

Community of Grace

Daily Walk for the week of March 2, 2020

The Goodness of God...Over Sin **Written by Pastor Matt Henning**

Monday March 2nd Joy in Forgiveness

“Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit” Psalm 32: 1-2. There is joy in being forgiven of our sin, because our sin separates us from God and one another. We move from isolation to community and grace when we acknowledge the reality of our broken lives. The Psalm puts it this way: “Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and you forgave the guilt of my sin.” Psalm 32: 5. There is a joy filled release from our guilt when God reconciles us with love and grace. Let’s give thanks for the joy found in God’s forgiveness this day. Prayer: “God of Joy, I give you thanks to your mercy at work in my heart this day. Amen.”

Tuesday March 3rd Be Bold through Grace

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4: 15-16. Jesus act as high priest on our behalf with God in addressing our weaknesses and failures in this life. Jesus who was tested, as we

are, in his own life and found without sin shares his righteousness with us in grace and mercy. It is in the knowledge of this goodness and love that we can be bold in loving and forgiving our selves and our neighbors in this life. Prayer: “Give me bold love this day, O Great Redeemer, that I may share your grace with others. Amen.”

The Goodness of God...New Life **Written by Kerri Lawton**

Wednesday, March 4th

Genesis 12:1 “Now the Lord said to Abram “go from your country and your kindred and your fathers house to the land that I will show you.” The Lord speaking, to Abram, words of encouragement. He must start a new life, trusting God’s guidance. I have been in the position before, knowing a move from my home and family was probably the right thing to do, in God’s eyes. You must have that trust in knowing you are in God’s hands. Now the Lord also spoke of blessings bestowed on Abraham and his descendants, which certainly had to be encouraging (and a bit bewildering) to him, an elderly man with a barren wife, but he had faith. When we make changes towards a new life, we do so with strength, determination and faith. These are characteristics encouraged by God to build our own character. Someone who seeks a new life and knows, through God, blessings will come thereafter. Trust your heart and have faith in god’s plan for you.

Prayer: Heavenly father, may we seek the heart of Abraham, always trusting in your guidance through faith. Let us challenge ourselves to make changes towards a newness of life, pleasing to your eyes. Amen

Thursday, March 5th

Genesis 12:2-3 "I will make 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 one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." God's words of hope and new possibilities, spoken to an elder Abraham and his barren wife, Sara, are another example of how God can make the unexpected become expected. God promises to make Abrams offspring a great nation, implicating a long line of descendants. God has chosen in the most unlikely pair but after time, his promises are fulfilled, in spite of the couples' age. Abraham's trust in God's word provides the energy and will to follow God's Commandments, to fulfill a promised future. The season of Lent is a season that helps us let go of all burdens and sets us free to follow new hopes and promises, to find a new life. Find trust in God and his plan for us will be rewarding. Prayer, Dear Lord, help us keep our hearts and minds focused on the blessings you bestow. Let us take in the wonders of God's plan. Like father Abraham we shall trust in God and follow his lead. Amen

Friday, March 6th

Romans 4:16. "For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may

rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his (Abrahams) descendants, not only to the adherence of the law, but also to those who share the faith of Abraham." Paul, the author of Romans, writes a letter to believers in the capital city of Rome. Paul is actually at a transitional point in his ministry. He had begun congregations in many areas and wanted to expand his missionary work. He plans to stop in Rome and finally expand his work into the western part of the Roman Empire. In his letter, Abraham is Paul's prime example of a righteous believer. Abraham follows his faith in God, believing in God's promises with no proof that God would keep his promises. His faith laid the platform for God's grace to be given. He is securing a place for all believers that take a new perspective towards a new life, based on the "faith of Abraham." As Paul is facing new challenges he is reminded of Abraham. Abraham leaves behind his home, his comfort zone, at God's command. His example as a righteous believer gives us hope and encouragement. Prayer: Dear God, your promise for grace, through faith, gives me hope. There are always challenges when making changes, but with faith we can overcome. Let us strive for righteousness in our lives. Amen

Saturday, March 7th

Psalm 121:1-2, 5-6 "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. The Lord is your keeper, the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day,

nor the moon by night.” This Psalm is a song of assurance to all believers who may be at a time of change, of some sort. He questions where to seek help, yet he knows he always has the help he needs, through the Lord. Just by the comfort of the words “your keeper” one should feel loved and protected. “The Lord is your shade” brings the feeling of relief. Stepping into the shade on a hot summer day can bring a refreshing, exhilarating feeling. We feel relief, protected from the sun. This verse wants to express the same feeling, but continuously day and night, through the Lord as our keeper. Know that He is “at your right hand,” always providing “shade” for protection. Prayer: Dear Lord, I am thankful for these comforting and encouraging words written so long ago and still so meaningful today. Remind us day and night that you are our keeper, by your grace alone. We can move forward towards new life in eternal peace with You by our side. Amen

Sunday, March 8th

Psalm 121:7-8 “The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forever more.” We continue with the song of encouragement. The Lord leaves no room for fear or doubt. How can anyone not be grateful for Lord that protects us from evil? Not that we can avoid evil in this world, but I feel he protects us from the wrath of evil that can overcome someone. We, through Him, can recognize evil and have the strength, through Him, to banish

evil from our path. “He will keep your life” through faith and trust, as we go in and come out of our daily lives. The psalmist’s reassurance of the Lord’s ever presence “from this time on and forever more” should comfort and keep us striving to achieve new goals and accomplishments. Evil instills fear at times. We can be anxious and fearful of failure but to not try is denying the gifts God gives us to succeed. Move forward with the Lord by your side. Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father: May we remember the protection you offer each day, that You are our keeper. From this time on and forevermore you comfort us and keep us in your grace. Amen