First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 October 6, 2019

Theme for 2019

'The God of Another Year, is a God of Wonderful and Amazing Grace. He is the God of Forgiveness and He is the God of Beginning Again.'

365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES!

"O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High."

Psalm 51:15 (ESV); Lamentations 3:22-23 (NKJV); Psalm 9:1-2 (NKJV)



This Week's Thought – October 6, 2019

"Well said, teacher,' the man replied. 'You are right in saying God is one and there is no other but him.' ... When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God'." Mark 12:32, 34 (NIV)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>—Teachability is a primary fruit of humility. When we have an open heart to learn, we are in position to receive wisdom from God and others. Jesus affirms a teachable heart, for He knows it has potential to learn and understand the things of God. A teachable heart is positioned to receive truth, and possesses an attitude consisting of more questions than answers. A teachable heart recognizes truth when it comes knocking. It invites truth in to be examined, understood, and applied. Truth invigorates the teachable heart. There is a rush of spiritual adrenaline when truth intersects with an open mind and heart. Pride plateaus in its learning, but a teachable heart continues to scale the mountain of truth, understanding, and wisdom.

When the Lord discovers someone who is teachable, He calls him/her wise. Wisdom comes from God; therefore, a teachable heart learns the ways of God. The Holy Spirit facilitates teachability, as truth applied transforms behaviors and attitudes. Change that comes from the inside out makes us like Christ: humble, bold, wise, holy, gracious, encouraging, and faithful. Change doesn't come easily, even if you understand God has your best interests in mind; but the transformation shows.

First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 2 October 6, 2019

Your character and behavior fall more in line with the life of Christ. Your family, your spouse, your children, your friends, your classmates, your co-workers, etc., notice something different about you. You lead and interact patiently and prayerfully, instead of with fearful and intimidating tactics. You gain a teachable heart by first elevating your honor and worship of the Almighty God.

Your love relationship with the One, True God is not to be rivaled by any other gods. Any acceptance of other gods is unacceptable to God. He is jealous for you. Your love for anyone or anything else will pale in relation to your love for Christ. To love God is to make room for Him in all aspects of your life. You love Him when you love others, when you give sacrificially, when you strive for excellence in your work or in school, and when you pray for and forgive others. Love is reciprocal—therefore, love Him and allow Him to love you.

Let Christ's expectations mold yours, because what He thinks surpasses any other thinking. The Holy Spirit within you has the answers to the questions that consume your conscience. Listen to His internal promptings, not the external clamor. What you learned yesterday will be dwarfed by what you learn today and experience tomorrow. Know God, love God, and learn of Him. He affirms a teachable heart as one that fears the Lord. Wise living fears God and follows His ways.

"Assemble the people—men, women, and children, and the foreigners living in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law." (Deuteronomy 31:12)

On today, may the blessing of peace rest upon you...the blessing of joy abide within you...the blessing of success and favor surround you...the blessing of love flow out through you. May all the Blessings of the Lord be yours in abundance as you '<u>Encounter the</u> <u>Possibilities</u>' this day will bring!!

Application: Take inventory of your day to possibly find more time so you can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of His Word.

<u>Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:</u> "Heavenly Father, I give You praise for Your abundant mercy and grace in all things. Please grant me peace in my mind, body, soul and spirit. I ask that You heal and remove everything that is causing stress, grief, and sorrow in my life. Make my enemies be at peace with who I am, for I am Your child. Teach me Your ways Almighty God and let Your peace reign within my home, my family, at my place of work, school and everything I lay my hands on. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!"

Yours in Christ, Pastor King