



THURSDAY 05.27.10

Philippians 4:4-9

From a prison cell, Paul writes to the church in Philippi, "Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice!" To those who might feel pity for Paul's circumstances, he writes in chapter one, "I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel."

- Where does that kind of joy come from? Paul seems to indicate that the "peace of God" comes in the constant process of submitting our anxiety to God and inviting God's peace into our hearts. Are you anxious today about anything? Is there a place in your heart where God wants to bring peace but anxiety won't give up the space?
- **Today, give God thanks that every moment of our lives we have the chance to pray.** Take a moment right now and put this into practice. Release anxiety. Invite peace.



FRIDAY 05.28.10

Matthew 28:16-20

In these last few verses of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus gives his final words of instruction to his disciples before he departs from their presence. Three simple commands — go, baptize and teach. Go! It reminds us of Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount, "You are the light of the world! Don't hide the light." Baptize! Invite others to experience the community of faith. Build relationship where truth and justice, love and grace are the highest ideals. Teach! Instruct and encourage one another as you continue on your way.

- This is the mission that Christ gives to all who choose to follow him. Go, baptize, teach! Share the story! Today we give God thanks that every moment of our lives is now rich with meaning and purpose. **Thank God today for the mission of your life!**



GROW • PRAY • STUDY

A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

Series: *Making Mondays Matter!*
Sermon: *A Life Less Ordinary*
Scripture: *Romans 12:1-2*

Three key ideas for this series:

1. We all have Mondays.
2. It's not your job.
3. Monday is the Lord's Day.



Introduction

In his book, *The Rest of God*, Mark Buchanan writes that “busyness makes us stop caring about the things that we care about.” We begin this series with the simple truth that cultivating gratitude is one of the essential tasks of a follower of Christ. Expressing gratitude to God for life, faith, hope, purpose and the gift of resurrection allows us to slow down long enough to see the deep and lasting significance of each moment of our lives. This week you are invited to breathe deeply, and as you move through the readings, to express gratitude to God for the gifts we have each received as followers of Christ.

Paul writes in Philippians, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” Regardless of the circumstances that each day will bring us this week, we are invited to rejoice! Express thankfulness. Pursue hopefulness. God is good. Life is a blessing. Each of us matter to God.

As we join together this week in expressing our thanks, may this prayer guide you.

God, you are the giver of life, the redeemer of all things, and this day I remember that every good and perfect gift comes from you. Enable me to live this day in a way that honors you and blesses at least one other person. God, you are my treasure. Give me the courage and conviction to share that treasure in thought, word and deed this day. AMEN.



TUESDAY 05. 25.10

Romans 8:12-17

Writing to the church at Rome, Paul speaks of the “obligation” that we have as those who have been “adopted” by Christ. It is not to live according to our sinful nature, but to live in step with the spirit of God at work in our lives! What is the most basic gift we receive from God’s spirit? The spirit testifies, “We are God’s children!”

- Parents are designed for blessing children. Jesus says in the Gospel of Matthew, “If you know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him?” Have you considered the blessing you receive in being a child whom God claims as his own son or daughter? What does that gift mean to you?
- **Today, express your gratitude to God for adopting you as God’s own child!**



MONDAY 05.24.10

Psalm 8

When was the last time you walked outside and stared at the stars? What was the last opportunity you had to experience the magnificence and wonder of God’s creation? Have you taken the time yet today to consider the very life and breathe of God that woke you from your sleep this morning? Slowing down allows us to see the miracle of life that we receive in every breathe we take.

- What might you do today to consider and celebrate the gift of life that God has given to you?
- Set aside a few minutes today to express to God your thanks and praise for the gift of life and God’s presence in every season of our lives. Whatever circumstances today might bring, God never abandons us. **Take time today to say thank you for your life.**



WEDNESDAY 05.26.10

Colossians 1:3-14

To the church in Colosse, Paul expresses thanks for Epaphras, a man he describes as a “dear fellow servant.” Writing to Timothy, Paul recognized the faithfulness of Timothy’s mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois. In all his letters, Paul expressed his gratitude for his co-workers in Christ!

- Paul prays that the recipients of this letter would be “filled with the knowledge of God” so that they “may live a life worthy of the Lord.” Like Paul, each of us have been given co-workers who help us live a life worthy of the Lord!
- Who has partnered with you in your life? Who has committed to encouraging you and affirming you along the way? Have you shared your thanks with them? Have you expressed your gratitude to God for their presence in your life? **Today, give thanks and pray for your co-workers in Christ!**
