

and to give all honor and glory to our God, who created us and all things. God calls us to put aside work, recreation, social media, soccer games, TV, and armchair sports so that we may experience the pure joy of His presence through worship and devotion without distraction. When we come to worship, we are bathed in God's glory and grace, receive forgiveness of sins, and have our faith built and fortified. Worship should not end at the benediction, but should be the launching pad for the rest of our week. Our acts of worship on Sunday should permeate our daily lives and be evident in all who know and see us. How can that happen in your life? What does that look like or what can that look like? When we worship God on a daily basis, and with Jesus at the center of our lives, we will truly find rest!

### **Saturday — The Future**

God demands perfection. He wants perfect lives, perfect prayers, and perfect worship. If left up to us and our own devices, this would be impossible to achieve. But through our faith and the vicarious atonement of all sin by our Lord and Savior Jesus, God sees us as being perfected. The fulfillment of our faith makes this perfection a personal reality for us today on earth and in our future in heaven. In heaven there will be no more heart issues, no more distractions, and no more failures. Our faith in Jesus propels us, bypassing death, into eternal life in heaven, a life where perfect worship is eternal. God gives us a glimpse of this eternal worship in St. John's Revelation: "No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever." (Revelation 22:3-5) Coming full circle, we will have our face-to-face relationship with God reestablished, and our perfected worship will flow out of us without effort and without end.

#### **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**

4650 Sunview Drive, Loveland, Colorado 80538  
970-667-4506 ~ [www.ImmanuelLoveland.org](http://www.ImmanuelLoveland.org)

This week's *Bring it Home* devotions were written by Mike Zsolczai.  
This publication may be reproduced and shared.



# Bring It Home

*Devotions for  
the week of  
August 27, 2017*

### What Now?

1. Consider some ways that you can strive toward embracing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment in your life. Some ideas could include: a recommitment to being more regular in worship, regularly utilizing the *What Now?*, having more conversation about worship or the sermon with friends or family afterward, volunteering to help in a Worship Support position (as an usher, greeter, etc.), being more intentional, deliberate, or focused during worship, etc.
2. Consider memorizing (or re-memorizing) the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment and Martin Luther's Explanation of it: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

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

## **Monday — Remember The Sabbath And Keep It Holy**

Remembering is a concept that runs through all of Scripture. From Genesis, where God remembers His creation, covenants, promises, Noah, Abraham, and Rachel, to Leviticus, where Israel remembers God's power, blessings, and guidance, and the ultimate remembrance of Jesus in the eating and drinking of the bread and wine on that Thursday night before His crucifixion, remembering is looking back at what has been done, and also a look forward to what is to come. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment is an example of how well God knows us in our human, sinful condition. He knows that we will forget. We forget His blessings and grace, His love, His power in our lives, but most of all, we forget to take time in the frenetic busyness of our worldly lives to spend time only with Him with uninterrupted focus. King David realized the importance of remembering. In Psalm 77 he writes, "I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds." To complete today's devotion, read the rest of this Psalm, meditate on His mighty deeds, and then remember all the blessings that God has poured upon you with a prayer of thanksgiving.

## **Tuesday — The Past**

From the very beginning of creation, God designed us to have a close, personal relationship with Him. Until Adam and Eve plunged into the brokenness of sin, they were in a face-to-face relationship with God. We have been trying to get back into His presence ever since. Israel thought the answer was building giant temples, enforcing and obeying laws, selling animals, sprinkling some blood and then getting on with the business of the day. In reality, God wanted to build a temple for Himself in their hearts. After Israel's captivity in Babylon, Nehemiah was called to rebuild the temple out of the rubble of its destruction. But he knew where the real rebuilding needed to be done. His call to his people then is a call to us now: "Stand up and praise the Lord your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you." Take time right now to reflect on your past – how has God been at work in your life and in your heart for which you can give thanks today?

## **Wednesday — The Present**

Ezekiel 20:20 says, "Keep my Sabbaths holy, that they may be a sign between us. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God." Regular

worship helps keep God in the center of our lives. It is a weekly reminder of the power and glory of our Lord. Our heartfelt love and humble worship of our Holy God comes from the reality that He loved us first. Sending His only-begotten Son to die for us and to fulfill all that was impossible for us to fulfill, has enabled us to have that intimate relationship with God that we desperately need and desire. Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross destroyed the veil that separated us from the presence of God. He constantly reminds us of His presence through the most simple of elements; water, bread, and wine. But when these simple elements are combined with the power of His Word, the miracle of our faith and holiness happens. As a family of faith, we come together not only to enjoy this new covenant, this new way of worship that rains God's grace, love, and forgiveness upon us, but to then carry these gifts of grace to a fallen world.

## **Thursday — Engaging the Heart**

"Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father... Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.'" (John 4:21, 23) Here Jesus tells the Samaritan woman it is not where you worship, it is how you worship. As we come to worship, God peers into our hearts to see if our worship is genuine, or just mindless going-through-the-motions. Isaiah spoke of the Israelites suffering from heartless worship when He shared these words from the Lord, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain!" (Isaiah 29:13) If you pray with no heart, it is in vain. If you sing with no heart, it is in vain. Heartless confessions, creeds, and sermons are empty in God's eyes. So how do we give meaning to our worship? Rev. John Piper put it this way: "The *fuel* of worship is the truth of a gracious, sovereign God; the *furnace* of worship is your spirit (or heart); and the *heat* of worship is the vital affections of reverence, fear, adoration, contrition, trust, joy, gratitude, and hope." But it is the fire of the Holy Spirit that makes our hearts burn for the Lord, and subsequently enables us to achieve the all the rest. Thanks be to God!

## **Friday — Call to Worship**

We are no longer required to keep the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment as it was given to Israel. Then, its purpose was to call Israel to take rest from their labor (the word Sabbath means rest), worship God as He commanded, with the goal of pointing them towards Jesus and His coming. Jesus has now come and He "is" now our rest. However we are still required to worship, to dive into God's Word, to lift up prayers,