



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

The popular writer F. W. Boreham once lost his patience with a difficult man named Crittingden, who said and wrote many critical words about him. Boreham, angered beyond endurance, finally wrote a flaming letter designed to sting and rebuke the complainer. He walked angrily to the mailbox to post the letter, but since it was a lovely night for a walk he passed by the mailbox without dropping the letter in. He said to himself, "I'll mail it on the way back." A quarter of a mile further on, he met a friend who said, "Poor old Crittingden is dead." Boreham was shocked. "Is he, indeed? When did this happen?" "Oh, he died suddenly – early this afternoon. It's really for the best, you know. He's had a hard time. You know all about it, I suppose?" "No, I don't" replied Boreham. "Oh, I thought everybody knew. He only had two children, a son and a daughter. The son was killed soon after his wife died, and the daughter lost her mind and is in the asylum. Poor old Crittingden never got over it. It soured him." Boreham returned to his fireside that night, humbled and ashamed. He tore the letter into small fragments and burned them one by one. And as he knelt before the blaze, he prayed that he, in days to come, might find the grace to deal gently and lovingly with difficult people, even as he wished they might have the grace to treat him.

Perspective is a powerful weapon in the fight for patience – for patience does not come easily, nor does it come without a fight. In fact, in the original language of the Bible, the very word for "patience" is literally translated "longsuffering" or "forbearance." The need to be patient requires a willingness to endure that difficulty or pain for a prolonged period of time. True patience is not seen when things in life are good or favorable, but when things are difficult or painful. In fact, the more difficult or painful the situation the more a person's patience (or impatience) will be exposed. For the Christian, the virtue of patience is listed as a fruit of the Spirit of God (cf. Gal.5:22). Patience is the spiritual byproduct of the life that has been redeemed and transformed by God.

However, to be always forgiving, relentlessly kind and unconditionally loving does not come naturally to the sinful human flesh (cf. Gal.5:20). Christians are called to live like Christ, and Jesus was the perfect personification of patience. Christ's command to His followers was to, "*love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you*" (Lk.27-28; cf. Matt.5:38-48). Clearly, this is not normal behavior in the world today, but this attitude and behavior should be normal in the life of a believer (see 1Thess.5:14-15). Patience is a very difficult thing for anyone to master. In fact, patience is impossible to master without the Spirit of God working in and through the life of a believer. Biblical patience is much the same as perseverance. It is enduring, or suffering through, an experience that is difficult in order to persevere through it for the glory and honor of Jesus Christ.

The real question is, "How long, how much or how often must a Christian be patient (longsuffering) with someone who is difficult for them?" I think the best way to summarize the teaching from God's word on patience is this: Christians are to be as patient with others as God has been patient with them (cf. Rom.2:1-4; Eph.4:32; 2Pet.3:9-15). Christians ought to be the most patient people on the planet. This is because Christians truly understand and appreciate just how patient God has been with them – not punishing us as our sins deserve, but patiently waiting for us to repent.

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #34):

Numbers 5-8; 1 Chronicles 10-14; Psalms 99-101; Proverbs 19; Hosea 1-7; John 7-9; 1 Timothy 4-6

Recommended Reading:

"The Truth About Forgiveness" and "The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness" by John MacArthur

Calendar of
Events:

August 24

Pregnancy

Resource Center

Walk for Life

September 9

Men's Breakfast

September 13

AWANA Begins

Looking Ahead....

October 29

Reformation Sunday

For prayer requests,
email Amy Woodruff
at prayer@sbcnb.org
or call 541-404-0547

We're on the Web!

See us at:

sbcnb.org

Growth & Study.....

Men's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm *On break for summer*
w/Jeff Etzel

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Gospel According to Paul"
w/Pastor David

8:15-9:30pm *On break for summer*
w/Pastor Josh

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Let Us Pray"
Begins September 7th
w/Pastor Tim

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Gospel According to Paul" *Begins September 22nd*
w/Pastor David

Adult Group Studies

Sundays ~

6:30-7:30pm "The Sermon on the Mount" *Begins September 10th*
At the Woodruff's Home (541-756-3311)

College & Young Adults

Thursdays ~

7:00-9:00pm w/Pastor Tim 541-756-3311

Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians" *Begins September 11th*
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Sermon on the Mount" *Begins September 19th*
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)

8:30am "Isaiah, the Lord Saves" *Begins September 12th*
w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)

9:00am "Graceful Living"
w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-267-3106)

7:00pm *On break for summer*
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians" *Begins September 13th*
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

10:00am "Acts"
w/Jeanette Murphy (541-266-7575)

6:30-8:00pm "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians" *Begins September 13th*
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Connect & Encourage.....

Building Project Construction ~ The building project is underway! There are many different tasks available and everyone is welcome to volunteer regardless of experience. Sign-up in the hallway outside of the kitchen or check our website at www.sbcnb.org for daily volunteer updates. Contact Keri in the church office with any questions or for more information.

Pregnancy Resource Center Walk for Life ~ Coos County PRC's Annual Walk for Life will be on August 24th at Mingus Park in Coos Bay. Participants will enjoy free barbeque, live Christian music and prizes. See the News & Events bulletin board for more information and registration forms.

Men's Breakfast - Walking in the truth. Men, that is what we do as we follow Christ in our marriages, with our children, in our jobs, etc. That is our life. Join us at 8:30 a.m. on September 9 for our first men's breakfast of the season, as we learn together to walk in the truth!

Awana Begins September 13th ~ Pre-register and order supplies on-line at www.sbcnb.org or on Sunday mornings in the foyer. We will gather your child's supplies and get them to you before Awana begins so you can avoid the line on the first night. We can't wait to spend this year growing in the Lord with your kid(s).

Children's Ministries.....

AWANA – Pre-register and order supplies on-line at www.sbcnb.org or on Sunday mornings in the foyer. We will gather your child's supplies and get them to you before Awana begins so you can avoid the line on the first night. We can't wait to spend this year growing in the Lord with your kid(s). Leader's meeting or for anyone interested in knowing what volunteering at Awana is all about on September 6th at 6:30pm.



Youth Ministries.....

Youth Group ~

September 10th – High School youth group fall kick-off.
Sunday night 6 to 8pm.

September 13th – Junior High youth group fall kick-off.
Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8pm.

High School Winter Retreat ~ December 28 to 31, 2017