

SERMON NOTES



Praise Power (Ephesians 1:3-14)

- The letter was written to a church that felt _____

- These 11 verses are one long _____

• God _____ us to be _____ and _____

- Before _____ (vs. 4)

- _____ us (vs. 5)

- We have _____ (vs. 7)

- God _____ upon us (vs. 8)

- Made known the _____ (vs. 9)

- We have been _____ (vss. 13-14; cf. Acts 2:38-39)

• God's _____ are fulfilled in us when we praise Him

- What is it that _____ us from fully accepting and embracing our identity as the holy people of God?

FAMILY UPDATES

Members with Health Issues: Cleve Brock, Kathleen Corns, Mary-Anne Dye, Lynn Hoppes; Barbara Lakey, Sherry Meadors, Carole Medina, Leon Mills, Bob Nixon, Beckie Null, Glenna Pickel, Boone Roberts, Michael Robison, Willie Rose, Paul Schellhorn, Ann Thurman, Terry West, Mikey Yeary

Congratulations

Kristin Whyburn was married to Aaron Rock on September 14, 2020 in Eureka Springs.

Member Prayer Requests

Wanda Dean: mass in nasal cavity; vertigo comes and goes; additional tests revealed additional bleeding; prayers for finding the problem and a solution.

Paula Earp: health problems

Worley Holmes: cancer in his lymph nodes on neck

Courtney Mainprize: pregnancy; expectant mother

Carole Medina: on hospice; blood cancer

Boone Roberts: safe travel for family and new treatment procedure for colon October 19-25

Kayla Schellhorn: pregnancy; expectant mother

Extended Family and Friends for Prayers

Eve Beard: cousin, Glenn Craft, cancer

Kenna Fields: niece, Stephanie Caldwell, cancer

Janie Kreik: son, JJ, injuries from motorcycle accident

Nancy Seegreen: daughter, Olivia Bizzell and family, teaching in class and online; son-in-law's father, Jim Bizzell, in hospital and family is really stressed.

Mike Vann: grandson, Taylan Dillard, and daughter, Keisha Davis, health; son, Marco Woods; has corona virus

Patty VanTuyl: sister, Margaret, throat cancer

Thank You

Thank you Crosstown for all the cards, prayers, words of encouragement, and for the help you gave to Dean with his mobility during my illness. We also appreciate the help you continue to give us. You are the imitation of the life of Christ, please continue to pray for us. **Ernest & Wanda Dean**

Please Continue to Pray for Our Missionaries

David & July Lopez Family—Bogota, Colombia
david050488@hotmail.com

Pedro & Arelis Correno Family— Santa Marta, Colombia
pedrocarreno3@hotmail.com

Josh & Divine Austin Family—Phoenix, Arizona
djaustin14@hotmail.com

Duchange & Emanies Saint-Amour Family—Milot, Haiti
Stduchange65@yahoo.fr

Wayne & Margie Pabillon Family—Talisay, Philippines
waymardayn@yahoo.com

TODAY >

September 20, 2020

Visitation Sunday



TODAY at 2pm

Please join us to go out and bless those Crosstown members who are unable to make it to church and those who have recently visited our church. We will be following CDC guidelines during our quick visits. Join us in Room 123 to disperse into groups to go out and bless others. See **James** or **Kristy Snider** for more information.

Order of Worship

Song Leader: **Clint Hoppes**

#446: "Hear O Israel"

Announcements: **Ty Kirkpatrick**

Scripture Reading: **Steve Parker**

#8: "Let Every Heart Rejoice and Sing"

#414: "Anywhere with Jesus" (1,2,4)

#416: "Footsteps of Jesus" (1,2,4)

Opening Prayer: **Joseph Propst**

#18: "Faithful Love" (1-2)

#410: "He Leadeth Me" (1-3)

#NIB: "Does He Still Feel the Nails?"

#NIB: "How Deep the Father's Love"

Communion ~ Offering: **Charles Clayton**

#533: "I Am a Sheep" (1-2)

Sermon: **Robert Prater**

#915: "Trust and Obey" (1,4,5)

Elder Response and Closing Prayer: **Steve Parker, Chris Clayton**

#NIB: "Lord Reign in Me" (1-2)

AMONG FRIENDS with Robert

One person's trash may be another person's treasure. Then again, one person's trash may simply be trash. I recently read an online article chronicling those who suffer with compulsive hoarding disorder. People with this disorder will regularly hoard things of limited to no value – things such as empty milk cartons and tin cans and old newspapers – because of deep, and usually complex, psychological disturbances. The report went on to explain that even after a person's house is cleared and cleaned by a professional housekeeping service, things will immediately begin to pile up again because the psychological addiction to hoarding cannot be addressed by simple aesthetic changes in a person's living environment.

One person's trash may be another person's treasure. This cliché, slightly modified, can help us understand Paul's condemnation of an unrepentant group of Jews found in 1 Thessalonians 2. Paul begins this chapter by recounting his own sufferings (verse 2) and then moves on to address the sufferings of the Christians at Thessalonica:

For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved – *so as always to fill up the measure of their sins.* (verses 14-16, ESV)

There is a group of Jews, it seems, who are stridently bent on preventing the gospel's spread and will even resort to persecuting the church to thwart its march forward. Paul says that such persecutors "fill up the measure of their sins." That is, they pile sin upon sin until God's patience is exhausted and His wrath is revealed.

But at the same time that these obstinate unbelievers are filling up the measure of their sins, those who suffer under them are doing some filling of their own. As Paul writes elsewhere in Colossians 1:24: "Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of His body, which is the church." Paul is not here teaching that Christ's suffering on the cross is somehow incomplete or inadequate for salvation. Rather, he is saying that we, as those who follow Christ, get to share in Christ's sufferings. And the promise is that the same persecutions which fill up the sins of the *persecutors* also serve to fill us in Christ the *persecuted*.

In other words, persecution, depending on whether you are unjustly leveling it against another or unjustly receiving it from another, can serve either to fill you up in sin or fill you up in Christ. One person's trash of sin may be another person's treasure in Christ.

In the world's eyes, persecution seems to have limited to no value. But not in God's eyes. As the Psalmist says, "*Precious* in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints" (Psalm 116:15). Every affliction that a Christian endures, every unjust accusation under which he or she stands up, even a death that he or she dies for the sake of God's name is precious in God's sight. The trash of worldly persecution is reformed and remade into treasure by Christ.

So if you are suffering today, take heart! For the trash of this world's suffering can be a treasure in God's sight. Ask God what He is seeking to teach you through such hardship and rejoice that you are counted worthy to receive God's treasure – even when His treasure is suffering.

-- Robert --

Worship & Bible Class



Children:

During Worship: unattended nursery is open and available in the East wing, first room on the right. There is also a nursing/training room available on the west side of the auditorium at the far back near the restrooms.

Sermon Notes for Kids: a sheet for kids to use during the sermon is provided in the foyer on the table near the restrooms.

Visitors: We are happy you are with us today. Please take a visitor card from the pew in front of you, fill it out, and put it in the collection plate so we may have a record of your attendance.

Masks: The Elders continue to ask members to please wear masks in the building, when not seated socially distant (e.g. pews in auditorium and classrooms).

Individual communion cups: are located in the foyer on the wooden desk. Please pick up as you enter worship. We will ask you to participate at the appropriate time in the worship service.

Bible Classes for All Ages: start ten minutes after worship and end by 11:15am. A schedule of classes and room numbers are listed at the entry points in placards and on tables throughout the building.



Ministry Updates



Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery: Got hurts, habits, or hang-ups? CR is open to all. Come join us on the road to recovery on Thursday nights. Meal at 6:00 and meetings start at 7:00. Celebration Place is provided for children, ages 1 - 12. Like and follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/crcrosstown. This week: Lesson on Hope.

Clothing Closet: Wednesdays, 10am-11:45am. Clothing .25 each.

Food Pantry: is accepting non-perishable items. Please leave these items by the pantry door. Please consider giving monetarily, using the envelopes in the pews, and placing in the contribution plate.

Group Bible Study: Sundays at 4pm at the building in Room 122. Led by **Keenan Meadors**.

Men's Bible Study — Saturdays at 8:00am in Hospitality Room.

Monday Night for the Master — Mondays from 3:30pm to 6:00pm in Room 122. Write notes of encouragement to members and guests.

Women's Bible Study — **Walking In the Light Daily.** Thursdays 10:00am to 11:00am in Room 122.



Small Groups

Miscellaneous



Wednesday Night Devotionals: are back! Bible Classes conclude at 7:45 and Devotional begins in the Auditorium at 7:50pm. We need male volunteers to lead a song and/or devotional thought. You can contact Robert Prater or use the sign up sheet in the foyer.

Visitation Sunday: Today at 2pm. Join us in Room 123 to disperse in groups. See **James** or **Kristy Snider** for more information.

Elders, Deacons, & Ministry Leaders Meeting: September 29, at 6pm in Room 123. Please be prepared to discuss your ministry.

BIRTHDAYS

9/25 Lane Sanders

9/26 Robert Prater

9/25 Jeff Krosse



Youth Ministry (6th-12th)

Wed. Night Hangtime: Wednesday nights at 6pm in the Youth Gathering Room. Bible Class to follow at 7pm.

Ninten-Devo: September 27 at the home of Christian Migues, 1708 W 119th Pl S, Jenks, OK. 5:30pm to 7pm.

Prayer, Praise, & Paninis: October 7 at 6pm in the Youth Gathering Room. Cost \$5.

Kickback: October 9 at the home of Roddy and Joanie Roberts from 7pm-10pm

Tulsa Area Wide: October 11. More details to come.

Youth Devo: October 25 at the home of April Meadors, 4401 W Kenosha St, Broken Arrow, OK

Halloween Mystery Dinner: October 30 at the home of Roddy and Joanie Roberts. 6pm-9pm



Wednesday Nights at 7pm!

2years to 5th Grade ~ Room 127-128
A VBS style learning environment, with songs, puppets, and Bible lessons. Invite your friends and family.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Sunday

Worship 9:00 am
Bible Class ten minutes after Worship

Wednesday

Bible Class
In person & online @ 7:00 pm

CONTACT US VIA EMAIL
> info@crosstownfamily.org

GIVE TO CROSSTOWN ONLINE
> www.crosstownfamily.org/donate

PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE
> www.crosstownfamily.org

ONLINE Worship & Bible Class
> www.youtube.com/crosstownchurchofchrist

CHURCH INFORMATION

3400 East Admiral Place
Tulsa, OK 74115-8227
Phone: 918-834-1395

CHURCH STATS

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Bible Class Total	97
Worship Total	120
Weekly Budget	\$9,500
Contribution	\$6,984
Contribution YTD	\$337,326
Budget YTD	\$351,500
Difference	(\$11,462)
Wednesday	88