



GROWING IN A *greater love* FOR GOD
AND A *greater love* FOR EACH OTHER

March 18, 2020

"I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times, things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish my purpose.'" (Isaiah 46:9b-10)

We are in the midst of many uncertainties but one thing is certain, **God is God and there is none like Him and He will accomplish His purposes.** He is as sovereign today as He was when we never heard of any such thing as the Coronavirus. With that in mind, we look ahead with our eyes on Christ who is our eternal hope.

NEW CMBC YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our first Calvary Monument Bible Church Youth Newsletter! Over the next couple of weeks (and maybe longer) there will be a link in the weekly that will be available for everyone on the church website and app as they meet in their homes on Sunday mornings. There will be a Bible study included in these first several newsletters since we are not able to gather together. Take advantage of this publication by reading and studying what is available so that when we meet back together we would be unified in our thinking. "complete my joy by being of the

same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind." (Phil. 2:2)

In the future, I hope this newsletter will be helpful to you students as you take responsibility for deadlines, dates, sign-ups, and staying informed. I would like to provide tools for you to read God's Word, watch helpful videos, read encouraging publications, and respond in ways to keep us connected.

Remember, even though we are unable to meet together for a time, we are still the body of Christ!

NOTABLE DATES

March 25, 2020: No Youth Small Groups

March 22 and 29, 2020: No Service or YBF

April 2, 2020: No Bible Quizzing Recognition Night (Postponed-stay tuned for alternate date)

April-May: Possible Service Projects (We hope to do something together in service of others even though we will not go on the mission trip (This is on hold until further notice)

May 13, 2020: Final Small Groups Youth Night

May 17, 2020: Blackrock event for Pier 56 and all youth (2:30-4:30pm)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUPS AND YBF

The current plan is that all activities are on hold until a decision is made on April 1st. We want to follow the guidelines that are coming in from the White House and be wise examples in our community. This may mean that we will need to make even further changes as the days unfold. Take this time to reflect on the grace and mercy that has been shown to you from our Savior Jesus Christ. Some of you have time off from school, work, and added extracurricular activities including time together for small groups and YBF. This is a unique time for everyone. Often we think of serving one another as a special time that only happens when we meet together as a church or youth group. I would encourage you to consider how you can be of service in your own home these two weeks. How can you serve your siblings and parents? How can you contribute? Could you, make dinner for everyone, play a game with a younger sibling, be quick to do the meal cleanup, work outside, mulch, or pull weeds. Ask your parents what you can do as a project without the expectation of compensation. **Shine as lights at home!**

AT HOME STUDY: PHILIPPIANS 3:12-16

Starting this Sunday, you will have the opportunity to gather at home and follow through the service order of the weekly to worship God. I would encourage you to sing, pray, give (through on-line giving) and watch the message from Pastor Chris that will be posted on the CMBC website or App. Take time to look at the discussion guide together as a family after the message and talk about it. Let's not be embarrassed! Your participation in this at home will either make or break the intentions of your own home being a house of worship. Let's not drag our feet.

In addition, sometime this week or weekend, take a moment alone and walk with God through this short study in Philippians. We have been studying Philippians this year for Sunday school (which we now call YBF: Youth Bible Fellowship). I thought it would be good to continue our look at this letter even though we are unable to gather together to hear it taught. This will not be a full YBF study but rather just some thoughts and a format to help you ponder the Word of God while at home.

GET AWAY: Find a quiet place alone so that you can focus.

PRAY: Take a moment to pray that the Lord would speak to you in this passage and show you what is true in the world and in your own life and heart.

READ: Read Philippians 3:12-16

EXPOSITION: What do you think Paul had not obtained in verse 12? What is he pressing on towards?

Read Verses 7-11. Write down each thing that Paul states he desires. What does he want? What does he want to obtain?

Paul acknowledges in verse 12 that Christ has made Paul His own. Because He is Christ's own, Paul presses on toward a goal for a prize. What is the prize in verse 14?

Paul desires an intimacy with Christ. He mentions in verse 13 that he must forget what lies behind. What do you think Paul must forget?

Behind Paul is pride in his own accomplishments and boasting in himself.

In Verse 16, Paul says to hold true to what is attained. What has been attained or gotten by God's church? (Hint: What is attained by the gospel message?)

APPLICATION: What do you have a hard time forgetting in your past? What about your past might trip you up or cause you to stumble in your walk with Christ?

Are you pressing on and **straining forward rather than looking back** with your eyes on Jesus? Read Philippians 2:12-13. God is at work in you for His good pleasure. Keep your eyes on Jesus during this time at home.

Pray: Pray that God would help you this week as you press on.



NEWSFLASH

Can you believe you are at home for two full weeks? How crazy is that? I want to know some of the things you are up to while at home. **Send me a picture with a caption of something you did this week or weekend.** It can be crazy, out of this world, or meaningful. I will include pictures you send to me in our next newsletter! I'm sure all of us will look forward to what you share!

Send picture to my e-mail at: gherdter@calvarymonument.org.

STAY IN TOUCH

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