



Welcome to the third week of **Living Beyond Myself**. These Scrolls are designed to work in tandem with our Sunday services to enhance what God wants to teach us during these four weeks. The Scrolls are best used with a *Spiritual Life Notebook*, which is available Sunday mornings here at FBC. For more information about using the *Spiritual Life Notebook*, see the insert that comes with it. The Scrolls, along with companion materials for small groups, are also available online at www.fbcdavis.org.

Taste Buds

We are born with approximately 10,000 taste buds, designed to recognize four basic taste sensations: sweet, sour, salty and bitter. In combination, they can experience all the tastes that the world's food has to offer, from the simplest of dishes to the most complex cuisine. And our tastes change as we grow older. Foods we craved as children no longer hold the same attraction, while dishes we turned our noses up at when young, become favorites. And sometimes, as a rare surprise, you may come across some food, somewhere, somehow, that you bite into and suddenly realize: "This is exactly what my taste buds were made for, and I didn't even know it existed until now!"

God invites us to take a taste of him. It sounds odd, doesn't it? But that's exactly what he says in Psalm 34:8: "Taste and see that the LORD is good." We could say that our spiritual taste buds are made for him. As we will see this week, he calls us into a life of loving and worshipful service. Take a taste, just jump in, and see how good our God truly is.

Monday – Service and Worship

"You exist for his benefit, his glory, his purpose, his delight... Anything that you do that brings pleasure to God is an act of worship." Rick Warren

1. What mental picture comes to mind when you hear the word "serve"? Do you often think of yourself as a servant? Read Romans 12:1-16. What does this passage say about your role in the body of Christ?
2. Take a look at John 4:24, and compare it to Romans 12:1. Jesus says we are to *worship God in spirit and truth*. Paul explains that our lives are to be living sacrifices because this is a *spiritual act of worship*, which pleases God. How do these two verses together deepen our understanding of worship and service?

Living Beyond Myself – Do you think of worship as something that takes place on Sunday mornings or as something that we do with our lifestyle? Rom. 12 describes worship as something that involves the entirety of our lives, including our service to him. Is there an area of your life where you can worship God more fully by changing how you live (see vs. 6-8)?

Tuesday – Jump Right In

"When we grow, in contrast to merely change, we venture into new territory and include more people in our lives – serve more and love more." Eugene Peterson

1. Compare Psalm 34:8 with Romans 12:1-2. Does experiencing God's *good, pleasing and perfect will* sound at all like taking a taste of something good? What does Rom. 12:1-2 say about living this life that tastes pleasing and good?
2. Look at what Romans 12:2 says about not conforming to this world's "pattern." How does Psalm 34:8 suggest a way out of a worldly pattern? What is the pattern of this world when it comes to serving and caring for others?

Living Beyond Myself – Are you ready to let go of the "pattern of this world?" Take one more look at Romans 12:1-16. What is one practical thing you could do today to let go of the "pattern of the world" and taste the Lord's goodness?

Wednesday – Good and Faithful Service

"You were put on earth to make a contribution. You weren't created just to consume resources – to eat, breathe, and take up space. God designed you to make a difference with your life." Rick Warren

1. God really cares about how we serve Him. Read Matthew 25:14-30. What distinguished these servants from one another? Why do you suppose that Jesus had such strong words for the servant who chose not to serve?
2. Where did the servants get the resources to serve the master?

Living Beyond Myself – What gifts (or resources) has God given to you to share in service to others? Is there a ministry at FBC or in the community that could benefit from what you have to share? Perhaps you've thought of starting a new ministry. Though it is a real step of faith, if God is leading you, he will supply all you need.

Thursday – Chocolate or Vanilla?

"In... service there is great liberty. Service enables us to say "no!" to the world's games of promotion and authority. It abolishes our need for a pecking order." Richard Foster

1. Have you ever wondered whether you have what it takes to serve at church or in the community? Read Romans 12:3-8, and pay close attention to the first part of verse 6. What does it say about whether you have what it takes to serve in a ministry? Now look at verse 5. What does it say about service?
2. We all have difficulty letting go of the world's "me first" philosophy. How do the strong words used in Romans 12:3 help us?

Living Beyond Myself – As his children, God has given each of us a unique set of gifts and talents. If you are presently serving at FBC, ask God to show you how you can best use those gifts in your present ministry. If you are not yet involved in an FBC ministry, take some time to prayerfully look at the FBC ministry brochure (handed out the last two Sundays), asking God if there is a ministry he would have you involved in. Then jump in and take a taste. You'll find out whether you like chocolate or vanilla better, and you'll grow into a living sacrifice, pleasing to God.

Friday – Attitude Counts

"Self importance, smugness, and stubborn pride destroy fellowship faster than anything else. Pride builds walls between people; humility builds bridges. Humility is the oil that smoothes and soothes...." Rick Warren

1. We've all known people who may be able to get the job done but are no fun to work with. Look at Romans 12:9-16. What does this passage say about how we are to live in God's family? (Recall verse 5 affirms our mutual belonging).
2. Look closely at verses 3, 10 and 16. How important is attitude when it comes to serving? What role does pride and humility play in the church?

Living Beyond Myself – God made you to be a living sacrifice, not a miserable sacrifice. Take advantage of the "first serve" opportunities at FBC and find the job you were made for. God's Word is absolutely clear: you really are made for service, and once you get a taste, you'll see that "the LORD is good."