

Thursday

Please read 2 Corinthians 7:8-10 again. Reflect on what Godly sorrow (guilt) you may be experiencing. Have you asked God to help you change? Is your sorrow Godly sorrow (guilt) or worldly sorrow (shame)? What steps can you take to transform your guilt into repentance?

Thank God for the work He has already begun in you. Ask Him to reveal the areas in your life that are pointed away from Him and surrender those things to Him. Ask Him to lead you to repentance, to real lasting prayer. Repeat this prayer, "Here's my heart, Lord. Here's my heart, Lord. Here's my heart, Lord. Speak what is true. Here's my life, Lord. Here's my life, Lord. Here's my life, Lord. Speak what is true."

Friday

Please read 1 John 2:1-2 again. Explain in your own words what it means for Jesus to be your advocate, your atoning sacrifice: If Jesus Christ is the final and complete sacrifice for our sins, what would He say to those who feel a need to measure up, or to do something to "pay for" their sins? This verse says Jesus Christ did not just die for my sins, but for the sins of the "whole world". How should this truth influence the way you conduct yourself in the next week in the following places:

- My workplace
- My neighborhood
- My places of business (stores, restaurants)
- My home

Thank God for His transforming power. Pray that you'll love Him and others in the same way.

Saturday

Please read 1 John 2:3-17 to prepare yourself for tomorrow's message. Write down any initial observations or questions:

Ask God to prepare your heart so that you can worship him in Spirit and truth as you come together with your brothers and sisters tomorrow. Pray for our Sunday services, that they will clearly show God's grace and truth to all who attend.

TRUTH FOR LIFE

Message by Brandon Smart on Sunday, May 13, 2018

Facing Your Guilt

1 John 1:1 - 2:2

³⁷ Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:36-40 NIV

THE SIMPLE MESSAGE:

Love _____; love _____.

The Problem: _____.

TWO TRUTHS ABOUT SIN & GUILT:

Truth #1: If we do not _____ our sins, they will _____.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth... ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us... ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us.

1 John 1:5-6, 8, & 10 NIV



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The moment we _____ something's wrong is the moment we can begin to allow God to _____.

Truth #2: _____ is not a bad thing, _____ is.

Another word for it: _____.

Guilt is your _____ pushing you towards _____.

⁸ Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—⁹ yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰ Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

2 Corinthians 7:8-10 NIV

“Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 CEV

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 1:6 NIV

Daily Meditations

Meditations for each day based on this week's message.

This week's memory verse:

“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

1 John 2:2

Monday

Please read 1 John 1:5-7. Practically, what does it mean to “walk in the light” and “walk in the darkness”? In your life right now, where are you in darkness rather than light? What hope does John give to us about moving from darkness to light? What benefits are there? What practical steps will you take this week to walk in the light rather than in the darkness?

Thank God today that He is light and that in Him there is no darkness at all. Ask Him to help you be honest to Him right now about where you still live in darkness. Ask Him to shine His light into every corner of your life and heal you.

Tuesday

Please read 1 John 1:8-9. John speaks of confession as both the entry point into the Christian life and a continuing characteristic of Christians—we are “confessors”—people who confess their sins rather than hide their sins. Why is living in *denial* (denial of our problems, of our sins) such a common trap we fall into? John uses very strong words to describe those who have confessed their sins. He says we are “purified from all unrighteousness”. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, describe the way God sees you in light of John's teaching: If confession sets us free to experience such amazing grace, then why are we so slow to confess our sins? What would you say to someone reluctant to confess their sins?

Thank God for His cleansing love and grace. Confess to Him now, agreeing with Him that the dark areas you may have been indulging or excusing are, in truth, wrong. Thank Him for His forgiveness.

Wednesday

Please read 1 John 1:10-2:2. What are some characteristics you've noticed of people who work overtime to prove they are “good people” and not sinful? How is “claiming to have never sinned” making God out to be a liar? Why is admitting the ugly truth about our problems a first step to wholeness?

What do you need to admit to God is a real problem in your life? Take it to Him in prayer right now.