Name: _____

# Gratitude and Sermon Journal

## RESILIENCE: THE ART OF MOVING FORWARD

August 10 – September 13

## THE POWER OF GENEROSITY

September 14 – October 11

## ROMANS 8

October 12 – November 22

Dear Church,

The purpose of this Gratitude and Sermon Journal is to help us connect with the Lord through daily prayer and study. Furthermore, we want to help connect others to the church. The reading on Monday is the sermon text for the following Sunday. The daily readings support the Sunday sermon. I'm pleased some of our groups, including Discipleship Communities and prayer groups, use this journal to talk about the texts and the preaching on Sunday morning. In this journal we have added a daily prayer section to unite us in scripture-based prayer for one another.

Asbury is deeply rooted in our "ancient" traditions (scripture and the church) while also being focused on what is happening today and will happen in the future. If we lose touch with our past, we have no guidance. If we fail to have an application, then we become "rear view mirror" people. This Gratitude and Sermon Journal looks back at scripture and the teaching of the church while looking forward to the Lord to discern His will for us.

Tom

# Small Group Discussion Questions

Consider using this journal not only for yourself, but also as an opportunity to meet with others in a small group. The Christian faith is about helping others follow Jesus. This journal provides a mutually blessed way for you to do precisely that. Below are some questions your small group may use for discussion each week:

- Review the key scripture(s).
- Review the key point(s) from the sermon.
    - How were you encouraged?
    - How were you challenged?
    - What questions did it create?
    - What convictions did it bring?
- What was the pastor asking of you, even expecting you to do in response?

# INTRODUCTION

**After this pandemic, I want to pay attention to three things:**

1. To be as healthy as possible. We want to have spiritual, physical, mental and social resilience. Usually, though certainly not always, those who have been hit the hardest by COVID-19 have had compromised health systems. Regardless, we should be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us, including our health.
2. COVID-19 revealed far too many Americans do not have financial resilience either. Too many of us live paycheck to paycheck. We need financial margin. We want to help people get out of debt so they can live with abundance. Helping Others Follow Jesus has a cost. We want to create a culture of generosity, including the use of money. We will spend four weeks on this topic. We will lift up something specific to help those struggling with financial security.
3. Romans 8 is not only one of the greatest chapters in the Bible, but it certainly deals with the subject of resilience. It provides spiritual teaching, direction, focus, perspective and application. It has so much to teach us today about how to live in the center of God's will.

Resilience is the theme of this journal. We all have valley and wilderness experiences which put us through a transition period. However, if we adapt well, we will not only survive, and not just return to normal (bounce back) but actually thrive (move forward)—because we have such incredible resources through Christ.

# But First, Pray...

For this journal we are including scripture-based prayers to help the congregation pray for one another. We have one prayer per week, which can be prayed daily. As you lift up your brothers and sisters in Christ, know that you are also being lifted up in a spirit of unity.

**Week of August 10:** Lord, we do not cease to give thanks for every Asbury believer, remembering each one in our prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ may give each one the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. (Ephesians 1:16-17)

**Week of August 17:** Lord, we pray for every Asbury believer, that the eyes of their hearts would be enlightened, that they would know the hope to which You have called them, the riches of their inheritance in the saints and the immeasurable greatness of Your power toward those who believe. (Ephesians 1:18-19)

**Week of August 24:** Lord, according to the riches of Your glory, grant that we may be strengthened with power through Your Spirit in our inner being so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, being rooted and grounded in love. (Ephesians 3:16-17)

**Week of August 31:** Lord, strengthen each believer at Asbury to comprehend with all the saints, what is the breadth, length, height and depth of Your love and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, filling all of us to the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:18-19)

**Week of September 7:** Lord, help Asbury believers be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as in Christ, You forgave us. (Ephesians 4:32)

**Week of September 14:** Lord, as beloved children, help us be imitators of Christ, walking in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1-2)

**Week of September 21:** Lord, awaken all who sleep among us and fill us with the Spirit, helping us to give thanks always for all things, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:14, 18,20, 21)

**Week of September 28:** Lord, we pray for every Asbury believer to abound in Your love more and more with all knowledge and discernment, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ. (Philippians 1:9-10)

**Week of October 5:** Lord, help Asbury believers press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)

**Week of October 12:** Lord, help Asbury believers to continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2)

**Week of October 19:** God of peace, equip every Asbury believer with everything good that each one may do Your will, working in us that which is pleasing in Your sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. (Hebrews 13:21)

**Week of October 26:** God of hope, fill every Asbury believer with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope. (Romans 15:13)

**Week of November 2:** Lord, make us increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that You may establish our hearts blameless in holiness before You, our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. (1 Thessalonians 3:12-13)

**Week of November 9:** Lord, pray for all beloved Asbury members to prosper in all things and be in health, just as each soul prospers. (3 John 2)

**Week of November 16:** Gracious God, help all Asbury believers renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, living self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age, waiting for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who redeemed us and purified for Himself a people belonging to Him who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11-14)

*Scripture Readings*

# RESILIENCE: THE ART OF MOVING FORWARD

**SPIRITUAL RESILIENCE**

- ❑ 8/10 Philippians 1:3-11
- ❑ 8/11 Matthew 22:34-40
- ❑ 8/12 Luke 16:10-13
- ❑ 8/13 2 Corinthians 11:23-29
- ❑ 8/14 Ephesians 3:7-21
- ❑ 8/15 Philippians 4:14-20
- ❑ 8/16 Philippians 1:3-11

**MENTAL RESILIENCE**

- ❑ 8/17 Philippians 4:8-13
- ❑ 8/18 Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- ❑ 8/19 Psalm 119:9-16; 52-64
- ❑ 8/20 Matthew 5:17-20
- ❑ 8/21 Philippians 3:12-16
- ❑ 8/22 2 Timothy 2:1-7
- ❑ 8/23 Philippians 4:8-13

**PHYSICAL RESILIENCE**

- ❑ 8/24 3 John 2-4
- ❑ 8/25 Proverbs 23:19-21
- ❑ 8/26 Romans 12:1-2
- ❑ 8/27 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- ❑ 8/28 Philippians 3:17-21
- ❑ 8/29 1 Timothy 4:6-10
- ❑ 8/30 3 John 2-4

**SOCIAL RESILIENCE**

- ❑ 8/31 Hebrews 10:24-25
- ❑ 9/1 John 15:12-17
- ❑ 9/2 Romans 15:1-7
- ❑ 9/3 Galatians 5:13-26
- ❑ 9/4 Ephesians 4:25-32
- ❑ 9/5 1 Peter 4:7-11
- ❑ 9/6 Hebrews 10:24-25

**SPIRITUAL RESILIENCE, Part 2**

- ❑ 9/7 John 14:25-28
- ❑ 9/8 Matthew 3:1-12
- ❑ 9/9 Matthew 6:5-15
- ❑ 9/10 Matthew 18:21-35
- ❑ 9/11 Luke 17:11-19
- ❑ 9/12 John 3:16-21
- ❑ 9/13 John 14:25-28

*Scripture Readings*

# THE POWER OF GENEROSITY

**JESUS, THE GENEROUS**

- ❑ 9/14 2 Corinthians 8:8-15
- ❑ 9/15 John 10:10-18
- ❑ 9/16 John 13:1-11
- ❑ 9/17 Ephesians 1:3-14
- ❑ 9/18 Philippians 2:5-11
- ❑ 9/19 Colossians 1:15-20
- ❑ 9/20 2 Corinthians 8:8-15

**A GENEROUS CHURCH**

- ❑ 9/21 Acts 2:42-47
- ❑ 9/22 Matthew 19:16-30
- ❑ 9/23 Luke 12:13-21
- ❑ 9/24 Acts 20:31-38
- ❑ 9/25 1 Timothy 6:3-10
- ❑ 9/26 1 Timothy 6:17-21
- ❑ 9/27 Acts 2:42-47

**GENEROUS PEOPLE**

- ❑ 9/28 Acts 4:32-37
- ❑ 9/29 Matthew 12:33-37
- ❑ 9/30 Luke 19:1-10
- ❑ 10/1 Luke 21:1-4
- ❑ 10/2 Acts 5:1-11
- ❑ 10/3 2 Corinthians 8:1-7
- ❑ 10/4 Acts 4:32-37

**TRUSTING PEOPLE**

- ❑ 10/5 Proverbs 3:5-10
- ❑ 10/6 Genesis 14:17-24
- ❑ 10/7 Malachi 3:6-12
- ❑ 10/8 Matthew 6:19-24
- ❑ 10/9 Matthew 22:15-22
- ❑ 10/10 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
- ❑ 10/11 Proverbs 3:5-10

*Scripture Readings*

# ROMANS 8

**NO CONDEMNATION**

- ❑ 10/12 Romans 8:1-8
- ❑ 10/13 Luke 6:37-38
- ❑ 10/14 John 8:2-11
- ❑ 10/15 Romans 5:12-17
- ❑ 10/16 Romans 5:18-21
- ❑ 10/17 2 Corinthians 3:7-18
- ❑ 10/18 Romans 8:1-8

**ABBA FATHER**

- ❑ 10/19 Romans 8:9-17
- ❑ 10/20 Luke 15:1-10
- ❑ 10/21 Luke 15:11-32
- ❑ 10/22 2 Corinthians 4:1-6
- ❑ 10/23 Galatians 4:1-7
- ❑ 10/24 1 Peter 2:9-12
- ❑ 10/25 Romans 8:9-17

**SUFFERINGS AND GLORY**

- ❑ 10/26 Romans 8:18-25
- ❑ 10/27 Job 2
- ❑ 10/28 Isaiah 53:1-6
- ❑ 10/29 Romans 5:1-5
- ❑ 10/30 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
- ❑ 10/31 Philippians 1:18-30
- ❑ 11/1 Romans 8:18-25

**FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD**

- ❑ 11/2 Romans 8:26-30
- ❑ 11/3 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
- ❑ 11/4 2 Corinthians 5:1-5
- ❑ 11/5 Colossians 1:3-14
- ❑ 11/6 James 4:1-10
- ❑ 11/7 1 Peter 3:12
- ❑ 11/8 Romans 8:26-30

**IF GOD IS FOR US...**

- ❑ 11/9 Romans 8:31-36
- ❑ 11/10 Psalm 27
- ❑ 11/11 Psalm 46:1-7
- ❑ 11/12 Daniel 3:13-18
- ❑ 11/13 Habakkuk 3:17-19
- ❑ 11/14 1 John 4:1-6
- ❑ 11/15 Romans 8:31-36

**MORE THAN**

- ❑ 11/16 Romans 8:37-39
- ❑ 11/17 John 10:22-30
- ❑ 11/18 Ephesians 1:15-23
- ❑ 11/19 Ephesians 2:1-10
- ❑ 11/20 Colossians 3:1-4
- ❑ 11/21 Jude 24-25
- ❑ 11/22 Romans 8:37-39

# RESILIENCE: THE ART OF MOVING FORWARD

AUGUST 10 – SEPTEMBER 13

# Resilience: The Art of Moving Forward

Monarch butterflies are resilient creatures. In their short lives, they undergo a complete metamorphosis – from egg to caterpillar to butterfly. Caterpillars grow so fast they must shed their skin five times in a two-week period to accommodate the changes. When they enter their chrysalis, their tissues completely breakdown and reorganize. This is the most dramatic of their transitions. When they emerge, their wings are soft but soon harden so the fully formed adult butterfly can take flight. Monarchs migrate approximately 2,000 miles (Mexico to Canada to Mexico) in one year, but it takes four generations to make the journey. (These Monarchs pass through Oklahoma in early spring and late summer.) We can learn something from butterflies.

2020 has been one of the most challenging years we have faced in generations. Anxiety, anger, addiction, fear, and loneliness have been constant companions since March. Racial tension and political vitriol have been toxic. Yet, Ecclesiastes states, *"There is nothing new under the sun."* The stories of the people in the Bible agree with Solomon's assessment. Nobody in the Bible had it easy. Like today, they all had problems. Some brought it on themselves; others, like Jesus, did not.

The word, "resilience," means *"strength, buoyancy, flexibility and elasticity."* A resilient person has encountered a significant struggle, hardship or fall and learned to adapt. Resilient people turn adversity, setbacks and trauma around and learn to be content and compassionate. Resilient people are realistic, optimistic and hopeful. They do not quit. They stay in it for the long haul. Like the Monarch, we also must change, make transitions, and keep moving forward.

**Seven resilience themes in this journal:**

1. Be inspired with a big picture of life. Our problems are only *"slight, momentary afflictions."* (2 Corinthains 4:17)
2. Learn from the past, it is a great teacher.
3. Learn from others, we have helpful teammates.
4. Seize present opportunities, a daily pursuit.
5. Continuously improve, always striving to learn/grow/develop.
6. Train to go the distance. Life is a series of races. When we reach one "finish line" such as graduation, a promotion, parenthood, retirement, etc., we are at another starting line.
7. Jesus is not our supporting actor. We help others follow Him. We have a role to play, but we aren't the main characters. The curtain will eventually come down in our lives and the credits will roll. If I've not made my life about Him, then that's the end of my story.

# Monday, August 10, 2020
# Philippians 1:3-11

The Apostle Paul had highs and lows. He experienced relentless hardship. He had spiritual, physical, mental and social stressors. But he also had the affection of Jesus. In return, Paul loved the Lord and was on mission for Jesus. He had a deep affection for the Church. He was never alone. He always had teammates. He refused to quit. He saw the big picture. He knew who he was and where he was going. He finished strong.

The key to the Christian life may be the development of spiritual affections. How we spend our money and time may be the best indicators of what we truly worship. "Passion" is a good word, but it is often connected with sudden impulses that override wisdom and reason. Affections may be less intense and less sporadic but more continuous. It is hard to stay in the heat of passion for long. Affections can be nurtured and developed over a lifetime. We can build, grow and shape our affections.

Jonathan Edwards, an influential New England preacher in the 1700s, helped birth revival (The Great Awakening). He felt too many Christians of his day did not understand what it meant to have their treasure in Jesus Christ. He observed how material riches were the source of security, hope and beauty for many congregants. Faith becomes more vibrant when we realize our true riches come from God. "Stuff" can be good but can never be ultimate or best. Loyalty to Christ is first but that loyalty is expressed through church.

**APPLICATION:** Jesus said *"Seek first the Kingdom of God."* (Matthew 6:33) What does this look like for you with time, money, relationships, media, music, books, speech? How are you developing your affections for Jesus?

# Tuesday, August 11, 2020
# Matthew 22:34-40

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, August 12, 2020
# Luke 16:10-13

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, August 13, 2020
# 2 Corinthians 11:23-29

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, August 14, 2020
# Ephesians 3:7-21

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, August 15, 2020
# Philippians 4:14-20

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Sunday, August 16, 2020
# Philippians 1:3-11

**Sermon Notes:**

# Monday, August 17, 2020
# Philippians 4:8-13

Things seldom go as we anticipate. There are many variations and transitions that occur. Rarely do we go from "Point A" to "Point B." There always seems to be "Point C." Any new and worthwhile endeavor demands mental resilience. I love what Paul says: *"Think about these things."* We get to choose our attitude. There are certain ways we should think and certain ways we should not think.

"The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" helped change my thinking. When we shift our thinking, we change our behavior. *"Think about these things."* Then put them into practice through action. Then we start to feel better. "Self-talk" is the conversation we have with ourselves. We need to be careful about the tapes we play inside our heads.

Bill Taylor told me on his birthday in 2019, he had accepted my challenge to memorize 30 scriptures. He said he recently finished memorizing the last one. He says them each night. He confessed he memorized some that were not on "my list" but I told him I wasn't offended since I'm not the author. Bill was born July 12, 1932. He was memorizing scripture at the age of 87. He and his wife, Phyllis, are hoping to hit 50 memory verses this year. What a great example to follow.

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**APPLICATION:** We can train our brains to focus on good things. Memorize Philippians 4:8-9 this week. Think about and practice these things: *"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. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."*

# Tuesday, August 18, 2020
# Deuteronomy 6:4-9

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, August 19, 2020
# Psalm 119:9-16; 52-64

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, August 20, 2020
# Matthew 5:17-20

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, August 21, 2020
# Philippians 3:12-16

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, August 22, 2020
# 2 Timothy 2:1-7

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

Sunday, August 23, 2020
Philippians 4:8-13

**Sermon Notes:**

# Monday, August 24, 2020
# 3 John 2-4

My 10th grade teacher asked our class what was our one wish? A classmate wished everyone in her family could be healthy. At the time I thought, *"What a dumb wish!"* Someone in her family must have had health issues. I did not understand it then, but I do now. My father and sister both died at 56. Now my mom has severe memory loss. I have two degrees from ORU. Oral Roberts was a visionary. He was a leader in emphasizing the whole person—in body, mind and spirit: *"May your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (1 Thessalonians 5:23) Jesus spoke to the spirit and soul, but also healed bodies. Paul said our bodies were important: *"With full courage now as always, Christ will be honored in my body,"* and will be transformed in heaven. (Philippians 1:20)

The joke is, it is called COVID "19" because since it hit, we all have gained 19 pounds. Staying physically strong is challenging but essential. Christians tend to condemn some unhealthy behaviors while ignoring others. We often overlook the stewardship of our bodies. This saying is tacky but can be true: *"He dug his grave with a knife and fork."* The Old Testament esteemed the human body. It provided many rules and regulations to keep it healthy and safe (particularly in Leviticus 13-16). An integration of the physical and spiritual is fasting.

**APPLICATION:** How are you stewarding your health? What is one thing you can do to be healthier? What can you automate in your daily routine? Will you fast Thursday evening after dinner to Friday dinner as Wesley told the Methodists to do? Memorize 3 John 2 this week: *"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."*

# Tuesday, August 25, 2020
# Proverbs 23:19-21

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, August 26, 2020
# Romans 12:1-2

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, August 27, 2020
# 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 11:23-26

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, August 28, 2020
# Philippians 3:17-21

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, August 29, 2020
# 1 Timothy 4:6-10

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Sunday, August 30, 2020
# 3 John 2-4

**Sermon Notes:**

# Monday, August 31, 2020
# Hebrews 10:24-25

People with strong personal relationships are more resilient. Anything worthwhile demands an investment of time, energy and attention. If we neglect social contact, then friendships will wither and atrophy. Hebrews tells us to consider ways to *"stir up one another."* When someone puts cream or sugar in coffee or tea and stirs, it permeates the whole drink.

The New Testament lists how to treat *"one another."* Here are a few descriptions: *"Be in harmony with, greet, welcome, outdo in honor, serve, comfort, do good to, confess your sins to, be gentle, patient and kind, submit, forgive, admonish, encourage, build up, have humility for, show hospitality to, be at peace with, and have fellowship."* Jesus said five times in John 13 and 15 to *"love one another."* Love is less about feelings and more about behavior. John says the same thing six times in his epistles. The flip-side states it in a negative way: *"Do not…. judge, have lawsuits, compare, bite and devour, provoke, consume, lie to, grumble."*

We are to avoid the bad habit of neglecting to meet together. Instead, we are to be encouraging one another. Matthew Hansen wrote, *"The Divine is hidden within community, and this community, when submitted to, shapes us into resilient people we could not have become on our own."*

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**APPLICATION:** Are you showing up to church? When is the last time you invited someone to join you? Jesus took initiative. How can we *"awake, revive, motivate, inspire, incite, stimulate, fire up and excite"* one another? A phone call, text, email or invitation to coffee may help someone who is struggling. Breaking down walls of division, creating unity and reconciling the world to Christ should be our habit. To quote "Ghostbusters," *"Who ya gonna call?"*

# Tuesday, September 1, 2020
# John 15:12-17

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, September 2, 2020
# Romans 15:1-7

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, September 3, 2020
# Galatians 5:13-26

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, September 4, 2020
# Ephesians 4:25-32

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, September 5, 2020
# 1 Peter 4:7-11

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

Sunday, September 6, 2020
Hebrews 10:24-25

**Sermon Notes:**

# Monday, September 7, 2020
# John 14:25-28

Our series on resilience begins and ends with a spiritual response.

Here are four ways we can develop spiritual affections:

1. Genesis 1-2 describes our good and benevolent Creator. We must always start with God's love. John 3:16, is the most cherished Bible verse because it begins with God's love for the world He created.
2. When sin entered the world, it spread like a virus to all. Matthew's Gospel quotes John the Baptist's first word as "repent." To repent is to admit we are stained by sin and we must make a U-turn and go in a new direction. Repentance is not a one-and-done thing. To develop our affections for God is a constant and vigilant realignment with the Lord.
3. Our Lord's Prayer acknowledges not only are we forgiven but we must forgive others, too. A lack of forgiveness hinders resilience. Bitterness keeps us stuck in anger, depression, isolation and self-pity. It is toxic.
4. Generosity builds resilience. Being strong means learning to give to God and to others. Generosity must be learned. "Jesus, the Generous" gave us Himself. He is our helper, teacher, comforter, counselor, friend and advocate. He takes our anxiety and fear and gives us peace. The Holy Spirit is the empowering agent for a follower of Jesus.

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**APPLICATION:** How afraid or anxious are you? Is your heart troubled? How peaceful are you? Are you remembering the words of Jesus? Are you letting the Holy Spirit, the Helper, into your life? Say the Lord's Prayer every day this week and memorize John 14:27: "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*"

# Tuesday, September 8, 2020
# Matthew 3:1-12

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, September 9, 2020
# Matthew 6:5-15

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, September 10, 2020
# Matthew 18:21-35

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, September 11, 2020
# Luke 17:11-19

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, September 12, 2020
# John 3:16-21

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

SPIRITUAL RESILIENCE, PART 2

# Sunday, September 13, 2020
# John 14:25-28

**Sermon Notes:**

# THE POWER OF GENEROSITY

September 14 – October 11, 2020

# THE POWER OF GENEROSITY

The "butterfly effect" is phenomenon where a tiny localized change can create a significantly different outcome. The metaphor was first applied to weather systems when scientists illustrated their theory by saying the flapping of a butterfly's wings on one continent could change the details of a storm on another continent, many weeks later. What we think, say, and do may seem small and insignificant in the moment, but can have a large effect in the future. Small changes, over time, can be powerful.

A foundational book for me has been "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People." Stephen Covey contrasts two mindsets: scarcity vs. abundance. He wrote most are deeply scripted in the scarcity mentality. *"They see life as having only so much, as though there were only one pie out there. If someone were to get a big piece of the pie, it would mean less for everyone else."* Jealousy, bitterness, greed, comparison, competition, disloyalty and insecurity describe the scarcity mentality. The abundance mentality is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22). Abundance advocates for others. It recognizes there is plenty to go around. It is a win/win perspective of benefits. Respect, not rivalry, is core.

This four-week series will focus on generosity. It begins with God's generosity to us. The supreme revelation is through Jesus. He taught His followers a lifestyle of generosity, even to the point of laying down His life for His friends. We can live in His kingdom or we can stay in the kingdom of darkness. Jesus said it so well: *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."* (John 10:10-11)

I want to live with abundance, not scarcity. I want to be part of a generous congregation. I want to bless and heal, not curse and kill. Generosity is a powerful tool for growing through adversity. The way of the world is "look out for #1." The kingdom of God has a different way: *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* Adopting an abundance mindset today could change someone else's life tomorrow. Helping Others Follow Jesus means becoming resilient through generosity.

# Monday, September 14, 2020
# 2 Corinthians 8:8-15

Generosity is a chief character trait of God. It is seen in creation (all things are "good"). It is evident in the fall (God seeks and clothes the original sinners). The generosity of God is best revealed in Jesus' life. 2 Corinthians 8:9 is stunning: *"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."* The incarnation, God becoming a human being, is incomprehensible to me. Why would God want to become a human being? Why would God come in such a way at such a time in such a place for such a people? My scarcity mentality is in vivid contrast to the abundance mentality of Jesus, God in human flesh.

Our text is not only historical (back then) but applies to us here and now. Jesus became poor so we could become rich. We begin here. We are fabulously wealthy because of the spiritual gifts of Jesus Christ. Every Christian is rich because of the abundance of His grace. This is our identity.

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**APPLICATION:** A frequent complaint from outsiders (and sometimes insiders) about the church is, "All the church cares about is money." Yes, we must pay our bills, but we know that criticism is usually an excuse to avoid taking personal responsibility. It is also projection. It reflects the attitude of the person making the comment. If a sermon on money makes us angry, aggravated, or anxious, that is an alert that something is amiss in our spiritual lives. Hearing a teaching on giving should make us feel alive, engaged, grateful and joyful. *"How can I grow in generosity?"* Honestly, how are you doing? If we are willing to learn, we can unleash the power of generosity.

# Tuesday, September 15, 2020
# John 10:10-18

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, September 16, 2020
# John 13:1-11

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, September 17, 2020
# Ephesians 1:3-14

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, September 18, 2020
# Philippians 2:5-11

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, September 19, 2020
# Colossians 1:15-20

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Sunday, September 20, 2020
# 2 Corinthians 8:8-15

**Sermon Notes:**

# Monday, September 21, 2020
# Acts 2:42-47

Acts 2:42-47 says the early Church grew. They were *"devoted."* Adjectives that are synonyms of devoted are: *"enthusiastic, dedicated, fervent, zealous, loyal, faithful, committed, caring, loving, affectionate, aligned, kind and attentive."* Verbs that are synonyms of devoted include: *"gave, offered, lavished, heaped and conferred."* Generosity was part of the early Church's daily routine. Acts 2:46 begins: *"And day by day…"* The early Church learned to practice new behaviors and attitudes that became habits that refashioned their hearts.

We change daily. We grow or shrink every time we think, say or do something (or refrain). Some behaviors are fun and easy. Some actions are costly. God does not call believers to a life of ease. Too much comfort leads to apathy, boredom, confusion and being stuck. These early believers were not narcissists. Lost in worship, fellowship, growing in the Word and serving, they learned to forget about themselves and their hardships. They shifted into the kingdom of God. They were people of joy. They had purpose and meaning. They helped others in need. They were devoted to the mission of Helping Others Follow Jesus.

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**APPLICATION:** The early Church had *"glad and generous hearts."* A church is only as generous as its members. Financial freedom is a powerful tool that can help us become more generous. That, in turn, will help us *"add to our number day by day those who are being saved."* Asbury is starting "Financial Peace University" classes with options of in-person or virtual attendance. Classes begin October 4, 11 and 13. For more information visit: asburytulsa.org.

# Tuesday, September 22, 2020
# Matthew 19:16-30

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, September 23, 2020
# Luke 12:13-21

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, September 24, 2020
# Acts 20:31-38

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, September 25, 2020
# 1 Timothy 6:3-10

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, September 26, 2020
# 1 Timothy 6:17-21

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

THE POWER OF GENEROSITY

# Sunday, September 27, 2020
# Acts 2:42-47

**Sermon Notes:**

# Monday, September 28, 2020
# Acts 4:32-37

Some people in the Bible were poor and some were rich. Jesus observed both. Current studies show poorer people tend to be more generous in giving a proportion of their income than the wealthy. Jesus saw this happen in the Temple and commented about it. Money has a power all its own. It must be dethroned, or it becomes an idol. Jesus said we can't worship God and money. We must choose who is Lord and who we will serve.

I think most Christians claim they want to be generous but fail for various reasons. Some lack desire; we love other things more than the Lord and give God our leftovers (Malachi 1). Some are afraid we won't have enough, and the Lord really won't provide for us. Some lack knowledge and don't have a good plan of action. Finally, some do not act on the plan they make.

Know. Plan. Do.

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**APPLICATION:** Since this pandemic struck, many have found personal finances are not as we desire. Most Americans do not have even $1,000 in savings. It's hard to be generous living paycheck to paycheck. Financial freedom is possible though it demands sacrifice and discipline. An Asbury family took FPU, applied the concepts and paid off ALL their debt, including their home mortgage. They said, *"We didn't know not having a mortgage was even possible."*

FPU gives tools and a plan to get out of debt so we can discover the power of generosity. Finances are connected to the heart. Getting out of debt is NOT the goal. The goal is to become a generous person. Jesus asked a lame man THE most important question: *"Do you want to get well?"* Help is available. FPU classes begin October 4, 11 and 13. For more information visit asburytulsa.org.

# Tuesday, September 29, 2020
# Matthew 12:33-37

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, September 30, 2020
# Luke 19:1-10

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, October 1, 2020
# Luke 21:1-4

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, October 2, 2020
# Acts 5:1-11

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, October 3, 2020
# 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

GENEROUS PEOPLE

# Sunday, October 4, 2020
# Acts 4:32-37

**Sermon Notes:**

# Monday, October 5, 2020
# Proverbs 3:5-10

The ultimate question is: *"Who will I trust?"* Our coins say, *"In God we trust."* Tithing is an Old Testament concept found in the first book, Genesis, and the last book, Malachi. Abram gave Melchizadek the tithe (10% of all he possessed). God does not need our money. But we need to strip money of its power and make God our priority. We need to trust God in ALL our ways, including our finances.

The New Testament describes the joy created by generosity. I love the story of Mary anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume only to be rebuked by Judas (John 12:1-8). She illustrates the fragrance of giving. It was unbridled devotion.

The New Testament emphasizes generosity, not tithing, but the tithe is a good standard. I like the "10/10/80 plan." Give the first 10 percent to the Lord. Designate the next 10 percent to long-term savings (retirement). Live on 80 percent. Do it long term. John Wesley taught the Methodists: *"Gain all you can"* (through honest labor). *"Save all you can"* (be frugal). *"Give all you can"* (do not spend or hoard). His words still apply.

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**APPLICATION:** In the love chapter (1 Corinthians 13), Paul describes having moved past being like a child. He saw things differently as an adult. He matured. Have you matured in your trust of God? …your finances? …your giving? What percentage of your income are you giving and saving (long term)? How can you better honor the Lord with your wealth?

One of our membership vows is about financial giving. Every member needs to be consistently giving to the church. If you haven't started, this is the time to begin. If you are already giving, this is an invitation to stretch your faith.

# Tuesday, October 6, 2020
# Genesis 14:17-24

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, October 7, 2020
# Malachi 3:6-12

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, October 8, 2020
# Matthew 6:19-24

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, October 9, 2020
# Matthew 22:15-22

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, October 10, 2020
# 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

THE POWER OF GENEROSITY

# Sunday, October 11, 2020
# Proverbs 3:5-10

**Sermon Notes:**

# ROMANS 8

October 12 – November 22, 2020

# ROMANS 8

The book of Romans is divided into two parts: theology (1-11) and practical application (12-16). The first section lays out what has been called "The Roman Road of Salvation." This tells us how God is righteous and good, how we ALL have sinned and fallen short of God's glory, and how Jesus came to die so we could be reconciled to God. However, we must confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to be forgiven, restored and blessed. Then we cooperate with God in the mission of Helping Others Follow Jesus.

Chapter 8 is unique as it both teaches theology and has a practical application. It has been called the "inner sanctuary within the cathedral of Christian faith." It marks a major transition. It describes how we no longer live under the condemnation of sin but have been given the Holy Spirit and adopted into a new family. The Christian faith is based on the resurrection of Jesus. It is full of hope because *"all things work together for good…"*

As we continue with our theme of resilience, Romans 8 represents a threshold. Paul talks about where we were before Christ and where we are going as we move forward in Christ: From condemnation to freedom, from flesh to Spirit, from death to life, from slaves to heirs, and from suffering to glory.

This chapter is so good we will take six weeks to do an in-depth study of it AND we will take a memory challenge each week from one of the verses we study. We trust you will make every effort to be part of this study and to be physically present in the room on Sunday mornings, only missing for a reason you know God would approve.

# Monday, October 12, 2020
# Romans 8:1-8

I had a professor who often said, *"A text without a context is a pretext."* Failure to know what goes before and what comes after our current experience is often misleading. Context is everything.

Paul's conclusion in chapter 7 is bleak: *"Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"* (7:24) *"Wretched"* means *"worthless, despicable, inadequate, shameful, vile, miserable, inferior and heartbroken."* John Newton used this word to describe himself in the hymn, "Amazing Grace," *"that saved a wretch like me."* Paul sounds like he is tormented by condemnation. *"Sin, death, flesh and hostile to God"* are not places we want to be. The law is good but is powerless to redeem. Paul suddenly made a profound shift in chapter 8. His "get out of jail free card" was based on the merits of Jesus Christ. No longer was he condemned. Continuing Newton's song, *"I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see."* Paul had a comprehensive view when it comes to *"no condemnation."*

Through God's mercy, our poisoned cup of sin has been poured out and refilled with grace and the Holy Spirit. Paul mentioned the Holy Spirit only four times in the first seven chapters of Romans. In chapter 8 he references the Holy Spirit 27 times. The Holy Spirit appears more times in this chapter than in any other chapter in the entire Bible.

**APPLICATION:** Our memory verse this week is Romans 8:1: "*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*" Spend your week releasing the toxin of condemnation and receiving the breath of the Holy Spirit.

# Tuesday, October 13, 2020
# Luke 6:37-38

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, October, 14 2020
# John 8:2-11

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, October 15, 2020
# Romans 5:12-17

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, October 16, 2020
# Romans 5:18-21

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, October 17, 2020
# 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Sunday, October 18, 2020
# Romans 8:1-8

**Sermon Notes:**

# Monday, October 19, 2020
# Romans 8:9-17

Our readings this week include how Jesus was on mission to find the lost. He described three lost things – a sheep, a coin and a son. We experience anxiety, fear, frustration, disappointment and sadness when something or someone is lost. In particular, the story of the "Prodigal Son" creates a yearning for reunion. The son became a slave to his passions and emotions—what Romans 8:13 describes as living according to the flesh. He was as good as dead. He finally came to his senses and returned home where his father joyfully embraced him. We miss the point if we focus solely on the two boys in the story rather than the father. It really could be called, "The Prodigal Father" because a synonym of "prodigal" is "extravagant." "Abba Father" is prodigious in His love, acceptance and forgiveness of us, His sons and daughters.

It is terrible to be lost. It is wonderful to be found. Redemption is the theme of the Bible. From Genesis 3 to Revelation 22, God is seeking His lost and wayward children. Once found, He gives us His Spirit to enable us to live in a completely new way. We are never more Christ-like then when we are Helping Others Follow Jesus.

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**APPLICATION:** Last week's memory verse was Romans 8:1: *"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* This week's memory verse is 8:14: *"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."*

(Note: While "sons of God" seems sexist, we make a terrible mistake in judging history according to current standards. In THAT day, women were not respected. The New Testament, Jesus and Paul, elevated the role and position of women. For Paul to say a woman can be raised to the status of being a son of God was a supreme commendation and compliment.)

# Tuesday, October 20, 2020
# Luke 15:1-10

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, October 21, 2020
# Luke 15:11-32

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, October 22, 2020
# 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, October 23, 2020
# Galatians 4:1-7

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, October 24, 2020
# 1 Peter 2:9-12

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Sunday, October 25, 2020
# Romans 8:9-17

**Sermon Notes:**

# Monday, October 26, 2020
# Romans 8:18-25

Suffering is part of life. The sooner we grasp this, the better. I recoil when I hear Christians accuse someone of being deficient in faith because they are not living with physical health and material abundance. We are so ignorant about the causes of suffering (Job 2, the blind man in John 9, Paul, etc.) that we must be careful not to tell more than we know. The idea of physical and material abundance bestowed on believers is rooted in the Old Testament when the concept of heaven was vague and not well-developed. The Old Testament was more existential – enjoy life "here and now" rather than the great benefit to come later. Heaven became THE destination when Jesus described it.

Christians around the world celebrate "All Saints Day" on November 1. A "saint" in the Bible refers to anyone who is a follower of Jesus. We can learn from studying the biographies of Christians who have been especially holy or effective in ministry. Two things all saints have in common – they have suffered and when they die, they go to live forever in the glory of God.

I am grateful for the example of the saints I've known in ministry in the churches I've served, including Asbury. It is always appropriate on "All Saints Day" to reflect upon their examples and influence.

**APPLICATION:** Our Romans memory verses are 8:1: *"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* And 8:14: *"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."* This week is 8:18: *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."*

# Tuesday, October 27, 2020
# Job 2

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, October 28, 2020
# Isaiah 53:1-6

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, October 29, 2020
# Romans 5:1-5

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, October 30, 2020
# 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, October 31, 2020
# Philippians 1:18-30

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Sunday, November 1, 2020
# Romans 8:18-25

**Sermon Notes:**

# Monday, November 2, 2020
# Romans 8:26-30

Our text this week is amazing. We could do an entire series on these five verses. Many believers cling to verse 28 in particular, *"All things work together for good."* That's essential. It can be hard to believe that such awful things can happen. I can tell stories about some. I'm sure you can, too.

The key to a productive Christian life is the Holy Spirit. He helps us in our weakness. He prays for us with incredible depth. He searches our hearts and produces the mind of Christ within us. He transforms and conforms us into a follower of Jesus. He helps us live into the center of God's will. He calls us in accordance with His purpose.

Our favorite part of verse 28, *"All things work together for good,"* is sandwiched between two other clauses: FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD and FOR THOSE WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. To win, I must be on the right ("winning") team. If I choose not to be on that team, those promises (*"all things work together for good"*) may not apply. Remember WHO is in charge: God. Remember He justifies us through our faith.

**APPLICATION:** The memory verse is ALL of 8:28: *"We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."* We should always try to improve our circumstances; however, it is even better to change our hearts to align with God's will. We can't always change our situation, but we can always have the mind of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

# Tuesday, November 3, 2020
# 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, November 4, 2020
# 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, November 5, 2020
# Colossians 1:3-14

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, November 6, 2020
# James 4:1-10

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, November 7, 2020
# 1 Peter 1:3-12

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Sunday, November 8, 2020
# Romans 8:26-30

**Sermon Notes:**

# Monday, November 9, 2020
# Romans 8:31-36

*"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* I don't know what you're up against, but we should never forget this verse. Memorize it. Internalize it. *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* This has been a political week. *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* We've had cultural tensions. *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* Our health has been challenged. *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* Finances break down. *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* Relationships end through distance, divorce or death. *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"*

Resolving the "IF" question is essential. That is the point of the incarnation – Jesus became human so we could know God is with us and for us. That is the point of His teaching – so we could know how to follow Him. That is the point of the Resurrection. He overcame everything, including death, so we could know Him in His triumph. That is the point of giving the Holy Spirit and the creation of the Church. EVERYTHING is different. *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* The best news is, that God IS for us. What an incredible gift.

**APPLICATION:** The memory verse this week is 8:31: *"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"* Verse 34 asks who condemns? Most often we condemn ourselves. Frequently we condemn each other. Romans 8:1 tells us what is true.

# Tuesday, November 10, 2020
# Psalm 27

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, November 11, 2020
# Psalm 46:1-7

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, November 12, 2020
# Daniel 3:13-18

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, November 13, 2020
# Habakkuk 3:17-19

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, November 14, 2020
# 1 John 4:1-6

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Sunday, November 15, 2020
# Romans 8:31-36

**Sermon Notes:**

# Monday, November 16, 2020
# Romans 8:37-39

Life is more than winning. Alexander the Great supposedly wept when there were no more worlds for him to conquer. We are *"more than conquerors."* Jesus more than defeated His enemies; He was exalted to the highest place of honor and is now seated at the Father's right hand. When we choose to align ourselves with Jesus, we align ourselves with the greatest power that exists. All the promises of God find their "yes" in Jesus. He is more than everything we need.

Review chapter 8 by completing the three-column list in the back of this journal of what God has done and what we receive. For example, in verse 2, it says God has set us free from the law of sin and death. That is a definite act of God. Our benefit is found in verse 1, where it says we no longer live with condemnation. We did not do this ourselves; it is the gift of God. However, we must receive and apply the gift. I counted 16 ways our Benefactor acted on our behalf. I counted 25 benefits.

When I looked at my two columns, the obvious question was: *"Who in their right mind wouldn't want benefits like these: life, peace, freedom, no condemnation, adoption as children, etc.?"* What God has done for us in Jesus is stunning. I cannot imagine why anyone would not want the Lord in their lives. Two possible explanations: Either they have not heard and understood this gift because we have not communicated the "Good News" in a winsome way; or they have a mind so completely set upon the flesh that they cannot comprehend how wonderful this gift really is.

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**APPLICATION:** The best of Romans 8 comes last. In fact, this is one of the best parts of the entire Bible. I challenge you to conclude our study on Romans 8 by memorizing verses 37-39: *"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

# Tuesday, November 17, 2020
# John 10:22-30

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Wednesday, November 18, 2020
# Ephesians 1:15-23

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Thursday, November 19, 2020
# Ephesians 2:1-10

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Friday, November 20, 2020
# Colossians 3:1-4

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Saturday, November 21, 2020
# Jude 24-25

1. What are your thoughts, feelings and application from reading today's text?
2. How does it tie in with the upcoming sermon?
3. Write down (at least) one person/thing/situation for which you are thankful.

# Sunday, November 22, 2020
# Romans 8:37-39

**Sermon Notes:**

| WHAT OUR BENEFACTOR HAS DONE | WHAT BENEFITS WE RECIEVED | VERSES |
|---|---|---|
| Set us free from the law of sin and death | We no longer live with condemnation | 1-2 |
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