

Thursday

Read Galatians 1:6-9. Why is Paul so upset? The “other gospel” the Galatians are adopting teaches that we are rendered acceptable to God by our hard work-- the same kind of “Christianity” that many Americans have experienced and found lacking. Paul argues this is a serious error that leads to slavery and joyless living. He teaches we are saved by our faith in God alone. Read Galatians 3:1-11. Have you ever fallen into a legalistic view of Christianity? How did you recover a focus on God’s grace?

Thank God today for His grace!

Friday

Read Romans 11:33-36. After three of the most theologically heavy chapters of Romans, Paul concludes with this note of humility. What is Paul’s emphasis in these verses? How can this kind of awe and wonder before God help you in your daily life?

Take some time to sit in awe and wonder of God today.

Saturday

Review your memory verse for this week, and pray that TLC will be a church that stays solidly focused on the unique message of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Updates

HOSPITALIZATIONS & SURGERIES THIS PAST WEEK

Angel Navarro, Sr. – ICU, serious infection
Dan Bailey – surgery
David Delucchi – surgery
Jay Webb – testing, unable to eat
Joan Anderson – RCU (restorative care)
John Bowen – UCSF cancer surgery, 5/2, weeks of recovery
Judy Helmle – moving to RCU soon
Ken Stewart (wife Susan) - cancer surgery
Mildred Osenga – ICU, pneumonia
Pamela Stewart – testing
Roger McGary – diabetes, infection
Virginia Fair – RCU (restorative care)

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS & SURGERIES:

Ed Borowiec, Janet Godfrey, Robert Walter, Valerie Franks

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups – call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.

Decoding the TRUTH

“Is The Da Vinci Code On To Something?”

Message by René Schlaepfer, May 21 & 22, 2006

Millions enjoy religious thrillers like *The Da Vinci Code* simply because they’re exciting reads; but millions more are intrigued by the alternative spirituality in such books. Why?

Four Trends in American Spirituality

1. Distrust

The Bible addresses this too:

*“From the least to the greatest, all are **greedy** for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice **deceit**.”* Jeremiah 6:13

[Jesus:] *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look **beautiful on the outside** but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean.”* Matthew 23:27

What can we do?

Examine

*“What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to **judge those inside**? God will judge those outside.”* 1Corinthians 5:12,13

[Jesus:] *“**Watch out** for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves”* Matthew 7:15

2. Disillusionment

The Bible addresses this too:

[Jesus:] *“You hypocrites! *Isaiah* the prophet was right when he wrote that God had said, ‘All of you praise me with your **words**, but you never really think about me... you teach **rules** made up by humans.’”* Matthew 15:7-9 (CEV)

[Jesus:] *“They tie up **heavy loads** and put them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. Everything they do is done for **show**.”* Matthew 23:4,5

What can we do?

Extend

*“Come to **me**, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you **rest**. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find **rest** for your souls.”* Matthew 11:28,29

3. Dissatisfaction

The Bible addresses this too:

*“I am astonished that you are so quickly... turning to a **different gospel**— which is really **no gospel at all**... Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by **human effort**?”* Galatians 1:6; 3:3

“What has happened to all your joy?” Galatians 4:15

What can we do?

Explain

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1

"For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through faith — and this **not from yourselves**, it is the **gift** of God — **not by works**, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8,9

4. Desire

The Bible addresses this too:

[Jesus:] "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." John 5:39,40

What can we do?

Express

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" Romans 11:33,34

In the New Testament (NIV), the word "amazed" is used _____ times to describe how people responded to Jesus.

The take-away:

For believers: Don't just **answer** the superficial **questions** in the book — and miss the **deeper** spiritual questions raised by the book's popularity

For seekers: Don't just **adopt** the superficial **answers** proposed by the book — and miss the **deeper** answers presented in the Bible.

Online Resources

For links to articles and other resources on this topic, see TLC's own website, www.DaVinciExplained.com

Daily Meditations

Brief daily devotions based on this weekend's message

Memory Verse: "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" Romans 11:33-34

Monday

Think back over this series. What is the main take-away for you? How has this study impacted your life?

Read Psalm 119:89-112. This passage is all about the Bible. According to this passage, what are some of the reasons you should know what the Bible says?

How does knowing the Bible help you when you come against something you do not understand?

Thank God today for His Word. Thank Him for the hope, instruction, encouragement and correction. Pray that you will make knowing what God says in His Word a priority. Pray that as you study the Bible more you'll apply more and live it out with love.

Tuesday

Read Matthew 23:25-28. What does Jesus accuse the Pharisees of in these verses? How do those types of attitudes harm the Church?

How have you seen similar attitudes cause trouble? In what way do you struggle with these attitudes?

Read Matthew 7:15-20 & Galatians 5:22-23. What is the difference between "action" and "fruit"?

What are the fruits of a godly life? Which of these would you like to see grow in your life?

Thank God today for His desire for authentic churches. Talk to Him about the fruits of your life. Pray that as you go through the week you will increasingly demonstrate love, joy, peace, patience and self-control in your life.

Wednesday

Read Matthew 11:28-29 & 23:1-7. How were the religious leaders treating people? How does living by "to-do lists" impact a relationship?

What type of life does Jesus offer to His followers?

What does "rest for your soul" mean for you? In what way do you struggle with accepting the rest that Jesus offers and why?

How would your life differ if you embraced the rest of Jesus?

As you spend time in prayer today thank God for His rest. Pray that you will have the faith to relax in His rest. Pray that you will be gracious with those you encounter and free from hypocrisy. Ask God to use you today to spread the truth about who He is.