

Meditate on the idea that Jesus is the solution to our emptiness. Meditate on the how Jesus binds us together in both our emptiness and in the joy we experience when wall are broken down and we begin to cooperate with each other, appreciating the variety of gifts we bring to the fullness of Christ's living body today. Write your thoughts here as you thank God for the gift of Jesus Christ!

### Thursday, October 13

Read Ephesians 2:11-22 and Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56. During the message, three ways in which Christ is the solution for our personal emptiness and the division among us were mentioned. First Jesus abolished our old way of life, that we might experience peace in his name. Second, Jesus gives us access to God. Through Jesus' sacrifice we realize the depth of God's love and grace and its availability for all people. Third, Jesus makes us a part of a structure – that is, the living body of Christ in the world today. Each of us is given gifts and abilities for the work of God in the world.

How have you experienced these gifts from Jesus the Christ?  
How is your life different because of knowing God through Jesus?  
Write your thoughts here giving thanks for the one who continually points to our amazing and powerful God!

### Friday, October 14

Read Ephesians 2:11-22. Our needs are not really different from the needs of those in Ephesus 2000 years ago. We know emptiness and a lack of direction for our lives. The concept of an Olympic Team is helpful – if for no other reason – because of the idea that we are not alone in our emptiness and difficulties. How can you be of support to others in our church? What support and help do you need? Begin to answer those two questions and you begin to be part of a Covenant Community – Going for the win!

## Message Notes – October 9, 2022

### *Going for the Win\**

- I. I love watching the Olympics, which I consider to be a tremendous expression of human competition and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. The goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a \_\_\_\_\_ and better world by educating youth through sport practiced without discrimination of any kind, in a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.
  - B. The Olympics is a peace movement that promotes healthy competition and celebrates the \_\_\_\_\_ of the human body, spirit and mind.
  - C. It allows for individuals and teams to \_\_\_\_\_ forth in human achievement and relationships.
  - D. As we begin our Annual Stewardship Campaign today I want to once again remind you of our \_\_\_\_\_: When God's Generosity Becomes Our...
  - E. We must all utilize the gifts God has given to us for the body of Christ to be \_\_\_\_\_ and fully functional.
- II. Part of the \_\_\_\_\_ of this year's Winter Olympics involved a man from \_\_\_\_\_: Nick Baumgartner.
  - A. At the age of 40, Nick was the \_\_\_\_\_ snowboarder to compete this past winter.
  - B. When Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians, he was addressing a group of \_\_\_\_\_ who knew a thing or two about Olympic spirit -- the spirit of the *ancient* Olympics, that is.
  - C. Don't think of Ephesus as a \_\_\_\_\_ coastal town. It was more like the sprawling metropolis, Beijing.

---

\*Ephesians 2:11-22 and Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

1. Paul reminds the Christians, often poor and beleaguered, that worldly success leaves one feeling \_\_\_\_\_, without a sense of inner peace.
2. Paul offers a solution the Ephesians as he wrote, "But now in \_\_\_\_\_ you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ," he writes. "For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us" (vv. 13-14).
3. The prize of peace with God is based on \_\_\_\_\_ achievement, not ours.

III. And just what are those \_\_\_\_\_?

- A. First, *Jesus abolished an old way of* \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Second, *Jesus opened a door for us*, giving us \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
- C. Third, *Christ made us part of a* \_\_\_\_\_ *more glorious* than the Ephesians' Temple of Artemis.
- D. As we begin to focus on our Annual Stewardship Program I want for us to embrace the idea that we are all on the same \_\_\_\_\_ – we may have different abilities and events in which we participate, but we \_\_\_\_\_ contribute to the greater good of the body of Christ.

## ***Daily Meditations and Study Guide***

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, October 10**

Read Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56. The need of the people was so great that the disciples didn't even have time to eat (verse 31). The people crowded around Jesus wherever he went bringing their sick to be healed. When someone you love is ill, you can become desperate in your attempts to help. We become desperate at times

when we are sick and want our health to be restored. At times it seems we compete for limited resources.

The Olympics, although described in the message as a peace movement among participating nations is also a competition. Is there a place for competition in the church? Is the illustration of a team suitable for the church? How do we compete for limited resources? Write your thoughts here and ask God, the unlimited source of love and grace, to guide your thoughts.

### **Tuesday, October 11**

Read Ephesians 2:11-22. Paul reminds the Christians in Ephesus, often poor and beleaguered, that worldly success leaves one feeling empty, without a sense of inner peace. Sure, they have the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. But what has the goddess Artemis done for them lately? And the Roman emperor himself is considered a god, but he's better at demanding taxes than giving assistance.

Some of the Ephesians had heard of a powerful God worshiped by the Jews, and their gods and rulers paled in comparison. Their lives were empty without real meaning. What is your emptiness? What other gods or interest keep you from seeing the powerful God of the Jews? What keeps us from fully being the body of Christ in the world today? Write your thoughts here and our God of reconciliation to unite us!

### **Wednesday, October 12**

Read again Ephesians 2:11-22. Paul's solution to the emptiness mentioned yesterday is Jesus, who is our peace, breaking down the walls that divide us. When those divisions are no more, then we can begin to work together as the living body of Christ in the world. The emptiness discussed yesterday is not just an individual feeling; it is also an issue for communities and churches. What divisions do you sense in our community and church?