5 Day Devotional September 14, 2025 AM Sermon "False religion will rob you of understanding who God says you are"

Day 1: The Authority of Christ

Reading: Colossians 2:15-17

**Devotional:** In today's passage, we're reminded of Christ's ultimate authority over all powers and principalities. Just as the sermon emphasized, there is nothing in heaven, on earth, or below that Jesus is not sovereign over. Reflect on areas in your life where you may be doubting God's control. Are there situations causing you anxiety or fear? Remember that Jesus has "disarmed principalities and powers" and made a "public spectacle of them, triumphing over them." Take comfort in knowing that no weapon formed against you shall prosper when you're under Christ's authority. Today, practice surrendering your worries to Jesus, acknowledging His supreme power in every aspect of your life.

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Day 2: True Freedom in Christ

Reading: Galatians 5:1-6

**Devotional:** The sermon highlighted how false religion can lock us down instead of setting us free. Today's reading reminds us that it is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Consider areas in your life where you might be living under self-imposed religious regulations or man-made traditions rather than embracing the true freedom Christ offers. Are you burdening yourself with "do not touch, do not taste, do not handle" rules that aren't from God? Reflect on how you can live in the freedom of Christ while still honoring God with your choices. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in discerning between true godly living and unnecessary religious burdens.

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Day 3: Bearing Spiritual Fruit

Reading: John 15:1-8

**Devotional:** Pastor Jake emphasized the importance of being a "spiritual fruit bearer" rather than just a "religious nut." In today's passage, Jesus uses the metaphor of the vine and branches to illustrate our need to abide in Him to bear fruit. Examine your life - are you seeing evidence of spiritual fruit? Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? If not, consider what might be hindering your connection to the True Vine. Commit today to spending intentional time abiding in Christ through prayer, Scripture meditation, and worship. Ask God to prune away anything in your life that isn't producing good fruit.

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Day 4: Renewing the Inner Self

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

**Devotional:** Today's reading echoes the sermon's point about God renewing us internally even as our outward selves are declining. In a world obsessed with outward appearances and temporary pleasures, we're called to focus on the unseen and eternal. Reflect on how you've been investing your time and energy. Are you more concerned with your outward appearance or your inner character? Take time to thank God for His daily renewal of your spirit. Ask Him to help you see your current struggles from an eternal perspective, trusting that He is working all things for your good and His glory.

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Day 5: Standing Firm in Faith

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-18

Devotional: The sermon warned about Satan's attempts to confuse and discourage believers. Today's passage provides us with the spiritual armor we need to stand firm against these attacks. As you read through each piece of armor, consider how you can practically apply it to your life. Are there areas where you feel particularly vulnerable to spiritual attack? Perhaps you need to buckle the belt of truth more tightly by committing to regular Bible study, or lift the shield of faith higher by choosing to trust God's promises in the face of doubt. Remember, as the sermon stated, that with the full armor of God, you can extinguish ALL the flaming arrows of the evil one. Close your devotional time by putting on the full armor of God through prayer, asking for His protection and strength to face whatever challenges may come your way.