





*a* STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE  
**GOD-LIVED**  
*life*

**A Life of Being a Disciple**

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP!**

God became man and lived life in our place. Christ lived the perfect God-lived life. Living as a *Christian*, a little Christ, we have the privilege of demonstrating what God looks like in how we live our lives, in living lives that show God. Today God's Word will be challenging us and we'll be challenging one another to live a God-lived life. In today's worship, the particular emphasis of the God-lived life is that of being a disciple, a learner, one who grows in God's Word; therefore, fulfilling our Mission Statement which says,

*Growing in faith,  
Strengthening one another,  
Reaching the lost with God's Word*

May God's Word cause us to crave that pure spiritual milk so that by it we grow up in our salvation.

We focus especially on ways to strengthen our following of Jesus.

### **A Life of Being a Disciple**

## **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

Lord God, in coming to hear your Word this morning, you have planted us like trees beside streams of water. Grant that we may ever delight in your Word and yield abundant fruit in our lives, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

## GATHERING RITE

M: We begin our worship in the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

M: Heavenly Father, you have given us indescribable riches in your Word. But we have failed to appreciate your Word as we should. We have not read or learned it as we should have and so we can be deceived. Forgive us and let your peace rule our lives.

**C: ♪ May the peace of God my Father Rule my life in everything,  
That I may be calm to comfort Sick and sorrowing. (CW Red Hymnal 467:3)**

M: Dear Savior Jesus, we admit that by our sinful nature we lack complete confidence in the power of your Word which you give us to share with others. We easily give way to doubt or fail to fully trust that you speak with power in your Word. Forgive us and let your love fill our lives.

**C: ♪ May the love of Jesus fill me As the waters fill the sea,  
Him exalting self abasing – This is victory. (CW Red Hymnal 467:4)**

M: O Holy Spirit, give us and all believers unity in your word. Teach us to discern what is truth and what is deception. Forgive us for not taking seriously your warnings about false teachers. Give us and all believers wisdom and unity through your Word, and live within us.

**C: ♪ May his Spirit live within me As I seek the lost to win,  
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only him. (CW Red Hymnal 467:6)**

M: As a called servant of the Triune God, I announce to you his grace and forgiveness. On behalf of and by the command of our Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C: ♪ May the mind of Christ my Savior Live in me from day to day,  
By his love and pow'r inspiring All I do or say.  
May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,  
So that all may see I triumph Only through his pow'r. (CW Red Hymnal 467:1-2)**

M: We pray: Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may glorify you in the way we use the gifts you give us to manage. Help us to live a God-lived life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**C: ♪ May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,  
Looking only unto Jesus As I onward go. (CW Red Hymnal 467:5)**

## **GOSPEL**

## **Luke 18:9-17**

*Here is an example of someone who appeared to live a God-lived life but was living for himself.  
The one who trusted in the life God lived for him went home to live a truly God-lived life.*

<sup>9</sup> To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup> "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

<sup>13</sup> "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

<sup>14</sup> "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

<sup>15</sup> People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>17</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*SPEAK O LORD* | **CW 633**

## **SERMON TEXT**

**1 Peter 1:22-2:3**

*The truth of God's Word changes us to live God-lived lives, to love one another and to live the life of a disciple of the Word.*

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. <sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup> For,

"All people are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
<sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord endures forever."

And this is the word that was preached to you.

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup> now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

### ***A God-Lived Life is One that Craves the Word***

1. The Word makes you who you are.
2. The Word makes itself important to you.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

## *Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## OFFERING

***Please fill out a Connection Card as the offering is brought to the altar. Please place it in the remaining offering plate on the table just outside the sanctuary entrance.***

*Members of Living Savior support the ministry of sharing the good news of Jesus through their offerings. Guests may choose to give back to the Lord at Living Savior, through their own congregation, or in other ways that reflect a thankful heart. We are glad to share our joy and hope with you.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God, Creator of this world, all good gifts come from you. We give you thanks for all that you have given to us—the bounties of the earth, fruitful labor, meaningful relationships, enjoyment of your gifts, and contentment. We confess that we have not always acknowledged you as the giver of all that is good. We confess that we have not always seen the good in all that you send into our lives. We confess that we have often complained instead of praised. Lord in your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. We give you thanks that you became man to set us free. You lived a perfect life in our place—living to please our Father, running in the path of his commands, and learning and loving his ways. You died the death we deserved. You rose to ensure our forgiveness and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Holy Spirit, you brought and continue to strengthen faith in our hearts through the gospel in Word and sacrament. You send preachers and teachers who teach us your truth. You enlighten our minds, strengthen our hearts, and loosen our tongues to give you praise. Now give us the fervor of seeking you first and your kingdom, O God. Send us godly and faithful ministers and teachers of your Word. Grant us wisdom to meditate daily on your promises. Strengthen us to follow your will and commands. Grow our desire for your truth and your Word that we may better understand your love, your ways and your peace. Lord, in your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Triune God, bless our *God-Lived Life* focus today. Make it an opportunity for each of us to grow in your Word and in our lives of living it. Use us to be a blessing to others. Help us encourage one another in our commitments and grow us in your grace. Lord, in your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: All these things we ask in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**



# BIBLE STUDY

## 2 CHRONICLES 34:1-2, 14-21, 29-33

<sup>1</sup> Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. <sup>2</sup> He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and followed the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

<sup>14</sup> While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the temple of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD that had been given through Moses. <sup>15</sup> Hilkiah said to Shaphan the secretary, “I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the LORD.” He gave it to Shaphan.

<sup>16</sup> Then Shaphan took the book to the king and reported to him: “Your officials are doing everything that has been committed to them. <sup>17</sup> They have paid out the money that was in the temple of the LORD and have entrusted it to the supervisors and workers.” <sup>18</sup> Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.

<sup>19</sup> When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes. <sup>20</sup> He gave these orders to Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Abdon son of Micah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king’s attendant: <sup>21</sup> “Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the remnant in Israel and Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the LORD’s anger that is poured out on us because those who have gone before us have not kept the word of the LORD; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book.”

<sup>29</sup> Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>30</sup> He went up to the temple of the LORD with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the Levites—all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD. <sup>31</sup> The king stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD—to follow the LORD and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book.

<sup>32</sup> Then he had everyone in Jerusalem and Benjamin pledge themselves to it; the people of Jerusalem did this in accordance with the covenant of God, the God of their ancestors.

<sup>33</sup> Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he had all who were present in Israel serve the LORD their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the LORD, the God of their ancestors.

## **INTRODUCTION**

How quickly the Word was lost in Judah! It had only been two generations since good king Hezekiah reigned! What can you think of that was valued in the past and no longer has the same value today? Why is that the case?

*Pastor Birkholz commenting on the USA spiritual scene:* those 86 churches (in the tri-county Kalispell area) are really serving a population that's more than 38,000. They're effectively serving and drawing people from the entire valley. So, if we follow the present formula for median/average church size (worship attendance weekly) of 75, we're looking at a community in which roughly 6400 people attend worship in a formal church on any given Sunday in the area. That's about 6% of the population. No, that's not an overstatement of how anti-church the culture has actually become in the past 21 years. Colorado for example was at about a 13% rate in the early 00's. Currently that state is about 8%. That's how dramatically and downwardly the U.S. spiritual scene has changed in one generation.

## **INTO THE TEXT**

1. In verse 19, we see the law cut King Josiah to the heart when he tore his robes. However, fear of the law is not what motivated a change in behavior. We see that motivation in verse 32. Describe it.
2. What were the effects of the Word of God on the people?

## **APPLYING IT**

1. Often in our everyday lives, we see the law motivate behavior but not change hearts. Give examples.
2. In what ways can people see that the gospel has impacted your life?

3. What can we do to ensure the Word is treasured for generations to come?
4. *Look at your challenge card.* How do each of those suggested commitments work toward this goal?

## **BLESSING**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give ✠ you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE | CW 386:5*

## **Announcements**

Today (following the service) - **Annual Voters' Meeting**

Today, 4:00pm – Worship with Holy Communion, Kalispell

Tuesday, 9:00am – Lizzie Rahmer, Confirmation Class, Alberton

Wednesday, 10:30am – Preschool Devotion, God Keeps Jesus Safe

Wednesday – David Wiseley, Confirmation Class

Wednesday, 6:30pm – **CALL MEETING**

Friday, 12:30pm – Women's Bible Study, Lynn Bernthal's home

Next Sunday (following the service) – **Annual Organizational Meeting**

# Welcome to Living Savior!

Welcome! We are glad that you have joined us to worship the Savior at Living Savior.

- Restrooms are located in the second hallway on the right as you leave the sanctuary. There are also restrooms on the NW corner of the fellowship area.
- Please help us be a friendly church by filling out the Connection Card during the service and placing it in the offering plate.
- Would you like to know more about Jesus, the basic teachings of what it means to be a Christian, or the Bible? Please mark the box on the Connection Card or email Pastor Persons for more information: persons@1791.com
- If you would like to know more about the ministry of Living Savior, please visit our website, livingsaviormissoula.org.

## Living Savior Contact Information

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