TikTok Devotional Series Transcript:

March 2023

March 1 2023 - Opened Her Heart

One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. (Acts 16:14)

Everywhere Paul preached some believed and some did not. How are we to understand this. The answer why some did not believe is that they *"thrust it aside" (Acts 13:46)* because the message of the gospel was *"folly to [them], and [they were] not able to understand" (1 Corinthians 2:14).*

But why then do some believe, since all are in this condition of rebellious hardness of heart, dead in their trespasses? The book of Acts gives the answer in at least three different ways. One is that they are appointed to believe.

Another way of answering why some believe is that God granted repentance. But the clearest answer in Acts to the question why a person believes the gospel is that God opens the heart. Lydia is the best example. Why did she believe? Acts 16:14 says, *"The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul."*

If you are a believer in Jesus, all of these happened to you: You were appointed to believe; you were granted to repent; and the Lord opened your heart. The rest of your life you should be overflowing with amazed thankfulness at the miracle that you are a believer and that the Lord opened your heart.

March 2, 2023 - Wonderfully Made

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:14

This month, the World Surf League announced it will allow transgender-identifying men to compete in its women's surfing competitions. The new policy made an even bigger splash when "Soul Surfer" Bethany Hamilton announced she would no longer compete because of it.

Like any athletic association that caves to radical gender ideology, WSL's new policy threatens hard-won fairness for women in sports. Last year, transgender athlete Lia Thomas, a below-average swimmer in men's competition, snagged a Division 1 national title in women's swimming.

These policies are rooted in ideology, not science. Despite what activists claim, male athletes retain competitive advantage over women—even after taking estrogen for an extended time.

Hamilton is taking a lot of heat, enduring threats and vitriol because of her stand. She is essentially stating the obvious, but as has been attributed to George Orwell, "In a time of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act." We are wonderfully made by God, male and female.

March 3, 2023 - Comes To Light

This is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God. John 3:19-21

Before we turn to Christ, there is, so to speak, a veil over our eyes so that we can't interpret what's happening in our lives in its proper relationship to God before we're a Christian. In a profound sense, we are blind to what God is doing in our lives. So we can't tell any true stories about God's work in our lives before our eyes are open to see what he's really doing in our lives.

When a person turns to Christ and comes into the light, he is able to see not only the path that is in front of him and how he should walk now that he's a Christian, but he is also able to see for the first time what was really going on in his life before he was led to Christ and crossed over the line between unbelief and belief. The light of Christ shines in both directions: it shines forward to show us how to live, and it shines backward to show how God worked in our lives to enable us to come to the light.

March 4, 2023 - Be Your Servant

Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. Mark 10:43

No leader sets out to be average. But somewhere along the way, we get stuck, hit a cap, and simply run out of courage.

What does courage have to do with successful leadership and why is it so important? Because along with courage comes confidence. And the internal confidence of a Christian leader typically comes from knowing that the Lord is with us and for us. People who see themselves as competent are more likely to take risks and lean into whatever challenges come their way.

Courageous leaders are committed to relentless growth. Every leader needs a truth-teller and a tank-filler in their life. Successful people don't get tired of doing the same right thing over, and over, and over again. A leader who is physically healthy does not get tired of exercising or eating well.

Courageous leaders invest in resilient relationships. Developing resilient relationships depends on you. People are tired of being lied to. They're tired of the false celebrations at the end of the year and they're longing for authenticity. They want their leader to sit across from them and tell them they matter. They want to feel seen and loved. Jesus who is the greatest leader ever became a servant to His people.

March 5, 2023 - Be Ye Kind

Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

Today I want to share with you some Biblical truths that have been on my heart. The Bible teaches us to love one another, just as God loves us. That means we should show kindness, compassion, and forgiveness to those around us.

We're also reminded to have faith, even when things get tough. The Bible says that with faith as small as a mustard seed, we can move mountains. So even when it seems like the odds are against us, we can trust in God to see us through.

We are encouraged to live a life of purpose and service. The Bible says that we are all created with unique gifts and talents, and that we should use them to make a positive impact on the world. Whether it's through sharing the gospel, volunteering, giving back to our communities, or simply spreading kindness, we can make a difference in the lives of others.

I pray these Biblical truths will inspire and encourage you today. Remember, God loves you and has a plan for your life. Keep the faith and keep spreading his love and good news!

March 6, 2023 - Hope In Christ

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all men most miserable. (1 Corinthians 15:19)

Paul makes this powerful statement, what does this mean for us as Christians today?

As we live in a world that often feels hopeless, it's easy to put our hope in the things of this life: money, success, relationships, and so on. Paul reminds us that if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we have missed the true meaning of our faith.

Our hope in Christ goes beyond this life. We know that because of His death and resurrection, we have eternal life with Him in heaven. This hope gives us the strength to endure trials and challenges in this life, knowing that we have a greater purpose beyond what we can see.

When we live with hope in Christ, we live with a perspective that sees beyond the temporary struggles of this world. We can live with joy, knowing that our ultimate home is with Him in heaven.

So let us not put our hope solely in the things of this world, but let us put our hope in Christ and the promise of eternal life with Him. May this hope give us the courage to face each day with joy and purpose, and may we be a witness to the world of the hope that is found in Christ alone as we hope in Christ.

March 7, 2023 - Against God's Elect

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. (Romans 8:33)

This is a powerful reminder of the security we have in our relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are part of God's elect, chosen by Him to be his children and heirs of His kingdom.

Our standing before God is not based on our own merit or good works, but on the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. When we put our faith in Him, we are made right with God, and nothing can separate us from His love.

In a world that often values success and achievement above all else, it can be easy to feel like we are falling short. We may worry that we are not good enough parents, spouses, or children. We may feel like we are failing to live up to society's expectations.

The good news is that our worth is not based on our accomplishments or even our roles within our families. Our worth comes from being children of God, redeemed by Jesus Christ. No matter what others may say or think about us, we can rest in the knowledge that we are loved and accepted by our Heavenly Father.

Let us be encouraged to live confidently in the truth of our identity as God's elect. Let us also strive to extend that same love and acceptance to those around us, especially within our families. We can do this by treating each other with kindness and respect, forgiving one another when we fall short, and reminding each other of the truth of God's love and grace, knowing that no-one can bring a charge against God's elect.

March 8, 2023 - Seek First The Kingdom

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. - Matthew 6:33

As Christians, we know that seeking God should be our top priority. But what does it mean to seek God first? It means putting Him above all else in our lives.

When we seek God first, we're asking Him to guide us and lead us in all aspects of our lives, including our roles as parents and spouses.

As we seek God first, we'll find that He gives us the wisdom and strength we need to be the parents and spouses that He's called us to be. We'll also find that our relationships with our family members become stronger and more fulfilling when we're putting God at the center of them.

One way to seek God first as a family is to prioritize serving others. Look for ways to serve your community or church together, and model the love and compassion of Christ to those around you.

Remember, when we seek God first, we're not neglecting our families - we're actually putting them in the best possible position. As we put God at the center of our lives and our families, we'll find that all the other things we need - love, joy, peace, and more - will be added unto us as we seek first the Kingdom of God.

March 9, 2023 - Pure In Heart

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (Matthew 5:8)

As Christians, we strive to live a life that is pleasing to God, and one of the ways we can do this is by purifying our hearts. Jesus taught us that the pure in heart are blessed because they will see God.

But what does it mean to have a pure heart? To have a pure heart means to have a heart that is free from impure thoughts, motives, and desires. It means to have a heart that is focused on God and His will for our lives. God gives us such a heart through salvation.

When our hearts are pure, we are able to see God more clearly. We are able to recognize His presence in our lives and in the world around us. We are also able to experience His love and grace in a deeper way.

However, purifying our hearts is not always easy. We live in a world that is full of temptation and distractions. We are constantly bombarded with messages that tell us to put ourselves first and pursue our own desires. We need the help of God's Spirit.

As we seek to purify our hearts, let us turn to God for help. Let us pray for His guidance and strength as we strive to live a life that is pleasing to Him. And let us remember that as we purify our hearts, we will be blessed with the gift of seeing God more clearly.

March 10, 2023 - Work of Faith

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power. (2 Thessalonians 1:11)

Paul expresses his heart's desire for the Thessalonians, that they may be made worthy of God's calling and that every good intention and act of faith in their lives may be fulfilled by God's power.

As Christians, we are called to a higher purpose and to live our lives in a way that honors God. However, we cannot do this on our own. We need God's help and empowerment to live up to our calling and to fulfill the good works that He has prepared for us.

We must pray for God's guidance and strength in all that we do. We must also seek to align our will with His and to follow His lead. When we do this, we will find that our lives are more fulfilling and that we are able to make a greater impact for His kingdom.

Let us make it a habit to pray for ourselves and for others, that God may make us worthy of His calling and fulfill every good intention and act of faith in our lives by His power. May we always seek His guidance and strength as we seek to live out His purpose and honour Him in every work of faith.

March 11, 2023 - I Will Not Turn Away

"I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. . . . I will rejoice in doing them good." (Jeremiah 32:40–41)

This is one of those promises of God that I come back to again and again. Can you think of any fact more encouraging than that God rejoices to do you good? Not just does you good. Not just is committed to doing you good — glorious as that is. But that he rejoices to do you good. *"I will rejoice in doing them good."*

He doesn't begrudgingly fulfill the promise in Romans 8:28 to work everything together for our good. It is his joy to do you good. And not just sometimes, it is always! There are no lapses in his commitment or in his joy in doing good to his children — to those who trust him. That should make us so glad!

Sometimes it is hard to be glad. Our situation is so hard to bear that we just can't muster any joy. When that happens to me, I look at the hopeless situation in the face and say, *"You are not as strong as God! He can do the impossible. And I know he loves to do it for those who trust him. So, hopelessness, you will not have the last say. I trust God!"*

God has always been faithful to guard that little spark of faith for me and eventually (not always right away) fan it into a flame of happiness and full confidence. Oh, how glad I am that what makes the heart of almighty God happy includes doing good for you and me and he will not turn away from doing good to us.

March 12, 2023 - Seek Glory from God

"How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?" John 5:44

The answer is, you can't. Itching for glory from other people makes faith impossible. Why?

Because faith looks away from self to God. Faith is being satisfied with all that God is for you in Jesus. And if you are bent on getting the satisfaction of your itch from the scratch of others' praise, you will turn away from Jesus. That is not what he is like. He lives for the glory of his Father. And calls us to do the same.

But if you would turn from self as the source of satisfaction, which is repentance, and come to Jesus for the enjoyment of all that God is for us in him, this is faith, then the itch of emptiness would be replaced by a fullness — what Jesus calls *"a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14).* Seek the glory that comes from the only God.

March 13, 2023 - The Eternal God

"The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Deuteronomy 33:27

As believers, we are called to prioritize our relationships with God and our families. God is our dwelling place and we are held securely in His everlasting arms. This verse provides a source of comfort and reassurance to those who may be going through difficult times or facing challenges within their families.

God is eternal, unchanging and steadfast in His love for us. His arms are a symbol of strength, support, and protection. No matter what happens in our lives, we can rest in the knowledge that God is with us, holding us up and keeping us safe.

Our families are gifts from God, and we are called to love and care for one another. As we navigate the ups and downs of life, we can find strength in our relationships with our loved ones.

As we reflect on this scripture, let us remember to turn to God as our refuge and place our trust in His unwavering love. Let us also cherish and nurture our families, seeking to be a source of support and encouragement to one another. May we be reminded that, through it all, we are held firmly in the arms of the eternal God.

March 14, 2023 - We Might Have Hope

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit? How can we experience an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our church and ourselves that fills us with great joy and frees us, and empowers us, to love those around us in ways so authentic that they are won to Christ?

Answer: Meditate day and night upon the incomparable, hope-giving promises of God. Romans 15:4 shows us, that's the way Paul kept his heart full of hope and joy and love.

The full assurance of hope comes from meditating on the promises of God's word. And this does not contradict the sentence nine verses later that says that the Holy Spirit gives us hope (Romans 15:13). This is because the Holy Spirit is the divine author of Scripture. His word is the means of his work. It is no contradiction that the way he fills us with hope is by filling us with his own word of promise.

Hope is not some vague emotion that comes out of nowhere. Hope is the confidence that the amazing future promised to us by the word of the Spirit is going to really come true. Therefore, the way to be filled with the Spirit is to be filled with his word. The way to have the power of the Spirit is to believe the promises of his word and have hope.

March 15, 2023 - Churches and Friendship

"A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Proverbs 18:24

What are the factors in upward social mobility? Among other factors such as good healthcare, schools, and parents who stay married, kids from lower-income households tend to do better if they have friends, family, or community members from diverse economic backgrounds.

How do those relationships form? The church can be a great place for this to occur.

Although many churches are socioeconomically homogeneous, those with some diversity tend to foster more cross-class interactions than most other social activities. Churches have lower levels of what the researchers call socioeconomic "friending bias."

Churchgoers tend to be more willing to associate with people outside of their immediate economic bracket. Because of this, and other reasons, the Church is one of the best drivers of human flourishing that God created. The world needs the Church to be the Church, it will be good for them.

March 16, 2023 - In The Cross

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Galatians 6:14

When I survey, the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain, I count but loss, and pour contempt, on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death, of Christ, my God!
All the vain things, that charm me most, I sacrifice them, through his blood.
See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

May our Lord help us not to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

March 17, 2023 - A Bruised Reed

A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench. (Isaiah 42:3)

This portrays the tender and compassionate heart of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one who came to heal the brokenhearted and to bind up their wounds. In this verse, we see that He is gentle with those who are hurting, fragile, and weak. He will not break a bruised reed, nor will He quench a faintly burning wick. Instead, He will bring comfort and restoration to those who are hurting.

As Christians, we are called to imitate Christ and show the same gentleness and compassion to those around us. Our families are one of the primary places where we can practice this. Sometimes our loved ones may be struggling, hurting, or feeling weak, and it is our responsibility to care for them and help them to feel loved and valued.

We can do this by listening to them, showing empathy, and offering our support. We can also pray for them, asking God to bring healing and restoration to their lives. Ultimately, we can point them to Christ, who is the true source of healing and hope.

Let us, therefore, strive to be like Christ, showing gentleness and compassion to our families and those around us. May we be a source of comfort and strength to those who are hurting, pointing them to the one who can truly heal and restore a bruised reed.

March 18, 2023 - He Cares For You

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:6–7)

Anxiety about the future is a form of pride. The remedy is turn from self-reliance to God-reliance, and put your faith in the all-sufficient power of the promise of his grace.

This means that casting your anxieties on God is a way of humbling yourself under God's mighty hand. One way to humble ourselves is to cast all our anxieties on God.

Why is casting our anxieties on the Lord the opposite of pride? Because pride does not like to admit that it has any anxieties. Or that we can't take care of them ourselves. And if pride has to admit that its fears are

unmanagable, it still does not like to admit that the remedy might be trusting someone else who is wiser and stronger.

Pride is a form of unbelief and does not like to trust in God for grace. Faith, on the other hand, admits the need for help, it banks on God to give help, it casts anxieties on God. Pride won't do any of these things.

Therefore, the way to battle the unbelief of pride is to admit freely that you have anxieties, and to cherish the promise of grace, unload your fears onto his strong shoulders for "He cares for you."

March 19, 2023 - Jesus Heals Our Wounds

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds," Psalm 147:3

Sierra Leone Pastor Shodankeh Johnson, recently described his calling: "In the middle of the Civil War, I had an opportunity to leave the country. We had partners who wanted to take me out of the country, but I had this conviction that I needed to stay and just serve with my people.

If the rebels attacked a community, when they left, we would look for people who are either amputated or in pain, and we would bring them to a place of safety.

We also went to those displaced in camps and refugee camps to serve the people, providing bed nets for them, providing food, doing trauma healing, peace-building, conflict management. But in the midst of all of that, we also brought the love and message of Jesus to the people".

Sierra Leone's civil war lasted a decade. Shodankeh Johnson is an example of Christians running into the brokenness with truth and hope, not away from it as Jesus heals the wounds of those who are hurting.

March 20, 2023 - My Counsel Shall Stand

" . . . declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.'" (Isaiah 46:10)

As Christians, we often wonder about the future and what it holds for us and our families. We may worry about our children's well-being, our financial stability, or our health. God knows the end from the beginning, and He is in control of everything.

God's purpose for our lives and our families is to glorify Him, and He will accomplish that purpose no matter what. As we trust in Him and seek His will, He will guide us and provide for us every step of the way. We can rest in the assurance that God is working all things together for our good and His glory, even when we cannot see how.

As we strive to honor God in our families, He will bless us and guide us. Our ultimate purpose as families is to serve and glorify Him, and He will accomplish that purpose as we seek to follow Him. May we trust in God's sovereignty and seek to honor Him in all aspects of our lives, including our families, knowing that God's Counsel will stand.

March 21, 2023 - Vulture Culture

"But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:26–28).

Our Lord calls attention over and over again to the lust for power which marks the ungodly, and their dog-eat-dog mentality. It is a philosophy of doing in others before they do you.

The choice He tells us is an inescapable one: we have either a vulture culture or a diaconal one, a world of hatred, evil, and distrust, or a world of faith, grace, and ministry.

The diaconal society, however, can only be built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. The modern state offers a pretended ministry of service as a means to exercising a pagan dominion, and the result is a vulture culture of hatred, crime, and exploitation. It has no grace and therefore no ministry.

We cannot escape this choice: the more we build our country on any other foundation than Jesus Christ, the more we become a depraved and vicious social order, a vulture culture.

March 22, 2023 - For Us

"Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' or 'Your work has no handles'?" (Isaiah 45:9)

The majesty of God is magnified when we see him through the lens of creation out of nothing. He commands nothingness, and it obeys and becomes something.

Out of nothing he makes the clay, and out of the clay he makes us — the pottery of the Lord — his possession, destined for his glory, in total dependence on him.

"Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture" (Psalm 100:3). It is a humbling thing to be a sheep and a pot that belong to somebody else.

Isaiah 33:21 says, "The Lord in majesty will be for us!"

For us! The Creator is for us and not against us. With all the power in the universe and with absolute right to do as he pleases with what he made — he is for us!

"No eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him" (Isaiah 64:4). "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

Can you think of anything that is more comforting and assuring and delighting than that the Lord in his majesty is for you?

March 23, 2023 - Yes In Him

All the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. (2 Corinthians 1:20)

Prayer is the place where the past and future are linked repeatedly in our lives. Paul links prayer with God's Yes in this verse in a striking way.

"Therefore, because of Christ, we say Amen to God in our prayers to show that God gets the glory for the grace we are asking for and counting on when we pray."

If you've ever wondered why Christians say Amen at the end of our prayers, and where that custom comes from, here's the answer. Amen is a word taken straight over into Greek from Hebrew without any translation, just like it has come into English and most other languages without any translation.

In Hebrew, it was a very strong affirmation (see Numbers 5:22; Nehemiah 5:13; 8:6) — a formal, solemn, earnest "I agree," or "I affirm what was just said," or "This is true." Most simply, "Amen" means a very earnest Yes in the context of addressing God.

Now notice the connection between the two halves of our verse. When we realize that "Amen" and "Yes" mean the same thing, here's what the verse says: In Jesus Christ, God says his Yes to us through his promises; and in Christ we say our Yes to God through prayer.

March 24, 2023 - Sure Triumph

Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. (Isaiah 25:3)

Isaiah sees the day coming when all the nations — representatives from all the people groups — will no longer be at odds with Yahweh, the God of Israel and his Messiah, whom we know to be Jesus.

They will no longer worship Bel or Nebo or Molech or Allah or Buddha or utopian social programs or ancestors or animistic spirits. Instead they will come in faith to the banquet on God's mountain. They will have the veil of sorrow removed and death shall be swallowed up and the reproach of God's people will be removed and tears shall be gone forever.

That's the setting for understanding the vision of this verse. God is stronger than the "strong peoples" and he is so powerful and so gracious that in the end he will turn ruthless nations to revere him.

So the picture Isaiah gives us is one of all nations turned to God in worship, a great banquet for all the peoples, the removal of all suffering and grief and reproach from the nations, who have become his people, and the final putting away of death forever. This triumph is sure because God is doing it. Therefore we can be certain of sure triumph.

March 25, 2023 - Pleasures Forevermore

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11

Christianity is the conviction that God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him. If God is made to look glorious by my being satisfied in him, then pursuing my satisfaction in him becomes essential to obedience and worship. And therefore, Christianity says, you must pursue your maximum joy and that's maximum in two senses: maximum in quality, maximum in quantity. In other words, I want fullness of joy, and I want joy forevermore which is exactly what our text says. That is only found in God, nothing else will satisfy.

Christian life is the pursuit of maximum joy in God, because my soul is satisfied and God is glorified. And those two things — God's glory and my joy — are not at odds and that's the beauty of Christianity. God has sent Jesus Christ to die for my sins and to rise again, so that it's possible for me now to have total and complete satisfaction in God forever. When I pursue that, I'm showing that God is infinitely valuable, infinitely satisfying, so that he gets the glory and I get the joy and pleasures forevermore.

March 26, 2023 - The Gospel

Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God. (1 Peter 3:18)

Here's a summary of the gospel to help you understand it and enjoy it and share it!

1) God created us for his glory.

2) Therefore every human should live for God's glory.

3) Nevertheless, we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory.

4) Therefore we all deserve eternal punishment.

5) Yet, in his great mercy, God sent his only Son Jesus Christ into the world to provide for sinners the way of eternal life."*God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).*

6) Therefore eternal life is a free gift to all who will trust in Christ as Lord and Saviour and supreme Treasure of their lives."If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). Now share the Gospel!

March 27, 2023 - Jesus Matters

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

Have you had a split-second thought of the utter realness of dying and standing before an utterly holy God with nothing to commend you but your own sinful life? The horror of it is only surpassed by the flash of reality: Jesus Christ died for this very moment.

This is the essence of what happens whenever someone is converted. This is how Jesus Christ is discovered to be real. This is how a person comes to cherish the love of Christ. Suddenly, for the first time, they see and feel, with the eyes of their heart, the undeniable reality of having to meet God with a guilty conscience.

The impact of that vision is devastating. It causes us to know that our only hope is a Mediator. Standing alone, with nothing to commend us but our own sinful life, we are utterly lost. If there is any hope for eternity in the presence of this Holy God, we will need a Redeemer, a Substitute, a Saviour.

At this point of terrible crisis, nothing shines like the gospel of Jesus Christ — "who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). You may be granted to see the all-engulfing darkness and horror of the judgment — not a theological inference, not a merely rational conclusion, not a mere thought, but a glimpse with the inward eye full of knowing and feeling and certainty.

Our God is a consuming fire. He will not look upon evil. We are utterly lost. Our guilt is so huge, so real, so unquestioned, that there is not even the remotest possibility of making excuses. In this instant Jesus is all that matters.

March 28, 2023 - All Things

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32)

This is a powerful reminder of God's sacrificial love for us. It tells us that God did not spare his own son, Jesus Christ, but instead gave him up for us all, so that we might have eternal life.

If God was willing to make such a tremendous sacrifice for us, then we can be sure that he will also provide us with everything else we need in life. As followers of Christ, we are part of God's family, and just like any loving parent, he wants the best for us.

So, when we face difficult times or feel like we're lacking in some way, we can take comfort in this verse. We can trust that God will provide for us, whether it's material needs, emotional support, or spiritual guidance. He will never leave us or forsake us, and he will always be there to guide and sustain us.

Let us remember that God's love for us is boundless. Let us trust in his promises and rely on his grace as we navigate through life's ups and downs knowing that God will graciously give us all things.

March 29, 2023 - Satan Be Gone!

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. (1 Peter 4:1)

When we arm ourselves with the thought that Christ suffered for us, we realize that we died with him. When we die with him, we cease to sin.

Peter says, “Arm yourselves with this thought!” The weapon for our warfare against sin is this thought — this consideration.

When the temptations of Satan come — to lust, to steal, to lie, to covet, to envy, to retaliate, to put down, to fear — arm yourself with this thought: When my Lord suffered and died to free me from sin, I died to sin!

When Satan says to you, Why deny yourself the pleasure of lust? Why deal with this mess, which you could avoid by lying? Why not go ahead and get that harmless luxury you covet? Why not seek justice by returning the same hurt you just received?

Answer him: The Son of God suffered to deliver me from sinning. I cannot believe he suffered to make me miserable. Therefore, what he died to purchase must be more wonderful than the pleasures of sin. Since I trust him, my susceptibility to your allurements has shriveled up and died. Satan, be gone!

March 30, 2023 - Marriage Matters

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

God designed family in a specific way. The biological reality, that one man and one woman are required to make a child, points to the social reality, which is that children do best with a mum and a dad.

Statistics reveal trends, and the statistics unanimously reveal that the safest and healthiest home situation for children is with their married mum and dad. In fact, in the case of stepfamilies or adoptive parents, in which one or more parent is not biologically related to the child, the risk of abuse lowers dramatically if mum and dad are married to each other. As it turns out, especially when it comes to the wellbeing of children, both biology and the institution of marriage matter.

Plenty of evidence shows that we know this intuitively as well. In fact, we do know that biological relationships are important to children, both intuitively and from every study. No one knows this more than adoptive parents who choose to embrace and love children who have lost that biological connection. Still, we increasingly ignore or reject this reality out of allegiance to the new sexual orthodoxy. We put us before them. We commit ourselves to adult wants and desires over and above the rights and wellbeing of children.

Or, to say it in biblical language, “we suppress the truth in our unrighteousness” not wanting to admit that marriage matters.

March 31, 2023 - Through Knowledge

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence. (2 Peter 1:3)

I am amazed at the power that the Bible attributes to knowledge. Literally, all the power available from God to live and be godly comes through knowledge! Amazing! What a premium we should put on doctrine and instruction in the Scriptures! Life and godliness are at stake.

Not that knowing guarantees godliness. It doesn’t. But it seems that ignorance guarantees ungodliness. Because, Peter says, the divine power that leads to godliness is given through the knowledge of God. Here are three implications, a warning, and an exhortation.

1. Read! But beware of wasting your time on theological foam and suds. Read rich doctrinal books about “the one who called you to his glory and excellence.”

2. Ponder! Slow down. Take time to think about what the Bible means when you read it. Ask questions. Keep a journal. Let yourself be humbly troubled by puzzling things.

3. Discuss. Be a part of a small group that cares passionately about the truth. Not a group that just likes to talk and raise problems. But a group that believes there are biblical answers to biblical problems, and they can be found.

Warning: *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6).“They have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge” (Romans 10:2). So beware of the deadly effects of ignorance. Exhortation: “Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord” (Hosea 6:3).*