

MEDITATION



Josh Tucker
Pastor
St. Matthew's
Lutheran Church

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. Now by this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments. But whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says, "I abide

in him," ought to walk just as he walked.

1 John 2:1-3, 5-6

Grace, mercy and peace be unto you from God our Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"You can't talk the talk until you learn how to walk the walk." I remember hearing this phrase growing up playing little league baseball, especially as the team would succumb to the temptations of poor sportsmanship and begin to jaw at one another during practice. The coach would always intervene when a player would start to lose focus on their play and try to take over being the coach, telling other players how to better themselves. This usually resulted in some type of sprinting exercise

reminding us of our role as players and the coach's role as coach. Coach would then say, "you can't talk the talk until you learn how to walk the walk" bringing us back to the reality that our play on the field should be all the talking we need to do. That, fully committing ourselves to the game and concentrating on our own development as baseball players, would translate to good game play on the field which would speak for itself in the eyes of others.

This baseball memory came to mind as I read the final verse in our section from 1 John today, "by this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says, "I abide in him," ought to walk just as he walked. To the author of this verse, our actions as followers of Jesus speak for themselves. If we say that we are

Christian, if we confess Jesus as Lord and commit our lives to following him and his ways, then we should walk just as Jesus walked. This rings true especially after reviewing a 2006 study from the Barna Group where non-Christians identified Christians as people who are judgmental and hypocritical. Do we Christians walk the walk or have we fallen to the temptation of putting our words, our confessions, our proclamation of the gospel ahead of our actions?

Just like the old children's camp song goes, "they will know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes they'll know we are Christians by our love." Let us always be quick to walk in the ways of Jesus; let us always walk the walk before we can talk the talk. Amen.

Bethlehem Homecoming

Bethlehem Baptist Church members and guests will celebrate Homecoming Day on September 20. The worship service will be held at 10 am. and a covered dish lunch will be served at the noon hour. Everyone welcome.

Second Baptist Homecoming

Second Baptist Church will celebrate Homecoming Day on September 20. Rev. Casey Short will fill the pulpit at the 11 am. worship hour. Covered dish luncheon will be spread following the service. Everyone welcome.

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

KINGS MOUNTAIN

Long Creek Presbyterian Church
701 Long Creek Road
704-629-4406

Love Valley Baptist Church
2032 Bethlehem Road
704-730-0075

Macedonia Baptist Church
1101 S. Battleground Avenue
704-739-6811

Midview Baptist Church
703 Margrace Road
704-739-6711

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
220 N. Watterson Street
704-739-8354

Mountain View Agape Church
506 Sparrow Springs Road
704-739-0160

Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Compact School Road
704-739-4516

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
220 N. Watterson Street
704-739-8354

New Beginnings Church of Jesus Christ
541 Crocker Road
704-730-9507

New Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church
N. Cansler Street
704-739-2606

New Camp Creek Baptist Church
863 New Camp Creek Ch. Road
704-487-7128

New Life Family Worship Center
428 Oak Grove Road
704-739-9371

New Way Missionary Baptist Church
105 Waco Road
704-724-0414

Oak Grove Baptist Church
1022 Oak Grove Road
704-739-4833

Oak View Baptist Church
1517 York Road
704-739-7831

Pathway Baptist Church
3100 Parkdale Circle
704-734-0852

Patterson Grove Baptist Church
301 Oak Grove Road
704-739-5826

Peoples Baptist Church
1010 Groves Street
704-739-0398

Proclaiming the Word Ministries
7011 Cleveland Avenue

Progressive Church of Our Lord
1001 Cleveland Avenue
704-734-1070

Resurrection Lutheran Church
600 Crescent Circle
704-739-5580

Royal Praise Ministries
2055 Shelby Rd.

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church
201 N. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-7466



Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church

213 N. Cansler St., Kings Mountain

Second Baptist Church
120 Linwood Road
704-739-4216

Shady Grove Baptist Church
339 Shady Grove Road
704-739-8920

St. Paul United Methodist Church
N. Cansler Street
704-739-1256

Sunrise Baptist Church
208 Mail Road
704-692-3007

Temple Baptist Church
612 N. Cansler Street
704-739-4716

The Favor Center Church
602 Slater Street
828-381-4777

True Gospel Holiness Church
1608 Shelby Road
704-739-6764

Unity AME Zion Church
948 Unity Church Road
704-228-0328

Vestibule AME Zion Church
2175 Vestibule Church Road
704-739-7961

Westover Baptist Church
114 Westover Drive
(704) 739-2187

GASTONIA
Bethesda United Methodist Church
3714 S. New Hope Rd

Grace Community Advent Christian Church
206 West 3rd Avenue
704-739-9230

GROVER

Bethany Baptist Church
423 Cleveland Avenue
704-937-3010

Carolina Praise and Worship Center
201 N. Main Street
704-937-7541

First Apostolic Church of Blacksburg
205 E. Cherokee St.
Blacksburg, SC
864-839-1873

WACO

New Testament Missionary Baptist Church
2103 Capernium Rd



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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