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Our calling is to keep pointing one another to Christ because He alone is the source of our life, the One we keep beholding, the full measure of our maturity, and the Head of His Body.

Hebrews 12:2



Fed by Truth. Formed Together. Fueled for Mission.

A SERMON SERIES ON DISCIPLESHIP THAT GROWS

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

- COLOSSIANS 3:16

Trinity Presbyterian Church
10200 Shelbyville Rd. -- Louisville, KY 40223 -- 502.245.5515
www.tpclouisville.net -- tpclouisville@att.net

NOURISHED:
The Discipline of Devotion
Ezra 7:1-10

SERMON NOTES

The “Setting” of Ezra

- The hand of God was upon Ezra before we are told that Ezra’s heart was set upon God. God graciously works, and then His people respond.
- Ezra’s devotion to God and His Word was not a sudden decision. It was already a settled direction in his life.

The “Setting” of Ezra’s Heart

- To “set” the heart means to establish the controlling direction of one’s life.
- Ezra had become settled on foundational things: This is my God. This is what He said. This is what matters. And therefore, this is how I will live.
- Ezra’s devotion followed an unmistakable progression:
Receive the Word → Live the Word → Give the Word
- Ezra’s expertise may have been exceptional, but his devotion shouldn’t be. Everyone who belongs to the Lord is called to know Him, hear His Word, and order their lives according to what He says.

The “Setting” of Our Hearts

- What have you set your heart upon, and how is that devotion ordering the life you actually live?

Not Rigid: the more firmly our hearts are set upon God, the more willing we should be for God and His Word to change us.

Not Reluctant: Eventually, “I really should” has to become “I will.” Yes to Christ as Lord is the one supreme decision that shapes every lesser decision that follows.

Not Reactive: If we do not deliberately set our hearts upon what matters most, there is no shortage of things willing to compete for our allegiance.

A Life Ordered Around Christ

- We deliberately make room for what we have already decided matters. And what we say is important to us has to make a difference in how we actually live.
- But all this begins with grace God’s graciously works in us, and by His grace we deliberately respond to Him.

FIVE MINUTES IN GOD’S WORD

A Seven-Day Bible Reading Plan

Five minutes. One passage. With God.

- **Monday: Set Your Heart on God**

Read: Psalm 86:8-12

Reflect: What would it look like for God to give me an undivided heart that is wholly devoted to Him?

- **Tuesday: Give Careful Attention to the Word**

Read: Joshua 1:6-9

Reflect: What does God tell Joshua to do with His Word, and how should that shape the place Scripture has in my daily life?

- **Wednesday: Choosing What Matters Most**

Read: Luke 10:38-42

Reflect: What good or necessary things can become distractions from giving Jesus my deepest attention?

- **Thursday: Love that Becomes Obedience**

Read: John 14:15-24

Reflect: According to Jesus, how does genuine love for him become visible in the way I respond to His Word?

- **Friday: Train Yourself for Godliness**

Read: 1 Timothy 4:6-16

Reflect: What practices and priorities does Paul tell Timothy to pursue so that his devotion to Christ becomes evident in the way he lives?

- **Saturday: Putting Truth into Practice**

Read: Hebrews 5:11-14

Reflect: How does regularly putting God’s truth into practice help me grow toward spiritual maturity?

- **Sunday: Fed to Flourish**

Read: Colossians 3:12-17

Reflect: How does letting the word of Christ dwell richly among us shape the kind of people—and the kind of church—we are becoming?