



Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

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July 2020 Newsletter

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Pastor's Devotion

By: Rev. Ase Nguyen

Feeling Content and Enough

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." *Philippians 3:14*

Sodom, the capital of the kingdom ruled by King Bera, was such a great and beautiful city that it was often likened to "the garden of the Lord" and the "land of Egypt".

Sodom, together with Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar, was one of the five cities of the plain of the Jordan. The Plain also covered the Dead Sea and its vicinity. Except for the city of Zoar, the four other cities were all destroyed.

According to the Bible: ***"Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven; and he overthrew those cities, and all the Plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground."*** *Genesis 19:24-25*

Tourists who visit this area today can still see the ruins of those cities. I myself got to see the ruins during my trip in 2010.

From the Bible, we can understand why God decided to destroy the cities. It was impossible to find even 10 righteous inhabitants in each of them: ***"Now the people of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord."*** *Genesis 13:13*

The Lord said: ***"How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin!"*** *Genesis 18:20*

Lot and his family had settled in the plain of the Jordan: ***"Lot looked about him, and saw that the plain of the Jordan was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar; this was before the Lord had destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. So Lot chose for himself all the plain of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward; thus they separated from each other."*** *Genesis 13:10-11*

The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is a lesson about making a timely decision to repent and turn back to God for full salvation through obedience, albeit "only as through fire."

In the day of destruction, Lot and his family was ordered to "flee" and "not look back":

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“When they had brought them outside, they said, “Flee for your life; do not look back or stop anywhere in the Plain; flee to the hills, or else you will be consumed.” Genesis 19:17

* How we follow God’s orders in days of judgment may be similar to how Lot and his family followed His orders back then.

Lot and his two daughters ran without looking back and came to Zoar although they were supposed to head for the hills. But Lot’s wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Lot and his two daughters had intended to stay in Zoar. However, when they saw that Sodom had been destroyed, they went up out of Zoar and ran towards the hills for they were afraid to stay in Zoar.

The sun was already setting and it was impossible for Lot and his daughters to reach the hills. So they stayed in a cave and there they committed sins against the Lord.

THE LESSON: FEELING CONTENT AND ENOUGH (verse 18)

Lot said to the Lord’s angels: **“Oh, no, my lords; your servant has found favor with you, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life; but I cannot flee to the hills, for fear the disaster will overtake me and I die.”** Genesis 19:18-19

Lot felt content and enough after he managed to escape from the city. He told the Lord’s angels that he “has found favor with” the Lord and the Lord has shown him “great kindness” in saving his life. However, what kind of favor has Lot found with the Lord?

It was true that the Lord has saved Lot from destruction. However, was God’s mercy to such an extent only?

* Is God’s love meant to save human beings’ lives only? Is His “great kindness” restricted to saving Lot from destruction only? Is that it?

Truly it is not like that! Such a degree of kindness is only a small part of God’s immeasurable love for us. When we become content with God’s kindness, we are easily prone to not see more of how kind and merciful God can be.

God’s order for Lot was: “Flee to the hills!” Unless he obeyed and went to the hills, Lot would not be able to discern God’s full grace and mercy.

Many of us may grow so content with God’s grace, which has saved us from destruction, that we may overlook a more beautiful reality God has intended for us in the afterlife, which is we shall inherit His kingdom and His crown, co-reign with Him, and sit next to Him.

Many of us, just like Lot, feel content and enough and thus have no intention of further seeking God and His kingdom.

Indeed our days are fleeting. Nonetheless, how many of us are genuinely serious about the idea that we should invest more time in building up our spiritual fortune?

We must run and run faster, otherwise we may not reach the mountain top in time, given rough obstacles along the way. Therefore, the Bible keeps on reminding us to run and run as we journey with God.

The reality of our world is that people nowadays ceaselessly attempt to run faster and faster as they seek advancements in their careers, studies and other physical aspects of their lives. Aren’t we supposed to run too as we journey with God?

But the land that you are crossing over to occupy is a land of hills and valleys, watered by rain from the sky, a land that the Lord your God looks after. The eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. Deuteronomy 11:11-12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

7th - Jackie Stanley
7th - Pastor Khuong Chau
15th - Jimmy Keller

Please let the church office know if we're missing on any important dates.

Zoom Information

Please follow the instructions below to join us for Thursday Bible Study at 10AM and Sunday Worship Service at 10:30AM -

- Join us online through this link
<https://zoom.us/j/9434735921>
- Download the app on your phone or tablet and enter the meeting ID
943 473 5921
- Call through the phone by dialing
1 669 900 6833 (US)

Please contact Pastor Khuong if you have any questions on how to setup Zoom,
(714) 902-4468 or duykhuongdhgd@gmail.com.

American Family Housing Project

The response to our drive to help fill the “Welcome Home” baskets for the new American Family Housing has been wonderful. Thank you so much for all the wonderful donations. When we checked with AFH they said that they were getting in a lot of small stuff and food donations but the bigger ticket items are still needed. I would suggest that when you know the amount you want to spend in your donation, you buy items like dish and silverware sets for 4, and/or sets of knives, glassware, and pots and pans.

Whatever you bring will be gratefully appreciated as they are starting with nothing to furnish the things that help make a house a home. Keep up the good work. The Shepherd’s Hands have worked to finish 50 throws and afghans so every unit of the new housing will have a gift from them. Thanks, to Carol and all the crew for being so generous.



TNT Fireworks Sale Youth Fundraiser

June 30th - July 4th
10AM to 10PM
Church Front Lot



Good Shepherd School



So many wonderful things are going on at Good Shepherd School.

The classrooms are done!!

We feel so grateful, blessed and excited that we finally have nice and clean rooms ready for the children. And we have been getting volunteers to help us with the outdoors.

Our summer program has started very low in both programs; however, this has been a good training time for myself and the teachers. We have only two full time teachers and a third one that is working only a part time.

So far, everyone who tours the school is falling in love with it. We have three new children in our preschool program.

Special thanks to all of you that have helped us in any way to make the school's reopening possible or a bit easier.

Also special thanks to Terry for helping us fix the quail's cage and the chicken's laying box.

On the news....

Friday, July 3rd -

Special snack to celebrate independence day

Thank you so much for keeping our school in your prayers.

Blessings,

From Good Shepherd School

JULY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 10am Fireworks Sale Fundraiser 7pm Living Hope Church	2 10am Fireworks Sale Fundraiser 10am Bible Study 7pm New Beginning Church	3 10am Fireworks Sale Fundraiser 7pm Living Hope Church	4 10am Fireworks Sale Fundraiser 12:30pm Sabbath Study Group Independence Day
5 8:30am 1 st Service 10:30am 2 nd Service 1pm New Beginning Church	6	7 7pm New Beginning Church	8 7pm Living Hope Church	9 10am Bible Study 7pm New Beginning Church	10 7pm Living Hope Church	11 12:30pm Sabbath Study Group
12 8:30am 1 st Service 10:30am 2 nd Service 1pm New Beginning Church	13	14 7pm New Beginning Church	15 7pm Living Hope Church	16 10am Bible Study 7pm New Beginning Church	17 7pm Living Hope Church	18 12:30pm Sabbath Study Group
19 8:30am 1 st Service 10:30am 2 nd Service 1pm New Beginning Church	20	21 7pm New Beginning Church	22 7pm Living Hope Church	23 10am Bible Study 7pm New Beginning Church	24 7pm Living Hope Church	25 12:30pm Sabbath Study Group
26 8:30am 1 st Service 10:30am 2 nd Service 1pm New Beginning Church	27	28 7pm New Beginning Church	29 7pm Living Hope Church	30 10am Bible Study 7pm New Beginning Church	31 7pm Living Hope Church	