

## GPS: Grow—Pray—Study - Sunday, June 15, 2014

What kind of faith do we have in this church? What kind of faith do we practice at home and show in our relationships? What kind of faith are we teaching our youth? It might be the faith of Abraham and Isaac; it might be the living faith that is taught in our gospels. Or it might be a weak copy of that. Recent research has shown that a concept called Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD) is the de facto religion of most American teenagers. That's a fancy name for a belief that holds personal happiness to be the highest good and teaches that God likes nice people and not mean ones. Jesus, while an excellent moral teacher, is not really that important to MTD. Nor is worship, nor service, nor prayer.

This morning our youth director, Andrew Hall, speaks about the religious life of the young generation and gets at the spiritual lessons that the culture, not necessarily the gospel, is teaching them. It's not just teenagers who are offered this easy forgery of genuine faith. Andrew reminds us why our faith in Jesus Christ is so much more than MTD.

Our scripture today is 1 Corinthians 15: 1-8:

*Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.*

*For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.*

Sermon Notes

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## REFLECTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

**MONDAY** “I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free.” - *Psalms 119:32*

- Has God got you running this morning? Pick up the pace in your walk with the Lord.

**TUESDAY** “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

- *Ecclesiastes 12:13*

- Are you a follower of Jesus or a fan? If you are a follower, then live out the gospel.

**WEDNESDAY** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

- *Matthew 7:21*

- Ask for God's help in discerning His will today through prayer.

**THURSDAY** “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

- *Matthew 7:24-25*

- Will the faith you hold today weather a storm? What aids has God given you to endure hard times?

**FRIDAY** “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?” - *Luke 6:46*

- Grace and all gifts come from God, but what is our responsibility in return? How is your walk, this day, a response to freely given grace?

**SATURDAY** “Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

- *1 Corinthians 9:25-27*

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

God, give us the mind to forget ourselves. In all things, let us seek not to be first, but last. Let us put the widow and orphan first. Let us put the least of your brothers first. Let us put you first, Lord. Let that be our worship. Amen.