



Romans chapter 7 is a pretty accurate description of the Christian life. Paul writes about his own faith journey. “For the very good that I wish, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not wish.” (Romans 7:19) Paul was a man of great faith who had a great experience, did amazing things — an apostle who changed the world. Yet even he considers living well for God a “struggle.”

The verse points out the strength of the Christian journey. It’s not never failing, achieving perfection, discovering unshakable faith or rising above our own humanity; it’s about Jesus Christ. “There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” We might think that to become a Christian we must become not human. God wants us to love and trust Him as humans. This is redemption!

Condemnation is satanic; grace is divine!

GPS for Families

GrowPrayStudy.org/family

Each day in our GPS this week we have been encouraged to memorize our one-verse scriptures. Why is memorizing important not only for us but also for our children? Because God will use those words in times of need. You can recall Philippians 4:13 when you are feeling exceptionally weak and tired. You will lean on 2 Timothy 1:12 when you feel threatened by others.

So how do we memorize God’s word? Here are a few ideas to help:

- Chant to a rhythm. Clap your hands, stomp your feet or bang on a drum if your ears can handle it! It doesn’t matter what rhythm, just make up one or chose a simple nursery rhyme beat like *The Itsy-Bitsy Spider*.
- Make up movements to go with the verse. You can turn to official American Sign Language or invent your own movements.
- Sing a song. If you can sing it, you can remember it. You can make up your own tune or use a standby tune like *Mary Had a Little Lamb*. If you’re feeling “hip” enough, consider using a rap or hip-hop tune. Just pick something the kids will like so they will want to sing it.
- Post the scripture somewhere prominent so it can be reviewed each day. Consider reciting it together in the car, before meals or on the way to school.

Finally, make sure to find situations that allow your kids to apply the words. This will reinforce the importance of learning God’s word.

MESSAGE “The Compassion of Jesus!”

SCRIPTURE Matthew 9:35-10:1

*Rev. Mike Ramsdell, Senior Pastor
miker@firstmethodistmansfield.org
facebook.com/mike.ramsdell1
www.mikeramsdell.com*

“Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

(Matthew 9:36)

1. “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”
Luke 5:31
2. “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” John 3:17
3. “Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy-burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28
4. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”
Revelation 3:20

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God, sometimes we do the things we don’t want to do and find ourselves neglecting the things we should do. We struggle with sin! Forgive us for so often complaining about our boundaries, resenting our limitations, hating our weaknesses. You made us human, people who can’t live without the divine. We admit our need of you and accept your gift to us of Jesus Christ. Where we deserved condemnation, you have given us grace!

As we move closer to Holy Week and Easter, the reading today is just one verse, one that is a great one to memorize. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." These words have a special impact when we realize that Paul was in prison as he pens these words — in prison for telling the story of Jesus Christ to a world that sometimes was and sometimes wasn't receptive.

Life is often like this. We can find ourselves in trouble even when we are trying to do good. We can experience what we might consider unfair situations even when we are trying to live right.

Where in your life do you need the strength of Jesus Christ? What are the ways to open our hearts to that heavenly strength? How might this kind of relationship with Christ be a reward in itself?

.....
.....
.....

Today we are looking at another single Bible verse that is well worth memorizing. Again, Paul is writing while he is in prison awaiting a death sentence for simply following and preaching about Jesus Christ in a world that was rapidly considering this gospel of freedom and grace as a threat, especially when Christians refused to worship the emperor of Rome. Some might look down on Paul for being in prison. Others see His God as letting him down, and others still question his willingness to suffer for Christ. But he clearly states, "I am not ashamed" and "I know who I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able." As we walk through Lent and mark the suffering of Christ, those who follow Christ often suffer too.

I am not ashamed! I know who I believe; I am convinced, and He is able.

God is big enough.

.....
.....
.....

The reading today, like all this week, is only one verse. A great exercise would be memorizing each of the five verses we will be looking at these five days as a gift to God and a blessing to us.

Sometimes we might wonder if God really loves us, is really with us, will be faithful in all the ways we know we need, especially during a difficult season. We might forget that the three years that Jesus had a public ministry were difficult and ended in a cross. Romans 8:33 reminds us that God has already given us Jesus, his life, teaching, death and resurrection. This is not a gift we are waiting for, it has already been given to us.

God promises to give us all that matters and all that is of value. Do you think God cares more about what we have or who we are?

.....
.....
.....

Lent is about walking with Jesus as He sacrifices His life for us. It is about repenting or turning from our sin. It is about what we give up to follow Jesus Christ, but it is also about the amazing rewards we get. It is about the Christian life.

There are two basic principles in this verse. The first is that the wages of sin is death. In a world that sometimes winks at sin, seeks to define it as less significant, the Bible teaches that sin separates from God, destroys what life can be and kills the soul. It is sin that cost Jesus His life. This is principle number one.

The second is the free gift of God, eternal life through Jesus Christ. If it is sin that cost Jesus His life, then it is the love of God that gave Jesus to the world.

Celebrate love!

.....
.....
.....