

Bible study for the week starting February 19, 2023

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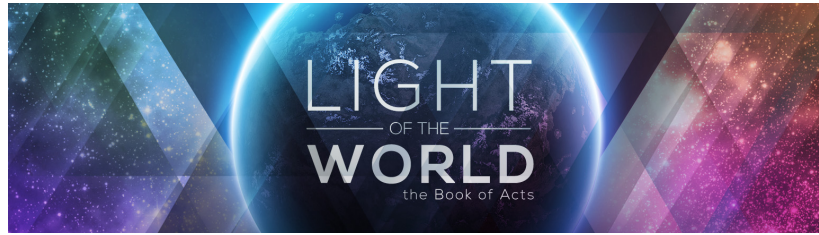
Are you a gardener? Green thumb or brown thumb? I grew up with the wisdom of “plant your potatoes on Good Friday” and “knee high by the 4th of July” for corn to mature before the first frost. What, in your estimation, makes someone a good gardener/farmer or a poor one? What’s in our control versus out of control?

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read **Acts 18:18-28**. We are introduced to Apollos in this passage. What were his qualifications, and what did he lack? How did God use him?
2. Read **1 Corinthians 1:10-18; 2:5-9**. The Christians in Corinth were picking favorites between Paul, Apollos, and others. What bit of perspective does Paul offer to them as he corrects their course?
3. Read **Matthew 17:1-9**. This is Transfiguration Sunday, where Jesus shone with the glory of God before coming down the mountain and setting His face toward Jerusalem. This is the traditional reading before Ash Wednesday (and an end to Epiphany). How do we see those themes of *light to the nations* bookending that season of Epiphany?
4. There’s a different mindset between the idea that we’re in competition with someone else and that of sincerely pulling for them and celebrating their success (especially when we work for the same Savior!). When we live our life like we’re the star of our own show, and when we live our life comparing our real life to the highlight reels of others, it’s a dangerous combination. What steps can you take in your life to live more like Paul (who is following in the footsteps of Jesus)?

PRAY

5. Pray that we would rejoice where God rejoices, mourn that which God mourns, and celebrate His work among both us and others. Plus, whatever other concerns that are on your heart and mind.



Plant • Water • Grow

Acts 18:18-28

February 19, 2023 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

Those within the church are not in **COMPETITION**; different voices will reach **DIFFERENT** people for Jesus.

“What then is Apollos? What is Paul? **SERVANTS** through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the **GROWTH**. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is **ANYTHING**, but only God who gives the growth.” -1 Corinthians 3:5-7

“For we are God’s **FELLOW WORKERS**.” -1 Corinthians 3:9

Very seldom will you be the **SOLE** influence in bringing someone from a point of **UNBELIEF** all the way to **MATURE FAITH** in Jesus Christ.

We love **REDEMPTION** stories, **COMEBACKS**, and unlikely **HEROES**.

We get to rejoice when God rejoices: when sinners **REPENT**, when lives are **TRANSFORMED**, when God uses His people in service of this **MEANINGFUL** task. Because as we celebrate this work among **OTHERS**, we begin to see how God might work through **US**.

For next week, read Acts 19:1-20