



WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit www.wepc.org/lectionary.

Sunday, June 30, 2019

The Third Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time

[I Kings 19:15-16, 19-21](#) *Elijah Calls Elisha to Follow*

[Psalm 16](#) *You Are My Lord*

[Galatians 5:1, 13-25](#) *Keep In Step With the Spirit*

[Luke 9:51-62](#) *The Cost of Following Jesus*

Monday, July 1

[Psalm 140](#) *Deliver Me*

[Genesis 24:34-41, 50-67](#) *I Will Go*

[I John 2:7-11](#) *Love & Hate*

Tuesday, July 2

[Psalm 140](#) *Deliver Me*

[Jeremiah 3:15-18](#) *Nations Shall Gather & Cease*

[Ephesians 5:6-20](#) *Now You are Light in the Lord*

Wednesday, July 3

[Psalm 140](#) *Deliver Me*

[Jeremiah 23:16-22](#) *Stubbornly Follows His Own Heart*

[Matthew 10:16-25](#) *Sheep in the Midst of Wolves*

Thursday, July 4

[Psalm 66:1-9](#) *Come and See what God has Done*

[II Kings 21:1-15](#) *Manassah's Idolatry*

[Romans 7:14-25](#) *Who Will Deliver?*

Friday, July 5

[Psalm 66:1-9](#) *Come and See what God has Done*

[Jeremiah 51:47-58](#) *The LORD is Laying Babylon Waste*

[II Corinthians 8:1-7](#) *The Grace of Generosity*

Saturday, July 6

[Psalm 66:1-9](#) *Come and See what God has Done*

[Zechariah 14:10-21](#) *Jerusalem Shall Dwell in Security*

[Luke 9:1-6](#) *Preaching the Gospel and Healing*

Keep In Step with the Spirit

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Galatians 5:1, 13-25](#)

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep

you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

- If you want to know what Jesus wants for you, what He achieved for you is freedom. We are commanded by the Apostle to stand firm in this blood-bought freedom (v.1).
- In the next 12 verses Paul addresses giving up freedom for legalism (trusting in our good works, instead of Christ's work).
- Then in 13-25, Paul addresses giving up freedom for our flesh and its desires. If you want to know how you are doing in this conflict and struggle, look at your desires (v.16, the desires of the flesh; v.17, the things you want to do, crucified the flesh and its passions and desires).
- In any discussion of freedom, there is the *freedom from* something and the *freedom to* something: We are free from the curse of the law. We are free to love and serve. We are free to walk by the Spirit.
- How do I walk by the Spirit? "O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by[a] the flesh? Did you suffer[b] so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— just as Abraham 'believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness'?" (Galatians 3:1-6)
- Now I walk (keeping in step with the Spirit) in those things the Spirit works in me.
- Now a word about the most direct warning in this passage: "I warn you as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God" (21). What does Paul mean by "do"? How do I become fit for the kingdom of God?
- "...put into practice what the Spirit is working in you: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. For that is the life of Christ living in you. In you is not the thunder of judgment and sin, but Christ and His mercy and love, given to you, living in you, and working through you. Doing these things doesn't make you fit - one made fit does these things. For you cannot make yourself fit for the kingdom of God, one is made fit by Christ, with His fitness; His gift to you. And this is simple what that fitness, the fitness of Christ Jesus, looks like - this list of fruits that Paul gave. And if it's not what your life looks like - and honestly, none of our lives do; at least, not enough - the answer is not for you to just try harder, but to receive more Christ. To repent - or as Paul puts it: to crucify the flesh with its passions and desires - and receive the forgiveness, life, and fitness of Christ. To devour His forgiveness, His Word, and His Body and Blood. That these work in you and make you not sons of thunder, but sons of God.
- Christ has made me fit and free for His kingdom. So you are fit and free. So do not now bite and devour one another and consume one another. Devouring your neighbor's reputation and getting a pound of his flesh is not a healthy spiritual diet! Do not gratify that sinful craving. Rather, come here and bite and devour the flesh and blood of Jesus that He gives here for you. For this is the diet that gives you spiritual health and strength in the life and forgiveness of Jesus. And if you are what you eat, then by this meal you grow into the likeness of Christ.