



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Quitting is neither courageous nor difficult. It is easy to “throw-in-the-towel” or “coast” in this life (all you have to do is nothing or whatever you naturally want). It does not take great effort or resolve to give up. In fact, the easiest life to live is the one that affects and is affected by nothing. But that is not the life of a true believer in Jesus Christ, and that is not the life that is modeled for us in Scripture. Rather, Christians are called to passionately and patiently endure to the very end: *“For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised”* (Heb.10:36; cf. Matt.24:12-13; Gal.6:9; Phil.2:12-13; 1Tim.4:16; 2Tim.2:3).

Endurance does not mean that we passively live out our days merely avoiding sinful behaviors and temptations. In addition to living a pure and holy life, endurance calls the Christian to live a passionate and obedient life for Christ. In other words, it is not enough to simply possess an “avoidance” Christian mindset (i.e. avoiding sinful actions). Christians are called to resolutely avoid *unrighteous* thoughts and actions, but they are also called – with equal clarity and conviction – to resolutely pursue *righteous* thoughts and actions. Perseverance is not merely surviving but thriving.

In his sermon, Getting Old for the Glory of God, John Piper exhorts us to be prepared and determined to persevere in our Christian walk...until the end:

“Getting old to the glory of God means getting old in a way that makes God look glorious. It means living and dying in a way that shows God to be the all-satisfying Treasure that He is. So it would include, for example, not living in ways that makes this world look like your treasure. Which means that most of the suggestions that this world offers us for our retirement years are bad ideas. They call us to live in a way that would make this world look like our treasure. And when that happens, God is belittled.

Getting old to the glory of God means resolutely resisting the typical American dream of retirement. It means being so satisfied with all that God promises to be for us in Christ that we are set free from the cravings that create so much emptiness and uselessness in retirement. Instead, knowing that we have an infinitely satisfying and everlasting inheritance in God just over the horizon of life makes us zealous in our few remaining years here to spend ourselves in the sacrifices of love, not the accumulation of comforts. ...

There are different ways of dying. And there are different ways of living just before we die. But for the Christian all of them – the final living, and the dying – are supposed to make God look glorious. All of them are supposed to show that Christ – not this world – is our supreme Treasure.”

The truth is, while they may retire from their secular jobs, Christians are never to retire from being a follower of Christ. While we still have breath, we are to be living and dying for the glory of God. The Christian’s goal is not to come to the end of their life and say to themselves, *“You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry”* (Lk.12:19; cf. verses 16-21). The goal is come to the end of our lives and be able say with the Apostle Paul: *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith”* (2Tim.4:7). In the words of John Piper, “Endurance is Christ’s call to follow him, to finish strong for God’s glory. There is no higher calling, no bigger privilege, no greater joy”* (p.72).

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #5):

Genesis 16-19; Joshua 21-24; Psalm 12-14; Job 9-10; Isaiah 23-28; Matthew 11-13; Romans 9-10

Recommended Reading:

*“Stand: A Call for the Endurance of the Saints” by John Piper and Justin Taylor**

Calendar of Events:

February 9
Men's Breakfast
February 10, 12:30pm
New Year's
Celebration Potluck
February 16
Women's Breakfast
February 20
Awana Grand Prix

Looking Ahead...

Easter Sunday
April 21
Men's Retreat
May 3 - 5

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 "The Measure of a Man: Twenty Attributes of a Godly Man"
w/Jeff Etzel (541-260-8725)

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Pursuit of God"
w/Pastor David (541-756-3311)

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "The King and His Kingdom-The Parables of Christ"
*Begins February 7
w/Pastor Tim (541-756-3311)

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "Joseph-A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness"
w/Pastor David (541-756-3311)

Adult Group Studies

Sundays ~

6:30-7:30pm "The Gospel According to God" *Begins February 10
At the Woodruff's Home (541-756-3311)

Young Adults

Thursdays ~

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

Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "Romans"
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Taming the Tongue"
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)

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

9:00am "Philippians: Knowing Jesus...Knowing Joy"
w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-751-3169)

1:00-2:15pm "Hebrews"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

7:00-8:15pm "Hebrews"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am "Romans"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

10:00am "Seeking God's Great Riches, the Book of Hebrews"
w/Karla Fries (541-267-0139)

6:30-8:00pm "Romans"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Church News & Events.....

Men's Breakfast ~ February 9, 8:30am

Men, join us at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast, devotion & fellowship.

New Year Celebration Potluck ~ February 10, 12:30pm

Please join us after 2nd service for a potluck lunch and fellowship in the Fireside Room for our New Year Celebration. We'll be serving soup, salad, dessert & beverages. Sign up in the foyer after services.

Women's Breakfast ~ February 16, 8:30am

Ladies, please join us for a light breakfast, fellowship and devotions.