



June 25 - July 1, 2017

Text: Acts 26:12-18

**ACTS-ION: The Dynamic Life
of Christ's Church - Then and Now**

SUMMARY OF SERMON: Once we have been brought into God's kingdom through faith in Jesus Christ we are to respond to His love and forgiveness with our love for Him. How is our love expressed? There are two main responses that are to be part of our daily walk with Christ – to 'fall down in worship' (i.e. have a humble heart posture of thanks and praise) and to 'stand up and serve' (i.e. actively seek to bear witness to Him in word and deed.)

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The readings this week emphasize the Christian's primary responses of worshipping the Lord and serving Him in all that is done.]

*Monday, June 26 – **Psalm 100*** [This psalm is an unbridled psalm of worship and praise to our great God. And the word for "worship" in v.2 also carries the meaning of "serve". This lifestyle of worshipping and serving the Lord is the testimony of we who follow Christ.]

*Tuesday, June 27 – **Philippians 2:1-11*** [Paul's appeal to the Philippians to be 'other focused' is anchored in the example of Jesus Christ. This segment ends with the fact that all creation will 'bow' before Jesus Christ (acknowledge Him in worship) and 'confess' that He is Lord. We confess with lives that serve Him.]

*Wednesday, June 28 – **Isaiah 6:1-8*** [Isaiah's call to ministry, like Paul's, came through a dramatic encounter with the Lord. Aware of his sin before a holy God, Isaiah is cleansed by a coal from the altar (foreshadowing the cleansing blood of Jesus) and then is ready to serve the living God.]

*Thursday, June 29 – **Luke 10:38-42*** [Both worshipping the Lord and serving Him are depicted in this account. The Lord's gentle rebuke of Martha is not a put down of her service for Him but a correction of her failing to appreciate the value of worshipping Him, as Mary did. Worshipping and serving the Lord are a part of our daily lives.]

*Friday, June 30 – **Psalm 145*** [Worshipping the Lord eternally (v.1) begins with worshipping Him every day (v.2). This leads to a desire to share Christ with others in our sphere of influence (vv.4-7).]

*Saturday, July 1 – **Romans 12:1-8*** [In light of receiving God's mercy in Christ (v.1) our very lives are surrendered to Him as acts of worship. We are also then led to serve Him according to the grace given us and the particular gifting we have received.]



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ECO Statement of Ethics for Departing Pastors

When a pastor leaves a charge, there are bonds of affection between the pastor and members of the church which continue to be cherished. Relations of friendship continue, but the pastoral relationship does not. In order that the work of the church may prosper the presbytery directs that the church be reminded of these requirements:

When any pastor resigns from a pastorate or retires from services, or becomes a pastor emeritus, the pastor should cease to perform such functions of a pastor as funerals, baptisms, and weddings, unless invited to officiate in such a capacity by the pastor or by the moderator of the session.

Ordinarily the pastor will not participate in the life and worship of the church he or she is leaving for one year. Therefore the pastor is encouraged to find another worshipping community for spiritual nourishment during this period of time.

Individual members are asked not to place former pastors in the awkward position of asking their friend to perform the duties of a pastor. Pastors are directed to tactfully decline all such invitations that come from former parishioners rather than from other pastors or governing bodies.



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