



Pastor Dave: “Redeem the Night in 2020” (page 4)

Abiding, Delighting, & Obeying. Join the Cornerstone Challenge this year!

On the last Sunday of 2019, Pastor Dave preached a message titled: *"A Call to a Life of Biblical Worship"* in which we looked at the greatest commandment. In Deuteronomy 6, Moses shows us how to daily live in right relationship with God, which leads to our greatest joy. We finished by seeing: to joyfully pursue deep delight in God, out of our heart, requires that we gather together regularly in corporate fellowship and worship, read God's Word, meditate on God's Word, memorize God's Word, pray God's Word, sing God's Word, and conduct family worship. This is what it means on a very basic level to love the Lord our God, from the heart, with all of our soul, mind, and strength.

We have packets available for you in the foyer that explain the logistics of this challenge. Our desire is to continue to equip you this year to abide in God, delight in God, and obey God!

Updates and Encouragement

Ministry

- In December we celebrated as a church family as Anastasia Zoe was adopted into the Ashe family. We enjoyed a meal together, sang together, and listened as Jeremey and Courtney shared the struggles and joys of the foster care/adoption process and God's provision through it all.
- We welcome new Elder Mark Kielblock and new Deacon Mike Childers - both were voted in by ballot on December 22nd and begin their roles January 1st. We will hold an ordination service soon.

Building and Finances

- Our 2020 budget was approved by a ballot vote on December 22nd.
- Due to a full parking lot and sanctuary, we are asking for those who are able to park in the Safeway parking lot to do so. You can also park in the grass by the playground.
- Our roof is being finished - thank you for your patience with our current construction as we finish this project.

Children and Youth

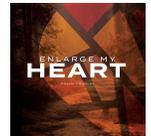
- Dec. 11th - Youth Christmas Party 6:30-8pm
- Dec. 14th - Youth Boys' Fellowship 8:30-10am
- Dec. 18th - Pizza Night at AWANA

Needs

- Cafe set-up/clean-up
- Chair team
- Greeters
- Ushers/Parking Team
- More importantly - look around - see a need and meet a need. Be on the lookout for those needing encouragement, prayer, etc.

Abiding, Delighting, & Obeying in 2020

- Join us as we pursue God through reading, meditating on and memorizing His Word, praying, singing, and through family worship. Pick up a January bookmark in the foyer to help guide you this month.
- Stored in my Heart has a brand new release. You are now able to download and stream *Enlarge My Heart* on all media platforms.



Outreach Ministries

- Through this year's Angel Tree, Cornerstone families helped 4 families at East Dover provide gifts for their children this Christmas.
- Over \$1,300 was received toward the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for overseas missionaries this year

CORNERSTONE'S MEMBERSHIP 101 CLASS IS JANUARY 15th @6:30PM

*For anyone wanting to join the church,
or simply wanting to know more about our church,
this class is for you!*

BIBLICAL SERVANTHOOD 102 CLASS, PART 1 IS JANUARY 22ND @6:30PM

*As Christ followers, we are called into a community in which we grow and serve.
This class shows biblically what it means to be a servant.*

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Corporate Worship			1:00-5:00pm New Year's Day Scripture Reading of Exodus and Leviticus		6:30-8:30pm Harvath Homegroup, Edillon Homegroup	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Corporate Worship		7:00-9:00pm Refuge Young Adults 6:30-8:00pm Kielblock Homegroup	5:45-6:30pm Prayer & Praise 6:30-8:00pm Youth & Awana	6:30-8:30pm Melnick Homegroup 6:30-8:30pm Aubrey HomeGroup		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Corporate Worship		7:00-9:00pm Refuge Young Adults	5:45-6:30pm Prayer & Praise 6:30-8:00pm Youth & Awana 6:30-8:00PM Membership 101 Class		6:30-8:30pm Harvath Homegroup, Edillon HomeGroup	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Corporate Worship	<u>OFFICE CLOSED</u> (MLK Holiday)	7:00-9:00pm Refuge Young Adults	5:45-6:30pm Prayer & Praise 6:30-8:00pm Youth & Awana 6:30-8:00PM Servanthood 102 Part 1	6:30-8:30pm Melnick Homegroup 6:30-8:30pm Aubrey HomeGroup		8:00am Youth Boys' Fellowship
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Corporate Worship		7:00-9:00pm Refuge Young Adults	5:45-6:30pm Prayer & Praise 6:30-8:00pm Youth & Awana			

Redeem the Night in 2020!

Pastor Dave Aubrey

What does your normal evening look like? Are you and your family out every night fulfilling the demands of America's overburdened schedule? Do you sit in front of a TV for several hours until you finally fall asleep? Do you scroll through social media or play trivial games on your phone for hours at a time? Does your family regularly gather together, or do you tend to be separated?

Here are a few "did you know" statistics regarding how America spends its time. 80% of the American population watches TV every day (this is defined by actual television, or videos, movies, streaming, etc. on a tablet, phone, or computer). In fact, this kind of entertainment intake accounts for more than half of all the time Americans spend in leisure and sports. The average American, over 15 years old, spends 2 hours and 46 minutes a day saturated in media intake, with the peak watching times being between 6pm-11pm. We have seen that the typical American evening is full of hobbies or commitments outside of the home, scattered dinner (when the family is not together), high volume intake of entertainment, and hours spent on the phone keeping us awake later and later. Sleep deprivation is growing because of poor habits, minds that won't stop racing, fear of missing out, worry and anxiety, and temptations, among other things. We can see that what God has given us in time, a gracious gift to steward for our sanctification and effectiveness in ministry, has been turned into a slave master. We do not steward our time, rather our time is now controlling us. This is why Paul tells us in Ephesians 5 to redeem the time because the days are evil.

Historically, we see that evenings looked very different than they are now. A few obvious reasons would be the limited availability of light, no television or phones, and a less burdensome and busy schedule culturally. In Roger Ekirch's book, *At Day's Close: Night in Times Past*, he reveals that until modern times, when artificial lighting allowed us to stay awake longer, most people would go to bed around sunset. The actual time spent sleeping was split into two phases – known as first sleep and second sleep. Historically, adults would often go to bed at sunset and awaken between 1 and 3 for prayer, devotion, and study (among other things), and then go back to bed until sunrise. The term "first sleep" remained a common division in the night until the late eighteenth-century.

In the Bible, it is evening that starts the next day. The way you prepared for fighting sin, telling people about Jesus, working hard for the glory of God, exhorting your brother and sister, loving your spouse, teaching your children, and eating and drinking along with everything else for the glory of God was by making the best use of your evening. It was the start of your day. All throughout God's Word, as well as church history, the evening was a time of intentional and intimate worship and study. Look at what God's Word says about it:

- Psalm 42:8 "By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life."
- Psalm 63:5-7 "My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, ⁶when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; ⁷for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy."
- Psalm 119:147-148 "I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in your words. ¹⁴⁸My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promise."
- Proverbs 31:15, 18 says of the woman who fears the Lord, "She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens... Her lamp does not go out at night."

Our recent challenge from Deuteronomy 6 to love the Lord our God, out of our heart, with all of our soul, mind, and strength, will require that we redeem and steward our time. I am convinced that one of the main reasons we have failed at reading, meditating, memorizing, praying, singing, having family worship, and even participating regularly in the corporate gathering, is because we have lost control, intentionality, and discipline in our evenings. Our schedules are getting busier and busier, and our desires are oversaturated with worldliness. It seems that everything else in our life is taking priority over the Lord. We stay up later and later, yet we spend less and less time with the Lord. We claim we are busier and busier, yet our time spent being entertained by the world continues to increase. We actually seem to have less time, yet we make more time for worldliness than ever before. So, here are four exhortations to redeem your night for yours and your family's sanctification, the health of the church, the advancement of the Kingdom, and the glory of God.

1. Your heart is instructing you in the night.

Psalm 16:7-8 "I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken." Your heart is correcting, warning, training, and disciplining you *in the night*. When you feast on the world rather than the word, you may think what you are putting in is neutral, but make no mistake, you are being instructed, and disciplined. This is why we must set the Lord before us, so that our hearts' instruction is not coming from the world, but from God's Word.

2. The Lord blesses those who remember His Name in the night.

Psalm 119:55-56 "I remember your name in the night, O Lord, and keep your law. This blessing has fallen to me, that I have kept your precepts." Remembering God's name in the night leads to keeping His law. Biblically, one of the ways we can increase our obedience is by remembering the Lord in the evening. And not only does the Lord bless those who keep His law, but the greatest blessing we receive in itself is the joy and peace that comes from being in right relationship with God by keeping His law.

3. Life and death are found in the way of the righteous or the wicked.

Psalm 1:6 "The Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish." Psalm 119:37 "Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways." Let me pose one question for you to ponder – what is the difference between how you spend your evenings compared to the wicked? David tells us in Psalm 1 and 2 that many people will perish in the way of the wicked. The way of the righteous, however, turns its eyes from looking at worthless things at night to find life in the ways of God.

4. The Lord is in control of your tomorrow, so you can rest in Him tonight.

Psalm 127:1-2 "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. ² It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep." Psalm 4:8 "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." Brother and sister, you need not toss and turn in fear and worry. You don't need to numb and distract your mind through entertainment nor busyness – God is in control. He never sleeps. He is always working for the good of those who are called according to His purpose and for His glory. You can trust Him. His gift to you, beloved, is rest. Rest in Him!

I am convinced that the key for our church to be pursuing deep delight in God, from our heart, in all our life, will require us to redeem our nights. We need to take back our evenings and steward the gracious

gift of time God has given us. By God's grace, in His strength, for our good and His glory, Church, let us gather, read, pray, meditate, memorize, and sing in the evenings. Let us redeem our nights in 2020!