

- Our next Gathering will be next Sunday, September 10th at 3pm. Come and bring a friend. We will have Childrens Ministry for children ages 5-10.
- We plan to start a Life in the Spirit seminar on Oct 8th. Pass the word to anyone interested in a deeper understanding and experience of the Holy Spirit!
- 50th Anniversary content is available here; past prayer meeting audio is here, Word Gift summaries are here, and transcripts are here.
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online here or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

The First Reading today is one of my favorite Old Testament scriptures. In the prior chapter, God asked Jeremiah to deliver a harsh word to the Israelites and in the passage today we hear him lament to the Lord. The reason I so enjoy reading these verses is that it reveals the basis of our relationship with God. I am always blown away that the God of the universe invites every one of us into a deep personal relationship. The foundation of this relationship is the communication that is possible every moment of every day. As you hear Jeremiah's words, we grow in appreciation that our conversations with God (our prayer time) does not need to follow any script. He is just asking us to spend time with Him so that He can reveal His awesome unconditional love. Let us recommit to follow Jeremiah's example and candidly dialog with our Triune God all throughout our day.

Which road am I on? This is the question that kept coming to mind as I heard the rest of the readings today. As I prayed, a passage from Mathew 7:13-14 about the narrow gate came to mind: *"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few."* Every day when I read the morning paper or watch the evening news it seems the opposing road is wider and more populated. My heart hurts to see so many chase power, prestige, and possessions (the three p's) when we know that true eternal happiness is walking in the other direction.

The readings today point very clearly to the narrow road. In the Second Reading Paul challenges us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice and not to conform to

this age. This message is so counter to the message of self-interest today. Similarly, in the [Gospel](#) today, we hear Jesus clearly say *"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."* Consider how counter-cultural these words are.

The crazy thing is that what the world is seeking...love, joy, peace, happiness, can only truly be found in turning away from accumulating the three p's and surrendering into the loving arms of our Lord and Savior. If they only knew...

This is the reason we were called to be His People, His Delight. We each publicly declared that we wanted to give our whole lives to Him and live as His people so that He could use us for whatever He is about. We know what He is about. He is about revealing His unconditional love and we are asked to walk toward Him and be His witnesses, opposite the wide and popular road.

Let us each recommit today to be His Delight and share our love, peace, joy, happiness with everyone we meet so that more will turn around and journey home with us on the narrow road to our loving Triune God!

Let us pray, *"Loving Father, I recommit my life to You and walking the narrow road to You. Jesus, my Lord and Savior, walk with me day by day and show me the path so that I may walk in confidence toward You. Holy Spirit, empower my journey, give me the gifts and fruits of Your Spirit that I need to oppose temptation and always walk toward You. Give me the courage to bring as many as I can home with me to You."*

God Bless,
David