

Stepping Out

FBC's Fall Focus: "Begin"

Week of September 27th, 2009

Welcome to this year's Fall Focus. We are truly excited about what God will be doing in our congregation during the next 7 weeks. Each week, the Scrolls will complement the Sunday morning messages and what we are learning together in adult Home Groups and College Life Growth Groups. If you are not yet signed up for a small group but would like to, please contact FBC at info@fbc-davis.org. We hope you'll be challenged and encouraged as you interact with the Scrolls each day. This week's Scrolls begin with a short reflection from one of our FBC members.

"Beginning"

There will come a time when you believe everything is finished. That will be the beginning. Louis L'Amour, author

When I began my relationship with God back in college, a whole lot started going on. I spent time with other people who believe in Jesus, read the bible, and learned a lot of new songs about who God is. As the years have passed, though, I find that while I have certainly grown closer to God I can't really say that I have come one bit closer to knowing all about God. As C.S. Lewis puts it in The Last Battle, our walk with God is always "further up and further in." Here's what I have learned it means to belong to God:

*There is no end in sight with an infinite God.
Every day is a new beginning in eternity.
I will never be finished growing in him.*

In the seven week series beginning today we will learn more about being God's people in this world while always growing further up and further in with him in eternity. Let us begin to understand what it means to live for God and serve others in a world that does not know how much it needs him.

Monday – People of God

"This Man (Jesus) suddenly remarks one day, 'No one need fast while I am here.' Who is this Man who remarks that His mere presence suspends all normal rules?" C.S. Lewis

1. Please read 1 Peter 2:9-17. What do verses 9-10 tell you about your place in this world? What does it mean to *declare God's glory*?
2. Take a look at Matthew 5:14-16. How do we go about declaring God's praise according to Jesus?

Making it Personal: Think about the day ahead of you. How can you bring praise to God in practical ways?

Tuesday – People with Purpose

"The best men know that they are very far from what they ought to be; and the very worst think that, if they were a very little better, they should be as good as they need be." J.A. Froude, 19th c. English historian

1. Please read 1 Peter 2:11-12. If you really are a stranger in this world, as Peter says, then how should you deal with worldly desires?
2. Compare John 1:1-5 and John 8:12 with Matthew 5:14-16 and 1 Peter 2:12. What do these verses say about our role in revealing God to the watching world?

Digging Deeper: If you desire to live a life that reflects Christ, you must have an answer for temptation when it comes. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 and list the factors to take into account when facing temptation. How can giving in to temptation, even when no one finds out, affect the way others see your relationship with God?

Wednesday – People for the Common Good

Commonweal, n. – the common welfare; the public good. Random House Dictionary (2009)

1. Please read 1 Peter 2:13-15. Why does God want you to live as a responsible member of society? How can you do that?

Text Insight: At that time, Christians were being persecuted by the very rulers Peter told them to obey.

2. Read Jeremiah 29:4-7 and describe God's instructions for his people when they were carried off as exiles by the conquering Babylonians. How does this instruction apply to us today?

Making it Personal: What steps can you take now to honor God by seeking the common good in society?

Thursday – People who Serve

"They serve God well, who serve his creatures." Caroline Sheridan Norton, *The Lady of La Garaye*

1. Please read 1 Peter 2:16. What does it mean to live freely and as a servant at the same time? What are you free from when you belong to God?
2. According to Jesus' words in Luke 17:7-10, how did his society view the role of a servant?
3. Now look at what Jesus said later in John 15:9-17 and describe the roles he has for his followers.

Making it Personal: What can you do to live both freely and as a servant of God?

Friday – People of Respect

"Men are respectable only as they respect." Ralph Waldo Emerson

1. Please read 1 Peter 2:17. What types of respect are listed there? Which individuals or groups of people are difficult for you to respect? Why?
2. Consider how radical Peter's statement was for the believers of his day. The king he asked believers to respect was the same king who was persecuting Christians. How does such respect bring honor to God?
3. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 concludes a book of life lessons, some learned the hard way. How do these verses help you understand the commands of respect in 1 Peter 2:17?

Text Insight: Fear of God is a biblical phrase covering many aspects, such as deep reverence and respect as well as a fear of what it would mean to spend eternity cast out of God's presence.

Digging Deeper: In Acts 5:17-42, how did Peter apply what he had learned from Jesus? What did it get him?

For the Weekend: Re-read 1 Peter 2:9-17 and list the three most important lessons or insights you have learned from this week's study. Ask God for the grace to live according to the truths of 1 Peter 2:9-17.