



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

June 10-16, 2019

Sermon by Lead Pastor Doug Forrester

TRINITY SUNDAY

Sermon Title: *THE VISIBLE CHRISTIAN*: “Boasting in our Hope”

Notes from sermon on 6/09:

Prayer requests:

Family Focus Questions (before sermon):

How can we “boast in our sufferings” as Paul describes in Romans 5?

3 Questions for small groups (after sermon):

1. How does thinking of God in this Trinitarian way inform, even increase, your understanding of God?
2. Do you experience God, or relate more easily to God, in one of the three “Persons” of God more than the other two?
3. What causes you to relate to God more closely in this way?

Monday, June 10: Read Romans 5:1-5

How often do we boast about God? We all recognize boasting when it is about ourselves, our kids, our pets, or our possessions, but what does boasting about God even look like? This week, in preparation for Trinity Sunday, we will be challenged to learn new ways to boast about God in *all* circumstances.

Our reading today from Romans discusses boasting in our sufferings. Note Paul does not say boasting *about* our sufferings, taking on the mantle of martyrdom. Rather, boasting in our sufferings is an opportunity to simply tell the story of what God has done for us in difficult times, and how we were changed in the process by the power of the Holy Spirit, which enables us to boast in the hope that we have. Let us take time this week to reflect on the times of suffering we have experienced, or might be experiencing now. How did God get us through it? What silver linings and previously hidden truths did God reveal to us? Who could benefit from us sharing this witness to them, “boasting” about our amazing Triune God who created us, protects us, died for us, and guides us every day?

Tuesday, June 11: Read John 16:12-15

Today's gospel reading can prompt us to reflect on the times when the Holy Spirit led us to a deeper understanding, a deeper truth than we ever would have reached on our own. When have we made a decision, not knowing exactly why, only to discover later its purpose and value? When has something "just not felt right," causing us to step back, question, and later be protected? When have we been at a loss for the right words to say, only to find out later that we said exactly the right thing at exactly the right time (and may even have no memory of it?) The "Spirit of truth" can take many forms, and when we embrace it, it can guide our actions and our words in ways far beyond our own capabilities and perceptions. Let us praise God today, both in prayer and in boasting to others, for the times God has given us the Spirit of truth to help, inspire, protect, and guide us and others.

Wednesday, June 12: Read Proverbs 8:1-4

The most clichéd form of boaster is the "know it all." This person has all the answers about everything based on his or her own merit and intellectual superiority. We all know people like this, and we've all been people like this. What if, instead, we accredited any wisdom we have to an external source - one coming from God - as does today's writer of Proverbs 8? What if we looked for God's wisdom all around us, calling to us at every moment? What if we recognized wisdom in the older man in line at the grocery store, the simplicity of a child's trust, the harmony of nature, or the little voice whispering in our ear? How wonderfully could we boast about God if we recognized the innumerable ways God is calling out to us every day, showing us the wise way to act, react, choose, and speak?

Thursday, June 13: Read Proverbs 8:22-31

A true key to humility and giving credit where credit's due is for us to constantly recognize all the things that were done before we ever arrived on the scene. Our looks are the credit of our ancestors, not our own. Our nice houses exist because of the vision, engineering, and artistry of centuries of homebuilders. Our very existence on this incredible planet is due to the infinite time, wisdom, power, and love God has given all of us. Today's scripture pays homage to the existence and power of God's wisdom since, well, *always*. How can we boast today about something or someone before our time, and can we recognize God's guiding wisdom in that person, moment, or great act?

Friday, June 14: Read Psalm 8

No one can boast about God better than the psalmists. Note how specific the psalmist's praises to God are; how insightful the psalmist's observations. Do we stop to notice the "work of [God's] fingers" in each observable detail of Creation...as well as praise God for all the things we cannot yet see? Do we stop to marvel aloud to others the beauty and harmony and perfection of each animal, mineral, law of physics, food system, color scheme, survival instinct, or holy mystery we encounter, every day? Let us all use today's psalm, and all of this week's scriptures, to become bold boasters of all God is and has done!

Saturday, June 15: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Romans 5:1-2

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God."

Sunday, June 16: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of

Common Confession: *Triune God, within your own life there is mutuality, equality, and unity in diversity. Though we are made in your image, we confess that we distort the triune life. Instead of seeking mutual welfare and the common good, we seek our own gain. Instead of living in equality, justice, and respect, we construct systems that are unjust. We devise ways to elevate ourselves over others, and disrespectful thoughts, words, and actions still surface in us. We allow differences to divide us and lead to brokenness. Holy God, forgive us. Restore in us, and in our life together, the divine image you intend. Make us tender in mutuality. Make us generous in equality. Make us grateful in diversity. We pray to be one with you and one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*