

Saturday – You Get What You Pay For

Read Romans 6:1-4

You get what you pay for. Often times we repeat this phrase when making a significant purchase that needs to last a long time. Whether it's buying a vehicle or a pair of jeans, we want to know that when we put some money into something there will be a return on our investment. The good news is that when it comes our salvation, God has paid the ultimate price for our sins. He redeemed us with His blood on the cross and reassures us that this gift is completely paid for. It is finished for all time. The temptation for us is that we often overlook the cost that Jesus paid for this gift. So often we go through life taking this gift for granted. We cheapen God's grace when we want to receive the benefit without focusing on the cost. Thanks be to God, whose Word continues to remind us to look to Christ when we forget just how much our salvation is worth. It wasn't cheap, but it was completely paid for on our behalf!



*Devotions for
the week of
August 13, 2017*

Bring It Home is a tool designed to help you bring home the message from Sunday's worship and to focus throughout the week on our Lord Jesus Christ and His wonderful Words and promises to us.

May these brief daily devotions be a blessing to you and an opportunity for personal reflection and spiritual growth!

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

4650 Sunview Drive, Loveland, Colorado 80538
970-667-4506 ~ www.immanuelloveland.org

This week's *Bring It Home* devotions were written by Immanuel Youth Director Tim Handrick. This publication may be reproduced and shared.

If you would like to receive daily Bring It Home devotions by email, please contact the church office: churchoffice@immanuelloveland.org

Monday — Two Truths and a Lie

Read Genesis 3:1-7

There's an icebreaker activity that I have often used to help a group of people get to know each other. Its called two truths and a lie. I will say three statements...two will be true and one will be a lie. In case you don't know who is writing this, its Tim Handrick, Director of Youth Ministries. Let's play!

I have immediate family members in Texas

I once caught a home run ball with my bare hands.

I have legally walked across the Mexico border and back without a passport.

(If you would like to play along, feel free to text or email me what you think I am lying about at (813)380-9577 or thandrick@immanuelloveland.org.) When the serpent met Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, he wasn't just playing games. His intention was to deceive them into believing they could be like God. This temptation still plagues humankind as we daily fight off whispers from the evil one who seeks to plant a seed of doubt in our minds. "You don't really need God" or "Wouldn't life be much better if you were in charge." These lies want us to doubt what God has already done for us. Thanks be to God that He wasn't just playing games when He conquered sin and Satan once and for all on the cross. We are united with Him in our baptism and nothing can separate us from His love. When the great deceiver feeds you lies, look to the truth of God's word and rest assured in the promises of God!

Tuesday — What Can Make Me Feel This Way?

Read 1 Peter 1:18-19

The Temptations found their success during the 1960's and 70's as a Motown Records sensation. It really is no secret that musicians and celebrities deal with a lot of temptation that comes along with large amounts of money and fame. The song "My Girl" stands out as a favorite of mine by the Temptations. The third verse goes like this...

I don't need no money, fortune, or fame
I've got all the riches baby one man can claim
I guess you'd say
What can make me feel this way?

There's only one thing that would finish off this verse and point us to the truth...and it's not "my girl." It can be alluring to put our trust in money, fortune, fame, or even significant others, but the only thing that lasts for all eternity is the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Wednesday — True and Lasting Confidence

Read Romans 12:3

You may remember a classic sketch from Saturday Night Live that featured a character named Stuart Smalley. For those of you who aren't familiar with 90's pop culture, check out this youtube clip - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ldAQ6Rh5Zl>.

This character provided entertainment for many people who tuned in on Saturday nights to watch, but also speaks to the temptation of inward glorification. When we only look inward for our strength we will constantly be reminded that we actually aren't good enough. True and lasting confidence can be attained, but only when our identity is in Christ alone.

Thursday — The Old is GONE...the New is HERE

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

If you have a smartphone, you should get an app called "Timehop." This app allows you to collect old photos from social media and dropbox so you can revisit moments that you captured from years past each day. Most of the moments I revisit bring a smile to my face, but sometimes there can be pain and regret. There is a real temptation as a Christian to revisit past sins and hurts. We are reminded in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that we are made new because we belong to Christ. This is not just a superficial newness that can wear off over time. The promises that were made at our baptism serve as a constant reminder that all our pain, hurt, and sin were washed away. Celebrate that the old is GONE, and the new is HERE!

Friday — I Can't Handle It

Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 and 2 Corinthians 12:9-11

There is a mantra that many people subscribe to which says "God will never give me more than I can handle." Often time's people look to 1 Corinthians 10:13 to back up this statement. When looking at a verse from the Bible, it is important to read it in context. What does scripture as a whole have to say about this? There is a LOT we cant handle... but GOD has handled EVERYTHING. You don't have to look far in the Bible to see examples of people who were in way over they're heads. God saw that we couldn't handle temptation and sin on our own. This is why he came down to earth and rescued us from all sin, death, and the power of Satan. I am thankful that God has given me more than I can handle, because when I am weak He is strong.