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CEDARCREEKCHURCH

# Looking Ahead - Sounds of Summer

June 22, 2025

As we look ahead into this week, I encourage you to pause and reflect on the steady rhythm of God's promises. Life may bring noise, change, and unexpected turns, but the voice of a faithful God who keeps his word can cut through it all.

## **2 Corinthians 1:20**

*For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.*

Whatever the week holds, let it be a week of listening closely because God is still speaking, and his promises still hold.

Let your "Amen" be your "Yes!" to trust him today.

## **Discussion Questions:**

Ice Breaker: What's one piece of advice you've received, either serious or silly, that stuck with you? Why has it stayed with you?

How can we keep the Gospel central, not just during the Sunday service, but in how we love, serve, and relate to one another throughout the week?

Read Romans 1:16-17: Why is the Gospel important for *everyone*? What might "being unashamed of the Gospel" look like in your everyday life at work, home, or in friendships?

How does the idea that we never outgrow the Gospel reshape your view of spiritual growth?

Reflect on an area of your life where you need to remember and rely on the power of the Gospel today. How can you live out this truth with courage this week?

## **Prayer:**

*Heavenly Father, thank you for the power of the Gospel that transforms and sustains me. Help me to never be ashamed of it. When fear, doubt, or pride try to hold me back, remind me that your truth is worth standing for and sharing. Let my life reflect the beauty of your grace, not just in words, but trusting that the Gospel is always enough for me and everyone. In Jesus' name, I pray, amen.*

**Series Theme Verse:****2 Corinthians 1:20**

*For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.*

*This post was written by Lori Tuckerman, Director of Content for the Daily LivingItOut.*

## **Transformations - Sounds of Summer**

**June 23, 2025**

**New Testament Reading Plan: 2 Timothy 4**

The promise in Romans 1:16-17 reminds us that God has the power to save and change us through his Gospel. Our hearts will sing as we center our lives on the Good News and have faith in God's saving grace.

**Romans 1:16-17**

*For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes - the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."*

I used to call the Bible my "Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth." I approached it like a good friend giving me advice. I did my best to follow all the rules, but this legalistic approach was exhausting because it put all the burden on me. Yet the progressive approach had me running around fighting for social injustice, trying to reconcile traditional Christian beliefs with a contemporary lifestyle. Neither approach is necessarily bad, they just don't focus on who Jesus is. Both rely on good behavior rather than living from the power of Jesus.

We don't have to live from a place of selfish affirmations, unbridled ambitions, and spinning plates. And we don't have to strive under our own strength; we can lean into his. In the name of God's love, it's time to say goodbye to counterfeit saviors!

We have a God who has a good plan, is all knowing, and all powerful. He is the Father who created us, on purpose, for a purpose. The Gospels remind us that Jesus meets us right where we are, but he never leaves us there. He has a transformative power like no other.

The "things of this life" will fail us, but we can look to the Gospel and remember who God is. He is faithful, merciful, loving, and powerful. He is near us always, giving us his Spirit to guide us and comfort us. The Gospel isn't something that we outgrow,

because we never stop needing who God is. It constantly transforms us through the power of his Spirit, living within us.

As you let go and trust God, you can rejoice in his Word. Your heart will open and the words will become a beautiful love letter written just for you. Once this happens, how can you not reveal this love to others? It simply cannot be contained!

### **Questions:**

How can you live from God's grace today? Who can you share the Gospel message with?

### **Next Steps:**

Ask God where he may be calling you to transformation? Try looking into serving at your campus or one nearby. The South Toledo Campus is looking for DreamTeam members to add another service on Sundays!

### **Prayer:**

*Lord, you are holy indeed, more than I can even comprehend. You have made transformations in my life that I would never have imagined or hoped for. Your ways are better than my ways, and I thank you! Continue to lead and guide me as I live my life for you and lean into your strength. Lord, watch over my church, my community, and my family and invite me to join you there. In Jesus' name, amen.*

### **Series Theme Verse:**

#### **2 Corinthians 1:20**

*For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.*

*This post was written by Julie Estep, a Perrysburg attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.*

## **Becoming a New Creation - Sounds of Summer**

**June 24, 2025**

### **New Testament Reading Plan: Titus 1**

Have you ever felt like your energy has been depleted by life? I know there have been times when sin and shame have clouded my thinking and made me feel separated from God.

During these times, I tend to forget that because of Jesus' sacrifice, I no longer have to be weighed down by shame and guilt. By God's grace and power, we have been given new lives. When we place our faith in him, we are finally given freedom from the weight of sin. We can let go of our previous hurts and unhealthy ways of thinking and behaving. On the cross, Jesus bore the consequences for us. So when we put our faith in Jesus, we die to our old selves and become new creations in him.

### **Ephesians 2:4-5**

*But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)*

Our God is a personal God – he sacrificed his one and only son, not just for the entire world, but for each of his believers. Jesus gave up his own life to offer us the opportunity to find everlasting joy in him. Sin no longer separates us from God because we have been completely forgiven. We can now fully experience and become changed by the joy of the Good News, seeking to glorify God in everything we do.

No matter what life throws at us, we can look forward to spending eternity with Jesus in heaven. When we remember this, it gives us the strength to get through each day and opens up a new perspective on life.

So many of us go about our daily lives forgetting this tremendously important truth and believing we are spiritually dead inside. Let this be a reminder: You are not lost or hopeless. It's time to put your mistakes, guilt, and shame behind you and step out of that grave. You are a beloved child of God, and his Spirit lives within you.

### **Questions:**

How can we live like we are a new creation?

How has becoming a new creation changed your thoughts and behavior?

### **Next Steps:**

Join a Group for the summer semester to connect with other believers who will encourage you to live like a new creation.

This week, write down a list of old ways of thinking and behaving that you can let go of now that you are a new creation in Christ.

**Prayer:**

*Heavenly Father, thanks for making me a new creation through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Remind me this week that I am no longer weighed down by my sin and shame, and that I can experience freedom and forgiveness from this point forward. Encourage me to live like a new creation, speaking and acting in a way that glorifies you. In Jesus' name, amen.*

**Series Theme Verse:****2 Corinthians 1:20**

*For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.*

*This post was written by Isabelle Billnitzer, a Perrysburg attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.*

## **Grace That Saves and Shapes - Sounds of Summer**

**June 25, 2025**

**New Testament Reading Plan: Titus 2****Titus 2:11-12 (NIV)**

*For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.*

God's grace is a lifelong teacher. It reaches down and saves us, but it also walks with us, shaping how we live every day. Titus reminds us that grace doesn't stop at salvation-- it leads us into transformation.

Not long ago, I found myself sitting in my car, exhausted from a long day. I'd been short with someone I love, all because I let frustration rule my mood. As I sat there, the enemy tried to flood my mind with guilt. But in that moment, grace showed up. It didn't scold me. It reminded me who I am and whose I am. That gentle nudge to go back in and make it right ... that was grace teaching me, again, to choose love, humility, and self-control over pride and frustration.

That's how grace works. It meets us in the real, messy middle of life. It teaches us to say "no" to anything pulling us away from God and others: distractions, old habits,

misplaced desires. It also teaches us to say “yes” to the life we were created for. A life filled with integrity, discipline, and purpose.

And here’s the thing-- Saying “no” isn’t about the fear of getting it wrong, it’s about recognizing the depth of God’s love and choosing what’s best because we’re already loved. Grace is not behavior modification, it’s soul transformation. It doesn’t drive us by guilt. Grace leads us in love.

Grace teaches us daily - in our marriages, our parenting, our work, even in our thought life. And when we mess up, and we will, it doesn’t throw us away. It lifts us, corrects us, and reminds us of our identity in Christ.

Friends, let grace guide every part of your lives. Wake up each morning knowing that you are loved and empowered to live differently, not because you have to, but because you get to.

Today, let grace do its work. Let it teach you. Let it remind you that you’re not just saved for heaven, but shaped for a purpose here and now. And when you’re tempted, tired, or discouraged, remember that the same grace that saved you is still working in you.

### **Questions:**

Where in your life are you sensing God’s grace teaching you to say “no”?

How has grace helped reshape your responses, habits, or mindset recently?

What does it mean to you that grace is both a gift and a guide?

### **Next Steps:**

One of the most powerful ways to allow grace to shape your life is by intentionally walking with others who are learning to say “yes” to God, too. We weren’t meant to follow Jesus alone. Grace grows stronger in community.

This week, take one step to engage in a Christ-centered relationship:

1. **Join a Group:** If you’re not already in a Group, visit [CedarCreek.tv/Groups](https://CedarCreek.tv/Groups) to find a Group that fits your schedule and season of life. Being around others who are also letting grace teach them helps you stay encouraged and accountable.
2. **Serve on a Team:** God’s grace gives us gifts to serve others. When you serve on the DreamTeam, you’re not only making a difference, you’re also surrounding yourself with people who will help you grow. Learn more or sign up at the Next Steps area in the lobby or at [CedarCreek.tv/Serve](https://CedarCreek.tv/Serve).

3. **Have a Conversation:** Reach out to someone you trust, your Group leader, a DreamTeam coach, or a spiritual mentor. Share one area where you're asking for God's grace to transform you. Let them pray for you and walk with you.

By taking just one of these steps, you're not only letting grace shape your life, you're also allowing God to use you to reflect his grace to others.

**Prayer:**

*Father, thank you for the gift of your grace, a grace that saves me, teaches me, and walks with me every day. Help me to recognize where you are gently leading me to say "no" to the things that pull me away from you and "yes" to the life you've called me to live.*

*I don't want to just be rescued, I want to be transformed. So shape my heart, renew my mind, and guide my steps. When I fall short, remind me that I am still yours, fully loved and never abandoned. Surround me with people who will encourage me and walk with me as I grow.*

*Today, I choose to let grace lead. Teach me, strengthen me, and use me to reflect your love to the world around me. In Jesus' name, amen.*

**Series Theme Verse:**

**2 Corinthians 1:20**

*For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.*

*This post was written by Monique Myers, a Perrysburg attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.*

## **God's Union - Sounds of Summer**

**June 26, 2025**

**New Testament Reading Plan: Titus 3**

My decision to [jump the broom](#) happened in August 2007, and the physical act quickly followed that December. The thought of proposing surprised me so much, I didn't want to plan past Erica saying "yes." I would have happily gotten married the next day.



You see, before that summer, I didn't want marriage or children - until I did. I knew God orchestrated the transformation, so I had faith in everything that came with the new me.

Things didn't magically become easy overnight, but I embraced my new life. I finally let go of the many things that prevented me from pursuing a rebirth of my dreams and goals - things that kept me from becoming the man I was ready to become. My focus switched from superficial relationships to marriage and fatherhood.

In the song [Love U 4 Life](#), the group sings: "Promises you made me. We'll be together for eternity. Will you believe in love, and the promise that it gives? I know that things were rough, but my faith wasn't strong enough." The song's meaning has changed over the last 30 years for me. The lyrics shifted from a union before God to also showing God's union with us.

### **Galatians 2:20**

*My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

The cross represents the burden that Jesus carried and his death for us, but it also symbolizes his resurrection. Everyone - past, present, and future - died on the cross with Jesus, including you. And like Jesus, you can also be resurrected.

This doesn't just apply to our inevitable physical death, it also means that when we die to our sin and choose to live out God's purpose for us, we are given a new heart and new life. Shedding your past mistakes and hurts sounds like Good News, especially when you live out the new version of yourself afterwards.

No matter who you are, where you come from, or what you've done, God views you with love and delight. When you accept Jesus' sacrifice, you are entering into a union with God. Through your faith, you are accepting his promises as truth and choosing to walk and live according to his will.

### **Questions:**

What Good News do you share about God? Is it difficult for you to view the cross as Paul did - the place where your sin died alongside Jesus?

### **Next Steps:**

Share God's transformation in you by telling your story to others in a [small Group](#). Grow your faith by studying Scripture, especially with others.

**Prayer:**

*Dear God, thank you for a love strong enough to save me. Help me guide others to know the truth and promises of your love. I never want to be selfish enough to think everyone shouldn't experience stepping out of their grave clothes. Amen.*

**Series Theme Verse:****2 Corinthians 1:20**

*For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.*

*This post was written by Jaron Camp, a Findlay attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.*

## **Share It! - Sounds of Summer**

**June 27, 2025**

**New Testament Reading Plan: Galatians 1****2 Corinthians 5:19–20**

*For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"*

When I think about these verses, I can't help but feel how special the word "reconciliation" is in this scripture. Jesus reconciled the world, including our brokenness, sin, and all the other evil parts, making us whole again. He didn't just forgive us - he reconciled us. He picked up all our broken pieces and restored what sin had shattered.

I don't know about you, but that makes my heart sing!

So, what is Paul telling us to do with this Good News now that we know it? We are to become messengers, Christ's ambassadors, because this message is too good to keep to ourselves!

This thought may feel intimidating to you. You're not alone.

But here's the comforting part: being an ambassador of Jesus can be as simple as offering a patient response, a kind word, or praying with a hurting friend. You could do something as easy as sharing a song that has uplifted you, like "[Beautiful One](#)," or forwarding a Daily message that really encouraged you. These things matter, and they speak loudly.

It simply takes a heart that remembers what Jesus has done and a willingness to say, "Come back to God."

We're all entrusted with the most fantastic news the world will ever hear, and we all have something beautiful to share. Please don't keep it to yourself!

### **Questions:**

In what ways are you holding back from sharing the message of reconciliation with others?

What would it look like for you to live more fully as Christ's ambassador this week?

### **Next Steps:**

You can be an ambassador right now by serving on a DreamTeam! There are opportunities available during weekend services, during the week, and even online! Speak to someone at your campus or [submit an inquiry form](#), selecting "I am ready to take my NextStep" and "My Next Step is: Join a DreamTeam."

### **Prayer:**

*Heavenly Father, thank you for reconciling me to yourself through Jesus. Please help me to live as your ambassador. Relieve any fear and give me the courage and boldness to share your Good News with everyone I encounter. May my life point others to the hope and healing found in you. I love you, I trust you, and I worship you. Amen.*

### **Series Theme Verse:**

#### **2 Corinthians 1:20**

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## **Reflections - 06.28.25 - Sounds of Summer**

**June 28, 2025**

The Gospel isn't just a message we hear once. It's a truth we return to again and again. It shapes how we see ourselves, walk through hard days, and respond to the world around us. As you reflect on the Good News of Jesus, consider the four calls to action from last weekend's message:

- Remember
- Rest
- Rejoice
- Reveal

Before we do anything, we pause to **remember** we have been rescued, redeemed, and made new by grace, not by our own efforts. The Gospel reminds us of who we are and whose we are. When we forget, we drift. But when we remember, we're grounded in truth.

You don't have to earn what Jesus has already finished. The Gospel invites us to lay down striving and find **rest** in the sufficiency of Christ. Rest doesn't mean inactivity or not doing "enough." It means walking in peace and knowing God holds it all together for us.

Even on the hardest days, we have a reason to celebrate. The joy of our salvation isn't rooted in our circumstances - it's rooted in Christ. **Rejoicing** lifts our eyes from what's uncertain to the unshakable One.

Let this be your rhythm: remember the Gospel, rest in its truth, rejoice in its power, and **reveal** it to a world in need. That's how we live as people transformed by the greatest news ever.

Spend time today in prayer and reflect on whichever "R" you feel has been placed on your heart.

**Prayer:**

*Jesus, thank you for giving me so many beautiful promises through your Word. I am forever grateful and rejoice in the freedom of your love every day! Help me rest in its truth and rejoice in its power. Please reveal a place in my daily life where I can point more people to you. I love you, I trust you, and I worship you. Amen.*

**Series Theme Verse:**

**2 Corinthians 1:20**

*For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.*

*This post was written by Lori Tuckerman, Director of Content for the Daily LivingItOut.*