

# MEDITATION



Josh Tucker  
Pastor  
St. Matthew's  
Lutheran Church

*In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1: 11-14)*

Grace to you and peace in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

I would like to use this space of prayer and meditation to begin a new series on Paul's letter to the Christians in Ephesus. So for the next few weeks I will be focusing my meditation article on passages from Ephesians.

Paul's letter begins with a simple, brief opening and then, right off the bat, he goes into some pretty heavy theology. He discusses the spiritual blessings we receive in Christ (which is the section from which our text today comes). He uses a word early on in this section that stands out to me: destined. He says to the early Christians in Ephesus, and to us today, that we are destined in Christ to be God's beloved children. As I read this word, destiny, I can't help but go back to the movie Forrest Gump where I can hear Tom Hank's character say with his country voice as he visits the grave of his beloved wife, Jenny. He said as he talk's to Jenny's spirit, "I don't know if we each have a destiny or if we're all just floating around acciden-

tal-like on a breeze but...I think..... maybe it's both."

Paul goes on further to say that our destiny is an inheritance from God. The inheritance we receive as a gift of our destiny is life - life eternal to praise and glorify God. In our destiny we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and redeemed as God's people. Now, if I'm honest, I think it's easy to view this concept of destiny as some type of superstition. As if things were predestined to happen. But, let me say with great faith and confidence that Paul's words speak straight to the heart of what it is to be Christian. We Christians are destined to an everlasting inheritance that we receive through God's grace and faith. Those who put their faith and trust in God are destined to receive the promises of the Holy Spirit. We are destined to a life of grace, forgiveness and love from God. We are destined, and there is nothing strange or superstitious about that. Let us go and live in our destiny. Amen

EL BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH will serve a country breakfast Saturday, Feb. 1 from 6:30-10 a.m. at the church fellowship hall. Eat in or carry out. Call 704-739-9174.

ANTIOCH - A chicken stew and hot dog sale will be held Saturday, Feb. 1, beginning at 11 a.m. at Antioch Community Center, Antioch Road, near Grover. Dine in or carry out. For more information call 864-936-7643.

WESTOVER BAPTIST CHURCH, 114 Westover Drive, will present Charlie Griffin in concert Sunday, Feb. 2, at 6 p.m. at the church. The public is invited.

SAFE HARBOR COMMUNITY CHURCH, 301 S. Battleground Ave., will hold a spaghetti supper and cake auction Feb. 15 beginning at 4 p.m. with all proceeds for mission projects. The cost is donation only. The cake auction will begin at 6 p.m. with cakes going to the highest bidder. For more information or to donate a cake for auction, please call 704-473-115.

GASTON COUNTY Superintendent of Schools W. Jeffrey Booker will host a series of seven meetings in February to receive suggestions from the community about the future of Gaston County Schools. The "Community Talks with the Superintendent" meeting in the Bessemer City area is set for Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. at Bessemer City Central Elementary, 1400 Puetts Chapel Road. Parents and the interested public are invited.

## Fellowship & Faith

### Church Service Directory

#### KINGS MOUNTAIN

Advent Lutheran Church,  
NALC Member  
KM Senior Center  
909 E. Kings St.

Anew Beginning Baptist Church  
415 Dixon School Rd.  
704-473-1372

Ardent Life Church  
420 Branch Street  
704-739-7700

Arise Church  
Kings Mountain YMCA  
211 Cleveland Ave.

Bethlehem Baptist Church  
1017 Bethlehem Road  
704-739-7487\*

Boyce Memorial ARP Church  
Edgemont Drive  
704-739-4917

Burning Bush House of God  
310 Long Branch Rd (KM)

Calvary Way Holiness Church  
1017 Second Street  
Pastor Clifton Morgan

Carson Memorial Baptist Church  
262 Sparrow Springs Road  
704-739-2247

Central United Methodist Church  
113 S. Piedmont Avenue  
704-739-2471

Cherokee St. Baptist Church  
421 S. Cherokee Street  
704-739-7697

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church  
618 Chestnut Ridge Road  
704-739-4015

Christian Freedom Southern Baptist Church  
246 Range Road  
704-739-4152

Christ The King Catholic Church  
714 Stone Street  
704-487-7697

Church at Kings Mountain  
108 E. Mountain St.  
(KM Women's Club Bldg.)  
704-739-1323

Cornerstone Church Of God  
202 Margrace Road  
704-739-3773

Cornerstone Independent Baptist  
107 Range Road  
704-737-0477

Crowders Mountain Baptist  
125 Mayberry Lane  
704-739-0310

David Baptist Church  
2300 David Baptist Church Road  
704-739-4555

Dixon Presbyterian Church  
602 Dixon School Road  
dixonpresbyterian.com

East Gold Street Wesleyan Church  
701 E. Gold Street  
704-739-3215

East Kings Mountain Church of God  
Hwy 161, Bessemer City/KM Hwy.  
704-739-7367

Eastside Baptist Church  
308 York Road  
704-739-8055

Ebenezer Baptist Church  
1621 County Line Road  
704-739-8331

El Bethel United Methodist Church  
122 El-bethel Road  
704-739-9174

Emmanuel Independent Baptist Church  
602 Canterbury Road  
704-739-9939

Faith Ablaze Church  
1128 S. York Road  
704-739-8496

Faith Baptist Church  
1009 Linwood Road  
704-739-8396

Faith Holiness Church  
Hwy. 161/Bessemer City Rd.  
704-739-1997

Family Worship Center  
1818 Shelby Road  
704-739-7206

First Baptist Church  
605 W. King Street  
704-739-3651

First Church of the Nazarene  
121 Countryside Road  
704-734-1143

First Presbyterian Church  
111 E. King Street  
704-739-8072

First Wesleyan Church  
505 N. Piedmont Avenue  
704-739-4266

Galilee United Methodist  
117 Galilee Church Road  
704-739-7011

Gospel Assembly Church  
202 S. Railroad Avenue  
704-739-5351

Good Hope Presbyterian Church  
105 N. Cansler Street  
704-739-1062

Grace Fellowship  
144 West Mountain Street  
704-481-8888

Grace United Methodist Church  
830 Church Street  
704-739-6000

Harvest Baptist Church  
144 Ware Road  
704-734-0714

Kings Mountain Baptist Church  
101 W. Mountain Street  
704-739-2516

Life of Worship Ministries  
405 S. Cherokee St.  
704-777-2927



Featured Church of the Week:  
El Bethel United Methodist Church

**Notice: In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next week.**

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