

Matthew 22:37-38 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself.

One of the most important ingredients of an abundant life is simplicity. The older I get the more confident I am that the simpler you live the happier and more content you will be. Do you have too much stuff? I suspect that some of us need to have a closet exorcism. Have you noticed the more you have and the more you achieve, the more complicated life becomes. The more we accumulate, the longer and harder you have to work to pay for it, maintain it, and keep it. The more we have the busier we become. The more cluttered life gets the less time we have to enjoy what we have. Maybe it is time to simplify your life. In fact if you want to discover the really, good, beautiful and abundant life that God has for you, simplify your life. The life Jesus offers is a simple life. The most important thing you can do for your life is to get great at the great commandment: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself." Abundant life is found in loving God and loving people. When a person gets great at the great commandment, their life becomes outwardly simple but inwardly rich. The real quality of your life will be determined by the quality of your relationships. Love God and love people. Remember people who find the abundant life are people who are great at the great commandment
- Dr. Tim Thompson

Matthew 7:24 Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on rock.

Earlier in the summer I was watching some children playing at the beach. They were having a big time building a sandcastle. They were good at using cups and buckets to shape their castle of sand. They were happy as could be. Then the waves came. They didn't panic. They did the strangest thing. They jumped to their feet squealing with delight, water swirling around their toes, watching the water wash away their creation. They were not sad, mad or bitter. Even children know the inevitable end of sandcastles. If only we all could be so wise. The stuff of this world which we spend so much time, energy and effort to amass is about as permanent as sandcastles on the beach. But that doesn't seem to deter us. We get so caught up in our stuff. We panic when it gets threatened. When things go wrong, We fall to pieces, stress over it, get defined by it, and depressed and angry if we lose it. Remember, however, that God did not create you and me to live in a bigger house, to have all the toys, to drive the newest car, stay in the best places or dine at expensive restaurants. He created us for his glory, for love and relationships. Enjoy your castles, but remember not to get too attached to them, because sandcastles are not permanent. Don't build your life around stuff that will wash away. Build your life on the teaching and principles of God's Word. You will be building on solid rock that will last forever.
- Dr. Tim

1 Corinthians 2:2 for I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

I read a quote that said, "No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending." On New Year's Day we get the chance to start where we are and to make things better for our life. Don't spend too much time looking over your shoulder. Remember that if you drive your car looking out the rear view mirror, the odds are good you will have a wreck. The same is true for your life. Let the past be the past. Look forward. God has a brand new future for you. Life can be better. You can make a new ending. Perhaps you are making some resolutions for the New Year. That is not a bad thing but often we make resolutions of what we are going to do or not do and then by February we have forgotten them or feel guilty that we have already broken them. I have a suggestion. Why not make just one resolution and let it be the same one the Apostle Paul made, "I resolve to know nothing but Christ and him crucified." Keep the eyes of your heart focused on Jesus this year. I have learned that Jesus is more than enough in every area of my life. Jesus I more than enough! Begin each day with this resolution prayer, "more of Jesus and less of me."
- Dr. Tim Thompson

Psalms 139:14, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made, your works are wonderful."

Have you been awestruck by anything lately? Has something stopped you dead in your tracks, taken your breathe away and caused you to say, "Wow, God is amazing. How cool is that?" For me it has been the birth of grandbabies and watching my daughters become moms. I am awed. When you get awed by something the only appropriate response is praise of our amazing God. Do you live with a sense of awe and wonder? I think God lives freest and most fully in those whose eyes are constantly snagged by God's artistry, whose lives are marked by awe, wonder and praise. We all know that we are born with five senses - taste, sight, smell, touch and hearing. However, I think we are born with a sixth sense, and that is the capacity to wonder. Wonder expands your soul and ushers you into the very heart of God and the joy of living. Children come into this world with a sense of wonder, but as we grow older our wonder seems to fade away. Busyness and the hard knocks of life suck the wonder right out of us. We live in this world of incredible marvels and miracles but gradually we take things for granted and wonder gets lost. We grow old before our time. I want to grow old like my friend Kandy McDaniel who as she battled pancreatic cancer said, "I have learned the miracle of the ordinary day." I love that. God's miracles are all around in the ordinary days. Just look. Pray for the capacity to see them. The wonders of God will fill you with praise and praise is a powerful, life giving, joy producing force.
- Dr. Tim Thompson

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

SANCTUARY - JANUARY 3, 2016

WORSHIP GUIDE & DAILY DEVOTIONS

FLOWER DEDICATION

The flowers are given in loving memory of Joe Brooks on the occasion of his 90th birthday on Jan. 1 and the second anniversary of his death by Barbara Brooks, Jim, Kathy, Will, Rhett, Elliot and Jeff Brown.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Prelude: “God of Our Fathers” (Arr. Hughes) Kelley Garrett, organ
- Call to Worship: “Majesty” Choir
- Apostles Creed
- Hymn #127: “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” Congregation
- Special Music: “The Majesty and Glory of Your Name” Choir
- Prayer
- Hymn: “His Eye is On the Sparrow” Congregation
- Announcements & Call for Offering
- Offertory: “Be Thou My Vision” Solo: Alyssa Boyd
- Doxology Congregation
- Sermon Dr. Tim Thompson
- Hymn #128: “He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought” Congregation
- Benediction Dr. Tim Thompson
- Postlude: “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” (Bach) Kelley Garrett

SERMON NOTES

FIGHT

Ephesians 6:10-18 ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” (NIV)

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

— Dr. Tim Thompson

Watch today’s sermon on WFRZ-TV, online at frazerumc.org/media or download the podcast at frazerumc.org/podcast. You may also order a CD of today’s service at the Connection Point desk.

MONDAY

JANUARY 4, 2016

THE MERCIFUL

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful for they shall be shown mercy

One of the greatest feelings in the world is when someone has you dead to rights in a misdeed and instead of giving you what you deserve they let you off the hook. It is called mercy. Mercy is when you don’t get what you deserve. Mercy is loving kindness given to people who don’t deserve it. Mercy does not mean you feel no outrage or hurt at the wrongs done to you or others. Mercy does not condone sin, ignore wrong doing, or say it doesn’t matter. Mercy does not say that people are not accountable. Mercy is treating people with loving kindness regardless of how they treated you. It is only human to want to resent others, to get even, to lash out and strike back. But the bible teaches us it is Godly to forgive and to show mercy. In fact, Jesus says the happiest, most blessed people around are the merciful. The merciful are choosing not to live mad and in the end they are the ones who receive mercy for themselves. None of us do life perfectly and all of us need some mercy. You receive it when you give it. Is there someone in your life to whom you need to show some mercy? Has someone slighted you, disappointed you, or hurt you? What are you going to do? Stay mad, hold a grudge, seek revenge, or get even? Remember the only person your anger will devour is you. Or, are you going to be merciful? Mercy is the way to peace. Choose mercy. Remember, “Blessed are the merciful for they shall be shown mercy”
- Dr. Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

TUESDAY

JANUARY 5, 2016

ABUNDANT LIFE

John 10:10 I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly

What is abundant life? I have been asking that question of folks over the last several weeks. I got all kinds of responses. Some people couldn’t exactly explain what it was but they felt like they knew what it was not. Abundant life is not something bigger, better, faster, or more of what you have now. It is not some possession that you don’t have, some success you have yet to achieve, some position you have yet to attain, or more money than you have now. It is not some place you have not been yet. It is not a perfect life, a charmed life or a pain-free life. It is not a life of comfort and ease. It is not dependent on your circumstances. Okay, if that is what it is not, then what is it? Abundant life is the security of knowing you are unconditionally loved; peace and joy in spite of pain and problems; a life of contentment where you are; a life with meaning and purpose; a life freed of the things that are bad for us like selfishness, greed, jealousy, hatred, despair and anger; and a life filled with the stuff that money can’t buy and that only God gives like peace, patience, joy, love, self control, gentleness, kindness, and goodness. It is living with the confidence that God is faithful and his promises are sure. Abundant life is having peace with God. Until you make peace with God you can’t have the peace of God. Abundant life is more of Jesus and less of you. Abundant life is a gift that God wants to give you. Open your heart to him.
- Dr. Tim Thompson