

Covenant Life

- Our next prayer meeting is today at 3 PM. We will have Children's and Youth Ministries during the prayer meeting. Our next prayer meeting will be the second Sunday in October, 10/13/2024.
- The video of the last formation teaching has now been posted to the website. All 2024 Formation I teachings and resource and be found [HERE](#).
- YOUTH MINISTRY (grades 7-12): The YM will have Pizza and Play from 4:00-6:00 PM today after the prayer meeting. Please keep an eye out for upcoming YM event this fall.
- SAVE THE DATE: CCGD Annual All Saints Party - Thursday, October 31st from 6:30 - 8:30 PM
- The annual **SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING** update will be offered before and after the prayer meetings on September 22nd and October 13th. Information about the CCGD Safe Environment program and certification requirements is available [HERE](#).
- You may access information from the previous prayer meeting at the following links:
 - [Bulletins](#)
 - [Scriptures](#) (at the bottom of the home page)
 - [Audio Recordings](#) (there is no audio from the 9/8/24 meeting due to technical difficulties)
- 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.

Reflection

(September 22nd Scriptures: ; Wisdom 2: 12, 17-20; Psalms 54; James 3:16 - 4:3; Mark 9: 30-37)

The scriptures direct us to consider our own humility and forsake our futile pride. The gospel of Mark shows us that even the apostles allowed their pride and ambition well up to foster division among them. James sternly warns the early church that jealousy and selfish ambition bring "disorder and every foul practice" while the "wisdom from above" brings peace and harmony.

The reading from Wisdom vividly describes the arrogant and hateful mindset of the proud in every age who rebel against God. Wisdom 2: 21-24 gives the Lord's answer, "These were their thoughts, but they erred; for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the hidden counsels of God; neither did they count on a recompense for holiness nor discern the innocent souls' reward. For God formed us to be imperishable; the image of his own nature he made us. but by the envy of the devil, death entered the world, and they who are allied with him experience it."

In meditating on these scriptures, the Lord reminded me about how in my youth I cultivated my pride and arrogance, going out of my way to be noticed, accepted, and recognized by others for MY glory. I have spent years now fighting against these idols of MY own pride. It is hard work tearing down our own idols. And, in the unending battle, I have experienced what is expressed in Psalms 54, "Behold, God is my helper; the Lord sustains my life. Freely will I offer you sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness." Today, as I continue the fight, I have great confidence in the name of Jesus and His Grace that I will be victorious in this life or the next.

Let us pray. Dear Jesus, we are so easily deceived by the world, our own weak flesh, and the devil that we willingly construct and fiercely defend the idols of pride and arrogance that set themselves against your love. We humbly invite you to dismantle all these idols that we cannot defeat as we repent of our pride and abandon ourselves in trust to your powerful, unfailing love. Amen.

Blessings,
Mike