



THE **ROCK**
STUDENT MINISTRIES
P S . 6 1 : 2

November Devotions 2018



Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the **law of the LORD!**
Blessed are those who keep **his testimonies**,
who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong,
but walk in **his ways!**
You have commanded **your precepts** to be kept diligently.
Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping **your statutes!**
Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all **your commandments.**
I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn **your righteous rules.**
I will keep **your statutes**; do not utterly forsake me!
How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to **your word.**
With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from **your commandments!**
I have stored up **your word** in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me **your statutes!**
With my lips I declare all **the rules of your mouth.**
In the way of **your testimonies** I delight as much as in all riches.
I will meditate on **your precepts** and fix my eyes on **your ways.**
I will delight in **your statutes**; I will not forget **your word.**



BASIC

THE ROCK SM 2019

There are some **basic** things we must have in order to be called a Christian. We can't just say we are a Christian without some things being in place. We can't claim to be a chicken without producing some eggs, right? The reality of our life and walk with Christ is that this life is made up of **basic** principles. This year we'll look at some of these. We'll put them in 3 sections: Attitudes, Actions and Beliefs. These **basic** things come together in one life led by Christ to produce something extravagant.....all for God's glory.

We feel that these **basic** things be present in the life of the one that claims Christ as their savior and as one who claims to follow Christ and belong to God. We are always to be striving for and working towards these things as we seek to know Christ and make Christ known. We haven't perfected these things but are simply pursuing these things. These things aren't complex, they are **basic**.

This year we'll spend our time together focusing on these things. **Basic** things that must be present for the greater Life to be a reality. No one was ever extra without first possessing the **basics**. BELIEF influences Attitudes influences Actions. If this is true, and we feel it is, then we must ensure we are centering all our thoughts, attention, focus and priorities around what we believe to be true about God. Then and only then will our attitudes and actions proclaim Him loudly in a world that is desperate for Him.

So our heart this year is to be about the basic and allow God to bring about the extra.

Attitude Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, Actions bearing fruit in every good work and
Belief Increasing in the knowledge of God.

The Hope & Prayer

The hope of this devotion book is to provide the opportunity for students and adults to spend time with God in His Word and through prayer. There are many great devotion books available to us and we are thankful you have chosen to journey through God's Word with this particular one. We hope and pray that students and adults take this opportunity to walk with God in Word and Prayer seriously and become intentional in the time they devote to Him each day. We believe if this happens our walk with Him will strengthen.

Another great hope and prayer is that families will journey through this devotion guide together. Imagine if each family were having conversations based on what they were reading each day from God's Word? There is great possibility and great promise for the family that is centered around God and His Word.

The Plan

The plan will be to take 5 days each week to work through the devotions. These will be set up to be done Monday through Friday. Saturday will be used for reflection or catch up. We will provide a blank page for you to possibly reflect on the week in general, what stood out, what needs reminding, what steps were taken. Sunday will be a day of rest and worship. We will also give you a page for sermon notes...keep it all together right!?

In most cases our devotions will work with our sermons from The Rock. It will be another way to keep the idea fresh and hopefully help us drive the thought deeper down. This devo will be grounded in **the Word of God**. Scripture alone is our guide and help. The plan is to allow you the opportunity to open Scripture and see for yourself. We will help you each day with a simple devotion, grounded in Scripture but there is much more for you to see and read. **Throughout the year we will offer a Bible Reading Plan at the bottom of each devotion.** In some cases, our devotion will come from this passage but there will be some that are totally separate. Either way we want to give you the opportunity to trek with us as we journey through the Bible this year. We must get past the laziness of not getting in the Word of God. We hope you'll join us in this devotion book and reading plan but the end result is for you to get in the Word. Any way you do that is fine with us but how cool would it be if we were all trekking along together?

So have fun and dig in. At the least we hope you'll spend 5 minutes a day with our devotion. The end goal is to not only do the devotion but take some and read the reading plan Scripture of the day and jot down some thoughts. But again...the goal is simple.

The SET UP

Each day the devotion will provide a Scripture and then from there offer three things, an explanation, an illustration and an application. We must not be hearers only but doers. So, these 3 steps will help us make sense of God's Word and best discover the heart of God as we read His Word.

A Few Tips and Tricks to Keep in Mind While Reading...

You've often heard the words **observation, interpretation, and application** around the Rock. You'll hear them, work through them and hopefully they eventually become a regular part of how you handle Scripture. Here is one great way to think about these principles as we seek to discover the heart of what God is wanting us to see and do from His Word. This is also a great tool to use when reading Scripture with other...it's called the **One-To-One Method**.

We've even left you a blank page to the right of each devotion for this!!!

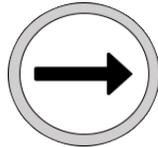
After reading the passage look for these three things:



A **light bulb**: anything that shines out in the passage and draws attention; it can be something important or something that particularly strikes the reader.



A **question mark**: anything that is hard to understand; something that the reader would like to be able to ask the author about.



An **arrow**: anything that applies personally to the readers life.

Want to go deeper than the above three things?

5 questions to ask when reading Scripture?

These questions will better help you get the point of Scripture and what God desires for us to hear and do. So again, work through the struggle and watch as God blesses this time.

1. What Does This Text Teach Me About God?
2. What Does This Text Teach Me About Man?
3. How Does This Text Point to Christ?
4. What do I need to know in light of this teaching?
5. What do I need to do in light of this teaching?

5 tips for a faithful, daily devotion

1. **Make it a priority** – stop making excuses and simply do what you know needs to be done in your walk with God. Enough is enough.
2. **Pray for guidance** – ask the Spirit to help you as you begin this time or if you've been doing this for years.
3. **Remove distractions** – you know how mad you get when someone interrupts your favorite song, show, book, game? Be that way with your time with the Lord.
4. **Plan for the Plan** - set aside a time and place but understand you don't have to be restricted with these. The important thing is doing it!
5. **Make it a Community Thing** – Get accountability! Bring your friends or family into it. If you go alone you'll not go far!

Missionary Prayer – Each week we'll provide a name of a missionary we are partnering with. We encourage you to pray for strength, wisdom, and boldness for them, their ministry and family.

God spoke – it was so – it was good

REPEAT that 6 more times and you have the Creation story.

Perfection. We think good and we typically “ok.” But this good is different. This is God’s good. That’s to say all He made was perfect. But there was a problem hiding in the grass.

We’ve been talking about the gospel the last month...we’ll continue it through November as we shift our focus to some issues we often see in our culture...on world. **Do we have the answers?** How do we handle these questions? Thankfully there are answers....we just have to find them!

But think through this a minute....why do we have issues? Sickness? Why we gotta work? How come it stings when a bee bites me? How come my cuticles sometimes hurt? Why do we die? A better question after hearing today’s verses may be why do we get to live?

To understand the gospel, it’s really helpful to go all the way back to the beginning. Understanding this story helps us see that the problem in the garden is really the same things that we see going on today.

BOTTOM LINE: We often, like Adam and Eve, question what God has said.

The hope is this....that we see God’s word and then we go believing and saying what He’s said. That sounds really simple....and it really is that simple. BUT SIMPLE DOESN’T ALWAYS WORK OUT.

It’s those stinking implications....the side effects of believing and saying and even doing what God has said does not always agree with our culture.....even in the beginning.

READ GEN. 3:1 – Did you notice the concern of the enemy, the snake, the stupid devil!

“DID GOD REALLY SAY?”

Um....yeah....God said no to eating that fruit and we’re all good.

But one simple question raises doubt in Eve’s mind.

Follow the trail and you see that the question led to doubt that God was withholding from her.

Her desire and her wants were more valuable to her than what God desired and wanted.

A simple question led to the Fall.... separation from God and all that we’ll see tomorrow.

So a simple question on this lovely FALL Thursday. Are you believing what God has said?

How many times are you tempted in a day? You know what those temptations really are right?

It’s the enemy asking you **“DID GOD REALLY SAY?”**

Some of you are there right now....you really believe God is withholding something from you.

Can I tell you the truth? He’s not....in fact He’s given the greatest thing you could ever receive.

Why settle for less? Have you traded the treasures of Heaven for a taste of bitter fruit?

We all have and we all struggle with that reality....the reality of sin.

But in the midst of this there is hope....Jesus is here. So today...when you get asked that question...you speak the name of Jesus. He’s the answer....He’s the only answer we need.

HAPPY FRIDAY! Ready for some good news?

Well hold that thought. That question that Eve fell for yesterday comes with some consequences. Remember yesterday when we ask all these crazy questions about why certain things happen? Well they can be summed up in one simple question...WHY DOES BAD HAPPEN? I'm talking any bad.

Small Bad – Big Bad – Really BIG BAD – like death bad. WHY?

Gen 3:1-8 – to the point that they hid from the presence of God.

Kind of like when you do something and you hear ma and pa coming...you hide. Well, they hid. That bite didn't lead to something good...like they were told...by the enemy. He was lying!

SIDENOTE: Why do we think someone who only lies will ever tell the truth?

So now, in our story, in the beginning, we're left with the consequences.

God could be like "oh that's alright my creations...get up and start again."

But God couldn't – they disobeyed...God can't be in the presence of sin.

So...there were consequences.

That's why we work...we hurt...we sweat...our stomach hurts from time to time.

It's why we cramp, have to cut our nails and hair and even why we die.

That's why an animal had to die in verse 21 – the first sacrifice ever. Because of sin.

BUT WORSE THAN THIS....IT'S WHY WE CAN'T BE IN HIS PRESENCE.

THAT'S SAD! Almost hopeless right?

But in the midst of the list of consequence we see hope.

V. 14 shows us that the liar will get his. He loses his legs (no really, it's there)

But He also will be defeated once and for all one day.

This victory for God will not come without loss....

You see the two (seed of woman & serpent) will both suffer blows.

BUT.....BUT.....BUT.....one will defeat even the grave.

Intrigued yet? This is good news! This is to say all the wrong done by the enemy, through Adam and Eve, will be made right. It will cost Jesus (the seed of the woman) His life but God, who so loved the world, saw the cost was worth it.

WHY? So you and I could walk around, cherishing this God who would love us so much that we would want to spend our lives displaying and reflecting Him.

The Gospel & You (a beautiful yet tragic love story) Where you at in this story?

saturday -

November 3

CATCH UP DAY

CATCH UP DAY

sunday – sermon notes

November 4

Speaker: _____

Text: _____

Your language and your words are so important to God and also to the reputation you are supposed to keep as a Christian. We live in a world that is FULL of vulgar language. You can't even walk to class at school, watch a seemingly innocent T.V show or movie or for the most part go into public without hearing every curse word under the sun. It's inescapable for the most part... but it's about how you respond to this kind of talk and if you are using it out of your very own mouth.

Did you know that the bible doesn't have a list of "cuss words" that we aren't supposed to say? Crazy right! But the bible does speak on the importance of not cursing (**James 5:12**) and using your words only to build one another up.

We see over and over and over throughout the old and the New Testaments about how important the words that come out of our mouth are. Have you ever heard the saying "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me?" Well the bible says that this isn't true. The Bible speaks against corrupt speech that is meant to tear down other people. In the verse today, **Ephesians 4:29**, it talks about using our words to lift each other up and to encourage one another!

Proverbs 12:18 relates harsh talk towards someone to stabbing someone with a sword. Words cut deep and create wounds that can't be healed.

Not only do we need to refrain from using corrupt language and words that tear people down, we also need to do everything we can to stay away from this kind of talk. Chris has used this example multiple times in The Rock, "Trash in, Trash out." This is saying that if you are constantly taking in trash you will eventually start to produce the very same trash yourself. So, this may mean not sitting with a certain group of people at lunch that talk perversely or constantly tear down other people. It may mean that you need to stop watching your favorite show on Netflix that talks dirty and promotes gossip. These decisions are hard to make but we are ultimately here to please the Lord and he states clearly that this talk is not pleasing to him.

Do I need to make a change in the way that I talk?

Do I use my words to lift each other up, or do I use them to tear others down?

What can I do to get away from hearing so much corrupt speech so that eventually I don't produce the same trash that I am hearing?

Yesterday we talked about our language. Whether good or bad our words and the tone used to speak them impact people. Take a minute and think through the words you spoke today and yesterday. Did you use them to tear others down or build them up? When someone mentions your name in a group of people do they know you as a bully or someone who befriends all? Have other's words or actions made you feel inferior? We live in a self-centered, "I can say/do what I want", selfish climate. Seldom do we think about anyone other than ourselves. This mindset has led us to live in a way that devalues the lives of others treating them awful. Just think through how you treat someone when they get your order wrong at a restaurant. Are you quick to insult them or do you show grace in those moments? When someone is getting picked on at school do you join in, laugh, do nothing or stand up in their defense? I'm not perfect and I've been guilty of lashing out in moments of anger, spite or jealousy treating others poorly. It's our sinful nature to react that way, but as Christians we are called to stand out, be different. That includes the hard times in life too. So, you might be thinking how did Jesus treat others?

Throughout the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John we see Jesus embrace the outcast and befriending the sick. He extends grace to those society had deemed as inferior and not only speaks to them, but He tells them about the Gospel. Settle in and read John 4:1-42. You may have heard this story so many times that you could tell it yourself, but before you read pray God will give you eyes to see it in a new light and pray He will speak to you through it.

In this passage we see Jesus, a Jew, talk to a Samaritan woman. Which was a big no-no in their time. As Jesus talks to her he doesn't just chat about the weather or the Falcons game (RISE UP!) He tells her about how to spend eternity with Him. He does this because he cares about her and loves her. A stranger! Do you grasp how incredible that is? I don't know about you, but when I'm in Walmart and the person in front of me is taking forever to check out the last thing I'm thinking about is sharing the Gospel with them. Instead I'm usually complaining, wishing they would hurry up, and move. How backwards and wrong is that! Instead of seeing others as an inconvenience in life we should strive to see them how Jesus would, a broken sinner in need of a Savior. After all in His eyes we are all the same. No one is better than another for any reason. With this mindset embrace those who are different than you and strive to not only include them but share the love of Christ with them! Because let's face it if Jesus, the perfect sinless one, can love and forgive us we can love and value each other.

We are placed on this Earth with one purpose – to know Christ and make Christ known. How are we supposed to do that if we constantly bully or put down others? It's simple, you can't. Do you value others lives or do you think that you are better than them so they don't deserve your time? That's a serious question and the answer may be a hard one. Strive to be different, to befriend the lowly and shine the light of Christ. Send some time asking God to help you love others even when it's difficult and repeat this quote to yourself time and time again:

"There is a God. The world began with God. The world depends on God. I have the capacity to love because I am created in His image" -John Piper

This is a huge issue....as all issues that attempt to derail God's plan for this world. It's a popular issue right now which puts it on the list of something we need to think through.

To begin, let's look at some of passages to get a better understanding of what the Bible says about homosexuality and how God feels about it.

Genesis 2:24, Leviticus 18: 22; 20:13, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Timothy 1:9-10

As you can see the bible talks about homosexuality in many different places.

God has created man and woman in the way in which he wanted them to be created – male and female. Anything or any action that is different from the way God intended is sin. So yes, homosexuality is a sin. It is a sin because God has created man and woman to be together and anything other than that is sin. **Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 again.**

This is where many of us miss the big point of homosexuality – it is sin, but it is not the only sin, it is not an unforgivable sin... it is one sin among many and one that happens to be very extravagant right now.

1 Cor. 6 lists many others: *sexually immorality, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuality, thieves, greedy, drunkards, revilers, swindlers.* (9-10) You see homosexuality is just one of many in the line. So, for us to treat homosexuality like it is worse than any other sin is wrong. James 2:10 says, "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it." This levels the playing field... Homosexuality is another form of lust, just like *adultery or looking at a woman with lustful intent.* (Matt. 5:8)

This morning we just want to get the conversation going. Tonight at The Rock we'll have the opportunity to speak to this a bit more. Is homosexuality a sin? Yes. Does this mean we ridicule, seek to harm, throw stones or condemn those who practice this? No, unless we tend to supply rocks for our own sins.

There is a way we are to handle it...we are not to support, approve or practice this lifestyle but we are to respond. So...how are we to respond to this lifestyle? Good question! Come tonight! But let's make some practical application with what we've said so far.

What to do if you are experiencing same-sex attraction?

- *Pray* – you can talk to God about your confusion and your temptation!
- *Think rightly* – these thoughts do not disqualify or define you!
- *Seek support* – confide in a friend, leader, pastor; let them carry this burden with you!

What to do if your friend confesses to you they are struggling with same-sex attraction or homosexuality?

- *Thank them* – thank them for valuing your friendship enough to share!
- *Assure them* – let them know that you are there for them and will not be judgmental!
- *Listen to them* – let them do the talking, help them feel comfortable and open!
- *Council them* – help them see what Scripture says!
- *Pray for them* – pray that the Lord would guide them as they battle the temptations in their life!

As a college student, Feminism is a widely talked about movement and set of beliefs. A lot of times, I've met people that are either really concerned and passionate about the feminist movement, while others are completely unfazed by it. At first glance, feminism seems like something that all men and women should get behind, it's said to be the fight for equal treatment of men and women in life.. Sounds good right? Who wouldn't want everyone to be treated equally?

As we dig further into this movement, we encounter issues with the movements core beliefs; beliefs that completely contradict the Gospel. It's become more than just standing up for the persecution of women and men merely based on their sex, it's become a fight for an unbiblical, skewed, bias definition of what females should be and become.

You see, in **Galatians 3:28 (read it)**

Here we see Paul explain that there are no divisions between people when we become children of God. It says **WE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS**. This verse by itself seems to back the definition of feminism doesn't it? But we have to look deeper into its core values.

Western feminism settles for nothing less than a top to bottom reinventing of marriage, femininity, and motherhood. This is not the good form of feminism. Opposing sex-selective infanticide, porn, or ritual female mutilation are things all believers should care about....we should be fighting to rid the world of these injustices. But that's not what today's feminism is fighting for.

The banner of women's liberation amounts to not much more than insisting there are no mental, physical, or emotional difference with anyone, ever. That's odd right? Strangely, according to modern feminism, women are both equal to men and better than men. The movement's definitions are odd and empty, and gender somehow has no relation to the babies it conceives. When I read accounts of babies born alive from failed abortions being left on tables to die, I hate what feminism has become.

The part that drives me mad is that there are real ways women are oppressed, but those aren't the issues feminism is fighting against (which are, by the way, the opposite of Proverbs 19:11). I wish feminist voices would devote their efforts to protesting real injustices.

So what is good feminism? We are equal in value and dignity before God. We should, along with men, have a spirit of submission before our God. We cannot and should not do everything men do, as we are not the same as men. We should be protected. While only males should be ordained in the church, women can, like men, receive and proclaim Christ's kingdom. I reject that to support real things to help women means I just embrace abortion on demand and deny biblically sanctioned submission. Christians should be on the front lines of those who champion valuing and protecting women. We do not, however, overlap with what the modern feminist proclaim. That is good. To be a real woman all you have to do is this, well, nothing. Because God made you one or he did not. If you're a girl reading this, love being a woman. But even more than you are a woman, you are in Christ.

1Tim. 4:5 "As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." Also **Look up Romans 6:19 and 1 Cor. 6:19-20**

JPAY is an App. A little app is how I will communicate with my little brother for the rest of our lives since 2 years ago. You see when he was in 7th grade he was looking for a place to belong. He felt rejected and didn't have his spot. He turned to drugs & alcohol to feel his cravings and sense of belonging. He has lived a life of addiction that ultimately sent him into a conviction of 3 life sentences, without ever laying a finger on anyone. He eventually became a thief to support his habits, was caught multiple times, and now serves life sentences in a federal prison.

I know, I know, that is so extreme! I mean come on...you would NEVER do anything like that...or would you? Do you? Substance abuse is real. It happens daily. It happens little and it happens big. Really, it just happens-even among us. Our families. Our friends. Our schools. My life-my baby brother. We try to make choices and decisions based on the here and now. What feels good at the moment. Society tells us to follow our heart, when in reality the Bible tells us our heart is desperately wicked! **(Jeremiah 17:9)**

WHY WOULD WE KNOWINGLY FOLLOW SOMETHING WICKED?! I think we want to please those around us. We want to fit in. We want to look cool. When you choose to seek the approval of man over the approval of a Holy God, we allow our flesh to lead us. This isn't new. Even in the Bible, men sought the praise of men over the praise of God. **(John 12:43)**
BUT GOD...we don't have to live day to day trying to please friends, I mean how tiring!

If the Lord says it, we can do it!...through HIM. The Gospel. Here we find ourselves again, smack dab in the middle of our issues. Issues of acceptance, addictive behaviors, the "I will only try it once." God made a way with one final last sacrifice so we don't have to live trying to please men and always coming up short. It's hard. It takes courage. It's only for the brave! Standing up for right is HARD and LONELY sometimes. But in Christ, through the Gospel there's a way to live it out. Romans 6 reminds us we have limitations, as we did present our bodies, minds, attitudes, actions to impurities. BUT GOD (the Gospel happened) and now He made a way that we can present ourselves as a slave to righteousness...YOU CAN BE FREE FROM ADDITCIONS!

If you are living in substance abuse, considering it, just trying it one-two-nah, three times, THE GOSPEL can and WILL set you free. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ENSLAVED. You have been bought with a PRICE! HIS BLOOD! SURRENDER!!!!!!!!!!!! Don't think you have to people please, you are alone, or that you are even in control enough to try it just this once to be that cool kid. You can't. You won't. You will end up like my brother. Alone. Afraid. Addicted.

ALWAYS be sober-minded (no one can think clear on any substance EVER. Not even a SOCIAL drinker/smoker...stop with that, just stop it! It hurts the name of Christ.), enduring suffering (awe man they won't be your friend because you aren't cool for trying it out—umm okay or they are making fun of me-ummm okay!) do the work of evangelist (share the Gospel to encourage others to come along your side...maybe you will spare them a 'I'll just try it this one time moment') fulfill your ministry (honoring the Lord with your body-can't fulfill any ministry when you are under any influence).'

saturday -

November 10

CATCH UP DAY

CATCH UP DAY

sunday – sermon notes

November 11

Speaker: _____

Text: _____

This week we'll try something different. While you're at The Rock we hope to help you learn how to read the Bible for yourselves. You can do this...but much like EVE, in the beginning, we begin to have doubts. We easily can go down a wrong path. "Did God really say." It's crazy how far reaching that question can reach into who we are and what we believe.

So this week we'll follow our reading plan pretty close. You have been seeing the reading plan at the bottom of each page right? Hopefully so! HA.

I'd love for us to use that as a guide and allow this crazy book, Habakkuk, to help us in our belief in God and how He works in this world. This book is incredible in that it helps us see how God sometimes does things. That's a huge benefit of reading the Bible. We learn a ton when reading Scripture, one of which is that we see how God accomplishes things. Just a warning though, the way He does things in this book may shock us.

SO...who is Habakkuk? He's a prophet. A prophet was a role given by God to men. These men would simply communicate to God's people what God communicated to them. God spoke through men. So, a possible question....do we have prophets today? Not exactly. We have one prophet....JESUS. He was the ultimate revelation of God.

WHAT? His life was the Word in the flesh. God no longer would speak through a prophet when the ultimate prophet showed up! Now we have the full Word of God, The Bible with us, Christ in us. We all good now...well, except for believing and doing it!

So Habakkuk, I kind of want to call him HAB. You cool with that? It'll save time. Hab was ticked. **WHY? READ 1:2-4.**

You see the people of God were in a bad place. Mainly because of their sin. But they were waiting on God to do something crazy and save them. Well....God was going to do something amazing but they may not like it. **WHAT?** Explain yourself God....

READ 1:5-6. WHAT? Not sure if you get this so let me explain.

God's people are hurting and being hurt...in a bad place....BUT. It was all because of their sin...disobedience. They wanted the blessings of God without obedience to Him.

SO....God was about to do something amazing, that would astound everyone BUT.... It was going to be done through this hated people, the enemy, the Chaldeans.

What does this mean? God was about to use a wicked people to judge His people's sins. That's a bit hard to comprehend. God allowing, using wicked....for good.

This doesn't sound like God does it? Maybe not the God we've constructed in our mind. BUT....this is the Bible...it doesn't lie....so we read it, to understand how God does what He does.

So a few things to watch over the next few days....

- 1. Will God actually do this? How will God's man/people respond?**
- 2. How do we also see this in our time? Lives? Culture?**
- 3. Will I/We trust God no matter what? No matter how He chooses to do what He do?**

You've been there....something doesn't go your way and you sit down, fold your arms and you pout. Of course...you're not 3, it doesn't look the same now but even at 15 you pout....I do too!

So our man of God, Habakkuk (HAB) is pouting. Sounds a lot like Jonah doesn't it? Hab. 2:1 shows us this pouting prophet. "I'll sit down right here and just wait for an answer." Chill out Hab!

Easy for us to say right? Easy to throw stones back a few thousand years isn't it? But get what Hab does. He throws the truths about who God is at God Himself.

v.12 – Are you not God, from everlasting? The Holy ONE!?!? (anger)
Surely we can't die....no wait....we won't die!right?

Basically Hab is declaring who God is and then using those things to say "really?" This is who you are God and this is the way you're going to do stuff?

BUT AGAIN, you've been there. You have a plan, a way to get the job done. You believe in God, you follow Christ....you see things clearly....this is the way it should go. BUT THEN GOD CHOOSES ANOTHER ROUTE. We call that a curve ball.

This is a sad reality for us. This is a man of God in despair. This is a prophet of God who normally tells the people what God has said but now we see Him telling His God what the people are saying....what his own heart is saying.

This is a confused, beaten man having an honest conversation with his Creator. I appreciate the rawness of this....not sure I'd have the guts to call God out. But that's what Hab does in a way....He's making his petition, requests known to God right?

But then the end bro? Hab 2:1 – SO GOD....I'm just gonna stand here at my post and wait on you to answer me. Careful dude.

But let's turn this to us for a second....what about you? Do we believe we can conceal the "gripes" we have? What is our heart thinking? Because God knows our heart?

Why not deal with these things, these questions, these struggles, frustrations? But keep in mind....these people weren't innocent. Perhaps Hab should've looked inward a bit rather than upward. Be sure, you're sins will find you out. Israel, God's people, was about to learn this the hard way.

So what now? Look inward – as we follow this story we'll begin to see a shifting in Hab's heart...unlike Jonah. As of now, they look the same, POUTING PROPHETS. What about you? We pouting or walking proudly in Christ?

Hoping you're still with us. I realize this is not a typical devotion but it's good. We need this. WHY? Because it's the Word of God. We're reading and then seeking an explanation to what it means, what it's saying and what we're called to do in light of it.

This is also a sad story. Have you followed that?

Hab says to God....look around...there's junk happening to us...bad junk. Do SOMETHING God says...oh I'm going to do something alright....sit back and watch as I raise up your enemies to judge you. HAB responds back "wait....you're God almighty....you'd do that?" Do you see the wrestling with a heavy subject?

Do you see yourself in Habakkuk a bit? I do.

It's this inability to fully understand how God accomplishes things. Were we to know every detail to how God works things out we'd be going crazy. I think that's why people missed Jesus when He came....they thought death was the end. BECAUSE IF this was really God's son He would never kill him.

Surely God wouldn't accomplish His will this way. Would He?

Uh-Oh. May I remind you that we can't begin to comprehend the mind of God.

But God answers Hab's pouting. He does so with some "woes."

What's a woe? Sort of like saying I pity.

God simply says you watch me Habakkuk. I'm going to use your enemy to literally tear everything you know down. And just in case you needed a reminder of who the Chaldeans are....listen up. That's what the woes are...a description of these people.

You kind of see Habakkuk's point in a way. But we can't forget their sin against God. It was great...but still.... everything is taken away. Need I remind us about Job. He literally did nothing, yet God still took away everything.

Guys...this is a harsh reality, but we're reminded that this place is God's creation. He can do anything, at any time and it be completely ok. Because He is the Creator.

But in this section, we also see that while God may use corrupt people, He will never endorse them. They will get their judgement too. It's coming. That's a HUGE POINT!

In the meantime, He is going to use them to deal with His people. Do we see this today? Almost like we're reaping what we're sowing?

Think about your life. You ever thought life wasn't fair? Did you ever think to look at your life? Like what you're doing? I guess we've been completely faithful to God, right? No, we haven't BUT...even if we have (JESUS) God still may allow something horrific for our good. The night will come but hold on.... JOY COMES IN THE MORNING.

We're almost to the end. Today we see a turning in Hab's heart. I've mentioned a few times. You're going to read about him at the end of this month. I want you to remember this part of the story....this is the part that really separates Habakkuk the Prophet from Jonah the Prophet. While both seemed to whine and pout only one is left rejoicing at the end of the book.

Our section yesterday ended with a pretty remarkable verse, 2:20 (READ IT)
I believe it's that verse that awakened reality for HAB.
LET ALL THE EARTH KEEP SILET....WHY? GOD IS HERE, IN HIS TEMPLE, HE KNOWS, HE'S WORKING.

At this point we see Hab begin to worship, in this prayer. This is poetry.
It's almost like Hab couldn't bear words so he began to express himself through poetry.

I'm just gonna sit here....I'm not pouting....but I'm just worship you God.
I don't know the details but I know you're God and that's enough.

Look at v.16 – Tremble – quiver – tremble, trouble, rottenness.
Words of despair and fear yet in the midst of that I will quietly wait.

This is a man of God saying to His God – I don't get it, but I get it.
How many times have I had to preach this to my own heart.

CHRIS SPEAKING TO CHRIS HERE – I don't get this God but I'm going to trust you. I don't understand why you would allow this but I'm going to walk in it. I'm not sure God why this is the way it had to be but it is and I'm going to praise you. I don't what to say God so I'm just going to walk with you and QUIETLY WAIT.

I'm going to do what the Psalmist says in Ps 46:10....I'm going to be still and KNOW you're God. What else can I do but that?

You ever been there? My heart is heavy thinking on those times....knowing all the while that tomorrow could bring another one of these times.

But it's in this we come back to a main thought and reality of this book.
GOD DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK THE WAY WE EXPECT.
Are we ok with the fact that He can do whatever, whenever, however?

God, you are God, the great I AM – In light of that I am really the I am NOT.
Help me remember this....to trust you.....to walk in you....to love you and honor you in all I do. When the world is crashing in may I look to you, not to complain but because I know in my heart that you have got this....and in that I feel peace even in the midst of the storm.
As tears go down my cheek I rejoice in the God of my salvation. God is real and He is here!

The crushing blow of God's mercy is often too much for us to bear.

We see this in the life of Habakkuk in our reading today. This is perhaps one of the most beautiful passages in all the Bible to me. It's a window into the heart of a man who has lost everything except the one thing that mattered the most, HIS GOD.

V. 17 is the reality of the situation – let's just sum that up by saying this:
NOTHING IS LEFT.

v.18 – YET

Nothing is left YET I will rejoice.

Back to Jonah – I know, we're looking ahead....Jonah wasn't rejoicing. Jonah will be griping about the fact his shade tree is gone. Habakkuk has seen the mighty hand of God working in a way that has left nothing standing yet he rejoices.

HOW? Because His faith, belief, world was in something bigger than a shade tree.

Where is your faith? Where is your belief? What is your world? Your BAE?

Here's the deal. We're good with the good, good Father but the only problem is that definition only describes the God who gives me what I want.

Does that definition apply to your view of God? Your belief in God?
I pray none of us ever face the reality of EVERYTHING being taken away.

For some us we've seen a lot of tragedy and loss?
Some of you have experienced things I can't even imagine.
It's in those moments your foundation is exposed.

So we end this story of Habakkuk and we've seen the transformation of a man being confronted with a holy God who works in ways we can't begin to imagine.

The greatest of these ways is how He worked in the cross of Christ.
This was a tragedy but one that was for our good and for His glory.

Reflection:

We started this book with a pouting prophet and end it with one who is rejoicing. The pouting came because of the situation being bad....but when the bad turned to worse and frown was turned upside down.

GOD WORKS IN WAYS THAT WE WOULD NOT BELIEVE EVEN IF HE TOLD US. SO WE JUST TRUST HIM & KNOW HE IS IN FULL CONTROL.

saturday -

November 17

CATCH UP DAY

CATCH UP DAY

sunday – sermon notes

November 18

Speaker: _____

Text: _____

got so much, so much, so much... to be thankful for

Right out of the gate the psalmist gives us a clear reminder of something for which we can be thankful: **(Fill in the blanks) Psalm 46:1**

"God is our _____ and _____, a very present _____ in trouble."

Why did the people need to be reminded of this right from the beginning?

Let's look at verses 2 and 3 - read them for yourself now. ... Whoa!

Sounds like their world was falling apart, right? It was! Enemies were all around them and they *should have been* afraid- very afraid. So what about you?

Is your world falling apart? I mean obviously not literally, but sometimes it seems like everything is going crazy!

**Be encouraged- God is your refuge and strength,
and he's ALWAYS there in your troubled times.**

And so we read ahead to see why they were not afraid.

Read verses 4 through 7. Look one more time at verse 4. Here's the kicker- there was no literal river in this situation! The psalmist was referring to God and His blessing on His people. And we, too, can go through our worlds falling apart because of God, and His blessing on our lives. But only IF we are His. IF we have that relationship with Him!

So did their world fall collapse? Not at all!

Check out verses 8-10 now. Now they're just bragging! But not on themselves, of course. They want all the nations to see what God did. And God wants them to just stop- take it all in- and know that He is God! He is the exalted one! What about you? Me? Are we quick to brag on God when He delivers? When He helps us through our junk? Do we stop- take it in- and know that He did that for us?

Oh, and then there's a little reminder.

Read verse 11 out loud. Yes, out loud- just do it! Now underline/highlight the personal pronouns (us, our) in that verse.

That's our God! He is almighty! He is a FORTRESS! So be thankful!

1. My salvation

Salvation is something that all believers should be most thankful for. I was a wretched sinner, destined for an eternity in hell, yet God sent his son to die on a rugged cross for ME! What sounds like a Sunday School answer is so important guys! We need to take more time to really meditate and think about how much God truly loves us, to save us from an eternity in Hell when he didn't have to by no means!

2. My church

I GET to go to a church every week that I am allowed to freely worship my God who granted me the salvation talked about above. Not only do I get to go worship him freely here, I have been blessed with pastors in the church that have answered their call to obedience to faithfully and rightly preach the word. We take this for granted much too often. We have many brothers and sisters in Christ around the globe that have to worship secretly because of the fear of death. I have no clue what that must be like for them, and should make me all the more thankful that I am privileged enough to worship as freely as I can.

3. My spiritual mentors

These people in my life have been so important. The bible talks about the seeking of wisdom. (Proverbs 3:13) We also learn where wisdom comes from in Proverbs 2:6-8, and that is from the Lord alone. Although I have these people in my life that I know I can go to get advice and ask for assistance in things with my walk with the Lord, I know it is not their own opinion. These people are also seeking the Lord and are all much wiser and much more mature in their faith and have gained this wisdom from the Lord. It is important as followers of Christ to have older, wiser and more mature Christians in your life that you can go to for advice and wisdom.

4. My Friends

I'm not talking about all my friends... although I am thankful for them all, I am mainly focusing on the small group of Christian, like minded friends that I know truly care about my soul! Guys, I can't stress enough how important your close friends are and also how important it is to pick your friends wisely. I have chosen some poor close friends in the past and it has come back to bite me. I also have some friends that I know would do anything in the world for me and have been there and will always be there. These friends are the ones that are like minded in their faith and most importantly look to glorify Christ in all they do! **Proverbs 18:24, Job 2:11-13.**

If you know the story of Job, you know that he had it rough. Aside from his wife, his friends were the first there to comfort him and to grieve along with him. It says that they sat in silence... guys a good friend doesn't always have something to say, a good friend just wants to be there for you and lift you up and encourage you because that is what God has called us to do.

Do I daily thank God for my salvation?

When is the last time I have thanked my pastors for being so obedient to preaching the word faithfully?

Am I searching for close friends that are like minded and will encourage me in Christ?

Tomorrow is a day that we set aside each and every year in order to give thanks. Who do we express that thankfulness to? GOD! So how do we properly express our thankfulness to God? Let's dive into this question together and see....

How do we give thanks to God?

→ I often fail to give proper thanks to God. I even lack giving thanks to my parents. If we are honest with ourselves we are often unthankful people. Thankfulness does not come naturally to us but if we would just sit back and meditate on all the blessings that God gives to us daily, our hearts should be moved to thankfulness. How do we give thanks to God? We give thanks to God by worshipping Him. In Psalm 106 the very first verse says, **"Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!"** Guys if we would just sit back and look at all the blessings God has given us, our hearts will be moved to say that very thing, **"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!"**

What am I thankful for this Thanksgiving?

1. The Lord's Faithfulness
2. The Lord's Sovereignty
3. Salvation/My Identity
4. My Fiancé
5. My Friends

As I type these five things out, I am drawn to worship. I am drawn to repeat the words of Psalm 106, "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!" Guys, if you don't get anything while reading this devotion understand that **GOD IS GOOD**. He keeps his promises. He is in full control of our lives and we can trust in that. He died so that we might have His salvation. He places people in our lives who we get to love and fellowship with. Y'all look at all the things God has done, and I have only listed five things... **HE IS GOOD!**

What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Sit back and look at those five things that you just listed. As you meditate on those things, I pray that your heart would be crying out the words that David cried out in Psalm 106, **"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!"**

Have you ever stopped to think about why we celebrate this holiday? Yeah, we get to eat some mouth-watering turkey & ham, cranberry sauce, dressing, green beans, mashed potatoes, and best of all... **Pecan Pie**. It's an incredible holiday filled with incredible food. But, Thanksgiving isn't just about filling yourself until you can't walk.

The significance of Thanksgiving is found in the name... **Thanks**. We come around this holiday to express thankfulness for food, shelter, loved ones, and many other things. But for the Christian, it's a little different. We have a God who is sovereign over everything. Colossians says that "by him all things were created... and in him all things hold together." God loves to give to people who don't deserve anything... while many may not acknowledge that God provides what they have for them, we do! We know that he *creates*, he *sustains*, and he *provides*. He is the giver of all gifts... So, today, **give thanksgiving** to God. **Worship** God today by being thankful for what he's given you. Enjoy time with your people.

5 things I'm thankful for:

1. God
 - He is good. He is faithful. He is unchanging. He is sovereign. The list goes on and on. I'm thankful for a God who pursues a relationship with me and is changing me daily.
2. Grace & Mercy
 - I mess up, I hurt people, I sin against God. I don't deserve to be forgiven... but I am. I'm thankful for friends & family who continually forgive me & show me grace. More than that though, I'm thankful God chooses to give me grace & mercy when he knows that I'm still going to mess up tomorrow.
3. New Life in Christ
 - I'm thankful for the new life I have in Christ. Man, I'm so thankful I'm not who I used to be. I'm thankful Christ has totally changed my desires and my dreams, and I'm thankful for the life I'm going to have with Him forever!
4. Claud
 - Man... I'm REALLY thankful for Claud (this is Alex). The Lord has helped me to understand so many different characteristics about himself through Claud. She's brought joy, love, excitement, & many other things to my life.
5. Family
 - I'm thankful for a loving, caring, funny family who has always sought-after Christ. I'm thankful for two parents who seek to honor the Lord in their parenthood, and two brothers who have helped sharpen me and push me.

What a great time of the year! Turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce mmmm I can taste it now! Besides all the delicious food and crazy shopping, thanksgiving is a great time for us to focus our hearts and give thanks!

This morning let's check out **Psalm 118** and reflect on some ways that you are thankful!

1. I'm thankful the Lord is good! In any situation I know the Lord is good and that his love endures forever, regardless of what I face. (V1)
2. I'm thankful the Lord is on my side! Check out Romans 8:31! With the Lord on our side we have nothing to fear - he is our protector and provider. (V7)
3. I am thankful the Lord is my salvation! I am thankful the Lord has orchestrated a way that we can be saved! - the gospel! (V17)
4. I am thankful for heaven! One day all the saints will be together in one place worshipping God and all the bad in this life will be gone. (19-20)
5. I am thankful for Christ. He is our cornerstone, the one who holds all things together. Even while being rejected Christ has created a way for us to be saved - through the gospel! Christ made a way through his death, burial, and resurrection. If we confess him with our mouths and believe in him in our hearts, then we will be saved. He has made this possible and I'm thankful! (22)

Be thankful this Thanksgiving!

- Express your thanksgiving to the Lord in prayer!
- Let someone know you're thankful for them!

saturday -

November 24

CATCH UP DAY

CATCH UP DAY

sunday – sermon notes

November 25

Speaker: _____

Text: _____

Okay y'all time to be transparent and real. I have always struggled with self-confidence and how I see myself. There was a time in high school that I started eating very little or nothing at all just so I could maintain the image of what I thought I was supposed to look like. It was a hard time. I've noticed that as social media becomes more prevalent in my life and in society my self esteem drops more and more. Each morning as I scroll through Instagram or Facebook I begin comparing myself to others and critiquing myself. Thoughts run through my head like - *she's so fit, I need to run more. Wow they look so tan, I should start laying in the tanning bed. How does she have such clear skin? I should start a better skin care routine.* You get the idea.

To some of you I know this must sound so silly, but I know there are some who are struggling with their image and my prayer is that after this devotion you will be able to combat that small voice telling you that you aren't enough. This is still something I struggle with to this day, but as I have learned to rely more on Christ and less on myself I've begun to see myself differently. There are so many places in scripture that you can turn to when you're feeling inadequate, comparing yourself to others or struggling with your image.

But I wanted to focus on one specific verse, Genesis 1:27. It says,

**"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;
man and female he created them."**

Just take a minute to read that, reread it and really let it soak in. In **HIS** image! When God was creating the Earth, sunsets, oceans, animals, etc He chose to create us in His perfect image. Twice in that verse its stated that we are created in His image. When something is repeated like that it's because its important and the writer wants us to remember it. Each and every one of us is unique but created in the image of God. What we see as flaws and imperfections God sees as his masterpiece. I pray that you can grasp what it means to be created in His image and use that as ammunition against the devil when he tells you that you are "____ enough".

Think about it this way. When a three-year-old paints a picture for her parents, it's not perfect. It has uneven brush strokes, colors that don't complement each other and the shapes/people in the picture may be out of proportion. But in the eyes of her loving parents it's the most beautiful picture they've ever seen. It holds value to them and they proudly place it on their fridge because to them it's the most beautiful picture they have ever seen. See where I'm going with this? In God's eyes we are beautiful no matter what. Even through all the sin in our lives He still sees us as his precious creation, so why should we waste our energy focusing on our flaws when we look in the mirror. Instead let's focus on who we are supposed to be reflecting on this Earth. We were created in the image of God, so we should reflect Him in all we do. We should walk through this life being HIS image bearer. That means reacting to situations as Christ would, speaking to other in truth and in grace, forgiving each other when we have been wronged and seeing ourselves as a vessel to be used for His good work. Pray for God to give you eyes to see yourself as His beautiful creation. Then go out at live as an image bearer.

"Before we worry about whether or not we are primped, poised and perfect enough, perhaps we should consider the fact that its wasted energy to worry about those things. Because when we make Jesus our Savior and chase relentlessly after HIM, we still get a place on God's fridge when we're a hot mess" -Jordan Lee

If you grew up in church you probably are familiar with the lyrics, "Oh, be careful little ears what you hear." This idea is not something new but I wonder how careful we are to the things that we hear? Do we allow anything and everything to come into our ears? Now don't get me wrong, there are some catchy songs out there. I can get down to some R&B and Hip-Hop/Rap but we must do just as the song lyric says, we must be careful to what we hear!

What is the purpose of music?

There are multiple purposes for music listed throughout the Bible. In 1 Samuel, you see that Saul commands David to come and play the harp in order to soothe him. In Ephesians, Paul instructs Christians to encourage one another with music. These purposes are good and should be put into place however the primary purpose for music is what we see David doing in Psalms. The primary purpose for music is to worship God.

So that leaves us with a question...

Does the music I listen to bring worship to God?

In order to answer this question we must go on an investigation. We must investigate the lyrics of the songs that we listen to. **Philippians 4:8** is an excellent microscope to put song lyrics under. It says, "**Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.**" So the question is, are the lyrics I am listening to true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and commendable? I think we might have a lot of investigating to do.

Many songs that play on our radio and through our headphones do not align with **Philippians 4:8**. The music we listen to often glorifies what God opposes. I personally struggled with this. I found myself listening to Hip-Hop/Rap that totally opposes what Philippians 4:8 says. As a result of listening to this music, I would find myself constantly repeating the lyrics in my head. The lyrics in my head would sometimes translate to words I spoke with my mouth. In order to remove this sin from my life, I went through my iTunes and deleted a handful of songs from my playlist. If you find yourself constantly listening to, meditating on, and repeating song lyrics that do not bring worship to God, I would challenge you to answer these questions....

Would the songs that I have on my iTunes or Spotify pass the Philippians 4:8 investigation?
Am I careful to what I hear? Do I have some deleting to do?

Stranger Things. The Office. Greys Anatomy. PewDiePie. Dude Perfect. You've probably watched at least one of these shows or channels. These shows and channels are on two of the most popular entertainment resources available right now. Netflix and YouTube. We love to spend our time binge watching TV shows and watching our favorite vloggers, but have you ever thought about what you're watching? Have you ever stopped to think about how those TV shows and vloggers impact your life?

Everything around you is an influence.. Your parents, your siblings, your friends, you classmates, and even the videos and shows you watch! Often we don't think of these things as influences because they're just shows right? While that's true, they're really more than just shows. Every video you watch is trying to influence you to shift your view or believe in something, and a lot of the time these views won't build up your faith.

Anytime you are watching a vlogger, a tv show, a movie, or any type of video, we want to ask specific questions. How is this show trying to influence me? What view is it trying to push onto me? Paul says in Romans 12:2, "do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." Don't let videos push onto you worldly views that the Word of God stands against.

TV shows, videos, vloggers, etc. are all okay to watch while we rest. We just have to be careful what we watch and how we watch it. We have to always keep our guard up from what Netflix, YouTube, Hulu and any other type of media is trying to influence us with. View everything you watch through the lens of the Gospel. To help you do this I have 5 questions specifically asking about shows, but you can apply these to any type of media.

- Does this show build up my faith? Does it weaken my faith?
- Does this show make Christ more clear and precious to me, or does it make things more cloudy?
- Does the show make me desire to be immersed in Scripture more or does it make it more awkward?
- Does this show leave me with a desire for a great revival in my city – to see people brokenhearted for the sin in these shows?
- Does this show make it easier for me to have conversations about the Holy Spirit, Christ, the Gospel, and faith?

What media do you need to cut out of your life?

Imagine this: you're lying in bed, alarm set for the school morning that's ahead, and before you drift off to sleep, you pick up your phone off the charger and scroll. Through Instagram, through Twitter, through Tumblr, through Facebook; you get the point. By the time you've spent 20 minutes on your phone doing absolutely nothing, you catch yourself about to scroll past a tweet. It's a tweet about politics, or a club, or a person that you agree with, one that you could defend, and you stretch your thumb to press the retweet button. But wait.

Think of the power that those two words can hold: "But wait". I think a lot of times in our life, especially in my own, we find ourselves wishing we could steal back the words that had just left our mouth, that we had thought about what we were going to say, that we would have just waited a moment to dwell on the impact our words have before we actually post them. There are eight truths that I've learned – and honestly continue to learn – in how I go about social media.

1. If I can bring to an issue heat, but no light, it is probably best that I remain silent.
2. I don't have to spend my time in environments (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) that press me to speak without knowledge.
3. I don't have to say something just because everyone around me is.
4. I don't have to speak about issues that will be totally forgotten in a few weeks or months by the people who at this moment are most strenuously demanding a response.
5. I don't have to speak about things I know little or nothing about.
6. Delayed communication, made when people have had time to think and to calm their emotions, is always more valuable than immediate reaction.
7. Private communication can be more valuable than public.
8. Some conversations are more meaningful and effective in living rooms, or at dinner tables, than in on your social media feed.

These really simple, but key, rules that I've made for myself are what keep me in check when I log on to my Twitter or Instagram or any other account. Each time we open our apps, we're faced with demeaning cyber-confrontation that leads to negative results, the destruction of friendships, and the building of walls between the people we as Christians are trying to reach. We have to be conscious of what we put on our feeds because we proclaim the name of Christ everywhere we go, whether that's to Target or in your DMs.

So, today, tomorrow, and the days that follow, as you're about to post something that could ultimately ruin your chance of building a relationship with a lost person and pouring into them, think to yourself, "But wait, are these the words that Christ would use to proclaim his glory and mercy?"

For a better understanding of the how & why...check out Galatians 5:16.

We must stop gratifying the flesh. What? We can't do things just because we "feel" like it. In the heat of the moment it may seem right...BUT WAIT. Think it through, use the above list...especially as it deals with our online life...Oh the tangled WEB I weave.

6 TIPS or things you can/should do on your phone to bring honor & glory to God.

1. You should share a scripture image daily on your phone.



2. Download the DWELL App & listen to the daily scripture from this devo book.



3. Take 1 photo at The Rock and post it to your social media WEEKLY.

Always add #therocksm to it!

4. Tag a different Rock friend in an encouraging post or reach out to a friend and see how their walk with Christ is going this week!

5. Post a #realtalk photo weekly to show each other we aren't always perfect.

6. FREE TIP: Call your Dad or Mom! Tell them you love them.

Don't forget to tag us in your posts so we can come along your side and encourage YOU!

#1Corinthians11:1imitatemebecauseiimitateChrist

#John3:30Youmustincreaseandimustdecrease

#HE>i

#justdoit

#honoringHIMinmysocialmedia

#wehavesomeamazingleadersthatatareawesomedevowriters

#myyouthpastorisprettyamazingalthoughthisishisonlyjobforreal

#youarewhyAndrewishangingoutaroundtheschools

#therocksm and #thegospel&me

I DARE YOU...



our desire is to help students and leaders know Christ and make Christ known
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