



COMING EVENTS

What's coming up in middle school @NCC:

- **Grade 8 After School Bible Study • September 23** from 3:00-4:00pm we welcome all grade 8 students to the youth lounge for a time of delicious & nutritious snacks, community, prayer & Bible study as we dig deep into the sermon message that was preached that weekend.
- **Jump 6 • Monday • September 23 – On Location.** Pastor Dan is going to be jumping into the 'on location' series tonight – we're heading to the Great Barrier Reef! Make sure to bring a friend & some change because checkers will be open and the night is bound to be a blast! We meet in Lower Court from 6:30-8:00pm.
- **Vertical Edge • Tuesday, September 24 – BanaNArama/ Troublemaker!** Another incredible VE night and we're goin' bananas!!!! There'll be games, activities, and crafts all about bananas! Check out Romans 8:31. West Court 7-9pm

september 21/22 lesson

Series: The King's Servants
Lesson: Applying for the Position
Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:11-22,4:7-8

Key Concept: Becoming an approved servant

Chew Time

1) Bible Reading Time (Chew Time):

Luke 1:39-80



Stepping Up

2) Stepping Up

Everyone likes to be told that they are doing a good job. For a lot of people, it is important that they hear it from others on a regular basis. If they don't hear it often enough, they will start to feel like they aren't living up to expectations that may have been placed on them.

People love to be rewarded. When we compete in sports or band and choir competitions, our goal is to win the prize, trophy, scholarship, or whatever award awaits the winner. Athletes will train hard for long periods of time in order to compete at their highest level of ability. Musicians will spend countless hours practicing a piece of music so that they can perform it perfectly. Why? To win the reward.

Christians have a much bigger reward when they live the life of a servant. For a Christian, it is much different. Sometimes what we would consider "fair" or what we think we should get is not part of God's wonderful and mysterious plan for us. We have to take our lead from figures in Scripture as to how we should live God honouring lives.

In the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, it asks, "What is the chief end of man?" & the answer, "To glorify God & enjoy him forever". As a Christian, we can receive a lot of pats on the back or "Way to go!" comments, but NOTHING compares to hearing our Lord say those seven little words... "*Well done, my good and faithful servant.*" **Mt.25:21**

3) Let's take a look at the book of **2 Timothy**

At this point in his ministry, Paul expected to be executed shortly after he wrote this

letter. At the end of his life of service to God, he was looking forward to the crown that God would award him

✠ **2 Timothy 4:7-8 (New Living Translation)** ⁷ *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. ⁸ And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing*

✠ **2 Timothy 2:11-13** ¹¹ *This is a trustworthy saying: If we die with him we will also live with him. ¹² If we endure hardship, we will reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us. ¹³ If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful for he cannot deny who he is.*

Let's draw some application points from these verses.

1. We must die with Christ so we can live in Him (**verse 11**). This means that our life commitment to Christ is to be total.

2. (**Verse 12**). Many of the hard things we suffer in our lives end up being great blessings because they make us get closer to God and make us love Him more.

3. **Verse 13** indicates that we should remain faithful to God. We shouldn't love Him at the end of Bible camp and then put Him on the shelf when school activities get exciting or hectic. Faithfulness means that we continue to love and serve Him no matter what is going on in our lives



“*This a trustworthy saying*”: Paul moves from comfort to challenge and back to comfort: **v. 11b** is a reminder of life even in the face of death; **v. 12** calls for perseverance; **v. 13** is a reminder of God's preserving power and faithfulness.

4) Read 2 Timothy 2:14-22 (New Living Translation)

✠ ¹⁴ *Remind everyone about these things, and command them in God's presence to stop fighting over words. Such arguments are useless, and they can ruin those who hear them.*

An Approved Worker ¹⁵ *Work hard so you can present yourself to God and*

receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid worthless, foolish talk that only leads to more godless behavior. ¹⁷ This kind of talk spreads like cancer, as in the case of Hymenaeus and Philetus. ¹⁸ They have left the path of truth, claiming that the resurrection of the dead has already occurred; in this way, they have turned some people away from the faith.

¹⁹ But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and "All who belong to the Lord must turn away from evil."

²⁰ In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. ²¹ If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.

²² Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

From this passage let's make a list of DO's & DON'T's of an approved servant.

1. He doesn't **quarrel** about words (**verse 14**). We've all known people who just like to argue. No matter what you say, or what words you use, they argue. As Paul says here and in **1 Timothy 6:3-5**, these quarrels waste time, cause trouble and have no eternal value.
2. He does not need to be **ashamed** (**verse 15**). When we think about standing before God, we want to be as clean and holy as possible. We don't want to become involved in shameful actions or have shameful attitudes. We want to build God's reputation, not destroy it.
3. He is careful to not **wander away** from the truth (**verse 18**). False teaching can lead people away from Christ. In order to guard against wandering, we must test everything we hear against the absolute truth of Scripture.
4. He will flee **evil desires** (**verse 22**). The servant of God can't place himself in a situation where he is tempted to break God's moral laws. We need to run away from evil whenever we find ourselves tempted.