



Locker LIFE

MONDAY... How much am I worth?

How many times are we 'down in the dumps' and feeling pretty worthless because of circumstances beyond our control? Life can sometimes be unbeatable, but other times it gives us a 'beatdown'. Perhaps this week you know exactly what I mean. Good thing our worth isn't based on our circumstances or behavior, if it were I would have zero hope.

Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value in God's eyes. To Him, dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to Him. Psalm 17:8 states that God will keep us 'as the apple of His eye.' The worth of our lives come not in what we do or who we are, but by WHOSE WE ARE!

THINK TANK:

Who or what determines how good you feel about yourself? Have you "checked in" with God lately on your issues/problems?

WEDNESDAY...the test you cant skip

Please answer (on paper or in your mind) the following question. *Why did God put you here on earth?*

Perhaps you have multiple times in your week where you feel like a square peg trying to fit into the round hole of this present age. Why did God put me here on earth? Maybe I'll never fully figure that out in this life, so I think I'll go on the information I do understand. God desires for me to fully commit my life to His control, and seek the advancement of His rule and reign in each and every thing I do and say. You will fail and fall, but God's grace covers me, and you get up again and again and again to accomplish His will according to His plan through His power.

THINK TANK:

How has the world influenced your worldview about yourself? Would you be willing to challenge that worldview in prayer today?

FRIDAY...Christmas cookies

This time of year, I generally start what I call the "Christmas Chow Down". I'm pretty sure that my body thinks that we are headed for a nuclear winter where no food will be found. So about any time of the day you will see me with a fistful 'o food in search of additional vittles. Come to think of it, it would probably be a good idea to just attach a feed bag to my face.

Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)

It seems to me that this is the way we should be spiritually. So hungry for God's Word that we should have a verse or two in our 'hands' that we are devouring. Or better yet, if we could attach a Bible feeding bag to the mouth of our soul - I'm sure we all would live out the true meaning of Christmas. We crave food at regular intervals during the day. During this holiday season food occupies our thoughts and fills up our activities. But deep in our soul is a hunger, a soul hunger. It cannot be filled by food, drink, or chemicals. This hunger was the desire built into us by our Creator, placed there when he knit us together in our mother's womb. This hunger can only be satiated by Jesus.

Please fill me, my Father, with Jesus. Give me today, my Daily Bread, that I may find life in all its fullness. Precious Lord, Jesus my brother and Savior, fill me and touch me with your presence so that I can serve you by blessing those around me with your grace. Amen.

THINK TANK:

How have these devotions and scriptures affected me this week? How can I do a better job of reading the Word this next month and go deeper into what God is speaking to me?

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SHARE CHALLENGE

START PRAYING OVER THE 3 FRIENDS IN YOUR CAUSE CIRCLE.

What can you do or say to open up conversation about God in their life?

FUEL UP

This week focus on the I Timothy. Check off each chapter as you read it. Try reading during study hall or your lunch break. Text us your thoughts. 765.490.0960

- Mon I Timothy Ch. 1
- Tue I Timothy Ch. 2
- Wed I Timothy Ch. 3
- Thu I Timothy Ch. 4
- Fri I Timothy Ch. 5
- Sat / Sun I Timothy Ch. 6

NOTES:

Jot down what God is sharing with you during your day...





Locker LIFE

MONDAY...been chopping too hard?

If you're like me, sometimes it seems that dealing with the world is like chopping wood. It's hard work, it takes time and concentration, and in the end you never get as far as you thought you would. Then on top of that, there never seems to be time to rest. Without any time for sharpening, we accomplish less and less with the same effort, until soon we just get used to the idea that we can't cut it like we used to. But then there are other believers who seem to have found some kind of 'secret'. They seem content with their lives, they handle things well, and they rarely seemed stressed out. These folks have simply decided to obey God and take time out to sharpen the axe, which is why they are skilled at chopping through life the way God intended. Perhaps you've been swinging your axe a little too long and need a rest, one with purpose! Focus on these 5 Sharpening Skills: #1 Get alone with God, no cell, no tv. #2 Bring your bible, #3 Pray #4 listen and #5 worship.

THINK TANK:

When was the last time you really got alone with God? How would your life change if you regularly applied the 5 Sharpening Skills?

WEDNESDAY...got milk?

Did you know that every Christian has two ages? One is measured by trips around the sun, and the other is measured by the standard set by the Son. The difference is that growing old is mandatory, growing up is not. That's why we have folks who have been saved for years, but still act like spiritual babies. They were glad to get a free ticket to heaven, but getting off the bottle and out of diapers has been a real struggle. One of the main things that makes the devil's job a whole lot easier is believers who refuse to grow up. Growing up in the faith is a big deal with God. You've got to go to church and listen to the word being preached, taking notes, keep a journal, join a small group, get involved in serving others on a regular basis, have a non negotiable quiet time.

THINK TANK:

How old spiritually do you think you are? Are you seeking out ways to grow?

FRIDAY...Do Something!

A recent survey found that 77% of Americans believe in Heaven, and 76% say their chances of going to heaven are good or excellent. Apparently, our job of evangelism is almost done- since nearly 8 out of 10 are headed for the streets of gold...right?

Then again, this survey never got past the surface questions. I wonder what the percentage would have been if the inquiries would have dug just a little deeper. It would have been so easy to slip in a quick follow up question: "Since you believe that you are going to heaven, let me ask you this: why do you think you deserve to go there?" Of course, once you drop that line, all manner of weirdness breaks out. Believe me; I think I've just about heard it all. Everything from alien connections to karma to even atheism. That's right- I've spoken with atheists who believe they are going to heaven.

Generally what it boiled down to, though, was that most people believe they are pretty good. Good enough, in fact, to not have to end up in hell...therefore heaven must be their destiny The truth is that it is not going to end up all good. This survey reminds me of the rich and beautiful people on the Titanic who were drinking champagne and playing games with chunks of the iceberg while the ship was rapidly taking them to their deaths. I'm sure that more than 77% of them believed that everything was going to be alright- but the reality turned out to be very different than they expected.

How should we respond to this survey? The same way that of the greatest preachers who ever lived encouraged his congregation: "Brethren, do something; do something, do something! While societies and unions make constitutions, let us win souls. I pray you, be men of action all of you. Get to work and quit yourselves like men." ~ Charles Spurgeon

THINK TANK:

Do your friends and family members believe they're going to heaven? When you read the words of Spurgeon what do you think God is telling you to do?

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SHARE CHALLENGE

INVITE A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER TO THE NEXT SERVICE OR EVENT AT YOUR CHURCH

Use this as an opportunity to connect them to God and his body.

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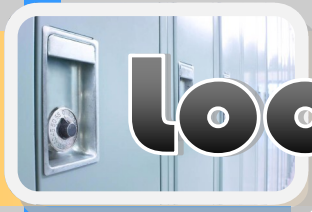
- Mon II Timothy Ch. 1
- Tue II Timothy Ch. 2
- Wed II Timothy Ch. 3
- Thu II Timothy Ch. 4
- Fri II Timothy Ch. 5
- Sat/Sun Titus Ch. 1 - 3

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Questions or comments, email us at impactindiana@indianapcg.org or call 765.490.0960
 INDIANA PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD STUDENT MINISTRIES www.indianapcg.org
 Eddie Underwood, Indiana District Youth Ministries Director (Devotions from Dare2Share.org)



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MONDAY...wimpy worship?

It seems that there has been quite a move over the past few years towards more 'authentic' worship. Yet if I were to ask you to define worship, what would you say? Can you worship without emotion, or can you worship without thought? Is worship a feeling, an attitude, an intellectual/spiritual focus, or some combination of all three?

God must be very concerned about this topic, because it is mentioned in Scripture well over 200 times! Throughout the Bible, adoration of the living God is a common theme of extreme importance. In fact, one of the reasons God saved us in the first place was to establish a "worship team" that would perform for eternity. (see 1 Peter 2:9). If you want to come back to the "heart of worship", you must begin with the "heart of you". On the outside, people may see you bow your head, raise your hands, dance in the aisles, or shout to the Lord- but all that is putrid pretense to Christ if your heart is in the wrong place

THINK TANK:

How important is authentic worship in my view of the Christian life?

WEDNESDAY...imagine the magi

There was a group of people who really "got" Christmas, and if we follow their pattern I can just about guarantee that a great holiday will be had by all. So spend a little time each day getting away from the crowds and closer to the King. I'm talking about the Magi who came to visit the newborn Jesus. They were filled with joy to see the promised Messiah, and feel down worshipping Him. This week fall down on your knees and worship the promise! Worship Him with music, writing, prayer, and even in silence. You want a better Christmas season this year? Let go of what you can't control, and imagine being a Magi. It won't change circumstances, but it will change the results that you have experienced year after year.

THINK TANK:

Why did the Magi react with joy and worship? What gifts can you bring to Christ? How can you shift your focus off the expectations and onto Jesus?

FRIDAY...Christians of courage and compassion

On September 11, a man named Todd Beamer boarded flight 93. The majority of people in America had never heard this name before, but after that day his notoriety has grown considerably. Flight 93 was supposed to be the fourth plane used as a devastating weapon against our nation. The smallest flight to be hijacked with only 45 people aboard out of a possible 289 had 84% of its capacity unused. Yet these people stood up to the attackers and thwarted a fourth attempted destruction of a national landmark, saving untold numbers of lives in the process. One of those people was Todd Beamer- a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ. Moments before he and the other passengers rallied against the hijackers, he prayed Psalm 23 with a phone operator, and his last words were: "are you ready? Let's roll!"

In Acts 6 and 7, we read about a man of God named Stephen. He was full of faith, power, and conviction. He was brought before the Jewish ruling council on trumped-up charges and allowed to make a statement. Stephen, however, decided to play a different role. Rather than allowing it to be a setup for him, he turned into a powerful condemnation of the religious leaders. They despised him and his message, so they dragged him out of Jerusalem and stoned him. Stephen fell to his knees and prayed for his killers. The way he died spoke as eloquently as his sermon.

These men should serve as an amazing example to us. We are called to be people of conviction, standing tall for Christ and serving Him fearlessly. Be prepared believer- you never know what day you may be called on to offer yourself for His glory.

THINK TANK:

Would you be willing to pay the ultimate price for Christ? What are your biggest fears about serving God everyday? What would you have done if you were Todd Beamer?

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SHARE CHALLENGE

EXERCISE THE BOLDNESS AND COURAGE THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS GIVEN YOU:

Share the gift of Christmas with a friend this week, Drop a note card in their locker and look for open doors to share!



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