

Wednesday Word

1/3/2024

Lamentations 3:22-24 “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

I am a classic church kid. I grew up in church; all my core childhood memories are at church; I went to school at the church; my parents served in the church; all my friends went to my church; my whole life centered around the church. We went to Sunday School and Sunday Worship in the morning and then back to church that night for Sunday evening service. I went to Life Christian School during the week and played sports with the school. We had weekend events for all ages on Saturdays and in the evenings throughout the week. I lived at church to say the least.

On Wednesdays we would get to church at 5 pm. My parents had Adult Bible Study and we kids had choir and then Royal Rangers (Christian Boy Scouts). One week, I decided to skip choir and play football with my friends. My parents thought I was in the youth choir, but I snuck off campus to the park next door. As we were coming back my dad saw us from his Bible Study room and came down to meet us. Needless to say, I was in trouble. He wasn't mad because I skipped choir (I have no musical gifting at all) but he was mad that I lied to him about where I was. My dad, like most dads, hates lying. I refused to admit that I had left the campus, and it wasn't until after my dad allowed me to confess that he told me he saw me from the window. Initially, he told me as punishment that I wouldn't be allowed to go on the family vacation to Disneyland the following month. I was devastated. I was mad. I was heartbroken.

Later that night my dad approached me at home, and we had a discussion about why I was in trouble and how we could reconcile trust back into our relationship. While he rescinded the punishment, he did agree I deserved it. “Lying” my dad would say, “Is like stealing. It is stealing the truth.” I learned a valuable lesson that day. I learned I deserved the punishment, but my dad took the weight of it off my shoulders because he was more concerned about what life-lesson I would learn and not about the punishment.

Our God is the same way. His love never ceases, and he is full of mercy. He took our ultimate punishment and created opportunities for us to learn and grow instead. Every day is a new slate from our God. He doesn't hold our sins over our head or guilt us with our wrongdoing; he forgives us and teaches us to learn from our sins and mistakes.

While there can be real and harsh consequences from our sins in this life, our God wants to spare us from that. He wants us to live free from the burden and punishments our sins will lead us to. He knows if we will learn why our sins can cause damage before they cause the damage, He, in His mercy, will save us from both the sin and the consequences later in life.

Let us learn to never take the Mercy of God for granted! He is our portion, and our hope is in Him. Let us trust in Him and not hide from Him. He is faithful and just and will forgive us. He will also lead us away from the devastation that sin brings. For this I am so grateful.

Reminder: Today is day 2 of Three Days of Prayer. Please check our church Facebook page or YouTube Channel for video instructions.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric