

**Love Your Neighbor
Beauty or Bitterness? - Ruth 1:20-21
First Christian Church—February 26, 2017
Austin Willard, Men's Director ASM**

My Story -

Big Idea – When we receive the gift of rebirth in Jesus Christ, our new hearts want to enjoy the **beauty** of God bursting through all areas of life, which He designed for all of us! However, we often allow an unseen parasite called **bitterness** to grow into a destructive lifestyle filled with overwhelming poison and inevitable bondage.

God's Story – Beauty or Bitterness, Ruth 1:20-21

BITTERNESS IS A PARASITE, Hebrews 12:15; Ephesians 4:31

OUR LIVES WILL CONTAIN: SORROW AND HARDSHIP, 1 Peter 4:12a; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9; John 16:33

HOW DOES BITTERNESS GROW? "Worry is *not* believing God will get it right; bitterness is believing God got it wrong." -Tim Keller

Recognizing the growth of bitterness:

ELIMINATING BITTERNESS "The only way to avoid bitterness is to practice forgiveness. Nothing else will uproot angry resentment." -Tim Keller

1. Believing What God Has Done for Us

2. Believing His Promises & Goodness... Revelation 21:4a; Gen 50:20a; Isaiah 55:9

ANGER TOWARD GOD...

RECEIVING THE GIFT OF GRACE

Learning from Naomi:

"He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." (Ruth 4:15)