



WEST WINDS

Peabody, Massachusetts

July & August 2017

Be Transformed by the Renewing of Our Minds

Ephesians 4:17–24: Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

In this portion of Scripture the apostle Paul is contrasting two people, two natures, and two ways of living life. He first describes the Gentile (pagan, unbeliever, old self) as a person affected by the Fall of Adam. These effects of are sobering! This condition is called by theologians as *the depravity of humanity*. I want to call attention only to the emphasis that Paul places on the how the mind is affected by sin and the fall:

- *A Fallen person walks (lives life) in the futility of the mind*
- *A Fallen person walks darkened in their understanding*
- *A Fallen person is ignorant*

The apostle's point is to remind us that when it comes to the truths of God, the purpose of life, a life lived pleasing to God, the need for a Savior, and the reality of absolute truth; we simply do not have the capacity to grasp or reason out Biblical things within ourselves. Even more than this there are built in antipathy and hostility to the reign and rule of God over our lives. In our minds we suppress the Truth of God in unrighteousness as **Romans 1:18-21** describes. This is called by theologians as the '*noetic effects of sin*'. *Noetic* is derived from the Greek *nous*, or mind. We were born with this nature and we desperately need a second birth, spiritually speaking, to understand in our minds: the gospel, the truth of who Jesus is and the necessity of His death and resurrection. Thus Jesus said in **John 3:3**, **Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."** As R.C. Sproul teaches 'a necessary precondition' must occur before we can see or enter the Kingdom. This is of course the regeneration of the Holy Spirit or being 'born again or born from above' as it is more commonly called. This occurs solely by the grace and mercy of God as gift by means of the Holy Spirit of God. The fruit of regeneration is the gift of repentance and faith in Christ alone for the forgiveness of all sin by which a sinner now becomes a Christian.

This act of mercy and grace by God affects our minds. We now by the work of the Holy Spirit have the capacity to understand the things of God. Our disposition toward God changes from enemy to friend. Paul describes the effects of this in our passage above as '*being renewed in the spirit of our minds*'. We now have a 'new self' created in righteousness and holiness and we have the ability to understand the 'Truth of Jesus' and be taught by Him! With this gift comes the responsibility to now fill our mind with The Truth of God's Word so we will continue in the transformation process that began by the Holy Spirit. We need to fill our minds with the truths of who God is, His purposes for us, His gracious promises, and how He calls us to live as His people. The overall goal is that our lives will glorify God rather than glorify ourselves. The old self was all about self glorification and self gratification but the new self is about God glorification and the joy that comes from knowing God and following Him. Though we are regenerate by the Holy Spirit there still remains within us a

sin nature. It is not fully eradicated or removed. Therefore even believers in Jesus still battle with the Lordship of Christ over their lives and at times are indifferent to the Truth of God's Word. This is why we often have conflict within our hearts and minds and resist the work of God within us.

We all will hopefully find some 'down time' this summer for vacation, rest and hopefully summer reading. Our vacation spot might be at the beach, at the lake, in a cottage or a camp, or simply just being at home. Let us not forget the value of extended alone time with our God, reading and reflecting in His Word and allowing His Truth to transform our minds. We must be intentional about the transformation process in our minds. We must fill our minds with the Truth of God's Word. This is the primary way He reveals Himself to us.

Romans 12:1-2: I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

I love you,
Pastor Rick



Searching the Visible, Discovering the Invisible

It's going to be a fabulous week of galactic adventure, July 10 to the 14! From Monday through Friday, 9am-12:30pm, kids in Pre-K through Grade 6 will take the journey with us into ***Galactic Starveyors VBS!***

At ***Galactic Starveyors VBS***, kids will search the skies, encounter amazing things designed by a Creator who is even bigger than the vastness of His creation, and discover that the God who created everything there is wants a relationship with them! With Galactic crafts and music, outdoor games, snacks, and Bible exploration, kids will experience a VBS adventure like no other!

Be sure to gather your crew and plan on attending our ***Galactic Starveyors Closing Program*** on *Friday, July 14 at noon.*

Please pray with us for God to guide all of our ***Galactic plans!***

Looking forward to our adventure,

The VBS Committee

CHURCH SOFTBALL TEAM

The final games of the summer season are in July. Come out on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm to cheer on the West Church softball team and enjoy fellowship with others spectators.

- July 3: No Games
- July 10 at Pine Hill, Lynn
- July 17 at Pine Hill, Lynn

WEST CHURCH WOMEN'S RETREAT NOVEMBER 3-5, 2017

Brookwoods Conference Center

Learning from the Past, Living for the Future

"But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!" ~ Job 2:9 ESV

God's grace and tender mercy is seen in the lives of many individuals in both the Old and New Testaments. People like Ruth, Hosea, Jonah, and Peter, are like us perhaps in more ways than we realize. They also experienced a number of the same challenges we face today. God met them in their circumstances, and He meets us in ours as well. Come and get to know these Bible characters as flesh and blood people. Discover how they responded to God and what we can learn from them.

We are pleased to welcome Diane Averill back again as our speaker this year. A love for God's Word and a love for people are evident in Diane's life and ministry. As a speaker and writer Diane uses her skills to support local church Bible study and outreach ministries. Diane is married to a pastor and has four married children and eleven grandchildren.

The total cost of the retreat is \$135 which includes a non-refundable deposit of \$30. To register please complete a registration form and submit it to a committee member with the deposit. Registration is underway each week following the Worship Service in the lower narthex.



PIONEER GIRLS NEWS

During these months of summer fun, the Pioneer Girl team enjoys some much-needed rest. There are openings on our Pioneer Girl staff for the coming fall. If you are willing to join this vibrant ministry and work with girls in first through eighth grade, please contact us.

Many thanks,
Pioneer Girls Coordinators

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHING TEAM

At West Church, we believe that Scripture is clear that parents are the primary disciple makers in the lives of their children. We also believe that the Church is called **to partner with parents** to train and to disciple the children and youth in the wisdom and knowledge of God's character and His gracious plan of salvation through the study of the Bible. In September, over 40 children and youth from our church and community will begin Sunday School on September 10.

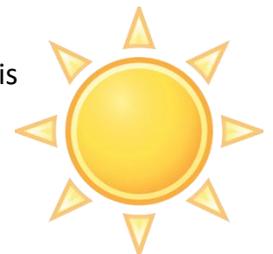
This coming year, there will be 6 classes in addition to nursery meeting each week for our children and youth:

1. Pre-Kindergarten: 2's and 3's Class
2. Kindergarten: 4's and 5's Class
3. Grades 1 and 2 Class
4. Grades 3 and 4 Class
5. Grades 5 and 6 Class
6. Middle School Class (Grades 7-8)

The Sunday School team of teachers and helpers needs volunteers to step forward to commit to this ministry for the upcoming season. If you are interested in volunteering for the Sunday School Teaching Team please contact the Sunday School Coordinator via the office to discuss your areas of interest and the classroom needs. Throughout the year there is ongoing training and support for teachers and helpers. The first meeting of the year will be an Orientation Meeting for the team on Wednesday, August 30 at 7 pm. Please prayerfully consider this ministry opportunity.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The secretary's office hours this summer will be Monday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm for July and August.



WEST CHURCH ONLINE

The West Church website contains helpful information including an events calendar, ministry information, and audio files of sermons. This resource is helpful when you are unable to join us on a Sunday morning or if you would like to listen to a sermon again or share it with a friend or family member.

In addition West Church has a page on Facebook. This is a place to post information about upcoming events or ministry information. If you are on Facebook check out the West Church Peabody page.



KINGDOM KIDS

It has been so exciting to see all the volunteers working with our children in the Kingdom Kids program each Sunday! Thank you to those who are dedicating one Sunday a month to our younger attendees! Kingdom Kids is still in need of one more Seedlings (Nursery) volunteer to fill our 8-week rotation. This slot would be on the schedule next for Aug. 20th. If you are willing and able to fill this slot, please email the Schedule Coordinator at kingdomkids@westchurchpeabody.org

LOOKING AHEAD

- September 10: Fall Schedule Begins
- September 17: All Church Picnic
- October 15-22: Missions Conference
- November 3-5: Women's Retreat
- November 10-12: Man Camp



FLOWERS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to have flowers in the chancel on a Sunday to celebrate an occasion that is special to you, please sign the Flower Chart on the bulletin board across from the office. Many Sundays are still available in 2017. The cost of each arrangement is \$35, which may be included in your offering envelope or pew envelope and designate "flowers" under the heading "Other."

ALL CHURCH SURVEY REPORT

It's finally complete! The Pulpit Committee has been diligently working to pull together all of the survey data we collected in February. The Survey Report was emailed out on Friday, June 23 and a limited number of paper copies are available in the office for those individuals who do not regularly email. Please read the survey and if you have any questions regarding the data please see a member of the Pulpit Committee. Thank you for the time you took to participate in the All Church Survey.