



## Making the Most of Wednesday, September 30

*"For this is the **love of God**, that we keep his commandments.  
And his **commandments are not burdensome.**" — 1 Jn 5:3*

### **BETWEEN 6:00—9:00 AM: GOD'S GRACE TOWARD HUMAN LIFE, IN THE LAW**

When last did you read through the pages of Exodus or Leviticus? Or are they still rather crisply stuck together? Have you ever reached the end of those stories & laws from Sinai and thought, ***What incredible grace! O how our God loves and protects us!*** Such a response might raise an eyebrow or two from those sitting next to you. Yet consider how good God's commands are for us, how his love for us spills over in them, how natural it is for a Godly person to think often about them (**see Psalm 1**), and how they ultimately point us to Christ. Summed up in the 10 Commandments, or even more basically in our love for God and for one another, God's Law reflects his desire for us to approach him correctly in our worship, and to care for one another as God cares for us—whether free or slaves, from different religious and ethnic backgrounds, seeking to make things right where wrong is done, that both locals and foreigners would be drawn to worship the only true & living God. Consider, for instance, how God's Law not only demands honor for elders and obedience to parents, but also justice for each person's life even before that child is born:



*"When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe." (Exo 21:22-25)*



What other passages from the Law can you think of that reflect the intrinsic value of human life? the sacredness of the gender God gives us? the beauty of his intention for marriage? the importance of family? the command to come alongside and serve those who are hurting—even our enemies? O what incredible riches are to be found of God's unchanging character in his Law, and what wonderful examples of how messy people can walk in a way that pursues him with all their hearts! (**see Deut 6:5, Lev 19:18**) If you've never made it through those first 5 books of the Bible, today is a great day to start! **Pray that God would show you a more faithful understanding of his unchanging character as you spend time in his illuminating Law.**

## **BETWEEN 9:00 AM—12:00 PM: GOD'S PLAN FOR HUMANITY, IN CREATION**

But why would God have given these laws? And what is the Law based on? God gave us his holy Law because we had strayed from his design for us in Creation. So we needed to see the reality both of our sin and of the only one who can restore our sin-diseased relationship with God & others. Hence God's Law is based on the same heart of Christ's that overflowed into Creation from the beginning, and that longs for us to reflect his glory and beauty well. That is why on so many occasions, when Jesus was asked about how we should live, he answered not simply by turning to the Law, but to his design for humanity from Creation (which was the basis for the Law).

Think for instance back to a Sabbath day that Matthew writes about, when the Pharisees try to trap Jesus for working on the Sabbath, "*Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?*" they ask him. And how does he respond? He goes back to Creation, to compare the supreme value of human life above everything else in creation, and *therefore* the lawfulness of doing good to others on the Sabbath. **(Matt 12:9-14)**  Or what about when Jesus is asked about divorce? Where does he turn? Not to the prophets, who upheld the Law before God's people. Not even Malachi, who addressed this issue specifically. Rather he turns again to Creation, to his good design for marriage from the beginning, and *therefore* the lawlessness of pursuing anything contrary. **(Matt 19:3-11)** 

So when you are faced with questions (whether from others or from yourself) about how we should think and live, consider Christ; consider his example in answering such questions; and his own plan for humanity from Creation. The first 11 chapters of the Bible lay the foundation for every aspect of life and redemption. As we recognize how substantial his glory is that he imprinted onto mankind (who was made in God's own image, to reflect his beauty), we will gain a truer understanding of how fitting it is to stand up for the life of each person around us, **from womb to tomb**. [Pray that God would open your eyes to see his plan for humanity as you carefully read about and reflect on the first several pages of the Bible.](#)

1. What are some questions that you've faced recently about how we should live within the society around us?
2. In what ways do the beginning chapters of Scripture address these concerns?
3. How is that reflected in the Law?

## **BETWEEN 12:00—3:00 PM: GOD'S LOVE FOR LIFE, IN THE DEATH & LIFE OF CHRIST**

As refreshing as the Law is, and as solid a basis it has in God's love for his good Creative order, it has never been able to restore a person's heart from its allegiance to sin. It only shows where we are lacking. But it did lay out a way that man was able to enter God's dreadful presence again—how God could come among his people, and his people not die under his good and holy justice. And it all points forward—or as it's been said otherwise, every story whispers the name of Jesus.

Jesus left his Father's side and came as a baby within his mother's womb. He was born like you and me into this broken world and knew every manner of grief. He experienced sin's effect on Creation and on the people around him, and was tempted to swear his own allegiance to sin. But he remained completely pure and became the only Lamb that there had ever been who would be able to remove our sin from us forever! It was for this very reason, he died for us who hated him; he loved us who killed him—so that we could look on God and not die. Just as God had said long ago through one of his prophets, "*Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.*" **(Isa 49:15)**

Dearly beloved in Christ, our Savior knows your sin. But **there is more mercy in him than there is sin in you**. Come to him for help & healing. Thank him. Worship him. He is good! [Pray that he will grow your love for what is good, for what he loves; & grow your hatred for sin, for what he hates; so that we can lead others from sin to Christ.](#)

## BETWEEN 3:00—4:00 PM: Join the Joel Moment Prayer Gathering

Go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) and enter Meeting ID and Password.

See pg. 4

## BETWEEN 5:00—9:00 PM: GOD'S APPEAL TO US, IN WISDOM

In the last of the Proverbs, we find this exhortation, “*Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to destruction.*” (Prov 31:8) And that’s exactly where we find ourselves now—amidst destruction of the speechless. Across our nation, we have greatly cheapened the glorious image he has placed on each person, and continue to put an end to millions of children’s lives who are inside (and even outside) the womb. And this is not something seen only outside the church. In fact 65% of people who choose to get an abortion are from Christian and Catholic backgrounds! How can this be? Have we presented Christ to one another as he reveals himself in his Bible? Are we calling men to sexual purity and holding one another accountable before God, encouraging each another in the saviors of our Savior? Are we looking for ways we can serve women around us who are in crises, & share one another’s burdens? May we at Valley Church strive to think of the life he has given us, in the same way he thinks of us, **for our lives are not our own.** *Pray that God would put such a deepened burden on our hearts to know him more, so that God’s Word would be clearly and faithfully opened from our pulpits, and that we would run from sin that still lives in us toward God’s warm embrace, as we seek to serve and encourage those around us.*

If you’d like to get involved with sidewalk counseling outside Planned Parenthood (in person or in prayer), I would love to share more with you!! You can reach me (Dan) at 408-340-3294, or [dandev93@gmail.com](mailto:dandev93@gmail.com)

## RESOURCES for further encouragement, study + involvement:



### 1. Real Options *\*\*one of the organizations Valley Church supports\*\**

- [Home Page](#)
- [After Abortion Support](#) – Help and healing
- [Education](#) – Sexual Risk Avoidance approach
- [YouTube channel](#) – Includes several 3-6 min patient testimonies



### 2. Focus on the Family

- [Doctor Testimony](#) – A Former Abortionists Journey to becoming Pro-Life
- [Patient Testimony](#) – Honoring the Preborn: Cerian’s Story
- [Pro-Life Resources](#)



### 3. The Center for Medical Progress

- [Investigative Footage](#) – Undercover vids exposing PP’s sale of baby body parts
- [Fact Sheets](#) – On different topics relating to the sale of aborted fetal tissue



### 4. Every Black Life Matters

- [Home Page](#) – Supporting life from womb to tomb (*in contrast to the BLM mvmt.*)
- [Guiding Principles](#)



## DANIEL DE VILLIERS

Those who have been reading through today's prayer guide have had an opportunity to consider a Biblical framework for God's estimation of human life—it's set above everything else in all Creation, it is protected within his Law, and it is redeemed by God in Christ. You may also have noticed the thread running throughout it focusing on the life of those who are not yet born. During our time together, you'll get to hear some stories of how God has been working in various people's lives on the sidewalks of San Jose to protect some of these children, & to bring healing over stains of past sin.

*Jot down some things that stuck out to you, or questions/comments that came to mind during the time:*

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### PSALM 8

*TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO THE GITTITH. A PSALM OF DAVID.*

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the heavens.
- <sup>2</sup> Out of the mouth of babies and infants,  
you have established strength because of your foes,  
to still the enemy and the avenger.
- <sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
- <sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him,  
and the son of man that you care for him?
- <sup>5</sup> Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings  
and crowned him with glory and honor.
- <sup>6</sup> You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under his feet,
- <sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,
- <sup>8</sup> the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
- <sup>9</sup> O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!



## SONGS

### **HIS MERCY IS MORE**

**1.** What love could remember no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

#### **Refrain:**

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

**2.** What patience would wait as we constantly roam  
What Father, so tender, is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more [Refrain]

**3.** What riches of kindness He lavished on us  
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more [Refrain 3x]

### **AND CAN IT BE**

**1** And can it be that I should gain  
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

**Refrain:** Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, should die for me!

**3** He left His Father's throne above,  
So free, so infinite His grace;  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race;  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
For, O my God, it found out me. [Refrain]

**4** Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free;  
I rose, went forth and followed Thee. [Refrain]

**5** No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own. [Refrain]

## GROUP PRAYER PROMPTS:

*"In everything, give thanks!"*

**7 min – Adoration.** For God's good and unchanging character  
*"Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty" (Ps 24:8)*

**7 min – Confession.** For areas in our lives we have not yet conformed to God,  
*"For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long." (Ps 32:3)*

**7 min – Intercession.** - For women in crisis pregnancies  
- For those who have gone through abortions  
- For those serving at pregnancy centers  
- For the education of our youth – to understand sexuality Biblically + to be kept pure

**7 min – Intercession.** For one another