

SATURDAY PRAYER MEETING

7:15-8:45AM // MGMC CONF ROOM

Please join us this Saturday as we pray for our church and other needs in the community and the world around us. Prayer is the backbone to all that we do! If you would like to utilize the free childcare during our time, please contact the church office @ 839.4002 or admin@mgmchawaii.com by Friday.

FINDING FREEDOM CLASS

CLOSED!

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICH &

CHIPS = \$6

(drink incl)

The Youth Team that will be attending the Global Transform Our World Conference in the Fall will be selling their delicious homemade cranberry, apple, chicken salad sandwiches with chips and a drink following each service. Thank you for supporting our Youth Team for this life-changing conference!

The Ephesians Series has been a great series for MGMC. It started out powerful with Pastor Cal taking a deeper look at who the Apostle Paul was when he was formerly known as Saul and the journey that led him to becoming Paul. Then last week, we were taken to a spiritual high point to get a glimpse of what the rest of this series will be about: the subject of reconciliation in various areas that have divided human kind. And to conclude our services with prayer and giving a love offering to the victims of Hurricane Harvey was fantastic!

I'd like to reiterate the main point of Pastor Cal's message this past Sunday on the greatest divide ever known to man: the divide between us and God. It is from this point that my devotional will develop.

The erasing of the dividing line between God and us is the greatest miracle. Nothing comes close to this amazing fact. The reason being that it was all God's doing to reach out to us and reconcile us back to Him all in the name of love. This dividing line was washed away by the incomparable sacrifice of our big brother Jesus Christ. **Ephesians 1:7** talks about the result of Jesus' death on the cross: ***"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."*** There are several key words packed away in this single sentence: redemption, forgiveness, and grace. All of these words carry such rich meaning. The word I would like to point out that came up in two separate discussions this past week was the word, **'grace.'**

What's interesting about the word, **'grace,'** is that for such a short and one syllable word, it carries so much spiritual weight. It bears forgiveness; power takes up residence in it; it is one of two characteristics Jesus walked in next to truth (John

1:14); restoration; freedom; redemption; the list can go on. Last week I had two separate discussions on the topic of grace initiated by two individuals. One of them was my 7 year old son, Caleb; the other was a twenty-something year old young man. Apart from one another and on separate occasions, both of them asked me what grace is. Intrigued by their question, I asked them what they thought it meant. Even though they are years apart from one another, their answers were similar to each other: forgiveness from sin, and something that is freely given by God. Those two descriptions are true. And there's so much more to grace that the Apostle Paul reveals in Ephesians: "because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan (Ephesians 1:11)." We have an inheritance from Jesus! Not only that, Jesus empowers us to partner with Him in His amazing plans! Grace not only forgives us and sets us free from sin, but empowers us to live lives beyond our human comprehension. Both Caleb and this young man were very excited upon hearing this good news. In fact, their whole demeanor changed.

What if all Christians lived lives with this understanding that the Apostle Paul is writing about? How would you live differently knowing that you have an eternal and spiritual inheritance given by God? What kind of confidence would you walk in as you partner with God in his plans? I think the results would be this place, earth, that we call home would look more like heaven. I conclude this devotional for you to take into consideration the following questions: What is your inheritance from God? And, what is he prompting you to partner with Him in? He has all the resources in the world and all the boundless grace for you to tap into. Enjoy the journey as we partner with God in bringing heaven to earth.