

Sermon Notes

2 Corinthians 1:12-22 | Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This is the second in our fall series on the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians. In our text for today, we see more clearly the undertones of the accusations the Corinthians were leveling against Paul and the slander with which they were besmirching his name. Here were the accusations in a nutshell: *You are committing hidden, negative actions we can't see; you have hidden motives we don't know; there are hidden meanings to what you are saying that we don't understand; and finally, you didn't follow through with your promise to visit. If we can't trust what you say in everyday things like travel commitments, how can we trust what you say about God and the Good News of Jesus Christ?*

1. How do you respond when your actions or motives are misunderstood or impugned? What do you do if your character is called into question? How do you take the high road but also defend yourself when necessary? How do you know when to defend and when not to defend yourself?
2. Read 2 Cor. 1:12-22. How does Paul answer the first three accusations from the opening paragraph in verses 12-14? How does he answer the fourth accusation in verses 15-18? Where might Proverbs 19:21 come in regarding the fourth accusation, as well as the episode of Paul in Acts 16:6-10?
3. In verses 19-20, Paul switches gears to talk about the character and actions of Jesus. What is his argument? Have you ever thought of faith being “saying yes to the yes that God has already said to you and our world in Christ”?
4. In verses 21-22, how does Paul cap off this section of Scripture? What is his evidence of their authority to speak into the lives of these brothers and sisters? In my message, I talked about what the “seal on us” and “first installment” might be and mean for us as Christians this side of heaven. How does Paul hope those closing thoughts might move his relationship with the Corinthians past accusation to partnership going forward? How do these last two verses remind us about God's ongoing investment in us through Christ?

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Financial Update	as of Oct 5, 2025
2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to Date	9,425,121
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	4,778,171

Births and Deaths
Nancy Sibley Elliott passed away Oct 4.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Baptism Sunday

Today we celebrate the sacrament of baptism in our 9:30 and 11:15am services. God is at work in and through the sacrament as the Church baptizes believers and their children. In baptism, we celebrate God's saving initiative that brings His people to faith in Jesus—but baptism is more than a celebration! “*Baptism is the washing with water in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; it signifies and seals our adoption into Christ, our cleansing from sin, and our commitment to belong to the Lord and to His church*” (New City Catechism, Q44). To learn more, contact Pastor Dan Aikins at daikins@mdpc.org or 713.490.9292, or visit baptism.mdpc.org.

Preschool Bubble Day

Sat, Oct 18 | 10-11:30am
Master Bubble Wranglers will amaze us with giant bubbles and bubble tricks! This event is for preschoolers; must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Sign up today! kids.mdpc.org

Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch

Mon, Oct 20 | 11am-1pm
Enjoy Christian fellowship at our monthly lunch! No reservations required. Order your food in



Give Online
give.mdpc.org

To view all events, visit events.mdpc.org. MDPC Café and bring to our group's tables in Fellowship Hall. Learn more at seniors.mdpc.org.

New Women's Bible Study

Thu, Oct 23-Nov 20 | 11:45am-1pm
Grab your Bible, your lunch, and your brave heart—because we're diving into five powerful stories of courage and faith-full living! Free childcare available. Sign up: women.mdpc.org

Young Adults Choctoberfest

Thu, Oct 30 | 6:30-9pm | MDPC
Join us for an evening of chocolatey treats, friendly competition, and community connection. Bring a homemade dessert creation to enter into the contest - or just come hungry and ready to vote! Details and RSVP: yaevents.mdpc.org

Women's Spiritual Retreat

Sat, Nov 15 | 9am-3:30pm
Guided by the Spirit and led by faithful teachers Beth Case and Teri Adair, we will explore Scripture and reflect on how God's mighty presence brings restoration, purpose, and peace. Learn more and register: delight.mdpc.org

Volunteers (ages 14 and up) Needed...

...to help in preschool and elementary Sunday School! Join us once a month to help young children grow in their faith. Training and materials provided. Email Keri Mosk for more information: kmosk@mdpc.org



This Thanksgiving, ESB and MDPC Fuente Food Pantries will feed over 1,000 families struggling with food insecurity - and you can help!

Shopping bags and lists available on campus starting Oct 19.

Learn more: meals.mdpc.org





Come hear women just like you tell their stories! The Well is for all ages and stages.

THU, OCT 16
6:30 • REFRESHMENTS AT 6

Details and RSVP:
THEWELL.MDPC.ORG

As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Rachel Poysky
*Worship Songs	<i>Here for You</i> <i>Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me</i>	
*Confession & Assurance Prayers of the People		Rachel Poysky
Worship Hymn	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Beautifully Broken 2 Corinthians 1:12-22	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Offertory	<i>Nearer, My God, to Thee</i>	arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
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SENDING

*Doxology		OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson

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9:30 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

*Opening Song	<i>Here for You</i>	
*Call to Worship		Meliza Gómez
*Songs of Praise	<i>Awake My Soul / Who Else</i>	
*Confession & Assurance		Matthew Adair
*Worship Songs	<i>Oh But God / Gratitude</i>	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Beautifully Broken 2 Corinthians 1:12-22	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Offertory	<i>King of Kings</i>	
Introduction of New Covenant Partners		Dan Aikins
Congregational Response and Prayer		
Baptisms		Alf Halvorson, Dan Aikins
	Brooks Howard Stresau, son of Amanda and Ashton Stresau	
	McClaine Marie Jones, daughter of Lauren and Graham Jones	
	Kendall Beth Fedorko, daughter of Laura and Benjamin Fedorko	
	Wyatt Matthew Saxe, son of Audrey and Kevin Saxe	

SENDING

*Doxology		OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
	Musicians: Asher Pudlo, drums Chris Parrott, guitar Uvaldo Callejas, bass JJ Blanco, keys Michael Middleton and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders	
	Also at 8:30: Kelli Estes, Megan Berti, Chris Childress, Antoine Griggs, quartet Kelley Edwards, flute Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director Kathryn White, piano	

*Please stand, if comfortable.

Meet the Covenant Partners introduced today, the newest members of the MDPC family! Pick up a bio sheet at the Connection Center, or visit today.mdpc.org.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude	<i>On Wings of Song</i>	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Call to Worship		Rachel Poysky
Choral Introit	<i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	Lloyd Pfautsch (b. 1921)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven</i>	Vs. 1, 2, 4 #478 LAUDA ANIMA

*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Rachel Poysky
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*Affirmation of Faith from the New City Catechism, Question One

*Congregational Response	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	#579 GLORIA PATRI
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HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	<i>God of the Sparrow</i>	Craig Courtney (b. 1948)
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RESPONDING

Offertory	<i>A Mighty Fortress Is Our God</i>	arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
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Introduction of New Covenant Partners		Dan Aikins
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Congregational Response and Prayer


Baptism		Alf Halvorson
	Blake Christopher Haas, son of David and Angelica Haas	

SENDING

*Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	#592 OLD 100TH
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*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
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Postlude	<i>God of Grace and God of Glory</i>	arr. Paul Manz (1919-2009)
	Musicians: Kelley Edwards, flute Sanctuary Choir Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director Kathryn White, organist	



CURIOUS ABOUT MDPC?

This class is a laid-back way to learn what we believe, meet others, and see if this might be your church home. No pressure, just connection!

Fri evening, Nov 21 • 6-8:30pm
Sat morning, Nov 22 • 8-11:30am
newmembers.mdpc.org

NEW MEMBER CLASSES



THIRD GRADE BIBLE RETREAT

Sun, Nov 2 | 12:30-2pm

Kids will learn how to navigate the Bible, be introduced to the books of the Bible, and simply get comfortable and ready to explore the Word!

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Sun, Nov 9 | Details at tgb.mdpc.org

3rd GRADE BIBLES



It's MDPC Homeless Awareness Month and we are offering a simple but meaningful way to help those who are suffering from homelessness. Look for the baskets around campus filled with care bags containing tie-dye socks made by our Summer Celebration kids, along with self-care essentials. We invite you to take bags to pass along to someone in need. A small act of kindness can go a long way!