

*Note: Pastor Seth writes the devotional each week. This week Rev. Bradley Long from Frontier Fellowship was our guest preacher. Pastor Seth had the scripture, but not the sermon, when this was written, so it hews as closely to the themes of the week as possible.*

**Monday**

Read Genesis 12:1-9

Choose to love what is coming. These big, transformational moments cause us to want to go back, to go to what was, to be defensive, and adopt a reactive posture. Many people in the world are not living, they are defending. They are so afraid of what is ahead that they seek to fix everyone else, put everything and everyone in the places they think they belong, arguing that everyone should believe exactly like them, and fighting about how everyone should act. Instead, choose to love what is coming even though we aren't entirely sure what it is yet. Take a step back today. Climb to the mountaintop and look out. Examine your fundamental assumptions, rules, and paradigms. Must everything in your life – yourself, your family, neighborhood, community, society, this country, God, and the church - be just how you think it should be for you to live the life God is calling you to embrace? What needs to change today so you can embrace what is on the way?

How will you take inspiration from the obedience of Abram to God's call to go as you choose to love what is coming this week?

**Tuesday**

Read Romans 10:5-15

"While presenting the Gospel on the street of a California city, we were often interrupted about as follows: "Look here, sir! There are hundreds of religions in this country, and the followers of each sect think theirs the only right one. How can poor, plain men like us find out what really is the truth?" We generally replied something like

this: "Hundreds of religions, you say? That's strange; I've heard of only two." "Oh, but you surely know there are more than that?"

"Not at all, sir, I find, I admit, many shades of difference in the opinions of those comprising the two great schools; but after all there are but two. The one covers all who expect salvation by doing; the other, all who have been saved by something done. So you see the whole question is very simple. Can you save yourself, or must you be saved by another? If you can be your own savior, you do not need my message. If you cannot, you may well listen to it."

—H. A. Ironside

Where are you today? Are you busy earning your salvation or are you busy thanking God for your salvation in Jesus through all you do, say, and are?

**Wednesday**

Read Revelation 7:9-12

What did you hear in Bradley's message on Sunday that expanded or challenged your sense of who will be at this scene in Revelation and what opportunities and responsibilities are before us as the Church in America in 2022 and beyond?

**Thursday**

Read John 8:12-30

Pray for the future and how we will embrace God's leading. Spend at least five minutes each day this week praying for what God is bringing. Ask for a receptive mind, heart, and spirit to God's work in this time. Pray for the future of Cooks Creek and the Church Universal. Pray for all to come to the love of Jesus Christ and that you would be renewed in Christ. Let's pray:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the

desire to please You does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that, if I do this, You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Friday

Each week in 2022, we are praying for the most dangerous places to be a follower of Jesus. Please spend today in prayer for Myanmar and the Christians in Myanmar. You can get more info, and this info comes from, here:

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/>

What is life like for Christians in Myanmar?

Religious nationalism is especially strong in Myanmar and drives much of the persecution of Christians. There is an increasing emphasis on Buddhism, to the exclusion of all other religions. Converts to Christianity often face persecution from their families and communities who aim to stay "Buddhist only." They make life for Christian families impossible by not allowing them to use community resources, such as water. Churches have been attacked, and in the distribution of COVID-19 government aid, Christians have been deliberately overlooked.

Areas for prayer:

- Pray with those who have left Buddhism to follow Jesus—that God will strengthen, encourage and protect them.
- Ask that all believers in Myanmar will receive and enjoy fruitful fellowship with other Christians.

- Pray that the Lord will intervene and bring a peaceful resolution to the ongoing civil war.
- Pray for protection for church leaders who are often targeted by Buddhist extremists and insurgents. Ask God to guide their steps as they make disciples