

# LESSONS ON A 120TH BIRTHDAY

June 5 & 6, 2010 • René Schlaepfer

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, **"THUS FAR HAS THE LORD HELPED US."**  
1 Samuel 7:12 (NIV)

## 1. Where God guides, -----

My God will use his wonderful riches in Christ Jesus to give you everything you need. Philippians 4:19 (NCV)

## 2. When God delays, -----

Truly, in our own hearts we believed we would die. But this happened so we would not trust in ourselves but in God, who raises people from the dead. 2 Corinthians 1:9 (NCV)

Jesus: "You do not realize now what I am doing, but **LATER** you will understand." John 13:7b (NIV)

## 3. What God is given, -----

This same Good News that came to you **IS GOING OUT ALL OVER THE WORLD**. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, **JUST AS IT CHANGED YOUR LIVES** from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.  
Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is **NOT IN VAIN**. 1 Corinthians 15:58b (NIV)

## 4. What God starts, -----

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6b (NIV)

We always thank God for all of you We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.  
1 Thessalonians 1:2a-3 (NIV)

# DAILY MEDITATIONS

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

## Monday

Please read 1 Samuel 7:10-13. What encouraged you in last weekend's message?

In this passage Samuel calls the stone monument he built "Ebenezer", meaning "the LORD helped us." How can "Ebenezers" or monuments of faith help you when you are discouraged?

Think of at least two ways you've seen God's help in the past. How can you build an "Ebenezer" to remind you of God's past faithfulness and encourage you in your present and future?

Thank God for His help. Thank Him for the ways He has helped you in the past. Talk with Him about the struggles you're currently facing. Ask Him to remind you of His help and kindness. Pray that remembering God's past help will give you encouragement for your present and future.

## Tuesday

Please read Philippians 4:10-20. What do these verses tell you about God's provision for your needs?

In what area of your life are you experiencing need right now?

What can you learn from this passage about being content?

Thank God today for His faithful provision for your needs. Talk to Him about the needs you are currently facing. Pray for His peace as you face those needs and for the faith to believe that He will act and provide for you. Pray that your heart will be open to His provision (even if it doesn't look like you hoped).

## Wednesday

Please read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11. Seeming delays on God's part can be very difficult. What encouragement did you receive last weekend about waiting for God's timing?

How did Paul's confidence in God help him endure his circumstances?

In what circumstance do you feel like God's timing and your timing are "off"? What would it look like for you to trust God's timing in that circumstance?

Thank God today that He is active in your life. Talk to Him about the ways you feel He is delaying in your life. Pray that your faith and confidence in His ways and timing will grow. Pray that you will be patient with His timing and will wait gracefully and hopefully, confident in His love for you.

## Thursday

Please read 1 Corinthians 15:58 and Colossians 1:3-6. We have talked about this for two weekends now - God multiplies what we give Him no matter how small or big it is. He can do more than we can imagine with what we have to offer Him.

How have you seen the gospel "bearing fruit" in your life?

What are you holding on to thinking it's too little for God to work with? How do these verses encourage you to offer that to God?

Thank God today that He multiplies what little we have to offer Him. Pray for a willingness to give God all of you. Ask God to use you all for His glory and to further His will and His kingdom.

## Friday

Please read Philippians 1:6. We can get so frustrated with ourselves, it can be tempting to think that God wants to walk away from us and move on to another project. But this is a wonderful promise -- God will complete what He began in each one of us.

In what area of your life are tempted to give up on the fact that God is working?

Write down three ways the promise in Philippians 1:6 gives you hope and encouragement.

Thank God today that He will complete the work He has begun in you. Ask Him for patience while He does His work. Pray that you will be open to the work God wants to do through you.

## Saturday

Please read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3. Thank God today for the people He has placed in your life who live out this verse. Thank God for the many people in our church (including you!) who are working together to live out this verse in our community. Pray that God will continue to use Twin Lakes Church, no matter what our circumstances, for His glory and good.



### THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

He who began a good work in you  
will carry it on to completion  
until the day of Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 1:6b