

SonLife Communicator



Dear Church Family,

Following up on the theme of last week's sermon concerning being "Sold Out", let us continue to ponder and consider what God is saying to us individually and corporately. Have we allowed the culture to so permeate us that we no longer affect the culture for Christ? Some thoughts for you to ponder...

The word "worship" has become such a by-word in our contemporary culture. So many songwriters and musicians all peddling their particular brand of "worship music".

For those of us who are inspired by music, we become attached to names, songs, beats, instruments, etc. We follow groups, pay large sums of money to purchase their CD's and attend their concerts. (Do not misunderstand: I am not being critical for the sake of condemning, because I too invest my resources in some of these venues.) However, my concern is that all too often we become consumed with the music and not enough with the One who the music is intended to bless.

As we consider this, may we be continually reminded that **the one ingredient** that most blessed God's heart is our adoration and worship of Him. Can we truly say we adore Him if we spend more time and energy everywhere else but "with Him"? To quote a contemporary musician from Casting Crowns...*"Sunday morning spit baths are not sufficient to help us survive the cesspool in this world. All the spiritual gunk we carry into church comes from a week spent more in the world than in the Word. It's impossible to live a Spirit-filled, God-driven life when the only time surrendered to Jesus is an hour-long slot before lunch every other Sunday. How can a person genuinely worship a holy, holy, God under such circumstances? Everything has to happen in 30 minutes of worship. Many times I have to get cleaned up before I can give glory to God. What I should be doing is overflowing with praise from having honored God with my life all week."*

Our prayer is that personally you have accepted our challenge from last week to spend "just 5 minutes" with Him. We are certain that as you begin to grasp the awesome blessing of time with God that you will increase your time allotment. Now THAT is worship..."Come, now is the time to worship..."

With Love and Prayers,

Pastor & Gilda

Check the web for updates!!

- New documentation section, will have schedules, sermon notes, and whatever else you wish to submit.
- Check the calendar online for updates...if you need to add anything, please email us. If you would like a calendar to print out, I'll also be glad to email one to you. ☺

"Experience a Fresh Start"

**SonLife Community Church
6975 Grenada Drive
Salisbury, MD 21804
(410) 548-9863**

Pastor: Marshall H. Wise

SonLife Seniors



**Birthday coming Up!
Mildred Ware will be
celebrating a birthday on
September 14th!
Congratulations!!**

Homebuilders

Last month, we began discussing freedom, responsibility, and love, and how these aspects of a relationship influence one another. God wants us to live free, take responsibility for our own freedom, and love God and each other. *Matthew 22:37* "Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." These are the two greatest commandments that God gave us! And Jesus told us in *John 13:34*: "As I have loved you, so must you love one another." Cloud & Townsend state in Boundaries in Marriage: "As love grows, spouses become more free from the things that enslave: self-centeredness, sinful patterns, past hurts, and other self-imposed limitations. As love grows, so does freedom, leading to more responsibility, and to more love." This is a cycle that continuously begins over and over again. Isn't that a much better cycle to be in then the one that is caused by hurts and misunderstandings? God knew exactly what he was doing when he instructed us to love with all our heart, soul, and mind. He knew we would reap the benefits of it!

See the calendar online for the schedule!!

Friday, September 8th
Friday September 22nd
Monday October 9th
Friday, October 27th

If you would like to join the HomeBuilders' group, please contact Pete & Inge for more information. All couples are welcome!!

PROMISE KEEPERS

Plans are already being made for next year's Promise Keepers to attend the conference in San Antonio, TX, July 12-15, 2007! The theme will be *Discover the Man of Integrity, Courage, & Action In You!* Don't pass up this chance to share a true God experience and spend time together at the Alamo! Since this is plenty of notice, and you can begin planning your finances now, I hope you will prayerfully consider attending! I personally would like to see each of you in San Antonio. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like your name to be put in a hat for a ticket!

Pete



Ladies Team

Current study is *Joshua, The Power of God's Promises*. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 26th at 6:30pm. We'll discuss Session 3:1-5:12. We'll begin with a covered dish and some fun, followed by our study. Bring a friend!!

Prayer Requests for September:

- *For us to be excited and enthusiastic about sharing our faith with others*
- *For Rhonda and her girls in the Buds program as they learn about living to please God, not the world*
- *For those traveling to Women of Faith that they will hear from God and have a special time together*
- *For our seniors for their continued protection and fellowship of others*
- *For Christina Mattson that surgery will go well and without complications and for speedy recovery*
- *For our pastor and his family that God would provide for every need, give guidance, encouragement, and an excitement for what the future holds for our church*

Prayer Corner...

Why doesn't God always answer prayers? I believe God answers our prayers when we come to Him with repentant hearts. (We'll talk more about that next month) Let me clarify that His answer is not always the answer we want. Some He says, "Not yet" and sometimes He says "No". There are times when He teaches us valuable lessons as we wait in His perfect timing. We talked a little last month about learning to trust His timing. Even now I have some fervent prayers that seem to be unanswered: broken relationships, loved ones not in fellowship with our Heavenly Father. It hurts unbelievably and yet my God is great than these circumstances. My prayer becomes, "Help me to learn the lessons You want to teach me so I won't have to circle this mountain again and relearn the same 'stuff' over again. Even when we can't see God at work or comprehend what He is doing, we must choose to believe that He loves us and wants the very best for us. He sees our future and something that is painful now may be preparation for some wonderful event or relationship, far beyond what we can comprehend. It often amazes me that in times of waiting and persisting in prayer, I have seen my faith grow in ways I could not have imagined. Ultimately and always, we must be willing to submit to our Heavenly Father's authority, as Jesus taught us, "...not my will but Yours be done." (Luke 22:31)





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