

# Romans 8:12-39

## Groans to Glory

### Announce Widow's Ministry

**James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.**

#### Key Points

- Lisa Vincent and I would like to take a moment to celebrate widowed mothers for Mother's Day
- The dinner is for Saturday, May 7th, at 5:30pm here in the Children's Sanctuary.
- This is what is hoped to be the beginning of a new ministry here at Calvary Victorville
- If you have any friends who are widows, please feel free to invite them. Remember to include them next to your name on the sign-up sheet.
- Child care is hopefully going to be provided for this event, so please feel free to bring them. Please remember to also include number of children in your party.
- Our desire is to have these ladies feel special, so we would like anyone who is available, and has it in their heart to help, please add your name to the "I Want to Volunteer" sign-up sheet. Indicate whether you would like to assist with childcare or if you would like to serve the ladies their dinner and desert.
- This dinner is mainly directed to the widow. And if you are a widow, and are planning to attend this affair, please do not sign up to help. This is YOUR day, let us serve YOU!!
- Please RSVP as soon as possible so the ladies can have enough food prepared.

Let's pray

“We enter this chapter with no condemnation; we close with no separation and in between all things work

together for good to those that love God.” **J.Vernon McGee**

Paul told us in Ch. 6 we were dead to sin, and Alive to God, He said we were once slaves to sin, now we are slaves unto righteousness and God.

In Ch. 7 Paul discusses the Law, and how we are now free from it. It had one purpose, to show us our sins, and our wretchedness.

It was impossible for the Law to produce righteousness in man.

This is not the fault of the Law. The fault lay in man and the sin in his flesh.

The Law was totally incapable of producing any good thing in man. **J.Vernon McGee**

Remember even the Apostle Paul revealed His own struggle to live up to that Law.

He came to the conclusion that we should all come to, we are shameful, wicked and vile... who can save us from this body of death.

And we thank God for it is only through Christ Jesus, whom He sent to take care of this huge problem.

Now that is kind of where Paul is at when he comes to Romans 8...

Paul brings us into the beginning of Romans 8 with no condemnation for those of us who have believed on this sacrifice made for our sin debt.

Paul then in verse 2 of Romans 8... brings a new Law into light.

One that is lived through the Spirit...

One that is now written on our hearts, one that is not lived out by any human or fleshly endeavor, but simply by the Power of the Spirit of the same God who raised Jesus from the dead.

And Paul in his letter to the Romans up this chapter has not given us the power to live this new way free from the Old Man, Sin, and the Law.

Jesus came to destroy these things on the cross. He did the work, and is risen, but we have to remember, Jesus had to go to the Father.

And remember the disciples did not understand why. Remember what Jesus told the disciples...

John 16:7-8 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Now here in chapter 8 we see Paul will now show us the power of the Helper.

He will introduce the Spirit of Truth.....the Holy Spirit and real sanctification.

A life that is pleasing to God must be lived in the power of the Holy Spirit, not by man's efforts to please.

Paul says in Rom 8:4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Then in the following verses he makes us aware if we are in the flesh and living for our carnal desires, then the Spirit of God is not in us.

**Rom 8:8** So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

So if you habitually live for the flesh and the new nature doesn't rebuke you, or the law written on your heart is not conflicting with your carnal choices, it seems you might not have the new nature.

And I have learned that no matter how hard I try, I cannot overcome those fleshly desires, so I have to turn it over to Someone who can, The Stronger Man, Jesus, by the power of His Spirit.

And God really wants nothing to do with that old nature; instead He made a way for us to have a New Nature....

So this brings us to our text this morning... we will start in verse 12 of Romans 8...

### Sonship Through the Spirit

**12** Therefore, brethren, we are debtors – not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. **13** For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

This is amazing here; Paul once again says “therefore” taking into account all that he has just said. He says we are now not of the flesh; we are not indebted to it.

We are not bound to it,

Look at what Paul says, the life lived for the flesh will kill you!

It leads to death, and ultimately the second death.

But a life after the Spirit leads to life.

And look at what Paul says in verse 14, “as many as are led by the Spirit”

He will not force it upon us, but He gives us opportunity to choose it, or not to.

He is the Good Shepherd, He will lead us, but we are to choose to follow.

And it is beyond one prayer we say at an altar call; it is a life of choosing to follow the Spirit of Truth.

And He says to those who choose, they are sons of God.

What a fascinating thing to think about, we are sons of God.

**15** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Paul says here, hey you did not receive a spirit of bondage again to fear, well fearing what?

What specifically are you saying here Paul?

Well remember Paul has just made a compelling case in the first 7 chapters of Romans.

He has brought the reader to the conclusion, that no matter who you are, religious, non-

religious, Atheist, Moralist, immoral, Rich or poor, anyone who comes before Almighty God and His Law will be judged.

We are all standing before God's Perfect Law, and what it demands of our lives, and we should be in turmoil, fear!

For what good things can man do to please God? And we all find ourselves in a predicament... frightening, and terrifying...

And we look inward... and we say Oh Wretched Man that I am!

And then the Gospel of Grace, a soothing remedy for our souls... to those who hear and believe....

Look what it says at the end of verse 15... When we believe (not impress or strive) we are adopted sons,

And as we are looking inward at ourselves we can't help but cry out, Abba (Daddy), save me from myself.

**Adrian prays "Dad"**

This verse is huge....

You know I am a daddy, at the beginning of fatherhood for me, well it is an alarming thing.

And being a dad has changed my life, in light of scripture, being a daddy has changed my view on many things.

I was walking one day shortly after Sofia was born, and I was pondering this verse, what could

be so frightening that Paul would have to talk about bondage, and fear,

I remembered back through what Paul was preaching earlier in this letter...

And where he was prior to this chapter a wretched man.

Paul, who was more religious and zealous than any other, found himself wretched.

So I asked the Lord to show me what You are saying here, as my Father, my Abba...

And the first place He took me was inward, I remembered who I am, in this flesh, this cursed body, I remembered all that I amounted to on my own, the pig pen I ended up in...

The disgusting vile perverse things I was capable of.

I was a man who failed at most everything I attempted, and destroyed most everything I touched.

It terrified me to remember all that I could amount to without the Spirit of Life living through me.

And I found myself crying out Oh Abba.... Keep me close to You...

I am no good on my own... And then I got a glimpse of what Paul was trying to say here.

My babies, well my favorite place in the whole world, is to have them just resting on my chest.

**Saturday mornings cuddles in bed...**

Lola my middle child is 2 years old today, now she is not the cuddle type, but when she finally comes to me and just rests there, it is surreal. She will look up from that position and make eye contact with me, she smiles, and she knows I am her daddy...

You know I sing her silly songs; I dance with her. Lola starting doing this thing, and it is very special because it is rare.

But out of nowhere she puckers up, and starts kissing mommy. Then daddy, then back and forth, and it is like my heart is butter on a hot skillet. And I am just a puddle.

I am her daddy, I will protect this little girl, I will stop at nothing to provide for her, and I will go to the ends of the earth to find her if she is ever lost...

I remember when Sofia was born, my oldest, and something fierce awakened in me.

I realized if anyone ever hurt this little gift from God, the love I had for her was so overpowering, I would feel that pain with her.

I fear even to this day what would happen if someone hurt my children.

This fierce love was not there before the babies...

You know I find so much joy in them just sitting with me, I get home from the office, and sit in my chair, and they come piling up in my lap.

And for this daddy, the love and energy I feel in that moment, it is the greatest joy I can have.

And you know I now have a new picture of God, this verse means something different to me now that I am a daddy.

You see God wants me there, just resting on Him, trusting Him, recognizing Him, abiding in Him, not going away from Him, really I can't afford to.

He is my Abba, my Father, and my love and time with Him, gives Him that same joy my babies give me.

You see us earthly fathers are wicked; our love is not even as pure as His.

Stay in His love, there is no safer place to be.

For me there is too much on the line to start out on my own now to chase after my own fleshly desires,

Right there with my Abba Father, I need to stay right there.

And when I am right there look what Paul says....

**16** The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

The Godhead being three in one as a superior Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), we being an inferior trinity made up of Body, Soul, and spirit... can only have communion with God through the Spirit...

And before we come to faith our spirit is dead, but when we are born again, as Jesus spoke of in John chapter 3, our spirit is born.

And Paul says the Spirit will bear witness to our spirit, that in fact we are children of God.

He says as children then heirs with Christ... That is fascinating, that we will be co-heirs with Christ, as adopted children.

My older sister Terra was adopted, when I was a baby...

I have only known her as my sister. She had all the same privileges and opportunities I had growing up.

We grew up equal.

My mom and dad love Terra the same, her inheritance is equal among me and Jacquie.

She has all the rights as my parents begotten children have.

And Paul says that it is for us, Jesus is the One Begotten Son, we are adopted children.

But we have to be careful here, people like to stop there, we are heirs with Christ, we are Kings Kids, we

are to be rich, as Christ is in the heavenly places, we are to receive riches from heaven.

And there are crazy doctrines of wealth here and now, but just to clarify...

Paul points us forward, we will be glorified with Him, but there is something said before that, that is easier to just kind of skip over. **“If we indeed suffer with Him.”**

This world here is not the Kingdom of our inheritance, which is a future place for us...

This life is not where we are to be looking for a glorified state....

People get confused and greatly let down with this false doctrine...

### 1 Peter 1:3-5

**3** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

You see suffering is going to come in this fallen world... This cursed world... But our attention and hope does not lie here in this place.

Think about how Jesus was tempted by Satan, “bow down to me, I will give you all these Kingdoms” **Matt 4:8-9**

Satan tried to get Jesus to skip the cross and sufferings, to take an easy route to His Kingdom.

And it is the same trick and ploy He uses with people today, He tries to get us to believe this is it, to focus on the here and now.

“You don’t need to take up your cross, and deny yourself... God wants you to be comfortable, the life of ease, and fun...”

Satan puts our focus on fulfilling our self...

To strive, and work for our kingdom here... to live and work for our comfort here.

I have heard it said “don’t be so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good” It is unbiblical.

We are to be looking **to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for us!**

This world is constantly falling apart, it is cursed, and it is breaking, as we will see groaning.

I made my living in construction for most of my life, fixing the curse, my eye is now trained to see where the curse has broken things I can fix...

Weeds are part of the curse! I just paid someone to take care of the curse in my yard.

All the kingdoms and mansions built on this earth will break down, and crumble.

We strive to keep it together, we toil night and day, we can't keep up with the cracks, to keep it all looking new, this place is falling apart.

And Satan is saying, "Make your home here, strive till you have more and bigger, get more comfortable."

But sufferings will come, we try to skip that part, we cry out to our Abba to make it easier for us, "God make it more comfortable for me."

We even kind of make heaven about us, but this is how Jesus said to pray... "Lord your will be done here even as it is in Heaven."

You see Heaven is a place where God's will, will be done.

We cannot get caught in the carnal trappings of Satan to make this place our home... it is a future place we have our hope in.

Any doctrine that appeals to our flesh in this life is Satanic to the core!

This place we partake in the sufferings of Christ.

Look what Paul says next....

### ***From Suffering to Glory***

**18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Paul considers the suffering of this present time not even worthy to be compared to what is to come.

Paul who had stones thrown at him more than once, left for dead, Paul who had friends betray him.

Paul who was persecuted and hated by the Jews.

Paul who was shipped wrecked, bitten by a serpent.

Paul who had a thorn in his flesh, a messenger from Satan tormenting him, considered all these things nothing compared to what was to come.

Paul had a glimpse of what was to come in **2 Cor. 12:4-5** how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. **5** Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.

He said what he heard would be a sin for a man to utter, not even speaking of what he saw.

But he says he will boast in his infirmities...

Paul in **Phil 1:21** says... **For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**

He longing to be glorified said to die is gain.

Everything in this man's life was for Christ; he suffered more than any of us will for the Kingdom of God...

And he says it cannot be compared to what's ahead.

I know here in this church, there are enormous sufferings that some are going through.

I know many of you probably have hurts that go so deep, trials that are so huge, groaning's that come from your very soul.

But take heart this morning... this is not your home...

We are just on a pilgrimage in this fallen and cursed place.

Be encouraged this morning, the Holy Spirit is pointing us elsewhere this morning.

He is telling us through scripture to look ahead.

When you look to our Abba Father, when we focus on what's to come.

Then all we have in this life will be focused on the only thing that matters in this life, Christ.

And we find it is the best life there is.

And we can say as Paul did, for me to live here in this place is all for Jesus.

We cannot skip this part; we cannot try to find the easy way through, the way with the most comfort.

The Book of James tells us for believers these trials are producing in us patience.

The sufferings we go through as believers build our character, strengthens our faith.

No longer are we fighting, and striving to make a home here...

But we long for that day, when we will be with our King.

And you know what happens then?

No longer do we build our own little kingdoms, but we come together to bring others into His Kingdom!

Our focus shifts from here to there.

All of creation knows this day is coming when things will be made right... look what Paul says...

**19** For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; **21** because the creation

itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

**Mankind was not the only thing that was affected by Adam's sin.**

**But all of creation was subjected to futility.**

**The ground was cursed, evil ruled. And we see the effects all around us.**

**Creation itself is groaning with birth pangs, waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.**

**And there is a day coming, and as the creation and earth groans louder and louder, more frequent as the time approaches...**

**Our focus should be turning upward.**

**That day is coming when the Father Will Tell the Son, to go get His bride, and we will be caught up taken from this earth, and for a time period of 7 years, the groans will be turned into shrieks, as God's Wrath is poured out,**

**and after that time, Christ the King, will come back with His Co-heirs, the church, and He will make things right.**

**The curse will be suppressed, He will rule with a Rod of Iron, and you and I will reign with Him.**

**Creation groans waiting for its deliverance from the bondage of corruption.**

Me and Jess like to walk in the evenings or mornings, I look around at this earth, and I see cracked sidewalks, I see weeds sprouting up everywhere, I see roofs blowing off, I see decay, graffiti, and I realize “this place is cursed”

And it is all groaning waiting for its Maker to come back and restore it to what it was designed to do.

Look at what Paul says next...

**23** Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Look around, the curse has made you and me an enigma...

We don't fit in this world; you are being made ready for the next...

And we eagerly wait for the redemption of our body....

Please turn to...

**2 Cor. 5:1-8** For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2** For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, **3** if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. **4** For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that

mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

**We are hoping for what's to come... and our guarantee is the Spirit.**

**We at times cry out God pay my mortgage, and I will know you are real, heal my body, and I will have proof.**

**Lord give me a new job; Lord make this life easier for me.**

**And we look for guarantees in this life that will appease this corrupt flesh.**

**But He says it isn't in the tangible things of this world, it is the Spirit.**

**And the Spirit leads us to eternal matters, leads us to the Glorified Jesus, He takes our attention off of ourselves and puts it on what matters.**

**And as our perspective changes, we groan, longing for the things to come... and to be out of this corrupt tent...**

**Look what Paul says now back in Romans...**

**24** For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.

Our Hope in God's promises of what is to come is what allows us to persevere.

My wife Jess used to say "If after all these many years of trying to have a child, If I get pregnant and lose the baby, I don't think I could go on, I think I would lose my faith."

We tried for 7 years, hearing impossible from doctors, we were okay with it. But to lose a baby, that was almost unbearable.

But God allowed us to walk through this horrible time in our life, losing a baby in the womb... and I can say through that horrible time, we saw God working in our lives, and our faith was actually strengthened.

Jess ran towards the Lord.

It wasn't our hope in another child, it wasn't our hope in each other, it was God reminding us look ahead, past this life here, look toward your unseen heavenly home.

That was the comfort we received through one of the most trying times in our life.

This life is full of Joys, and we get glimpses, we see through a mirror dimly, but it is all a bonus, to what's to come.

And we have the Lord's Spirit to lead us along in this pilgrimage... look at what it says next...

**26** Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **27** Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

And this world so bad off, we hear of dad's leaving children behind, we see wars, we look out and we see the pain, the disasters, earthquakes all over the world.

We see the hurt, the evil, and we say I don't know how to pray.

We kind of travail within ourselves... and we just say Lord I don't know what to pray...

And the awesome thing is the Holy Spirit is making intercession for us with groanings of His own.

And he says He is praying on our behalf according to God's will.

What a comfort... What a peace... We see when we surrender our lives to the Spirits leading;

He ends up helping us in intercession before the Father.

Look what Paul says next.

**28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

You see He will work all things together for good, but according to His purpose and will. Sometimes we want Him to work it out for our will and purpose.

“Man I sure would like a new car at the end of this trial.”

But His will, is where we will find the good.

Not the easy, or even the most comfortable, but it will end in good...

And it doesn't say some things, or even most things, but it says all things.

Look at this... this is how God's good is defined...

**29** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. **30** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

He knew you before the creation of time; He knew who would choose Him, and who would choose to ignore Him.

He knew you would be here this morning.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is

longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

He gives everyone the option, LIFE or Death, and He knows who will choose.

“That’s not fair; how do I know I am predestined? How do I know I am called...?”

Well Respond to Him today!

Look it says He justifies us, He glorifies us, it is Him who does the work.

He is making us into the image of His Son...

That is the Good Paul is speaking of in verse 28...

Not a life time of free pizza or whatever else our flesh desires.

Respond to Him, and allow Him to change you from the inside out.

Be predestined to be conformed into the image of His Son this morning.

Then after you choose Look at what Paul says next:

### ***God's Everlasting Love***

**31** What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? **32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

When we see past this life’s treasures and we see our heavenly home, and our groom, we see past the deception of this age...

Then we find something out.

God is actually for us... regardless of the trials, the tribulations, the heartbreaks God freely gives us all things.

Like I said, it wasn't because God gave me and Jess Sofia, after losing a baby, we worship Him because He delivered up His Son for my sin!

He made the Way possible for us to be saved, that rotten filthy blaspheming disgusting man I was, and He made me new, and is making me into the Image of His Son.

Anything beyond that is almost too much to bear...

Me and Jess often talk about it, and it is almost too good, our salvation is enough, but all this, I get peace, Joy, I get Love, I have a family that is worldwide, I am saved, and God is for me...

**WOW!**

**33** Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. **34** Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Who can bring a charge against us!

We are not standing here on our own merits.

God's righteous demands were met by God Himself, He justifies us through our faith, and it is all a work of God.

Look what he says in vs. 34 Christ is the One who did the work, look around, we are a bunch of unknowns, God called us out of the mud pit, He set us up straight, and He keeps us moving forward.

Christ paid the price, but look what it says He is now at the right hand of God, making intercession for us.

We through the Spirit have a way to the Son who is interceding on our behalf.

What a prayer team that is!

Do you understand this picture, this is no longer the carpenter from Nazareth, but an Almighty King, who sits on a throne in Heaven, He is now the Lord of Lords the King of Kings?

There are some pictures in the Bible we kind of have heard so much we just pass them off as a neat story.

In Matt. 13 we see Jesus in the parable of the wheat and tares commanding the angels to execute judgment...

It really is a terrifying scene, as angels are throwing those who choose not to follow the leading of the Spirit, and is throwing them into Gehenna eternal torment. Our Loved Ones.

We miss this sometimes; we somehow forget this picture of Jesus...

We picture Him, as a humble man, lowly riding on a donkey, or compassionately healing the masses.

But on the other side of this double edged Sword...

He is the Judge of all the earth, and has fiery eyes, a devouring Sword coming from His mouth!

And here in Romans 8 we see this All-powerful Jesus is now at the right hand of God making intercession for us, those who did choose His free gift of grace!

This mighty Jesus cares this much for us...  
And it doesn't stop there...

**35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** As it is written:

*"For Your sake we are killed all day long;  
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."*

**37** Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

The many things that will come against us in this life, tribulation, and distress of all sorts, cannot, and will not separate us from the Love of Christ.

Even when these things come, we are more than conquerors, I don't know what "more than" means here, but on that day, when we see Jesus face to face, and we hear "Well done, good and faithful servant."

We will understand what more than a conqueror is.

I'm sure it has to do with the fact that the victory came from Christ Himself through us.

His Spirit gives us victory, not a call to more devotion, more bible reading, more demands on the believer, but a work of the Spirit.

If we were just conquerors it would be in our own efforts, but the victory comes from more than just us.

And nothing can separate us...

**38** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We cannot even fathom what the depth and width of God's love for us is.

It doesn't work in our minds.

He says death, nothing to be feared, and many in Paul's day faced death through persecution of their faith...

Life, well we know this life here is no place to stake a claim in, Paul said **Phil 1:23-25** For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

Life here means to live for Christ.... Our one purpose is to bring more into the Kingdom of God...

Satan has us so distracted with the world, and the demands of it... One purpose, until we see Jesus face to face...

He wants 100% of our lives for His purposes, not just a Sunday morning church service... All of us...

We as a culture have created this comfortable middle ground, where we love to sit...

We attend church on Sunday, and we are good with that. But scripture is radical.

Luke 12:29-34

**29** "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. **30** For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. **31** But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

**32** "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's **good pleasure to give you the**

**kingdom.** 33 Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

There is no middle ground Christianity... Somehow we try to make it about us...

It is either all in or none at all, I don't know about you, but that makes me uncomfortable...

But when we venture to go there, when we say "God, all or nothing."

We find wow, there is nothing, now in this place, or in the place to come that can separate us from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And frankly that is the best place to be...

So we are challenged and comforted by the Word of God this morning...

And the Loving God He is, He allows us all to choose, what will you choose this morning?

Will you hold onto your stuff that is perishing, this kingdom you have built for yourself, or will you follow the Spirits leading...

I pray that we will understand this Love more fully this morning; we will allow the Holy Spirit to guide our lives...

We will be focused on that eternal home, and concerned with bringing others there with us.

That is where a Jesus Movement begins... or in our case continues.....

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In Acts the Church could not keep up with the Holy Spirit, He was leading them all over the World, no permission slips were being signed, no precautionary measures being made, no taking care of their comforts, ahead of time, they couldn't keep up.

When the Spirit leads we just have to hold on.

### Acts 2:42-47

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (we do this well, but the next part seems to be missing) 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the

apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

When we are led by the Spirit, He will use you and me to turn the world upside down, or right side up.

Let's let go of the things we are gripping tightly this morning, and watch God use us to bring thousands into the Kingdom.

I have to believe it will happen. I have always believed this would happen.

That these eyes would see Revival.

I know this is kind of extreme, but where else can we go, return to the path from which we came, no way, Jesus has the Words of life.

We just keep stepping forward in faith.

Amen...

Greater things are ahead for us, pray for revival in this church, and believe that it is happening! Amen