

THE SAINT PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH
GROW | PRAY | SERVE



WWW.MYSPBC.ORG • 804.643.4000

Welcome!

SERIES: YOUR FUTURE SELF WILL THANK YOU

Today's Message: Looking Ahead
Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: Guiding God, we don't want to drift through life without finding your purpose for us. It is only by your grace and your power that the choices we make today will lead us to the tomorrow you have planned. Empower us now to value and choose what is right and not what is popular. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: A toy company decides to make an action figure of you. With what two accessories do you come? Describe and share.

INTRODUCTION: Is the pattern for our life pre-determined or is it possible for us to miss God's plan? Scripture teaches that the choice is ours. Most people waste their lives, not understanding that God's plan must be chosen. What happens to your life is not nearly as important as how you choose to respond to what happens. Will you let circumstances be stepping stones or stumbling blocks? Will you let them make you bitter or better? We make our choices, and then our choices make us. Choose values that lead you to victory—your future self will thank you.

SCRIPTURE: Read Hebrews 11:23-27 (Message)

DISCUSSION:

1. What stood out in today's message? Read Hebrews 11:23-27 together. Why did Moses give up everything he had as the son of Pharaoh's daughter and persevere? If you don't believe in God, it wouldn't seem worth it. How can you explain to someone who doesn't see it why it matters to choose God?
2. Our text for today shows that Moses made 4 life-shaping choices: 1) He refused to be defined by others; 2) He chose short term pain for long term gain; 3) He chose what God valued, not what culture valued; and 4) He chose to live by faith, not by fear. How should we face our own identity crises and refuse to be defined by them—or by others?
3. Consider who you may be letting determine your identity. What peer pressure are you bowing to? How do you have integrity in who God made you to be?
4. Why is it important to choose short term pain for long term gain? Short term pain can mean accepting responsibility for our actions. Why do we tend to blame someone else? What are the hard things you know you need to do that you don't want to do?
5. What do we gain when we choose God's values over cultural values? What are your top 3 values? Can you name them? If not, someone else might.

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6. God values purpose more than popularity, people over pleasure, and peace of mind more than possessions. How would your life be different this year if you chose to live by faith, not by fear?

CHALLENGE: Evaluate your values. What is really important to you in life? Where are your values leading you ultimately? What changes (if any) do you need to make?

SERVE: Pray over Hebrews 11:23-27 this week. **Praise** God in advance for helping you to make the right choices and live by values that lead ultimately to victory. **Listen:** when you are quiet before God, it is amazing how clear things become. **Respond.** Write it down, live it out, give God praise!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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We Care!

NOTICE: DUE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS, ALL OF OUR CAMPUSES ARE PHYSICALLY CLOSED AT THIS TIME UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

As a small group leader, we depend on **you** to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472
EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000
EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR/DIRECTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory
EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams (Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org)
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith (SMB: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org)
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Curtis Ballard (curtis.ballardjr@myspbc.org)
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr. (lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org)
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend (michelle.townsend@myspbc.org)
- Encore (50-59): Jamie Duncan (Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org)
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman (maceo.freeman@myspbc.org)
- Refiners (70+): Wallace Simms (Wallace.Simms@myspbc.org)

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