against competing _____ affections _____.

I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

- Guard against unholy sexual desires all day long.

"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute?

Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality.

Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

1 Corinthians 6:13-18

- Guard against unholy _____ selfish _____ desires all day long.

*And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."
Matthew 22:37-40*

*"Apart from sexual temptation, the greatest danger which I think we face [as singles] is self-centeredness. We may live alone and have total freedom to plan our own schedule, with nobody else to modify it or even give us advice. If we are not careful, we may find the whole world revolving around ourselves."
John Stott*

*"Today singleness is cherished by many because it brings maximum freedom for self-realization. You pull your own strings. No one cramps your style. But Paul cherished his singleness because it put him utterly at the disposal of the Lord Jesus The contemporary mood promotes singleness (but not chastity) because it frees from slavery. Paul promotes singleness (and chastity) because it frees for slavery—namely slavery to Christ."
John Piper*

- Daily give Christ undivided _____ devotion _____.

*I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.
1 Corinthians 7:35*

*"Single people experience the great joy of being able to devote themselves, with concentration and without distraction, to the work of the Lord."
John Stott*

- Give yourselves every day to a _____ single _____ desire ...
 - To use God's good gift for God's great glory among all nations.

*"My most earnest of all pleas to singles is abandonment of the self, surrender to Christ of all unfulfilled longings, an unequivocal willingness to receive whatever God assigns, and a determination to practice the sacrificial principle of Isaiah 58:10-11. Life becomes not only far simpler, but surprisingly joyful and free."
Elisabeth Elliot*

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as

the noonday. And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.
Isaiah 58:10-11

A Christian's daily approach to other Christians ...

- Care for one another.
 - As you receive mercy from God ...

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:1-2

- ... reflect mercy toward one another.

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.
Romans 12:9-13

- Love one another.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:34-35

- Host one another.

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.
1 Peter 4:9

- Greet one another.

All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.
1 Corinthians 16:20

- Receive one another.

*Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.
Romans 15:7*

- Honor one another.

*Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.
Romans 12:10*

- Serve one another.

*For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom
as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
Galatians 5:13*

- Instruct one another.

*I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full
of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.
Romans 15:14*

- Wait for one another.

*So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another ...
1 Corinthians 11:33*

- Forgive one another.

*... bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another,
forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
Colossians 3:13*

- Submit to one another.

*... submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
Ephesians 5:21*

- Spur on one another.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works ...
Hebrews 10:24*

- Promote peace with one another.

*Be at peace among yourselves.
1 Thessalonians 5:13*

- Bear one another's burdens.

*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2*

- Encourage one another.

*Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

- Comfort one another.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.
2 Corinthians 1:3-7*

- Pray for and confess to one another.

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
James 5:16*

- Esteem one another.

*Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
Philippians 2:3*

- Edify one another.

*So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.
Romans 14:19*

- Teach one another.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
Colossians 3:16

- Be kind to one another.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32

- Serve alongside one another.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.
Romans 12:3-8

If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.
1 Corinthians 12:15-26

- We are members of a family where everyone counts .
 - No one is inferior.
 - We guard against self-deprecation: "You don't need me."

- No one is superior.
 - We guard against self-exaltation: "I don't need you."
- No need to compare.
- No need to copy.
- We are members of a family where everyone _____ contributes _____.
- Give to one another.

And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Acts 2:45

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 4:32-37

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply

your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

- Continually prioritize care for the _____ poor _____.

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
James 2:14-17

- Intentionally maximize your resources, not in excessive luxuries for yourself, but in extravagant _____ love _____ for others.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.
1 Timothy 6:17-19

- Restore one another.

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load.
Galatians 6:1-5

- Step One: _____ Private _____ correction.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother."
Matthew 18:15

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
Ephesians 4:29-32

- Step Two: _____ Small group _____ clarification.

But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.
Matthew 18:16

“A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.”
Deuteronomy 19:15

- Step Three: Church _____ admonition _____.

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
Matthew 18:17

- Step Four: Church _____ excommunication _____.

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what

have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."
1 Corinthians 5:1-13

- The goal of church discipline is spiritual restoration.

My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.
James 5:19-20

- Be humble.

Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.
Proverbs 19:11

- Be biblical.

But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.
Titus 3:9

- Is there sin that is dishonoring God?
- Is there sin that is damaging the gospel?

This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.
1 Timothy 1:18-20

Their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.
2 Timothy 2:17-18

- Is there sin that is hurting the unity of the church?

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.
Romans 16:17-18

But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

Titus 3:9-11

- Is there sin that is hurting the _____ witness _____ of the church?

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world ...

Philippians 2:14-15

- Be pure.

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Matthew 7:5

- Examine your life.
- Examine your motives.
- Be _____ prayerful _____.

... correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:25-26

- Be quiet.

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Ephesians 4:29

- Be quick.

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:23-24

- Be _____ Christ-like _____.

"Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of

you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”
Matthew 18:18-20

A Christian’s daily approach to non-Christians ...

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.
Colossians 4:2-6

- We daily relinquish our _____ rights _____ for the sake of the gospel.

Do we not have the right to eat and drink? Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living?
1 Corinthians 9:4-6

If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.
1 Corinthians 9:12

But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting.
1 Corinthians 9:15

What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.
1 Corinthians 9:18

- See the example of Paul ...
 - He had a right to financial support from the church at Corinth.
 - He surrendered this right for the sake of the _____ gospel _____ in Corinth.
- Hear the exhortation to you ...
 - You have rights every day where you live and in the world around you ...
 - To life, friends, marriage, family, safety, security, health, and happiness.

- To eat, drink, watch, wear, read, study, listen to, and say whatever you want.
- To organize your schedule, spend your time, choose your career, make your money, use your money, take your vacation, and plan your retirement.
- To do what you want to do, go where you want to go, and live how you want to live.
 - The cross compels you to surrender your rights every day for the sake of the gospel where you live and in the world around you.
- We daily rearrange our schedules for the spread of the gospel.

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.
 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

- We are slaves of God.

For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship.
 1 Corinthians 9:16-17

- We are obligated to obey.

I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
 Romans 1:14-16

- God's gracious conversion of us creates a gospel compulsion in us.

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.
 2 Corinthians 5:14-16

- We are slaves of others.
 - We wisely _____ contextualize _____ the truth of the gospel for others' lives.

*If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?
Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything
rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.
1 Corinthians 9:12*

- We continually _____ communicate _____ threads of the gospel in our lives.
 - The Character of God
 - The Sinfulness of Man
 - The Sufficiency of Christ
 - The Necessity of Faith
 - The Urgency of Eternity

The Character of God ...

- Knowing this Gospel Thread ...
 - God is the holy, just, and gracious _____ Creator _____ of all things.
 - God is holy.
 - God is perfectly unique, completely separate, and absolutely pure.

*"I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King."
Isaiah 43:15*

- God is just.
 - God justifies the innocent and condemns the guilty.

*He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the
righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD.
Proverbs 17:15*

- God is gracious.
 - God shows the guilty free and unmerited favor.

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people ...
Titus 2:11*

- Weaving this Gospel Thread into Everyday Conversations ...
 - Talking about God as Creator ...
 - Acknowledge the glory of God in creation every chance you have.

- Acknowledge the _____ presence _____ of God in specific facets of your life.
 - God is working in my life (in this way) ...
 - God is blessing me (in this way) ...
 - God is leading me (in this direction) ...
 - God is guiding me (to make this decision) ...
 - God is teaching me (this truth) ...
 - God is showing me (this realization) ...
- Talking about the holiness of God ...
 - Speak about God with reverential _____ awe _____.
 - Speak about yourself with genuine humility.
 - Draw attention to attributes that distinguish God from people in this world.
 - Draw attention to ways in which God reigns above the gods of this world.
- Talking about the justice of God ...
 - Express confidence in God before others even when things go wrong.
 - Express remorse before God and others when you do something wrong.
 - As you work for justice in the world, speak about the _____ Judge _____ of the world.
 - As you observe evil and suffering in the world, speak with hope about the world to come.
- Talking about the grace of God ...
 - Constantly point out evidences of God's grace in and around you.
 - Consistently credit God as the source of everything _____ good _____ in and around you.
 - Continually acknowledge your need for God's grace.
 - Unceasingly express your gratitude for God's grace.

The Sinfulness of Man ...

- Knowing this Gospel Thread ...
 - We are each created by God, but we are all _____ corrupted _____ by sin.
 - We have rebelled against God.

"All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

Romans 3:12

- We have all turned away from God to ourselves.
 - Manifested in self-indulgence.

- Manifested in self-righteousness.
- What we thought would lead to freedom has led each of us into slavery.
- We are separated from God.

*... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...
Romans 3:23*

- The effects of our sin are varied ...
 - Guilt.
 - Shame.
 - Fear.
- What we think is a relatively minor issue is actually an infinitely major problem.
- We are dead without God.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God
is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 6:23*

- What we thought would lead to life has led each of us to death.
 - Eventual physical death.
 - Eternal spiritual death.
- We are completely unable to save ourselves.
- Weaving this Gospel Thread into Everyday Conversations ...
 - Speak _____ respectfully _____ to and about all people as individuals created in the image of God.
 - Look intentionally for opportunities to encourage others by the grace of God.
 - Share confidently in view of the regenerating power of God.
 - Talking about our rebellion ...
 - Acknowledge the reality of sin in and around you.
 - Acknowledge the _____ root _____ of sin in and around you.
 - Speak honestly about our propensity to sin.
 - Talk about sin in all of its forms.
 - Talk about sin in light of its force.
 - Talking about our separation ...
 - Speak humbly about the _____ seriousness _____ of sin.
 - Let the effects of sin inform the way you talk about salvation ...
 - In conversations about guilt, talk about forgiveness in Christ.
 - In conversations about shame, talk about honor in Christ.
 - In conversations about fear, talk about _____ freedom _____ in Christ.
 - Talking about our deadness ...
 - Respond to the death of non-Christians ...

- With appropriate honor, biblical honesty, personal humility, heart-breaking anguish, and life-giving resolve.
- Respond to the death of Christians ...
 - With profound sorrow, abiding joy, sincere worship, and unshakeable hope.
- Constantly point to our dependence on God.
- Constantly point to our desperation for God.

The Sufficiency of Christ ...

- Knowing this Gospel Thread ...
 - Jesus alone is able to remove our sin and restore us to God.
 - Jesus lived the life we could not live.
 - He was fully tempted by sin and fully triumphed over sin.

*You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.
1 John 3:5*

- Jesus died the death we deserve to die.
 - At the cross, God expresses His judgment upon sin, endures His judgment against sin, and enables salvation for sinners.

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.
1 Peter 2:24*

- Jesus conquered the enemy we cannot conquer.
 - He is Lord over life and death, sin and Satan, and you and me.

*... and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.
Revelation 1:18*

- Weaving this Gospel Thread into Everyday Conversations ...
 - Intentionally talk about Jesus.
 - Talking about Jesus' life ...
 - Look for opportunities to highlight Jesus' example for us.
 - Look for opportunities to acknowledge Jesus' work in us.
 - Look for opportunities to point out Jesus' identification with us.
 - Talking about Jesus' death ...
 - Never stop emphasizing the gravity of sin.
 - Never stop talking about your gratitude for Christ.
 - Talking about Jesus' resurrection ...

- Speak about _____ difficulties _____ with hope.
- Speak about death with joy.
- Talking with Pluralist Paul ...
 - Highlight the all-important distinctions between taste, tradition, and _____ truth _____.
- Talking with Open-Minded Olivia ...
 - Explain the pursuing _____ love _____ of God in the perceived narrowness of the gospel.
- Talking with Nominal Nancy ...
 - Point out how a _____ privatized _____ faith in a resurrected Christ is practically impossible.

The Necessity of Faith ...

- Knowing this Gospel Thread ...
 - We can be restored to God only through _____ faith _____ in Jesus.
 - We turn from our sin and ourselves.

*... and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
Mark 1:15*

- We trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

*... because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
Romans 10:9*

- Weaving this Gospel Thread into Everyday Conversations ...
 - Take advantage of every opportunity you have to tell your _____ story _____.
 - Keep it simple.
 - Keep it focused ...
 - On the greatness of God.
 - On the threads of the gospel.
 - Keep it understandable.
 - Be humble and prayerful.
 - Be passionate and be yourself.
 - Talking about restoration ...
 - In conversations about guilt, talk about forgiveness in Christ.
 - In conversations about shame, talk about honor in Christ.
 - In conversations about fear, talk about freedom in Christ.
 - Talking about turning ...
 - Point to the mercy of Christ when people around you see their sin.

- Point to the presence of Christ when people around you come to the _____ end _____ of themselves.
- Talking about trusting ...
 - Encourage people around you to see the _____ lordship _____ of Christ.
 - Urge people around you to receive the love of Christ.
- Talking with children about faith ...
 - Maximize _____ interaction _____.
 - Utilize illustration.
 - Use repetition.
 - Constantly emphasize the threads of the gospel.
 - Continually encourage a _____ posture _____ of turning and trusting.
- Talking with cultural Christians about faith ...
 - Ask thought-provoking _____ questions _____.
 - Avoid (or at least clearly define) over-familiar terms.
 - Invite them to study the _____ Bible _____ with you.
 - Expose them to good, gospel-saturated community and resources.
 - _____ Boldly _____ and graciously call them to turn and trust.
 - Intentionally and humbly weave gospel threads.

The Urgency of Eternity ...

- Knowing this Gospel Thread ...
 - Our eternal _____ destiny _____ hinges on our response to Jesus.
 - Hell is a dreadful reality for those who turn from Jesus.
 - A place of continual rebellion, final separation, and eternal duration.

... in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might ...
2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

- Heaven is a glorious reality for those who trust in Jesus.
 - A place of full reconciliation, complete resurrection, and ultimate reunion.

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ ...
Philippians 3:20

- Will you turn from Jesus or will you trust in Jesus?

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

- Weaving this Gospel Thread into Everyday Conversations ...
 - Minimize your conversations about temporal things.
 - Maximize your conversations about eternal things.
 - Talking about hell ...
 - Speak about God's character with humble confidence.
 - Speak about God's judgment with healthy fear.
 - Speak about God's wrath with honest compassion.
 - Talking about heaven ...
 - Talk like this world is not your hope.
 - Live like this world is not your home.
 - Talk about your anticipation of being with God.
 - Talk about your realization that dying is gain.
 - CALLing people to turn and trust ...
 - **C** larify the gospel.
 - **A** sk ...
 - If they have any questions.
 - If they have ever turned from their sin and themselves and trusted in Jesus as Savior and Lord.
 - If they would like to turn from their sin and themselves and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord now.
 - **L** et the Holy Spirit work.
 - Invite them to call out to God to save them.
 - Be willing to let them be alone with God.
 - **L** ead them as a new follower of Christ.
 - We don't want to manufacture decisions.
 - We do want to make disciples.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

- We daily run this race for the glory of our God.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize?

So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things.

They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run

aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- The daily requirements in this race ...
 - Sacrificial self-denial.
 - Stringent self-discipline.
 - Single-minded _____ devotion _____.

And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.
Acts 20:22-24

- The ultimate rewards of this race ...
 - Others will experience the eternal joy of salvation.
 - We will fulfill the earthly _____ purpose _____ of salvation.

For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy.
1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

THE CROSS AND WAKING

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!
Psalm 113:3

*O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning
I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.*
Psalm 5:3

*Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust.
Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.*
Psalm 143:8

*When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. Enoch
walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had
other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years.
Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.*
Genesis 5:21-24

*These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man,
blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.*
Genesis 6:9

The Bad News ...

- Countless people are confused and wondering, "How do I find God's will for my life?"

The Good News ...

- God's will is not _____lost_____.

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
Ephesians 5:17

The Bottom Line ...

- God desires for me to follow His will so much that He _____lives_____ in me to accomplish it.

*For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the
Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For
all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*
Romans 8:13-14

*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ
who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in*

*the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20*

*But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
Galatians 5:18*

Contemporary Methods for Discovering the Will of God ...

- The Striking Coincidence Method.
- The Random Finger Method.

*But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
Romans 8:25*

- The Miraculous Event Method.

*Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
Exodus 3:1-6*

- The Cast the Fleece Method.

*Then Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said." And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water.
Judges 6:36-38*

- The Open Door Method.

*But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.
1 Corinthians 16:8-9*

When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.
2 Corinthians 2:12-13

- The Closed Door Method.

And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.
Acts 20:22-24

- The Still Small Voice Method.

And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
1 Kings 19:11-13

A Biblical Method for Discovering the Will of God ...

- The Read Your Bible Method.

"I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."
Psalm 40:8

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:2

... give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:18

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.
1 Peter 2:15

Remember the Two Wills of God ...

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Genesis 50:20

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”

Acts 2:22-23

- God’s secret will: What He decrees in the world.

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Psalms 139:16

... even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

Ephesians 1:4

... for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

Acts 4:27-28

- Nothing happens apart from God’s activity.

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

James 4:13-16

- Nothing happens accidentally.

For to the snow he says, ‘Fall on the earth, ’likewise to the downpour, his mighty downpour. He seals up the hand of every man, that all men whom he made may know it. Then the beasts go into their lairs, and remain in their dens. From its chamber comes the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds. By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen fast. He loads the thick cloud with moisture; the clouds scatter his lightning. They turn around and around by his

guidance, to accomplish all that he commands them on the face of the habitable world. Whether for correction or for his land or for love, he causes it to happen.
Job 37:6-13

“Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in their thicket? Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God for help, and wander about for lack of food?”
Job 38:39-41

He makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away.
Job 12:23

Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass ...
Job 14:5

But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.” My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!
Psalms 31:14-15

I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.
Jeremiah 10:23

The LORD of hosts has sworn: “As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand ...”
Isaiah 14:24

o Everything happens purposefully.

“Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”
Isaiah 43:5-7

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.
Colossians 1:16

- God's revealed will: What He declares in His Word.

- o Be saved.

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

- o Be Spirit-filled.

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit ...

Ephesians 5:17-18

- o Be sanctified.

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality ...

1 Thessalonians 4:3

- o Be _____ submissive _____.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

- Knowing God's will is secondary to simply knowing _____ God _____.
- The will of God is not a roadmap; it is a _____ relationship _____ whereby Christ gradually overtakes our will to become one with His will.
 - The question is no longer, "God, what is Your will for my life?"
 - The question is now, "God, what is Your will in the world, and how can I align my life today with it?"

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Matthew 6:9-13

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and

of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
Matthew 28:18-20

So How Do I Make Daily Decisions?

- Commune with God in _____ worship _____.

*O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning
I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.*
Psalm 5:3

*Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust.
Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.*
Psalm 143:8

- Consult the _____ Word _____ of God.

“I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”
Psalm 40:8

- Does God's revealed will (i.e., Scripture) prohibit a certain action?
 - Will a certain action cause you to neglect a command in God's revealed will (i.e., Scripture)?
 - If the Word addresses it, obey the Word!
- Exercise _____ wisdom _____.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
James 1:5-8

- Pray confidently.
- Gather information.
- Consider all your options.
- Seek godly counsel.
- Choose wisely.

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the

LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you ...
Proverbs 2:1-11

- Do what you want !

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Psalm 37:4

*And the world is passing away along with its desires, but
whoever does the will of God abides forever.*
1 John 2:17

Two Final Words ...

- Surrender every single day.

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."
Luke 9:23-24

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20

- Abide all throughout the day.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.
John 15:4-11

THE CROSS AND WORKING

"If you're like most people, you spend a significant portion of every week of your life at your job. You also spend quite a lot of time thinking about your job.

What do I need to do next? How do I maximize profit, or how do I solve that problem, or how do I communicate this need? It may well be that at least some of your thoughts about your job are not just about operations. They're about the meaning of it all. Why am I doing this? What's the purpose of it, and do I want to keep doing it? How is this job affecting me as a human being, making my life better or worse? Is it all worth it, and why? Those are good questions, of course. But if you're a Christian, there's another set of questions that is even more important—questions that have to do with how your work fits into God's intentions for your life. Is my work shaping my character in a godly direction? How can I do my work, not just as a way to put food on the table, but as a sold-out disciple of Jesus? What the point of work, anyway, in a Christian's life? Is there any meaning to it beyond providing goods and services, making money, and providing a living for myself and my family? And why, for that matter, does God have us spend so much of our lives doing this one particular thing?"

Greg Gilbert and Sebastian Traeger

Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:22-24

- Consider who God is ...
 - God _____delights_____ in work.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Genesis 1:1-5

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills; they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell; they sing among the branches. From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart. The trees of the LORD

are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers. He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep about. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they steal away and lie down in their dens. Man goes out to his work and to his labor until the evening.

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it. These all look to you, to give them their food in due season. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground. May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works, who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!

Psalm 104:10-32

When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.

Proverbs 8:27-31

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

John 16:7-11

- *He works for us and He works through us.*

"When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to give us this day our daily bread. And he does give us our daily bread. He does it by means of the farmer who planted and harvested the grain, the baker who made the flour into bread, [and] the person who prepared our meal. God could easily give you grain and fruit without plowing and planting, but he does not want to do so God milks the cows through the vocation of the milk maids."

Martin Luther

- God designed our work.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.
Genesis 1:26-30

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
Genesis 2:15-17

Six days you shall labor, and do all your work ...
Exodus 20:9

"Work is so foundational to our makeup that it is one of the few things we can take in significant doses without harm. Indeed, the Bible does not say we should work one day and rest six, or that work and rest should be balanced evenly—but directs us to the opposite ration. Leisure and pleasure are great goods, but we can only take so much of them. If you ask people in nursing homes or hospitals how they are doing, you will often hear that their main regret is that they wish they had something to do, some way to be useful to others."
Tim Keller

- By His grace, for our good, and for His glory.

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.
Ephesians 6:5-8

Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of

*heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.
Colossians 3:22-24*

- Consider who we are ...
 - Work is a mark of our dignity .

*O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
Psalm 8:1-9*

*"If God came into the world, what would he be like? For the ancient Greeks, he might have been a philosopher-king. The ancient Romans might have looked for a just and noble statesman. But how does the God of the Hebrews come into the world? As a carpenter."
Philip Jensen*

- We are stewards of creation.

*And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.
Genesis 1:29-30*

- We are developers of culture .

"Farming takes the physical material of soil and seed and produces food. Music takes the physics of sound and rearranges it into something beautiful and thrilling that brings meaning to life. When we take fabric and make a piece of clothing, when we push a broom and clean up a room, when we use technology to harness the forces of electricity, when we take an unformed, naïve human mind and teach it a subject, when we teach a couple how to resolve their relational disputes, when we take simple materials and turn them into a poignant work of art—

[in all these things] we are continuing God's work of forming, filling and subduing ... [and] we are following God's pattern of creative cultural development."
Tim Keller

"Look at the chair you are lounging in ... Could you have made it for yourself? ... How would you get, say, the wood? Go and fell a tree? But only after first making the tools for that, and putting together some kind of vehicle to haul the wood, and constructing a mill to do the lumber and roads to drive on from place to place? In short, a lifetime or two to make one chair! ... If we ... worked not forty but one-hundred-forty hours per week we couldn't make ourselves from scratch even a fraction of all the goods and services that we [now] call our own. Our paycheck turns out to buy us the use of far more than we could possibly make for ourselves in the time it takes us to earn the check ... Work ... yields far more in return upon our efforts than our particular jobs put in Imagine that everyone quits working, right now! What happens? Civilized life quickly melts away. Food vanishes from the shelves, gas dries up at the pumps, streets are no longer patrolled, and fires burn themselves out. Communication and transportation services end, utilities go dead. Those who survive at all are soon huddled around campfires, sleeping in caves, clothed in raw animal hides. The difference between [a wilderness] and culture is simply, work."
Lester DeKoster

"If we look externally, there is difference between washing dishes and preaching the Word of God, but as touching to please God, there is no difference at all. That's a biblical view of work, that there's no difference when done to the honor of the Lord between preaching and washing the dishes."
William Tyndale

"Simple physical labor is God's work no less than the formulation of theological truth."
Tim Keller

- o Work has been marred by our depravity.

To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." And to Adam he said "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."
Genesis 3:16-19

- Though work was designed to be fulfilling, it is frustrating.

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

Romans 8:20-22

- Though work was designed to be purposeful, it feels pointless.

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:2-3

I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity. There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

- Though work was designed to be selfless, it becomes selfish.

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."

Genesis 11:1-4

- Two primary distortions of work:
 - The idolatry of work ...

"You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or

that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me ..."

Exodus 20:3-5

"Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let myself be consulted by them? Therefore speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Any one of the house of Israel who takes his idols into his heart and sets the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to the prophet, I the LORD will answer him as he comes with the multitude of his idols, that I may lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel, who are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations. For any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel, who separates himself from me, taking his idols into his heart and putting the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to a prophet to consult me through him, I the LORD will answer him myself."

Ezekiel 14:3-7

Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist.

Proverbs 23:4

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and

brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”
Mark 10:17-31

- We overvalue work, thinking that it provides ultimate meaning.
- We fail to see God's limits for our work.
- We resist rest.
- Idleness in work ...

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”
Exodus 20:8-11

Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.
Proverbs 6:6-11

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
Ephesians 4:28

Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.
2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

- We undervalue work, thinking that it has little to no meaning.
- We fail to see God's purposes for our work.
- We prioritize _____ retirement _____.
- Consider the cross ...

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

Romans 3:21-30

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:3-14

- Christ's work has secured our _____ salvation _____ (freeing us to rest in His work as the only superior work).

*"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:28-30*

*"It is pure invention that Pope, bishops, priests, and monks are called the 'spiritual estate' while princes, lords, artisans, and farmers are called the 'temporal estate.' This is indeed a piece of deceit and hypocrisy. Yet no one need be intimidated by it, and that for this reason: all Christians are truly of the spiritual estate, and there is no difference among them except that of office (vocation) ... We are all consecrated priest—'You are [all] a royal priesthood' (2 Pet. 2:9). A cobbler, a smith, a farmer, each has the work and office of his trade, and yet they are all alike consecrated priests, and everyone by means of his own work or office must benefit and serve every other."
Martin Luther*

- Christ's work has secured our _____ **satisfaction** _____ (freeing us from the idolatry of work).

*"Christ's work provides an anchor for your soul. Without it, it's inevitable that you'll be blown around like a leaf by the winds of stock market gyrations, temporary successes and failures, performance reports, bosses who do or don't treat you well, and your own desires, whether they are met or not."
Greg Gilbert and Sebastian Traeger*

- Christ's work has secured our _____ **significance** _____ (freeing us from idleness in work).
- Consider our everyday jobs ...
 - We are free to _____ **worship** _____ God wholeheartedly as we work.

*And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment."
Matthew 22:37-38*

- Work competently (with excellence).

*Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.
Ephesians 6:5-9*

Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.
Colossians 3:22-24

- Work honorably (with _____ integrity _____).

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.
Romans 12:10

- Work humbly (with respect).

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus ...
Philippians 2:3-5

- Work eagerly (with _____ joy _____).

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.
Philippians 2:14-16

"Do you ever experience satisfaction or enjoyment in your work? If not, it might be worth thinking about why you don't. Do you lack enjoyment in your job because you idolize it, expecting it to do things for you that only Jesus can do? Or is it because you've lost sight of the purposes for which God has called you to work in the first place, and you've become idle in your work? You don't necessarily have to enjoy the mechanics of what you do in order to find a measure of enjoyment and satisfaction in your work. Maybe your job is cleaning on the grease pits in a hydraulics factory and you work in a non-air-conditioned metal warehouse in the brutal 110-degree heat of East Texas. Hardly anyone can be expected to enjoy the mechanics of that particular job. Yet if this describes your work, you can still find satisfaction and enjoyment in it by doing your job well and knowing you are doing it for the King's glory and as an expression of love for him."
Greg Gilbert and Sebastian Traeger

- We are free to _____ love _____ others selflessly in and through our work.

*“And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”
Matthew 22:39-40*

*Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you ...
1 Thessalonians 4:9-11*

- Provide for your family.

*But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
1 Timothy 5:8*

- Serve your co-workers and customers.
- Better our world.
- Care for the needy.

*“At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release. And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor. He shall not exact it of his neighbor, his brother, because the LORD’s release has been proclaimed. Of a foreigner you may exact it, but whatever of yours is with your brother your hand shall release. But there will be no poor among you; for the LORD will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess—if only you will strictly obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all this commandment that I command you today. For the LORD your God will bless you, as he promised you, and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow, and you shall rule over many nations, but they shall not rule over you. If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be. Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, ‘The seventh year, the year of release is near,’ and your eye look grudgingly on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the LORD against you, and you be guilty of sin. You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’”
Deuteronomy 15:1-11*

And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Acts 2:45

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 4:32-37

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Ephesians 4:28

- We are free to _____ trust _____ God completely with our work.

Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established. The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

Proverbs 16:3-4

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30

- Be confident in His reign.
- Be responsible with your rest.
- Be focused on His _____ reward _____.

... knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:24

- Consider the eternal effects of everyday work ...
 - We are looking forward to a new earth ...
 - Where everyone and everything will _____ work _____ perfectly.

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.

As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

1 Corinthians 15:42-49

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 21:1-4

- We are living now for the sake of eternity ...
 - Work hard to adorn the gospel of God.

Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

Titus 2:9-10

- Work strategically to advance the mission of God.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

- Build meaningful relationships.
- Weave gospel threads.
- Engage unreached peoples.

And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the

regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

Acts 8:1-4

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus.

Acts 11:19-20

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Acts 13:1-4

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

Acts 16:6-15

And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him,

reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 19:8-10

"It was perhaps the most extensive missionary movement ever since the first centuries. Certainly it was the most extensive in Protestantism. Beginning before any of the great Awakenings and before the great mission societies formed in Great Britain and the US, it was instrumental in all these events. Before 1800 Moravians had taken the Good News to Indonesia, Ceylon, India, Central Asia, Russia, Lapland, The Gold Coast of Africa, South Africa, Greenland, Labrador, the colonies in North America, several Indian tribes in North America, black slaves in North America and the Caribbean, and Indians in the Caribbean and South America. They also had works amongst the Jews and Muslims of Europe! All this with none of the western institutions which are considered essential today and in less than 80 years! The Moravians were committed to propagating the Christian faith wherever they were and to go to wherever God called them. Their membership included many with crafts, skills and business ability, which opened up doors of opportunity to work in other parts of the world. They would often set out in small bands of two or three after having sought the Lord and determined that He had called them to a particular place. They would settle there, learn the local language and customs and trade and develop businesses, sharing their faith and gathering the faithful into communities. Very few are well known names to the world today. It was truly "grass roots" in that simple believers drawn along by the Holy Spirit would go as God directed in small teams and begin to preach the gospel and gather those who would follow into simple communities. Truly this was a movement like the movement of the first centuries of the Church."

Dick Scoggins, on the Moravian Missionary Movement

THE CROSS AND PLAYING

- Biblical Foundations ...

- Hobbies are a good _____ gift _____ from a gracious God given to us for the glory of God.

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
Genesis 1:31

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein ...
Psalm 24:1

"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof."
1 Corinthians 10:23-26

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
James 1:17

- Sin includes taking that which is good and turning it into a _____ god _____.

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.
Romans 1:21-25

- Good gifts make _____ lousy _____ gods.

Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.
Jeremiah 2:12-13

- Idols always disappoint.

“Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let myself be consulted by them? Therefore speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Any one of the house of Israel who takes his idols into his heart and sets the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to the prophet, I the LORD will answer him as he comes with the multitude of his idols, that I may lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel, who are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations. For any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel, who separates himself from me, taking his idols into his heart and putting the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to a prophet to consult me through him, I the LORD will answer him myself. And I will set my face against that man; I will make him a sign and a byword and cut him off from the midst of my people, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

Ezekiel 14:3-8

- Idols ultimately _____ **destroy** _____.

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

“Thousands have trodden the path you are pursuing (they have fought hard for wealth, and honor, and office, and promotion, and turned their backs on God, and Christ, and heaven, and the world to come) and have awoke too late to find it end in misery and eternal ruin.”

J.C. Ryle

- Personal Examination ...

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test.

2 Corinthians 13:5-6

- Examine your _____ **heart** _____.

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said

to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."
Matthew 22:34-40

- Examine your mind.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
Philippians 4:8

"The true god of your heart is what your thoughts effortlessly go to when there is nothing else demanding your attention."
Tim Keller

- Examine your conversations.

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.
Luke 6:45

- Examine your _____ emotions _____.

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.
Psalm 63:1-8

"Our external delights, our earthly pleasures, our ambition, our reputation, and our human relationships, for all these things, our desires are eager, our appetites strong, our love warm and affectionate. When it comes to these things, our hearts are tender and sensitive, deeply impressed, easily moved, much concerned and greatly engaged. We are depressed at our losses and we are excited and joyful about any worldly success or prosperity. But when it comes to spiritual matters, how dull we feel. How heavy and hard our hearts; we can sit in here of the infinite height and length and breadth and love of

God in Christ Jesus, of his giving his infinitely dear Son, and yet sit there, cold and unmoved. If we are going to be excited about anything, shouldn't it be our spiritual lives? Is there anything more inspiring, more exciting, more loveable and desirable in Heaven or on Earth than the Gospel of Jesus Christ? We should be utterly humbled that we are not more emotionally affected than we are."

Jonathan Edwards

- Examine your use of money.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21

- Examine your use of time.

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

Colossians 4:5

- Examine your perspective.

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

- Practical Application ...

- Use hobbies to draw attention to God's greatness.

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

- Maximize hobbies for their intended purpose (as a way to worship God).

"God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure."

Eric Liddell

- Keep hobbies in their proper place (far behind your family and your church ... and a host of other things).

*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.*

Matthew 6:33

- Use hobbies to express _____ appreciation _____ for God's grace.
 - Intentionally and continually offer thanks to God.

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- Let the enjoyment of hobbies lead to ever-increasing affection for God.
- Use hobbies to grow in _____ sanctification _____.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30

- Cultivate humility.

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

James 4:6

Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."

Isaiah 66:1-2

- Demonstrate honor.

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Romans 12:10

- Develop self-_____ discipline _____.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run

aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- Maintain self-_____control_____.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
Galatians 5:22-24

- Model self-sacrifice.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
Philippians 2:3-8

- Value growth in _____godliness_____ over personal achievement.

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.
1 Timothy 4:7-8

“Our children will pursue what we applaud. They will emulate what we celebrate. If we celebrate scoring and winning, then our children will define success in these terms. But if we celebrate evidences of godly character in our children, we will help them define success [far] more biblically.”
C.J. Mahaney

“Every practice and every game is an opportunity to lead our children. Often, as parents, we think we have fulfilled our duty by simply attending our children’s games and cheering. Not so! We are called to so much more. Informed by the gospel, we are called to lead our children wisely. Before the game, this [means] preparing them to keep biblical priorities in mind while they play. After the game, this [means] celebrating their expressions of godly character more than we celebrate their skill for the final score. Every moment our children spend in sports is a teaching moment.”
C.J. Mahaney

- Prioritize what really matters in eternity over what seems to matter on earth.

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

Revelation 20:11-12

- Use hobbies to lead others to salvation .

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Colossians 4:2-6

**THE CROSS AND LISTENING, WATCHING,
READING, TEXTING, SENDING, RECEIVING,
POSTING, TWEETING, INSTAGRAMMING,
BLOGGING, MESSAGING, TUMBLING,
LIKING, POKING, FOLLOWING,
UNFOLLOWING, EMAILING, SNAPPING,
CHATTING, VINING, NETWORKING,
AND ALL SORTS OF OTHERING**

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31*

*"Let self be forgotten. Let your eye be fixed on God. Let the promotion
of his glory be your object in all you do. Strive in everything to act in such
a way that men may praise that God whom you profess to serve."
Charles Hodge*

*"No single piece of our mental world is to be hermetically sealed off from
the rest, and there is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human
existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'"
Abraham Kuyper*

**10 Cross-Centered Commandments for
Entertainment and Social Media**

*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ
who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in
the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20*

- _____ Fear _____ God.

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.
Proverbs 1:7*

*The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.
Proverbs 15:3*

*"And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life
crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your
foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with
two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is*

better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'"

Mark 9:43-48

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

1 Peter 1:13-19

- Flee sexual immorality.
 - Flee sexual lust (having wrong sexual desires yourself).

But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:28

"You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Exodus 20:14-17

They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children!

2 Peter 2:14

- Flee sexual immodesty (provoking wrong sexual desires in others).

It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.

Romans 14:21

... likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

1 Timothy 2:9-10

- o Flee sexual allurement (including inappropriate emotional attachment) outside of marriage.

*Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.
Proverbs 4:23*

*My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge. For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.
Proverbs 5:1-6*

*And now, O sons, listen to me, and be attentive to the words of my mouth. Let not your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths, for many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death.
Proverbs 7:24-27*

- o Flee sexual looking outside of marriage.

*"I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin? What would be my portion from God above and my heritage from the Almighty on high? Is not calamity for the unrighteous, and disaster for the workers of iniquity? Does not he see my ways and number all my steps?"
Job 31:1-4*

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell."
Matthew 5:27-29*

*"When men fight with one another and the wife of the one draws near to rescue her husband from the hand of him who is beating him and puts out her hand and seizes him by the private parts, then you shall cut off her hand. Your eye shall have no pity."
Deuteronomy 25:11-12*

*Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.
Hebrews 13:4*

"We have to take a hard look at the things we choose to put in front of our faces. If there was a couple engaged in sexual activity on a couch in front of you, would you pull up a seat to watch? No, that would be perverse, voyeuristic. So why is it different when people recorded it first and then you watch? What if a good-looking guy or girl, barely dressed, came up to you on the beach and said, "Why don't you sit on your towel right here and stare at me for awhile?" Would you do it? No, that would be creepy. Why is it acceptable, then, when the same images are blown up the size of a three-story building?"

Kevin DeYoung

- o Flee _____ entertainment _____ that exalts, glamorizes, jokes around about, and/or makes light of sex outside of marriage.

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.

Ephesians 5:3-12

"It's one thing to describe evil or even depict it. I'd never suggest that good writing or film making must avoid the subject of sin. There are many thoughtful, tasteful movies, television shows, plays, musicals, and books out there—and the good ones usually deal with sin. Sin by itself is not the problem. The Bible is full of rank immorality. It would be simplistic and morally untenable—even unbiblical—to suggest you cannot watch sin or read about sin without sinning yourself. But the Bible never titillates with its description of sin. It never paints vice with virtue's colors. It does not entertain with evil (unless to mock it). The Bible does not dull the conscience by making sin look normal and righteousness look strange. And there are no pictures of plunging necklines. If we're honest, we often seek exposure to sexual immorality and temptations to impurity and call it 'innocent' relaxation. Commenting on Ephesians 5:3, Peter O'Brien observes that, as Christians, we should not only shun all forms of sexual immorality, we should 'avoid thinking and talking about them.' Even our jesting should be pure, lest we show 'a dirty mind expressing itself in vulgar conversation.' If, as O'Brien remarks, 'talking and thinking about sexual sins 'creates an atmosphere in which they are tolerated and which can . . . promote their practice,' how can we justify paying money to see, taste, and laugh at sexual sin? How can we stare at sensuality which aims to amuse and arouse and weaken

our conscience and deaden our sense of spiritual things (even if it is on ordinary cable or only rated PG-13)? We must consider the possibility that much of what churchgoing people do to unwind would not pass muster for the apostle Paul. Not to mention God. Brothers and sisters, we must be more vigilant. With our kids, with our families, with our Facebook accounts, with our texts, with our tweets, with our own eyes and hearts. Are we any different than the culture? Have we made a false peace with ourselves whereby we have said, we won't do the things you do or be as sensual as you are, but we will gladly watch you do them for us? The kinds of things Paul wouldn't even mention, the sort of sins he wouldn't dare joke about, the behaviors too shameful to even name—we hear about them in almost every sitcom and see them on screens bigger than our homes. Here is worldliness as much as anywhere in the Christian life. Try turning off the television and staying away from the movies for a month and see what new things you see when you come back.

I fear many of us have become numb to the poison we are drinking. When it comes to sexual immorality, sin looks normal, righteousness looks very strange, and we look a lot like everybody else.”

Kevin DeYoung

- Speak _____wisely_____.

As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man.

Proverbs 27:19

“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”

Matthew 12:33-34

Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud: “To you, O men, I call, and my cry is to the children of man.”

Proverbs 8:1-4

“And now, O sons, listen to me: blessed are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD, but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death.”

Proverbs 8:32-36

- Think before you speak.

*When words are many, transgression is not lacking,
but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.
Proverbs 10:19*

*Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion.
Proverbs 11:22*

*Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he
who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.
Proverbs 13:3*

*The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but
the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.
Proverbs 15:28*

*Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when
he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.
Proverbs 17:28*

*A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.
Proverbs 18:2*

*Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.
Proverbs 21:23*

*Like the glaze covering an earthen vessel are fervent lips with an evil heart.
Proverbs 26:23*

*A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.
Proverbs 29:11*

*Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There
is more hope for a fool than for him.
Proverbs 29:20*

*Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak,
slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.
James 1:19-20*

*So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great
a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of
unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole
body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every
kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been
tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless*

evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.
James 3:5-10

- Will what I say _____ adorn _____ the gospel?

To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!
Proverbs 15:23

Righteous lips are the delight of a king, and he loves him who speaks what is right.
Proverbs 16:13

Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.
Proverbs 16:24

At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.
Colossians 4:3-6

Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.
Titus 2:9-10

- Will what I say _____ glorify _____ God?

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.
Psalms 19:14

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
Matthew 5:13-16

- Avoid evil and _____ angry _____ speech.

*The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the
mouth of the wicked conceals violence.
Proverbs 10:11*

*There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
Proverbs 12:18*

*A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.
Proverbs 15:18*

*A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating.
Proverbs 18:6*

*It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling.
Proverbs 20:3*

*The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue, angry looks.
Proverbs 25:23*

- Avoid retaliatory and inflammatory speech.

*The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out.
Proverbs 17:14*

*Do not say, "I will repay evil"; wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you.
Proverbs 20:22*

*Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will
despise the good sense of your words.
Proverbs 23:9*

*Whoever meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one
who takes a passing dog by the ears.
Proverbs 26:17*

*As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is
a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.
Proverbs 26:21*

*Scoffers set a city aflame, but the wise turn away wrath.
Proverbs 29:8*

- Avoid _____gossip_____ and slander.

*The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool.
Proverbs 10:18*

*A worthless man plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire. A
dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.
Proverbs 16:27-28*

*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for
building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the
day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and
slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
Ephesians 4:29-32*

- Avoid grumbling and _____ complaining_____.

*Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and
innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and
twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world ...
Philippians 2:14-15*

- Avoid saying on a screen what you wouldn't say in _____ person_____.

*For even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building
you up and not for destroying you, I will not be ashamed. I do not want to appear
to be frightening you with my letters. For they say, "His letters are weighty and
strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account." Let such a
person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present.
2 Corinthians 10:8-11*

- Communicate _____ honestly_____.

*Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit.
There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise
brings healing. Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.
Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace have
joy. No ill befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble. Lying lips
are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight.
Proverbs 12:17-22*

*All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.
Proverbs 16:2*

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will perish.
Proverbs 19:9

Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.
Proverbs 25:14

Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.
1 Corinthians 4:5

- Cultivate _____ humility _____.

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.
Proverbs 11:2

Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?
Proverbs 20:6

Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, lest the LORD see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from him.
Proverbs 24:17-18

Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.
Proverbs 27:2

One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.
Proverbs 29:23

If you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if you have been devising evil, put your hand on your mouth.
Proverbs 30:32

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"
Mark 8:34-36

For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy ...
2 Timothy 3:2

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
James 4:6-10

- Have _____ accountability _____.

And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless, lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner, and at the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed, and you say, "How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors."
Proverbs 5:7-13

A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.
Proverbs 13:1

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.
Proverbs 19:20

Cease to hear instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.
Proverbs 19:27

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.
Proverbs 27:17

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works ...
Hebrews 10:24

- Maintain _____ mastery _____.

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.
1 Corinthians 6:12

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under

the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.
Galatians 5:16-26

- Guard your _____ heart _____.

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.
Proverbs 4:23

- From envy and jealousy.

But godliness with contentment is great gain ...
1 Timothy 6:6

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:11-13

- From pride and ambition.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
Philippians 2:3-4

- From unhealthy friendships and unhelpful _____ associations _____.

My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse"—my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood.
Proverbs 1:10-16

Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on.
Proverbs 4:14-15

One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.
Proverbs 12:26

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.
Proverbs 13:20

Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."
1 Corinthians 15:33

- Renew your _____ mind _____.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:2

- Beware falsehood.

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.
Romans 16:17-18

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.
Colossians 2:8

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions ...
2 Timothy 4:3

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.
2 Peter 2:1

- Beware _____ filth _____.

I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me.

Psalm 101:3

... delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil, men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways. So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words, who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the departed; none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life. So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous. For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it, but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

Proverbs 2:12-22

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:8

- Beware frivolity.

Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

Proverbs 12:11

The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly.

Proverbs 15:14

Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I am only joking!"

Proverbs 26:18-19

... for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:24-25

- Redeem your _____ time _____.

*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,
making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.
Ephesians 5:15-16*

*Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so
is the sluggard to those who send him.
Proverbs 10:26*

*In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.
Proverbs 14:23*

*Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.
Proverbs 19:15*

*I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, and
behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles,
and its stone wall was broken down. Then I saw and considered it; I looked and
received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to
rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.
Proverbs 24:30-34*

*Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who
follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.
Proverbs 28:19*

- **Make the most of every opportunity.**

*So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and
in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of
the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said,
“What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher
of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.
Acts 17:17-18*

*Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.
Colossians 4:5*

- **Don't neglect other _____ priorities _____.**

*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.
Matthew 6:33*

- **Your time at work.**

For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.
2 Thessalonians 3:11-12

▪ **Your time to rest.**

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.
Psalms 127:2

And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.
Mark 6:32

▪ **Your time with _____ people _____.**

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
Matthew 22:39

- Friends.
- Family.

▪ **Your time with _____ God _____.**

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
Matthew 22:37

... pray without ceasing ...
1 Thessalonians 5:17

THE CROSS AND RESTING

"Sleep is a daily reminder from God that we are not God. Once a day God sends us to bed like patients with a sickness. The sickness is a chronic tendency to think we are in control and that our work is indispensable. To cure us of this disease God turns us into helpless sacks of sand once a day. How humiliating to the self-made corporate executive that he has to give up all control and become as limp as a suckling infant every day."

John Piper

Rest in the Old Testament ...

- God _____rested_____ after He created.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Genesis 2:1-3

- God commanded rest for His people every seventh _____day_____.

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."

Exodus 20:8-11

- To cease from self-sufficiency.
- To trust in divine grace.

"For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield, but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the beasts of the field may eat. You shall do likewise with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard."

Exodus 23:10-11

And the LORD said to Moses, "You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you. You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from

among his people. Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed."
Exodus 31:12-17

- God commanded rest for the land every seventh _____ year _____.

The LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the LORD. For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the LORD. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard."
Leviticus 25:1-4

... for you have not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance that the LORD your God is giving you.
Deuteronomy 12:9

- God promised rest in a _____ land _____ according to His people's obedience.

And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."
Exodus 33:14

"Remember the word that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land.' Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed before your brothers and shall help them, until the LORD gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they also take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and shall possess it, the land that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise."
Joshua 1:13-15

"Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant."
1 Kings 8:56

*For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways."
Therefore I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest."
Psalm 95:10-11*

- God provided rest from their _____ enemies _____ according to His people's righteousness.

*So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.
Joshua 11:23*

*Now the name of Hebron formerly was Kiriath-arba. (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim.) And the land had rest from war.
Joshua 14:15*

*And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands.
Joshua 21:44*

*A long time afterward, when the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their surrounding enemies, and Joshua was old and well advanced in years ...
Joshua 23:1*

*So the land had rest forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.
Judges 3:11*

*So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel.
And the land had rest for eighty years.
Judges 3:30*

*"So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might." And the land had rest for forty years.
Judges 5:31*

*So Midian was subdued before the people of Israel, and they raised their heads no more. And the land had rest forty years in the days of Gideon.
Judges 8:28*

*... from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel.
And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.
2 Samuel 7:11*

Rest in the New Testament ...

- Christ invites us to _____ experience _____ His Sabbath rest.

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:25-30

- To cease from self-sufficiency.

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.
Ephesians 2:18

- To trust in divine _____ grace _____.

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest,'" although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works." And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest." Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.
Hebrews 4:1-11

- We rest in His obedience.

For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For

the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.
Hebrews 7:26-28

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.
Hebrews 10:11-14

- We rest in His righteousness.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.
1 John 2:1-2

"You made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless till they rest in you."
Augustine

"Do not tell me that there is no rest for us till we get to heaven. We who have believed in Jesus enter into rest even now. Why should we not do so? Our salvation is complete. The robe of righteousness in which we are clad is finished. The atonement for our sins is fully made. We are reconciled to God, beloved of the Father, preserved by his grace, and supplied by his providence with all that we need. We carry all our burdens to him and leave them at his feet. We spend our lives in his service, and we find his ways to be ways of pleasantness, and his paths to be paths of peace. Oh, yes, we have found rest unto our souls! I recollect the first day that I ever rested in Christ, and I did rest that day. And so will all of you who trust in Jesus as I trusted in him."
Charles Spurgeon

- The church disagrees ...
 - On whether the old covenant command is _____ binding _____ for new covenant Christians.
 - Some say yes ...

And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

Mark 2:27-28

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.

Luke 4:16

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."

Acts 17:1-3

For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works." And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest." Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God ...

Hebrews 4:4-9

"For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain. From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD."

Isaiah 66:22-23

- **Others say no ...**

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

Romans 14:5

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? You observe days and months and seasons and years! I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

Galatians 4:8-11

*Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.
Colossians 2:16-17*

*But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.
Hebrews 8:6*

*For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.
Hebrews 10:1-4*

- On which _____ day _____ of the week the Sabbath should be observed.
 - Saturday?
 - Sunday?
 - Any day?
- On what is permissible to do on the Sabbath day.
 - What level of _____ work _____?

*He went on from there and entered their synagogue. And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—so that they might accuse him. He said to them, "Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.
Matthew 12:9-14*

- What level of _____ recreation _____?

*"If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
Isaiah 58:13-14*

- The church agrees ...
 - We celebrate blood-bought rest at the _____start_____ of every week.

*On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.
Acts 20:7*

- We prioritize God-glorifying rest over the _____course_____ of every week.

Rest in Our Lives Today ...

- God has designed us to rest in many ways.
 - From _____physical_____ labor.

*"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."
Exodus 20:8-11*

- Rest from physical labor should not be excessive.

*How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.
Proverbs 6:9-11*

*I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.
Proverbs 24:30-34*

*"Measure the time of your sleep appropriately so that you do not waste your precious morning hours sluggishly in your bed. Let the time of your sleep be matched to your health and labor, and not to slothful pleasure."
Richard Baxter*

- Rest from physical labor is definitely essential.

And the LORD said to Moses, "You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you. You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.'"
Exodus 31:12-17

- From fear, _____ worry _____, and anxiety.

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!
Psalm 37:7

... do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7

"Rest in the Lord. What? Where? When? Why? How? This ... is a most divine precept, and requires much grace to carry it out. To hush the spirit, to be silent before the Lord, to wait in holy patience the time for clearing up the difficulties of Providence -- that is what every gracious heart should aim at."
Charles Spurgeon

- Amidst trial and trouble.

Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me. And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest; yes, I would wander far away; I would lodge in the wilderness; I would hurry to find a shelter from the raging wind and tempest."
Psalm 55:5-8

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.
Psalm 116:5-9

- God has designed our rest for many purposes.
 - Rest _____ refreshes _____ us.

*"It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed."
Exodus 31:17*

*The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.
Mark 6:30-32*

- Rest _____ restores _____ us.

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Psalm 23:1-3*

*Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.
Mark 6:45-52*

*"The bow cannot be always bent without fear of breaking. Repose is as needful to the mind as sleep to the body Rest time is not waste time. It is economy to gather fresh strength. ... It is wisdom to take occasional furlough. In the long run, we shall do more by sometimes doing less."
Charles Spurgeon*

- Rest reminds us ...
 - Sleep is a _____ gift _____.

*Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake*

in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Psalm 127:1-2

In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4:8

If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

Proverbs 3:24

- Sustenance comes from _____ **God** _____.

I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.

Psalm 3:5

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Psalm 121:1-4

- We can rest with _____ **trust** _____ in His ultimate sovereignty.

"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Psalm 46:10

Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, "Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern." For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling ...

Isaiah 30:12-15

And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

John 5:16-18

"Sleep is a parable that God is God and we are mere men. God handles the world quite nicely while a hemisphere sleeps. Sleep is like a broken record that comes around with the same message every day: Man is not sovereign. Man is not sovereign. Man is not sovereign. Don't let the lesson be lost on you. God wants to be trusted as the great worker who never tires and never sleeps. He is not nearly so impressed with our late nights and early mornings as he is with the peaceful trust that casts all anxieties on him and sleeps."

John Piper

- We can rest with _____ hope _____ in His ultimate salvation.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Revelation 6:11

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

Revelation 14:13-14

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

Revelation 22:1-4

*He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.
Revelation 22:20-21*

*Lord, I believe a rest remains
To all Thy people known,
A rest where pure enjoyment reigns,
And Thou art loved alone.*

*A rest where all our soul's desire
Is fixed on things above;
Where fear, and sin, and grief expire,
Cast out by perfect love.*

*O that I now the rest might know,
Believe, and enter in!
Now, Savior, now the power bestow,
And let me cease from sin.*

*Remove this hardness from my heart,
This unbelief remove:
To me the rest of faith impart,
The Sabbath of Thy love.
Charles Wesley*

Recommended Reading

If you are interested in exploring specific topics from our Secret Church gathering further, the following resources are recommended. Many of these resources were foundational for the truths we explored in our study. Please note, however, that though these books are recommended, Dr. Platt does not necessarily agree with everything written in every one of them. We urge you to read and learn from these books, but at the same time, to filter them through the truth of God's Word.

ON THE GOD-CENTERED LIFE ...

- J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*
- John Piper, *Desiring God*
- A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

ON THE GOSPEL AND LIFE ...

- J.D. Greear, *Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Revolutionary*
- C.J. Mahaney, *Living the Cross-Centered Life*
- John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*

ON SANCTIFICATION ...

- Jerry Bridges, *The Pursuit of Holiness*
- Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace*
- Kevin DeYoung, *The Hole In Our Holiness*
- Kevin DeYoung, *Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will*
- J.P. Moreland, *Love God With All Your Mind*
- David Platt, *Follow Me*

ON SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES ...

- D.A. Carson, *For the Love of God (Volume 1 and 2)*
- Mark Dever, *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*
- J.I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*
- John Piper, *A Hunger for God: Desiring God through Fasting and Prayer*
- John Piper, *When I Don't Desire God*
- Donald Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*
- Donald Whitney, *Family Worship: In the Bible, in History, and in Your Home*

ON THE GOSPEL AND WORK ...

- Tim Keller, *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work*
- Sebastian Traeger and Greg Gilbert, *The Gospel at Work*

ON THE GOSPEL AND PLAY ...

- C.J. Mahaney, *Don't Waste Your Sports*

MISCELLANEOUS ...

- Kevin DeYoung, *Crazy Busy*
- Arthur Pierson, *George Muller of Bristol*
- Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor, *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret*

Pray for Turkey

People travel from all over the world to visit Turkey. They come to enjoy the rich culture and to experience its significant history. It is a history of glorious civilizations marked by art, architecture, philosophy, and the rise and fall of great empires. Over the centuries, earthquakes, fires, and invading armies have crushed these ancient civilizations, but evidence of them still remains across Asia Minor.

By the end of the first century A.D., Asia Minor was home to some of the most influential Christian churches of the ancient world—Antioch, Ephesus, and Colossae. The Apostle Paul was born in Tarsus and commissioned by the church in Antioch, both in modern-day Turkey. Peter's first letter was addressed to believers in Asia Minor, and the seven churches addressed in Revelation were located here as well.

Despite intense persecution in the second and third centuries, the Christian faith not only survived, it thrived. Humble house churches meeting in secret ultimately grew to become congregations meeting in public buildings. The breathtaking church of Hagia Sophia still stands in Istanbul as a vestige of the days when Christianity shaped the culture of the Byzantine Empire and the church enjoyed official recognition. But the vitality of the church faded.

Attacks from Arab, Mongol, and Turkish armies began to whittle away at the borders of the Byzantine Empire. Constantinople, the symbolic heart of Eastern Christianity, suffered internally from corruption, political turmoil, and theological division. The fabled city fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

Slowly, the bustling cities of Asia Minor emptied of Christians. During the Ottoman period many church buildings were converted to mosques. The Christian heritage of the region is now a distant memory, no longer a major part of the cultural fabric of the country. When the modern Republic of Turkey was formed in 1923, there were only about 200,000 Eastern Orthodox Christians left in the country and no known evangelical Christians.

Today, less than 0.1% of people in Turkey are evangelical Christians. Few of the 73 million Muslims have ever truly heard the gospel. For them, to be Turkish is to be Muslim, even if only nominally so. Their religious identity is entwined in their cultural and social identity. This fusion, together with a strong nationalist streak, has resulted in suspicion of ideas and practices perceived to be foreign.

Persecution of Christians has risen in recent years. Leaders of Turkish churches have been attacked, church members have been threatened, and buildings have been vandalized. Family pressure, police intimidation, and threats from Turkish nationalists and Muslim extremists keep many from coming to Christ, while scaring others into remaining secret about their faith. The murder of three believers in the southeastern city of Malatya in 2007 remains fresh in the minds of Turkey's Christians.

Despite these difficulties, there remains a faithful church willing to persevere no matter the cost. Over the last 50 years, a handful of evangelical believers have grown into a movement of several thousand believers meeting across the country. Let us pray for our brothers and sisters who face severe pressure because of their faith in Christ and ask the Father to sustain and strengthen this remnant so many more can know of the good news of Jesus. As we gather, let us also turn our attention to the peoples of Turkey who have never heard the gospel.

**Content used with permission by CentralAsianPeoples.imb.org and Operation World.*

How to Pray for Turkey

- Praise God for the slow but steady growth of the Turkish evangelical Christian church. Turkish and Kurdish believers have grown to over 4,000 strong, which is significant since it was estimated that there were only 10 believers in 1960. While this number may seem small, the mark of mature disciples among these believers is significant for the church as it continues to grow and spread throughout Turkey.
- Since the 1920s, Turkey has officially been a secular state, which constitutionally guarantees religious freedom for all of her citizens. There is, however, a division between Islamists and secularists and this guarantee has not been fully upheld. Pray for leaders who will act justly and wisely, focused on the welfare of all who call Turkey home.
- Praise God that a church among Turks has grown and at last become a visible reality, even if it is still a small percentage of the population. Pray for God to renew these believers to evangelize their friends and neighbors. Pray for God to open the hearts of Turks to their need for salvation. Pray for Turks to see that salvation comes only through faith in Christ.
- Kurds can be found throughout Turkey and make up roughly 20% of Turkey's population. The long-standing history between Turks and Kurds is a present challenge. However, God is working among Kurds and many are trusting in Christ. These new believers oftentimes integrate into Turkish fellowships, but the emergence of the Kurdish church is on the rise. Pray for God to strengthen these few believers. Pray for reconciliation between Turks and Kurds. Pray for the Kurdish church to flourish.
- Many believers among Turks and Kurds face significant opposition and persecution from their family members. Many have their lives threatened, lose their jobs, and are disowned from their family and community. Pray for God to provide for our brothers and sisters who face loneliness, isolation, and poverty. Pray for strength, resolve, and peace that their Heavenly Father loves them and cares for them.
- There are millions of Turks and Kurds living outside of Turkey in places like Europe, Australia, and the United States. In fact Nashville, Tennessee, has the nation's largest population of Kurds. Pray for God to rouse believers in these nations to share the gospel with Turks and Kurds living within their borders.

- There is a critical need for the global church to take responsibility for bringing the Good News to the lost in this area of the world. Pray for God to call out individuals and families to work for the spread of the gospel in Turkey.

For more stories, information, and ways to pray for the peoples of Turkey, visit HopeForTurkey.com

The Church at Brook Hills

If you are a guest of The Church at Brook Hills tonight, we would like to extend a special welcome to you. If you are not a part of a local church in the Birmingham area, we invite you to join us for one of our Worship Gatherings. Below is our regular Sunday schedule. Each of the worship gatherings on Sunday are identical (i.e., the same worship gathering at 9:00am, 11:00am and 6:00pm).

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00am	Adult Small Groups
9:00am	Small Groups for all ages Worship Gathering
11:00am	Small Groups for all ages Worship Gathering
6:00pm	Worship Gathering

SMALL GROUPS

Brook Hills Small Groups gather weekly to make disciples in the context of relationships with one another. These groups meet at various times throughout the week, and there is a group meeting just about anytime on any day throughout the city. Some meet on the church campus on Sundays and others meet in homes or area gathering places during the week—so we're pretty confident there's one near you at a time and day that will fit your schedule and/or family.

For a complete listing of Small Group opportunities, you can visit us online at BrookHills.org/local or stop by the Welcome Desk in the lobby at Brook Hills for assistance in connecting with a Small Group.

For more information about The Church at Brook Hills visit our website, BrookHills.org.

About The Teacher

Dr. David Platt is deeply devoted to Christ and His Word. David's first love in ministry is disciple-making – the simple, biblical model of teaching God's Word, mentoring others and sharing faith. He has traveled extensively to teach the Bible alongside church leaders throughout the United States and around the world. Atlanta natives, he and his wife Heather, made their home in New Orleans, until they were displaced by flooding following Hurricane Katrina, in 2005. In 2006 David became the Pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Alabama.

A life-long learner, David has earned two undergraduate and three advanced degrees. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Arts in Journalism (A.B.J.) from the University of Georgia, and a Master of Divinity (M.Div.), Master of Theology (Th.M) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has previously served at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary as Dean of Chapel and Assistant Professor of Expository Preaching and Apologetics, and as Staff Evangelist at Edgewater Baptist Church in New Orleans. David has written several books, *Radical – Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*, *Radical Together – Unleashing the People of God for the Purpose of God* and most recently, *Follow Me: A Call to Die, A Call to Live*. He recently founded Radical (Radical.net), a ministry devoted to platforming and disseminating disciple-making resources, so that the gospel might be made known to the ends of the earth.

David and his wife, Heather, live in Birmingham with their four children.

About Radical

Radical exists to serve the church in accomplishing the mission of Christ. We long to see the church making disciples who make disciples who make disciples throughout the world – from our neighbors across the street to the unreached people groups across the globe – all for the glory of God.

Radical is a parachurch ministry that serves alongside the local church, providing multi-lingual biblical resources birthed in the context of a local church that we hope will support disciple-making in other local churches around the world.

Radical serves these churches by providing resources in multiple languages, organizing events, like Secret Church, and facilitating opportunities through multiple avenues that all aim to encourage followers of Christ in the global purpose God has designed for us as His people. Many of our resources come from the ministry of David Platt, who serves as one of the pastors of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Alabama.

To learn more about Radical visit our website, Radical.net.

Additional Resources

PAST SECRET CHURCH RESOURCES

Past Secret Church resources (DVDs, CDs and Study Guides) are available for purchase at The Church at Brook Hills and online at Radical (Radical.net).

ONLINE RESOURCES

Secret Church resources, including audio and video recordings of the teaching sessions, downloadable study guides and links to additional information about the persecuted church, are available on the Secret Church web site (SecretChurch.org) and through the Radical website (Radical.net).

TRANSLATED RESOURCES

Secret Church resources and other message series have been translated into multiple languages. Audio recordings, transcripts, and study guides can be downloaded from the Radical website in the Resource Library (Radical.net). Current languages include Arabic, Spanish, Mandarin, Hindi, Indonesian, Russian, Farsi, French, Vietnamese, and Thai. New resources and languages are continually being added.

BOOKS BY DAVID PLATT

David Platt is the author of several books: *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*, *Radical Together: Unleashing the People of God for the Purpose of God*, and most recently, *Follow Me: A Call to Die, A Call to Live*. These books are available online at Radical (Radical.net).

If you would like additional information about the books, visit RadicalTheBook.com and FollowMeBook.org. All proceeds from book sales go toward promoting the glory of Christ in all nations.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional resources such as sermons, Small Group Guides, Family Worship Guides and more are available on the Radical website (Radical.net). Free, downloadable discipleship resources can be found at MultiplyMovement.com.

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