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PASTOR'S NOTE

Greetings in the LORD Brothers and Sisters,

As I study and prepare for this week's sermon on 1 Peter 2:13-17, I am reminded of this past Sunday's sermon. I am wondering how you are doing with applying the principles laid out by Peter in 2:11-12. Hearing the Word preached is an act of discipleship that the Christian should use as a tool to mature in one's faith. As James says we should be hearers and doers of the Word (James 1:22-25), for that brings about blessings in one's life. Yet, we also ought to understand that knowing the Word of God should have a doxological effect on our lives (*doxa* means glory in the Greek). What that means is our faith is not just so we can be better people or closer to Jesus as an end goal; but that our lives, our words, our attitudes should glorify God as much as possible. We read to understand and apply for personal edification while simultaneously praising God for the blessings He bestows upon us.

So, the first challenge was to 'abstain from the passions of the flesh.' Remember, Peter uses war language in verse 11. This is not a simply skirmish or a modest battle without significance. Peter tells us that one's passions are relentless against us. How have you abstained so far this week from sin in your life? Do you keep free from temptation or have you struggled dabbling in fleshly desires knowing that leads to sin? Have you been successful at quelling anger, pride, gossip, slander, haughtiness, lust, envy, arrogance, jealousy, or a whole host of other things that may plague each of you individually? Remember, not all temptation or sin manifests in us all. Know your enemy and be prepared to battle if you must in order to overcome the sin in your life. You must mortify sin each day for it is unrelenting against you.

The second challenge was to 'keep your conduct honorable.' The idea of mortifying sin should make this much easier, yet, regrettably not all take the first idea seriously. Peter is not just simply saying to act honorably for the sake of acting nice to people. Remember, our faith is not works-based no matter how hard we try to make it so. We cannot earn God's favor through our actions and that is a good thing. It is a

good thing because then we do not have a heavy burden but a light one which we ought to embrace with joy. It also reminds us that God is a gracious God who is faithful and just to forgive us (1 John 1:9). So, have you lived honorably this week? Have your actions, attitudes and words reflected the majesty of Jesus Christ to those within the body of Christ, as well as those in the world? Reflect on ways you have done this. What are some of the triumphs? What were some of the setbacks? It always helps to look back in order to move forward properly.

Be honest with yourself when reflecting on these two principles. This is between you and God, yet it affects those around you. If you are struggling with these ideas then spend some time in prayer seeking the Lord's power and guidance. Regardless of how strong or mature your faith is, do not attempt to slay sin and live honorably apart from God. That will only lead to failure and discouragement. Seek His face and turn to Him that your LORD would lavish His love and power upon you. May your journey this week be filled with the blessings of God that you would live doxological.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Paul

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be advised: Due to the church picnic this Sunday, there will be no Adult Sunday School.

Join us! The Adult Sunday School meets at 8am each Sunday. We are currently studying 20th Century Christianity. If you enjoy thoughtful discussion and are eager to learn more about your faith, this class is for you. We will end on July 30th and pick back up again on September 10th.

Game Night: Our next game night will be on June 30th at 6pm. We have games for all ages and experiences, and would love for you to be there!

Mid-Week Gathering: Are you interested in good fellowship, prayer, and learning about the Gospel of Luke? If so, please join us at the mid-week gathering each Wednesday at 6:30pm. We are a group who desires to learn more about Jesus Christ that we may live out our faith for the glory of God and for our benefit as well. There is no work that has to be done before the meeting, so just show up! We spend a bit of time each week praying for one another, MCC, and various other requests. Please consider this perfect opportunity to grow with other believers at MCC.

Church Secretary: MCC is currently seeking a church secretary. We need to find someone with the appropriate skill set to fill this important role to assist Pastor Paul and the congregation as a whole. Please contact Pastor Paul if you may be interested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monthly Men's Breakfast & Bible Study: A multi-church men's group that meets once a month. Saturday, July 8th from 7:30-9am in the fellowship hall (enter via the lower back doors/ramp). Full breakfast followed by a time of prayer/testimony and Bible study/discussion. This month's speaker will be Mary Wright. Breakfast: Pancakes, eggs, sausage, home fries, coffee & juice (free will offering to cover costs). Any questions please contact Vinnie Verduine at 563-8084 or cell/text 831-6307 (or via email: inwonder@myfairpoint.net). There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary to give them a count for breakfast. It is VERY important for them to have an accurate count.

Garden Tithe: Collette Lucas spearheads the Garden Tithe program here at MCC each year— please see her for more specific information about how you can get involved if you are interested.

Garden Tithe Seed Exchange: This exchange is open to everyone, not just members of the Garden Tithe. A box will be on the back table in the sanctuary for anyone who would like to trade seeds again this year. If you have extra seeds, please be sure that none of the expiration dates are before 2014. Take what you want, leave extras. Envelopes will be provided in case you want just a few seeds, not a whole package.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCC

Annual
Picnic

June 25

ADAMS PLAYGROUND

after the worship service

We would love for you to join us!

For those who did not receive the picnic food signup email,
please contact the church office if you are able to bring
food to share.

PRAYER NEEDS

- ◆ Pray for healing for the many in our church and extended families that are struggling in various ways physically.
- ◆ Pray for family members who are far from Christ.
- ◆ Pray for peace, strength and courage in transitions for many in our church.
- ◆ Pray that each person at MCC will willingly and joyfully find a place to serve and become involved in some aspect of church life beyond worship.
- ◆ Pray for unity in our church and respectful dialogue as needed when issues arise. May we seek the best for those around us above our own desires.
- ◆ Pray for wisdom, clarity and compassion for Pastor Paul, the Elders and all in leadership here at MCC, in our local & national government and leadership positions around the world.
- ◆ Pray that we as a church body will connect relationally, in a meaningful way, with one another.

