

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Write down some of the specific things you need to do based on what this passage says.

How is trusting Christ the only possible way to accomplish what you need to do?

What misinformation do you need to jettison based on the truth of this passage?

How can you (we) apply the resurrection power of Jesus to these areas?

Morning Service:

Psalm 115: 1 – 18

The Weight of Christ's Name

1. When We Give God's Glory to Idols It Deadens Us (1-8).
2. God Brings Life to Those Who Trust Him (9-13).
3. Let Us Praise the Lord through Faith in Christ (14-18).

We are prone to give other things the glory that only God deserves. When we center our lives around these idols it brings death and destruction, but God does not leave us there. He calls us to trust in Him and receive life. Everlasting life with Him brings blessing and wholeness. This is the heritage of God's people that leads us to praise and glorify God alone as our true center and the One worthy of all praise.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
Evening Service:

Pastor Philip Adams
Colossians 1:24 – 2:3

The True Purpose of Our Suffering

- I. The Son of Man came into the world to suffer and die to save His people from their sins.
- II. Christ's suffering and death is the only sacrifice that makes propitiation for sin.
- III. Because you belong to Christ, you must suffer with Him.
- IV. You are in the world so that the gentiles may be saved and added to the Church of Christ.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

We are called to praise the Lord, to extol His majesty and delight in His beautiful glory. This glory that we are to recognize in God alone is *the very thing* that we give to lesser things. In this disloyalty we not only sin against God, we disfigure ourselves taking on the very likeness of the idols to which we offer false worship. This week take a stand against this by reading, praying, and meditating on the truth of His Word.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Psalm 115:1-18**. DISCUSS, How do you (we) tend to give the weight in our lives to other lesser things rather than God? In what ways does that deaden us? How does God tend to get our attention? PRAY for God to peel away all the idolatries in our lives. Ask Him to enliven our faith in Christ who alone saves us.

Sunday PM

READ today's passage: **Colossians 1:24-2:3**. DISCUSS, What does it mean to fix our eyes on Christ? How do we do this? PRAISE Christ for being so uniquely qualified as our Savior.

Monday

READ **Psalm 115:1-8**. DISCUSS, What "bowling balls" roll to the center of your life? How have you seen ways you have become like your favorite idols? PRAY for God to transform us. EXTEND His grace to someone today.

Tuesday

READ **Psalm 115:1-8; Isaiah 44:6-20**. DISCUSS, Why is idolatry so insane? So why do we do it? What does it mean to trust in the Lord and not in idols? PRAY, "Father God, we praise You. Jesus, we thank You for coming to save us. Holy Spirit, empower us to live out this faith!"

Wednesday

READ **Psalm 115:9-13; First Thessalonians 1:2-10**. DISCUSS, How is God different from idols? What does He do that idols cannot? What does it mean to "remember someone before God"? PRAY, ask God to radically transform your life so that no one could mistake the fact that you are trusting in Christ to raise you from the dead.

Thursday

READ **Psalm 115:9-13; First Thessalonians 1:2-10**. DISCUSS, How the Thessalonians turn to the true and living God from idols? PRAISE God for His faithful work in us as He conforms us to the image of Christ. PRAY, "Jesus, You have blessed us in spite of all our disobedience. You are faithful and we are not. You know our weakness better than we know ourselves. Forgive us. Change us by Your grace to make us more like You, Jesus."

Friday

READ **Psalm 115:1-18**. How have you been learning from this passage this week? Ask for the Holy Spirit to make more and more abundantly clear that the resurrection of Christ is our only hope. Thank Him for the certainty of this victory. REJOICE, for Christ has risen from the grave and secured our resurrection. PRAY for your neighbors to know this same delight that God has blessed you to know. Ask the Lord to open their eyes to His goodness and wonder.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. Do what you can today so that you will be less rushed tomorrow. READ **Genesis 23:1-20**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God through His Word and to learn more about our God together. Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area. Pray that He will use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.