

Thursday 9th July 2020



### **Your Word is a Lamp to my feet and a Light to My Path**

Our passage this Sunday is Psalm 119:105-112. We will be looking at different ways in which the Word of God addresses the life of the believer. This passage contains one of the most recognizable verses in all the Psalms – verse 105, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

The Hebrew word “lamp” in this verse means “a candle or light.” A candle gives off a very small amount of visible light. It is just enough to see right in front of you. Picture walking through your home in a power outage using just a candle. You can see only a short distance in front of you. It doesn’t illuminate everything around you in a way that makes them clear, but it allows you to see just enough to take the next step. When God wants us to move in our walk with Him, He doesn’t often show us the whole picture. He wants us to follow Him step-by-step without necessarily knowing or worrying about the bigger picture, because that could lead us to try and control the outcome. We need to rely on the Word of God every step of the way.

God’s Word may also provide more “light” to our situations. For example, God’s Word says to forgive our enemies. That’s a clear light! If we are in a relationship with someone who has wronged us, God’s Word is telling us to forgive them. It is showing us the path to take with that person. He makes it clear in His Word, illuminating it so that we know what we must do regardless of how we feel.

So, God may, at times, only reveal steps along the way without showing us the whole path, and sometimes He shows us the path ahead. But we must allow His Word to light up the steps we need to get there. Either way, we see the power of God in its guidance in all of life!

Pastor Paul

*Newsletter*

# Devotional By Paul Tripp

The stock market is rallying ... Unemployment is dangerously high ... The stock market is now crashing ... Consumer spending is rebounding sharply ... The economy is shrinking at an alarming rate.

Accompanying nearly every coronavirus update is a change in our financial world. It can be exhausting and stressful, but it is not unspiritual to think about money, to be concerned with the stock market, or to talk about your finances frequently.

Rather than avoiding money matters or addressing them with timidity, as many churches do, Jesus taught on the subject all the time. Did you know that Christ discussed money more than he did heaven or hell? Of the thirty-nine parables recorded in the Gospels, eleven are focused on money.

Your Lord addressed these issues so often because he knows we are easily seduced. He knows how quickly we can lose our way. He knows that we are susceptible to giving the love of our hearts to money.

This conversation about money is not just in the ministry of Jesus but also a recurring theme throughout all of Scripture. There are three significant elements that we need to be aware of if we want to have a heart that handles the temptations of money and a life glorifies God with our finances.

## Gratitude

A grateful person is aware that they deserve nothing of all they possess and enjoy. If they remember this fundamental biblical theology, they will daily count their blessings and be thankful for the little things that would otherwise be taken for granted.

An attitude of ingratitude does just the opposite. If we tell ourselves that we deserve more than we have been given, we will live an entitled and demanding life. Never quite satisfied, we could easily justify a wasteful and selfish use of money.

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” (Psalm 103:2, ESV)

## Need

Need is one of the most poorly and overused words in human culture. The majority of what we tell ourselves we need, we don’t actually need. We all are very skilled at loading our desires into our needs category.

This is a dangerous mistake. Once we have, we think it’s our right to demand these things, and therefore appropriate to do what is necessary to possess them. This leads to wasting all kinds of money satisfying “needs” that aren’t really needs, all the while feeling quite comfortable, because if it’s a need, it seems right to pursue it.

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” (2 Peter 1:3, NIV)

## Envy

If you are unthankful and persuaded that you deserve more, and if you have been able to convince yourself that you need certain things that you do not have, you will invariably look over the fence and envy the person who appears to have what you have not yet been able to acquire.

Envious people are always taking account. Envious people are always comparing. Envious people are consistently placing things on their “they have, but I do not” list. Envious people regularly feel that they have been given a bad deal, so they justify spending what God has given them to steward to settle the score.

“A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.” (Proverbs 14:30, ESV)

As you handle your money, no matter how much you have, remember gratitude, need, and envy. Forgetting or neglecting these spiritual battles will cause you to be both self-oriented and foolish in your use of money.

To walk the pathway of spiritual maturity demands far more than financial education, mathematical skills, and budget discipline. In fact, it takes more than good theology and knowledge of biblical commands and principles!

Financial maturity requires powerful, rescuing grace. And when it comes to money, our hearts will rest contented only when they have been freed and protected by God’s amazing grace.

Grace is what we need, and by grace, grace is what has been supplied!

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19, ESV)

God bless.

## This week please pray for ...

A church family: Jess and Gloria Miranda

A church ministry: Re-opening Sunday

A church leader: Jesse and Nicole and unborn baby

## Announcements:

- 19th July: 'Growing Kids Gods Way' Parenting Course: 4:30pm at Church

***Parents still able to sign up: \$35 for materials (email Pastor Mike: [mfwok@me.com](mailto:mfwok@me.com))***

- 24th July: EPIC Youth at the Church, 7PM: See Josh and Kat Fernandez

- 24th July: IGNITE Guys/Girls Study: 7pm at Church (See David Vittor or Jesse Zarate)

- 25th July: Men's Coffee Club: 8:30am at Espresso Warriors, Blacktown Westpoint

- 26th July: Deacon Meeting

## Ministry Opportunities at FBC

Scripture Reading - Glen Truman ([glen8truman@gmail.com](mailto:glen8truman@gmail.com))

Music Item for Sunday Service - Pastor Brian ([bkeggert@outlook.com](mailto:bkeggert@outlook.com))

Holiday Bible Club Volunteers (5th-9th October) - Ann Millis ([themillisfamily2001@gmail.com](mailto:themillisfamily2001@gmail.com))

# Opening Service

## Sunday 12th July

Below is the link to get a pass for the opening service on July 12. Please be aware that this is not a “normal” church setting.

1. ONLY those with a pass will gain access to the service. We will have a list of those with passes, so you don't need to bring a physical copy with you.
2. An exception is made for two reasons:
  - a. Walk-in visitors, who are unaware of our “pass system.” However, correct numbers will be maintained regardless, and in the event that visitors are given access, others with a pass may be asked to watch the service online in another church room.
  - b. “Staff,” or those involved in the service, will not need a pass. You will be notified accordingly.
3. Children's church is offered downstairs during the entire service for age 4 to year 6. No children's church will be offered online.
4. A crèche will be offered with space restrictions observed in the crèche room.
5. DO NOT come to the church building if you are sick or have symptoms, even if you have a pass. If you have obvious symptoms, you will not be allowed access.
6. Members over the age of 70 are encouraged to stay at home. The service will still be streamed live for those at home.
7. Due to government guidelines, we will have music, but no open congregational singing.
8. Due to government guidelines, no offering bags will be passed during the service, but an offering basket will be placed at the back of the church for those who wish to give money in that way. Online giving is always available.
9. Hand sanitiser will be available throughout the building.
10. Some chairs will be blocked off to observe 1.5m rules and correct numbers.
11. A record of all who attend in person will be kept for 28 days. This is for the purpose of contact tracing.

Thank you for your patience as we transition into the newly renovated church building.

**Here is the link to secure your pass for the service on July 12.**  
**You will need to sign up for a pass EVERY week using a separate link.**

**<https://bit.ly/FBC120720>**