

Prayer Updates



“Living for Jesus When the Times Discourage It”

Message by Paul Spurlock, July 1 & 2, 2006

HOSPITALIZATIONS & SURGERIES THIS PAST WEEK

Andrew Carlton — complications from recent surgery, returning to Michigan for surgery

Carl Gulbrandsen — reconstructive neck surgery

Chris Sanborn — cancer surgery

Doreen Bartels — back to ER after hip replacement surgery, dehydrated

Earlene Baker — back surgery

Faith Eurie-Turner — both knees replaced (restorative care)

Mary Linder — bypass surgery

Rosie McKinney — knee replacement

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS /SURGERIES

Pete Schipper, Robin Tong

HOSPICE CARE

Jane Evers, home hospice care

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.

The book of 1 John is sort of a sermon based on the Gospel of John that was used to encourage 1st century followers of Jesus to “remain” in him in spite of a culture that was hostile to some of their core beliefs. Its teachings reveal to us a model that the early church lived out, which in turn empowered them to not only survive, but to eventually thrive and change their world! Their model: loving God.

Similarities Between Our World and the Roman World

1st Century

21st Century

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

What it means to _____

1. Love God’s _____

*“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched — this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; **we have seen it and testify to it**, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.” 1 John 1:1–2*

“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.” 1 John 1:3–4

2. Love God’s _____

“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:17–18

3. Love God’s _____

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” 1 John 3:16

4. Love God’s _____

*“And this is his command: to **believe** in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to **love** one another as he commanded us. Those who **obey** his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: **We know** it by the Spirit he gave us.” 1 John 3:23–24*

Daily Meditations

Brief daily devotions based on today's message

Memory Verse: "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his glory and goodness." 2 Peter 1:3

Monday

Think back over the weekend's sermon. What did you learn about the culture's influence on you? How will that impact your life?

Read 1 John 1:1–3. List three ways this passage points out the importance of an intellectual understanding of what you believe.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How does our culture de-emphasize the importance of truth? How have you been tempted to set aside truth when it's convenient? What consequences have you faced because of that choice?

How can you use these passages to help you live in a culture that glorifies relativism?

Thank God today for the Truth that is found in the Bible. Thank Him for the opportunity to study His word. Pray that you'll pursue truth and make knowing the truth a priority.

Tuesday

Read 1 John 1:5–2:6. What does it mean to "walk in the light"?

What happens when you know something but don't live it out? What damage can knowledge without action do when it comes to your faith?

We are often tempted to think that one step out of the light disqualifies us from being used by God. According to these verses what is the hope we have when we realize that we have chosen not to walk in the light?

When do you struggle with wanting to "walk in the darkness"? How can recognizing the importance of living out what's true help you when you're tempted to choose darkness over light?

Thank God today for His forgiveness of your sins. Thank Him for the opportunity to live in the light. Ask Him to grow your desire to walk in the light. Talk to Him about the ways you're tempted to choose darkness over light. Ask God to strengthen you. Pray that your actions will reflect what you believe.

Wednesday

Read 1 John 2:9–11, 3:18 & 4:7–8. How does our culture define love? Looking at that definition, how does it line up with God's definition of love (see 1 Corinthians 13 for starters)?

Think about the love you have for others, especially the difficult people in your life. How do these verses challenge you?

What is the relationship between love and knowledge?

Think over the last few days. How have you lived out love? Think about the next few days. How will these passages impact your relationships at home? At work? With difficult people in your life?

Thank God today for His amazing love for you. Thank Him for many ways He daily shows you His love. Talk to God about those you find it difficult to love. Pray that as you learn more about God's love for you — your love for others will increase!

Thursday

Read 1 John 3:16–18. What is the ultimate example of love?

What instruction is given to Christians in this passage?

How does our culture treat sacrifice? How has that impacted your view of sacrifice?

What joy is there in sacrifice? How have you experienced that?

Take a bold step today — pray for opportunities to sacrifice for others. Ask God to give you the desire to follow His example when it comes to sacrificing for others. Pray that your love for others and sacrifice will point people to God.

Friday

Read 1 John 3:23–24. It always comes back to Jesus! The best way to ensure that you do not give in to the passing waves of culture is to fix your gaze on Jesus, who is unchanging.

Recall a time when you were tossed on the waves of culture? What impact did that have on your heart and mind?

When is it difficult for you to fix your heart's gaze on Jesus?

How could a constant gaze on Jesus impact your life today? What steps will you take to live like that today?

Thank God today that He sent His Son Jesus. Thank Him that you are left to walk alone through life and faith. Ask God to give you the discipline to look first to Him instead of the culture. Pray that your life will be an encouragement to those you encounter.

Saturday

Look back over the notes and the devotions this week. Finish any you may have missed. Polish up the memory verse at the top of the page. Please pray for the services this weekend and for the TLC Staff as they have time with their families on summer vacations and they minister at summer camps! Thanks!