



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, July 7, 2019

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time

[Isaiah 66:10-14](#) *I Will Comfort You*

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

[Galatians 6:1-16](#) *Boast in the Cross*

[Luke 10:1-11, 16-20](#) *Laborers into His Harvest*

Monday, July 8

[Psalm 119:73-80](#) *Faithfulness*

[Jeremiah 6:10-19](#) *Pay Attention*

[Acts 19:21-27](#) *No Little Disturbance*

Tuesday, July 9

[Psalm 119:73-80](#) *Faithfulness*

[Jeremiah 8:4-13](#) *They Have Healed the Wound of my People Lightly*

[Acts 19:28-41](#) *The City was Filled with the Confusion*

Wednesday, July 10

[Psalm 119:73-80](#) *Faithfulness*

[Joshua 23:1-16](#) *Joshua's Charge to Israel*

[Luke 10:13-16](#) *Woe to Unrepentant Cities*

Thursday, July 11

[Psalm 25:1-10](#) *Teach Me Your Paths*

[Genesis 41:14-36](#) *Joseph's Plan*

[James 2:14-26](#) *Faith & Works*

Friday, July 12

[Psalm 25:1-10](#) *Teach Me Your Paths*

[Genesis 41:37-49](#) *God Saves Egypt from Starvation*

[Acts 7:9-16](#) *God's Provision Rescued Israel*

Saturday, July 13

[Psalm 25:1-10](#) *Teach Me Your Paths*

[Leviticus 19:1-4, 32-37](#) *Love Him as Yourself*

[John 3:16-21](#) *God So Loved the World*

Sow to the Spirit

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Galatians 6:1-16](#).

¹ Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵ For each will have to bear his own load.

⁶ Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season

we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

¹¹ See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. ¹⁴ But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. ¹⁶ And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

- What is the worst thing that could happen to you?
- What is the pathway to avoiding that worst thing?
- Who is the burden of this passage addressing?
- Most of us would agree that if we see a friend with a burden, we want to do something to help lighten or even lift that burden. True beauty and Christlikeness is found in lifting burdens.
- By lifting burdens we fulfill the law of Christ. In a book all about freedom from the law, why does Paul make this statement here?
- The commands in this passage involve restoring with gentleness, and fulfilling the law of Christ.
- Gentleness and love are found in the list of the fruit of the Spirit in [Galatians 5:22-26](#).
- But what about the burdens this passage is talking about?
- "We tend to think of burdens as sickness, unemployment, loss of a loved one, loneliness, rejection, etc., and the people who bear them as victims. That is right. And if we are full of Christ, we will be about the business of bearing those burdens. But Paul shows us in verse 1 that burdens include trespasses, and those oppressed include culprits. We should probably define a burden, then, as anything that threatens to crush the joy of our faith—whether a tragedy that threatens to make us doubt God's goodness, or a sin that threatens to drag us into guilt and judgment." (*John Piper*)
- A person who is caught in sin needs help. The humble ("for if anyone thinks himself something when he is nothing", v.3)
- Pride is what keeps us from bearing the burdens of others. Let's not confuse humility with the fear of man.
- Verses 4-5 illustrate this further: Don't evaluate yourself on the standard of other people. That is how we try to lighten our own load of sin.
- Make our boast in Christ (14).