



THE SCROLLS

The Scrolls are FBC's daily devotional guide for Adults, College students and Families. They can also be found on our website at www.fbcdavis.org.

For the week of May 13th, 2007

Living your Faith, Walking the Talk

Beliefs

Trinity
Salvation by Grace
Authority of Bible
Personal God
Identity in Christ
Church
Humanity
Compassion
Eternity
Stewardship

Practices

Worship
Prayer
Bible Study
Single-mindedness
Biblical Community
Spiritual Gifts
Giving My Time
Giving My Money
Giving My Faith
Giving My Life

Virtues

Love
Joy
Peace
Patience
Kindness/Goodness
Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self-Control
Hope
Humility
Forgiveness

On the Inside

Sometimes my son will tease his mother, and, teasing right back, she will point to her face and ask, "Do I look like I'm laughing?" The deadpan expression suggests not.

"That's OK. I know you're laughing on the inside, where it really counts," our undaunted, smiling son will assert confidently. He even occasionally throws in a compassionate, yet slightly condescending, pat on the shoulder.

And then she cracks a smile, because it's true.

Mother and son understand each other quite well in that moment, but God knows us even better. This week's passages will guide us into understanding what it means to act on who we really are on the inside, who we are as God sees us. We will see what it means to live our faith, not just talk about it.

Monday – Search Me

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons ... against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated ..." United States Constitution, 4th Amendment

1. Please read Psalm 139. Have you ever considered how completely God knows you (verses 1-4)? How does this make you feel?
2. Verses 2 and 4 speak of thoughts and words, two things we sometimes think we have well under control. What does James 3:1-12 tell us about our words? Do you recognize yourself in those verses? In what way?
3. Compare verses 11-12 of Psalm 139 with verses 23-24. Have you ever felt the urge to hide from God? Have you ever felt the desire to invite God to search you completely? Why do you think David put both thoughts in the same song?

Making it personal: Pray for God to bring you an understanding of how completely he knows you. Join David in rejoicing in that knowledge.

Tuesday – The Heart of the Matter

"Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows!" The Shadow radio show, 1938 -1954

1. Please read Genesis 6:1-9. Many of us suspect we know what is going on inside someone else, but (as we saw in yesterday's study) it's God who knows all. According to verses 5-6, what did God see in the hearts of men?

Text Insight: The 120 years mentioned in Genesis 6:3 does not refer to a person's age. It is the span of time God set aside from then to the onset of the flood.

2. Now look at Proverbs 21:2 and 27:19. What do they tell you about how your heart (your values and principles) affects who you are, and how God sees you?

Digging deeper: Romans 2:17-29 is rich in teaching about true relationship with God. Compare Romans 2:29 with John 2:23-25. Where should you look for approval in your relationship with God?

Wednesday – Inside Out

"Either sin is with you, lying on your shoulders, or it is lying on Christ, the Lamb of God. Now if it is lying on your back, you are lost; but if it is resting on Christ, you are free, and you will be saved. Now choose what you want." Martin Luther

1. Please read Psalm 51. What is the theme of the opening lines, verses 1-7? Compare God's desire (verse 6) with David's recognition of how to attain this (verse 7).
2. According to verse 15, where does our ability to praise God come from? Pray, asking God to open your lips in praise to him.
3. Now look at verses 16-17. What is God's delight? Have you ever offered this to God? How difficult do you find this concept?

Thursday – Living with Him

"Salvation is from our side a choice; from the divine side it is a seizing upon, an apprehending, a conquest by the Most High God. Our accepting and willing are reactions rather than actions." A.W. Tozer

1. According to John 15:16, your relationship with Jesus is based on a choice. Whose? For what purpose?
2. The idea of serving Jesus sounds good in theory, but sometimes we still shy away from it. Have you ever felt that way? Why?
3. Now look at Psalm 56. How hard do you think it was for David to stay focused on God's work under those circumstances? According to verse 11, how did he carry on under this adversity?

Making it personal: Pray for God to show you why you have been chosen, how you can bear fruit in service to him, and that you need not fear what others may say as you live for Jesus.

Friday – A new Creation

"In the Kingdom of God, service is not a stepping-stone to nobility: it is nobility, the only kind of nobility that is recognized." T.W. Manson

1. Please read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, paying particular attention to verse 17. What truth is captured here? Do you find this astounding, or mundane? Why?
2. John 2:5 and Genesis 6:22 are two examples of people who knew what it meant to serve their Lord. Are you able to say the same?

Prayer focus: The advice Mary gave the servants is good advice for all who serve God: "Do whatever he tells you." Pray for the grace to do just that as you grow in your relationship with God.

For the Weekend: Daniel 3:1-30 is probably a familiar story for many of us. As you read it, consider the ways it reveals living one's faith on the outside as well as on the inside. Pray for God's grace to help you find ways to do the same.

Reading Recommendation: Improving your Serve, by Chuck Swindoll

"Helping one another mature so we can impact our world for Christ"