



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Monday mornings are notorious. For many people, Monday morning signifies the beginning of a long and arduous work-week. In fact, for some people, mornings in general are the least favorite part of the day (those people, for example, who would rather get up at “the crack-of-noon” instead of the “crack-of-dawn”). Needless to say, not everyone is a fan of mornings – at least not until they’ve consumed their favorite caffeinated beverage.

I’ll never forget the roommate I had in college. He was an early-riser by nature, and I was not. Unfortunately, my roommate, and dear brother in the Lord, was convinced that the early part of the morning was the best part of the day. When he woke up, he would often pull open the curtain of our dorm room window and, if the sun was out, audibly say something like “Today is going to be a great day!” I hated mornings – especially bright sunny mornings that made my roommate way-too-happy!

Today, of course, I realize that my roommate’s attitude on those sunny mornings was the exact attitude that God desires us to have. Scripture declares, *“This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it”* (Ps.118:24). This verse is not only true today, but each and every day! It is a beautiful verse declaring the wonderful gift of each new day. But for most of us (if not all of us), this verse does not readily roll off the tongue as easily as we might roll out of bed, especially on those rainy, dreary Monday mornings. In fact, embracing this verse seriously and enthusiastically each morning can be an incredible strain when life is painful or difficult. On mornings like these, we need to wrestle with and claim this verse perhaps more than any other.

Nevertheless, the Bible does not shy away from proclaiming boldly that mornings are the Lord’s and each new morning ought to be met with a wholehearted attitude of joy and gratitude toward God. To be sure, as believers we know that *“to depart and be with Christ ... is better by far”* (Phil.1:23); we embrace the reality that God’s *“love is better than life”* (Ps.63:3); we passionately long for the appearing of Christ (Phil.3:20; 2Tim.4:8); and we recognize that *“to live is Christ and to die is gain”* (Phil.1:21). But, we also must realize that each and every time we awake to find ourselves living in the gracious blessing of another day, we are to thank and praise God for the day that He has made.

At the dawn of each new day, the Bible gives us this humbling yet encouraging message: *“Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness”* (Lam.3:22-23). That means one reason, of many, why we should praise God for each new day is for the grateful reminder that His mercy – that is, His gracious and compassionate love – is ever present and infinitely renewed in the life of every believer! Each new day, the sun rises as a gloriously radiant proclamation from God’s creation that He has not forgotten, nor will He forsake His children – those He has graciously and lovingly redeemed.

As a Christian, each morning is an affirmation from God that He has a divine plan and purpose for your life. In other words, if you wake up to realize that you have breath in your lungs and blood pumping through your veins, you know at that moment God still seeks to use your life as a means of accomplishing His divine purposes in the world! Perhaps that sounds a bit too trite or simplistic, but it really is not. As life itself is a gift from God, so naturally every morning is likewise a gift from God – enabling believers to declare: *“This is the day the LORD has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it!”*

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #28):

Leviticus 13-15; 2Kings 6-10; Psalms 81-83; Proverbs 10; Ezekiel 25-30; Luke 19-20; Colossians 1-2

Recommended Reading:

“The Pursuit of God” by A.W. Tozer

Calendar of
Events:

Women's Summer
Event

July 19

Quarterly Business
Meeting

July 22

Summer Camp Staff
Meeting

July 22

Mexico Mission Trip
Meeting

July 22

Looking Ahead....

Big G Camp

July 30 – Aug 3

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 the summer*
w/Jeff Etzel

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Book of Ecclesiastes"
w/Pastor David

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Galatians ~ No Other Gospel"
w/Pastor Tim

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "Jesus Among Secular Gods"
w/Pastor David

Young Adults

Thursdays ~

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

Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm *On break for the summer*
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am *On break for the summer*
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)

8:30am *On break for the summer*
w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)

9:00am *On break for the summer*
w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-267-3106)

1:00-2:15pm *On break for the summer*
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

7:00-8:15pm *On break for the summer*
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am *On break for the summer*
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

10:00am "Experiencing God's Peace"
w/Karla Fries (541-267-0139)
Continuing through summer

6:30-8:00pm "Jesus Among Secular Gods"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Connect & Encourage.....

Women's Event
July 19th

"Simply Simple
Summer Social"

WHO: All ladies (High School - Adult)

WHERE: Skyline Fireside room at 7 pm

Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway by Sunday July 15th

\$3 suggested donation at the door. No childcare provided.

Children's & Youth Ministries

Big G Summer Camp ~

July 30 – August 3

Open to students entering 4th through 9th grade.

Mandatory Staff Meeting - July 22

Immediately after church in Annex. Lunch provided.

Teen Mexico Mission Trip ~

Mexico Mission Trip meeting and fun night

July 22 – 2:30 pm to 9:00 pm

August 10 – 19

Please be in prayer for their preparations

Youth Group ~

High School youth group ~ *No Regular Meetings at this time*

Junior High youth group ~ *On break for the summer*

Junior High Lake Day ~ July 8th

CANCELED

