

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 30, 2016

When Self-Help Doesn't Help

Psalm 108:12-13 “¹² Oh, please help us against our enemies, for all human help is useless.¹³ With God’s help we will do mighty things, for he will trample down our foes.”

Every time I go to Books-a-Million, I stop at the section marked “Self-Help.” I’m always amazed that there are literally hundreds of self-help books on every topic imaginable telling you how to manage finances, get in shape, build a better you, have a happy marriage, raise your children, overcome addiction, break free from depression, and the list goes on and on and on. Self-help is fine until you realize that sometimes no matter how hard you try you cannot seem to help yourself. Some things you face are just bigger and stronger and more powerful than you are. What do you do then? The Psalmist speaks of truth in verse 12 that sometimes human help is useless. What do you do when the how-to’s of self-help are useless and don’t work? The Psalmist gives you an answer in verse 12: “With God’s help, we will do mighty things.” Oscar Eliason wrote these words: “Got any rivers you think are uncrossable? Got any mountains you can’t tunnel through? God specializes in things thought impossible. He does the things that others cannot do.” When self-help isn’t enough, why not seek God’s help?

- Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

THURSDAY

MARCH 31, 2016

Cultivating A Listening Habit

I Samuel 3: 10-11 “¹⁰ And the LORD came and called as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel replied, “Speak, your servant is listening.”¹¹ Then the LORD said to Samuel, “I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel.”

God is always trying to speak to you and me. The question is, are we listening? To discern God’s voice, we have to cultivate the habit of listening to God. Listening to God isn’t easy. The truth is Satan doesn’t want you to listen to God. He is going to do everything he can to keep you from hearing God. His primary tools are busyness, hurrying, and noise. He wants to keep you distracted. He wants you to be listening to the TV, to have ears filled with the music of culture blaring from your Ipod, to always have your radio on, to never turn your cellphone off because he wants the culture to influence you more than God. He knows the voice of culture will mess you up. He knows that the voice of God will lift you up. Satan is going to do whatever he can do to keep you distracted from God. There is a great verse in the Bible that simply says, “Be still and know that I am God.” To hear the voice of God you have to cultivate stillness and silence into your life. I love the concept of just having a daily quiet time with God. I wonder what would happen today if you just turned off your cell phone, your computer, your Ipod, and your TV, for just ten minutes and said, “Speak Lord, your servant is listening.” The more you cultivate the habit of listening, the more you will be able to hear the voice of God.

- Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

FRIDAY

APRIL 1, 2016

The Tireless Strength Of God

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength.”

One of the greatest affirmations of faith that I know is the affirmation the Apostle Paul made when he said, “I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength.” There is a companion verse in the Old Testament in Psalm 68:28, when read from the Old English version of the Bible, that says, “The Lord has sent strength for thee.” Do you need some good news for today? Remember you cannot exhaust the strength of God. The Lord is your strength to go on when the road gets dark and the burdens get heavy. The Lord is your strength to go up. You can climb any mountain in your path. His strength will take you to the mountaintop. The Lord is your strength to go down. When you go down into the valleys of life, when you get low and depressed the Lord will give you the strength to endure and persevere. The Lord is your strength to sit still, to do nothing. To wait patiently on God requires tremendous strength. Wherever you are today, whatever you are facing, whatever problems are going on around you, dive deep into your soul this affirmation- the Lord is my strength and the strength of God cannot be exhausted.

- Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

SATURDAY

APRIL 2, 2016

The Ultimate Reward “Card”

Hebrews 11:6 “⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

It seems like these days everyone is offering a rewards program. Every company seems to have some kind of card that you can get where you can earn rewards. Credit card companies tell you they will reward you for going into debt to them. Retailers promise to reward you when you spend money with them by giving you coupons so you will come and spend more money with them. Hotels will give you a free night after you have spent so many nights with them. But is it really free? Even the Bible says that, “He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” The difference is that with God you don’t have to pay to get the rewards, and they last forever. The rewards are free. We don’t earn points with God for trying to be good enough. Instead, He gives us the free gift of salvation through Jesus Chris. The true reward system, a past that is forgiven, abundant life here and now, and forever life with God, doesn’t come from a card. You can’t buy it. You can’t earn it. It is free. It comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

- Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

WESLEY HALL - March 27, 2016

WORSHIP GUIDE & DAILY DEVOTIONS

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES: MESSED UP The Path of God Through Imperfection Study on the Beatitudes

- Week 1: Crying & Broken
- Week 2: Empty & Weak
- Week 3: Guilty & Hurt
- Week 4: Down & Dirty
- Week 5: Picked On & Put Down



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Christ in You The Hope of Glory

Colossians

CHRIST IN YOU

“Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before God made anything at all and is supreme over all creation. Christ is the one through whom God created everything in heaven and earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see -- kings, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities. Everything has been created through him and for him. He existed before everything else began, and he holds all creation together. Christ is the head of the church, which is his body. He is the first of all who will rise from the dead, so he is first in everything. For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ and by him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of his blood on the cross. This includes you who were once so far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions, yet now he has brought you back as his friends. He has done this through his death on the cross in his own human body. As a result, he has brought you into the very presence of God, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.” Colossians 1:15-22

- Jesus died **for** you so that He might live **in** you.
- The same power that rose Christ from the grave lives **inside** you.

THE HOPE OF GLORY

“I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:24-27

- Christ is in **you**. You are in **Christ**. Christ is in **God**.

THEREFORE...

- We put to death the **sin** that hurts us and harms others.

“So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual sin, impurity, lust, and shameful desires. Don’t be greedy for the good things of this life, for that is idolatry. God’s terrible anger will come upon those who do such things. You used to do them when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds.” Colossians 3:5-9

- We put on the **character** of Christ.

“Since God chose you to be the holy people whom he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. You must make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are all called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Let the words of Christ, in all their richness, live in your hearts and make you wise. Use his words to teach and counsel each other. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, all the while giving thanks through him to God the Father.” Colossians 3:12-17

— Rev. Brandon Dasinger

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Watch today’s sermon on WFRZ-TV or online
at frazer.church/media.

You may also order a CD of today’s service
at the Connection Point desk.

I Heard the Moon

Psalm 8:3-4 “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?”

The other morning I was heading out to pray with a family having an early surgery. As I headed down the road from my home to the hospital, feeling a bit groggy, I turned a corner in the road and saw an amazing sight. There, just above the horizon, was the moon. It was almost full, and it looked as big as the rising sun. It was yellow and orange and it was beautiful. Just above the moon was a bright pinpoint of light that I am sure was a planet. Suddenly I was reminded that this moon signaled to us the time of Easter. Easter is the first Sunday following the first full moon following the spring equinox. This is the same moon that was shining on that first Easter morning as the women made their way to the tomb! This is the same moon that God created and flung into space when He created the heavens and the earth! This is one of the planets and stars He created! (Genesis 1:14-19) This is the same moon that speaks to us of the wonder and awesomeness of the God who loves us and saves us! Paul wrote, “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities — His eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20) Have you listened to the moon lately?

- Neil Epler, Congregational Care Pastor

It’s Testimony Time

*Psalm 107:2 “Has the Lord redeemed you?
Then speak out. Tell others.”*

In one of the small country churches I served years ago, in the middle of the worship service, they had what they called “Testimony Time.” Anyone who wanted to was invited to just stand up and to testify about what God had been doing in his life. One lady always had a testimony. She was being delivered from something every week. But it was always moving to hear others willing to stand up and tell how God had helped them or healed them or delivered them or strengthened them or guided them. I was always inspired by the witness of others. Psalm 107 is a series of four testimonies in verses 4-9 and 10-16 and 17-21 and 23-32. But what I love most about the psalm is verse 2, “Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out. Tell others.” Everybody has a testimony. Have you shared it with someone else? Do your children and grandchildren know your faith story? Have you shared a blessing of God in your life with someone? Who knows what God may do in the life of another person by your telling of what God has done for you. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so; it’s testimony time.

- Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor