



Dear Crossroads Family,

I ran across this series of statements by Carol Kent in “A New Kind of Normal” that I thought was encouraging:

When despair tries to take me under...I choose life.

When I wonder what God could possibly be thinking...I choose trust.

When I desperately want relief from unrelenting reality...I choose perseverance.

When I feel oppressed by my disappointment and sorrow...I choose gratitude.

When I want to keep my feelings to myself...I choose vulnerability.

When nothing goes according to my plan...I choose relinquishment.

When I want to point the finger...I choose forgiveness.

When I want to give up...I choose purposeful action.

The common word in each sentence is the word “choose.” These affirmations remind us that the choices we make shape the kind of lives we will have, regardless of the difficulties we make along the way.

This coming Sunday, we will be considering a portion of Psalm 119. In it, the author of the Psalm affirms his decision to make the most important choice of all: to choose God’s word and will and to let that choice direct his future.

Sunday’s message will encourage us to choose in advance that we will live by God’s word and will in any and every situation in which we find ourselves. (Sermon notes are provided below.) I trust you will **choose** to be present Sunday, ready to hear God’s word and be encouraged by its promises.

By the way, Sunday, Oct. 18th will also be a very special day at Crossroads. We will be blessed to hear briefly from SBC missionaries Jason and Nicole Zaruba, the son and daughter-in-law of Keith and Trudy Zaruba, in the morning service. They will tell us a little about what God is doing in S. Africa. Then on Sunday evening at 5:00 pm, Blake and Jenna Bolerjack will be with us in concert. You can get an advanced example of what a special evening it will be by clicking this link or copying and pasting it into your browser:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6SPNjy_t-8&list=RDEmkoZ6uitEEE3P6Vq3LIkjGQ&start_radio=1&rv=7WbvXkvCs18

See you this Sunday and next!

Love,
Bro. Doug

A Line Through the Dirt

Psalm 119:30-40

Psalm 119 reflects a "line in the dirt" moment. The psalmist knows that the life of faith begins with a resolute _____ to step across the line drawn by God's Word, paired with an absolute reliance on His grace to _____ across that line.

Psalm 119:30-40 reflects the psalmist's desire to do more than know the Word of God or praise it, but to choose to _____ it's truth and to _____ it into _____ in his life. He resolves to make what Soren Kierkegaard called "The _____." We always have limited facts. At some point we have to decide, to choose, to leap.

The psalmist didn't wait until he could see the _____ of the path. He stepped across the line first, knowing that the blessing and joy of the path laid out by God's Word are only revealed to those who _____.

Jesus invited some of His earliest disciples to follow Him without a full explanation of His mission or ministry, but with this simple statement: "_____ and _____." They chose. The disciples model for us what _____ should look like.

The choice to follow God's path for your life must come with _____. We should be under no illusion that we are so innately _____ and perfectly _____ - _____ that we can, by the force of our will, hold fast to the Lord's teachings and "run in the path that He has set out." So, the psalmist pleads with God to _____, to adjust, his heart, eyes, mind, and affections from the inside out. This needs to be our prayer and stance too.

So, obeying God's word is a two-step process. First, it requires an initial, irrevocable _____ to live by His Word. Second, we invite God to _____ us—to adjust us daily to be more _____.

Today a sword, the _____ of the _____, God's word has drawn a line: _____ in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. Every day there is another line drawn in the sand by God's Word: _____ and _____.

A Few Announcements:

No Evening Activities Sunday night & Church Office is Closed Monday due to the Columbus Day holiday.

Sign-ups Sheets for Trunk-or-Treat participants and other volunteer needs for Harvest Fest are in the foyer. Many volunteers are needed to make this community outreach a success!

Volunteers are needed to help with Youth Ministry. For more information about the roles that are needed, contact Mauricio by email at mfernandez@cbsa.net.

Volunteers are also needed to help with childcare during the Worship Service (TLC). You would help provide care for children ages infant to 4 years old, one Sunday a month. If you are interested please fill out the flyer in the bulletin and place in the offering plate or call Katy at the church office or send an email to kpadgett@cbsa.net.

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