

MARCH 2017

TODAY IN THE WORD™



I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Psalm 139:14

DESIGNED BY GOD

A devotional from



MOODY
GLOBAL MINISTRIES

TODAY WITH DR. PAUL NYQUIST

President of Moody Global Ministries

You Are His Treasure



I find the public television show *Antiques Roadshow* fascinating. Guests wait in long lines holding assorted items: statues,

paintings, china, and even old military weapons. Antique experts scrutinize the condition and value of each item. Most people discover their beloved heirloom is only valuable because of the sentiment it carries, but a few items—especially when signed by a famous maker or artist—are worth tens of thousands of dollars.

Isn't it amazing that a small marking by a known artist will make what appears to be an ordinary item intrinsically more valuable? And so it is with us. While we may not always feel like our lives are particularly important or worthwhile, we have worth based on our relationship to our Creator.

In Ephesians 2:10, Paul writes, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” In the *New Living Translation*, the word *workmanship* is translated as “masterpiece.” Both translations help us understand how God values us.

The Hebrew word translated as *workmanship* is used in the Old Testament primarily to describe the artistic skills necessary to fashion beautiful items. For instance, a lampstand is hammered from gold, with a base of flowers, in a pattern designed by God Himself (Num. 8:4). Skilled artisans were valued as they created items for the tabernacle and later the temple, using the very best materials to honor God.

In this letter from Paul to the Ephesians, the Greek word refers to anything made or created. And, it is used to refer to us! Paul says we are God's masterpiece, His handiwork. God, the supreme Artist, was intimately involved in our creation.

His original creation of man and woman, Adam and Eve, occurred in the Garden of Eden (see Genesis 2). And, we have been created again, a second time, through our new birth in Jesus Christ. God's workmanship in us is ongoing. While we are made new in Christ and that redemptive work is complete (Col. 2:10), God continues to work in our lives, shaping us into a thing of great beauty that will be fully realized only in eternity. You have extraordinary value. You are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus. ■

THEOLOGY MATTERS

by Dr. John Koessler

Male, Female, and the Image of God

When God created humanity to reflect His image, He made them male and female (Gen. 1:27). This implies something important about human nature. The polarity of male and female is essential to our role as bearers of the divine image. This is one reason God designed marriage to be between a man and a woman and why homosexuality is described in Scripture as “shameful,” “unnatural,” and a “perversion” (Rom. 1:26–27). Why would the Bible offer such a strong denunciation for behavior that many today would prefer to think of as an expression of predetermined preferences?

The Bible describes homosexuality as a distortion of God’s design for humanity. Homosexual practice became a part of human experience because fallen humanity refused to acknowledge God (Rom. 1:21). The tendency of today’s culture to normalize homosexual behavior and affirm same-sex marriage is evidence that we have “exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator” (Rom. 1:25).

The polarity of human male and female as a reflection of the divine image implies something equally important about God. He does not have a sexual

identity, but this does not mean that gender is alien to Him. Although God is neither male nor female, the cultural roles of both sexes are used to describe Him. God’s compassion is compared to a nursing mother in Scripture (Isa. 49:15). He promises to comfort Israel as a mother comforts her child (Isa. 66:13). At the same time, the Bible predominantly uses male pronouns and images to refer to God. Jesus taught the church to address God as Father (Matt. 6:9). This use of gender-specific language to describe God dignifies both sexes as bearers of the divine image and tells us something about Him that other words cannot.

The growing acceptance of same-sex unions is proof that our culture continues to suppress the truth about God and His design for humanity. But the Scriptures offer this hope to all who will recognize their sinfulness and turn to Christ: “And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:11). ■

FOR FURTHER STUDY

To learn more, read *Sex and the iWorld: Rethinking Relationship Beyond an Age of Individualism* by Dale S. Kuehne (Baker).

FROM THE EDITORS

by Bruce Everhart

Bible Teaching, Fellowship, and Community at Moody

D. L. Moody, the evangelist and founder of Moody Bible Institute, is credited with the idea that has grown into one of our most beloved traditions. As the story goes, it was Mr. Moody's birthday and it was snowing, so he decided to cancel classes at the Bible school and take the students on a sleigh ride.

While we no longer take everyone on a sleigh ride, we do still suspend classes during the week of Moody's birthday, February 5, and we hold the Founder's Week Bible conference. Our faculty, staff, and students join other attendees to hear from some of our country's premier Bible teachers. Founder's Week is a free weeklong event that is open to the public, with sessions held in Chicago at Moody Bible Institute and nearby Moody Church. You are invited! If you are able, please plan to join us for some or all of this week of outstanding Bible teaching.

With the blessings of new technology, the conference is available even if you are unable to attend in person. Moody Radio listeners can hear evening sessions on their local station. Sessions are also available through streaming, so you can join us on your computer ([www.foundersweek.org](http://wwwFOUNDERSWEEK.ORG)). This year's Founder's Week conference, "Heirs

with Christ," will be held February 6 to 10 and will feature teaching from Gary Chapman, Janet Parshall, Tony Evans, Don Sunukjian, and former Moody president Michael Easley. We also hear from our student music ensembles, Moody faculty, and so many others.

Founder's Week gives you an opportunity to hear Bible teaching together with thousands of other Christians. *Today in the Word* offers you a tool for a year-round devotional reading, either alone or in a small group. Every study in *Today in the Word* is intended to help you go deeper in your understanding of Scripture and to grow more in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

D. L. Moody once said, "The Bible was not given for our information, but for our transformation." God's Word produces eternal and life-changing results. It helps us see ordinary life from God's perspective. It corrects our faulty thinking and behaviors. And it shapes and molds us in His image. Thank you for joining us again for this global Bible study we call *Today in the Word*. And we welcome you to join us for Founder's Week, "Heirs with Christ." We look forward to spending time in the Word with you!

VOLUME 30 • ISSUE 3

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Bruce Everhart

MANAGING EDITOR

Heather Moffitt

SENIOR EDITOR

Elena Mafter

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Jamie Janosz

John Koessler

WRITER

Jamie Janosz

ART DIRECTOR

Lynn Gabalec

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Larry Bohlin, Dana Chen

BUSINESS MANAGER

Paul B. Currie

MARKETING MANAGER

Claire Kniewski

MOODY GLOBAL MINISTRIES

PRESIDENT

J. Paul Nyquist

PROVOST

Junias Venugopal

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Steven Mogck

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Greg R. Thornton

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Ken Heullitt

VICE PRESIDENTS

Tim Arens

Larry Davidhizar

Jim Elliott

Bruce Everhart

Christine Gorz

John A. Jelinek

Collin G. Lambert

Frank W. Leber Jr.

Bryan O'Neal

Paul Santhouse

James Spencer

Janet Stiven

Anthony Turner

Debbie Zelinski

TRUSTEES

Christopher Denison

Orbelina Eguizabal

T. Randall Fairfax (Chairman)

Thomas S. Fortson

Manuel Gutierrez

Jerry B. Jenkins

Paul Johnson (Emeritus)

James Meeks

J. Paul Nyquist

David Schipper

Juliana Slattery

Paul Von Tobel

Mark Wagner

Richard E. Warren

Richard Yook

TODAY IN THE WORD™

Designed by God

“The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost is one of the best-known poems in American literature, easily found in any good poetry anthology. Journalist and literary critic David Orr has written a book, *The Road Not Taken: Finding America in the Poem Everyone Loves and Almost Everyone Gets Wrong*. Orr highlights the importance of understanding Frost’s intricate and nuanced design of the poem. The poem first directs the reader’s attention to the “grassy” road—but the tricky word here is *Not* in the title. The genius of this poem’s design makes us look deeper, delight in the subtleties of our choices, and reflect on things not seen and roads not taken.

This month in *Today in the Word* we’ll learn about the importance of understanding God’s divine design for our lives. We’ll see that He created us to choose, to question, to produce, to help one another, to relish life, to work, and to rest. We’ll also see that He intricately designed us to experience a range of emotions: delight, joy, grief, loneliness, love. As we discover who we are in the Lord, we’ll come to know better our wonderful Creator and His love for us.

Thank you for studying the Bible with *Today in the Word*! We hope your time in God’s Word this month will encourage you. We pray that you will see more clearly His divine purpose and His love for you and follow Him on all your life’s paths. ■

Moody Global Ministries is the sole publisher of *Today in the Word*, copyright © 2017 by Moody Global Ministries. All rights reserved. Please direct all *Today in the Word* inquiries to Donor Resource Management, 820 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, IL 60610. Scripture taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*®, NIV®, copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Scripture taken from the *New American Standard Bible*®, copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. Printed in the U.S.A. *Today in the Word* is published monthly. Printed on 30% recycled paper.

WEDNESDAY
MARCH

1

The LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.

Genesis 2:7

Designed by God

Unimate was the first industrial robot, invented in 1961, to work with heated die-casting machines on the General Motors assembly line. The 4,000-pound robot performed tasks that humans could not safely do, such as loading and unloading heavy materials. But even with all of their technical advancements, inventors have not been able to replicate the complexities of a human being.

Scripture tells us human beings came into existence as a deliberate act of creation by God Himself. As the second chapter of Genesis begins, “the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array” (v. 1). An enormous level of creativity and detail went into the creation of everything we know on Earth and everything in the heavens beyond.

In these first moments of creation, God used springs to water the Earth rather than rain (v. 6). As God surveyed His work, He decided to create a caretaker

for this majestic creation, someone to oversee the planting and harvesting of this abundance (v. 5). God completed His masterpiece of creation with a human being.

God formed man out of the dust of the earth (which was also God’s creation). But this shape was not a living being; at this point, it was little more than just an elaborate clay container. In verse 7, we read that God Himself breathed into man’s nostrils. Only God could create life from nothing. We were formed by God and breathed into life by Him.

On the seventh day, after creating the oceans, the land, the sky, the creatures, and every living thing, God chose to rest. Did God need rest? Was He tired from overexertion or too much thinking? No. An omnipotent God would not get weary. Rather, He ordained rest as a part of His creation. Then, God declared His work complete (v. 2).

APPLY THE WORD

Look closely at your hand. Notice the detail of each knuckle and fingernail. Bend your fingers and observe the way your hands grip and stretch. While scientists are able to form robotic arms, they do not have the capacity of the human hand. You are indeed fearfully and wonderfully made. Thank God today for the care He took in your creation.

PRAY WITH US

Today is the annual Day of Prayer at Moody, which dates back to March 1992. Moody’s president, Dr. Paul Nyquist, invites you, as part of the Moody family, to come before the Lord today together with students, faculty, and staff.

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone.”

Genesis 2:18

THURSDAY
MARCH

2

Designed Distinctly

One of the most famous sculptures of a woman is best known for her imperfection. *Venus de Milo* is an ancient Greek statue believed to depict Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty. But the most notable thing about this sculpture is that she is missing both of her arms. Some say the missing limbs might provide important clues to her identity. Others find beauty in her imperfection.

In today’s passage we meet the first woman, sculpted into life by God Himself. The Bible tells us God created human beings at two distinct times. The first created human was Adam, formed from the dust of the earth and breathed into life by God Himself. The second was Eve, created as a companion for Adam.

It is interesting that God did not choose to make a second individual just like the first. Instead, He chose to make a

different type of person, and He chose a different method of creating her. Eve was created specifically as a helper for Adam, and as the solution to a problem. God did not want Adam to be alone.

Eve is created from the rib of the man. Commentators note that in doing so, God performs the first surgery. He puts Adam to sleep, opens up his chest to remove a rib, and closes him back up. That rib is used to form Eve’s rib. The two are individuals, created to be different, yet, by using one piece from the man, God forever connects them.

Verse 24 speaks of the attraction between man and woman—the fact that the displaced rib seeks its owner. “That is why,” says the text, “a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife.” God designed not only two individuals but also a complementary pair of helpers who could work and serve together.

APPLY THE WORD

Scripture is clear that both genders, male and female, are created in the image of God. We are different in design, but neither is less important. Both men and women reflect their Creator. Whether you are male or female, ask God to make His attributes visible through your life today.

PRAY WITH US

Counseling Services provide a safe place for students to go with their problems or concerns. Please pray that Gayla Gates, Holly Porter, and Stephen Brasel would be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as they offer guidance and encouragement to Moody students.

FRIDAY
MARCH

3

*If there is a natural body,
there is also a spiritual body.*

1 Corinthians 15:44

Designed to be Physical and Spiritual

In the movie *When Dreams May Come*, actor Robin Williams portrays the character Chris Nielsen, a man who is tragically killed in a car accident. In the afterlife, Chris puzzles over his identity since his physical body is not the same. His angelic guide, Albert, asks, “What is ‘me’?” Chris answers, “My brain, I suppose.” To which Albert responds, “Your brain? Your brain is a body part. Like your fingernail or your heart.”

This poses an important question. Who are we? Are we merely a collection of physical body parts? Or are we designed by God as something much more complex? Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians delves into our identity not just as physical beings but also as spiritual ones.

The body we live in now, the body that we bury, says Paul, is our natural or “perishable” one (v. 42). This body suffers illness and eventually dies and

is buried. But our second body will be “spiritual” (v. 44). Notice the qualities of the earthly physical body in comparison to the spiritual one (vv. 42–44). The spiritual is imperishable, raised in glory and power.

The physical body is compared to a seed, an object that contains life within. Once the seed is buried, new life comes forth. But until that seed is planted, new life is not realized (vv. 35–37). God’s design for humans is far different than the flesh He gave to animals or the splendor He gave to the rest of creation (vv. 38–41).

Paul’s explanation puts our physical death into a different light. God did indeed create the physical body first, out of dust. But the second body, the eternal one, is also a part of His divine plan for us (vv. 49–50). We bear both an earthly image and a heavenly one.

APPLY THE WORD

When you plant a seed, you can watch a small hard object transform into a living, growing plant. Spring has just begun, and the wonder of God’s renewal is evident in the world around us. Consider the buds on the trees or the first flowers poking through the soil, and thank God for His plan which renews us.

PRAY WITH US

Would you pray for Dr. Timothy Arens, vice president and dean of Student Life? Our prayer is that the staff under his leadership would provide the best possible service to our students and will always be there for them.

*Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD,
know it completely.*

Psalm 139:4

SATURDAY
MARCH

4

Understood by God

German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen discovered the X-ray in 1895, and the first X-ray image he created was of his wife's hand on a photographic plate. His wife was startled by the image, and is quoted as saying, "I have seen my death." Roentgen's discovery captivated the world and transformed diagnosis and treatment in medicine. He was awarded the first Nobel Prize for physics in 1901.

Certainly doctors have the ability to know us in an intimate way, to look beneath our clothing and our skin to see what is happening to our hearts, lungs, and internal organs. But this passage declares that God, who designed us, knows us better than anyone else. He is not only acquainted with our physical being, He knows our actions (v. 3) and even the words we will speak (v. 4). Each step we take is known by God. There is nowhere we can go that will be out of His reach.

The psalmist, King David, declares that God not only knows us as individuals, He lays his hand upon us and "hems" us in from behind and before (v. 5). The word *hem* means to guard or to border us. So, not only does God go before us as we move through life, He is also behind us, no matter where our path might lead.

For David, realizing God's omniscience and omnipresence meant knowing the actions He did would be seen by God. There was no hiding from the Almighty who chose David for who He was on the inside and then loved Him despite His failures.

It is impossible for us to hide from God. Just as Adam and Eve discovered in the Garden of Eden when they tried to escape God's notice, God sees us completely (v. 7). We are exposed, naked before Him. Nothing we think, do, or say is hidden from God.

APPLY THE WORD

Take time to dwell on this amazing idea, and then read this psalm as part of your prayers to God today. The Lord knows what is in your mind and heart: the good, the bad, and the ugly. God knows what we need to confess to Him even before we say it. Therefore we can bring Him our praise, our confession, and our requests.

PRAY WITH US

As spring break begins today on Moody's Chicago campus, we pray for our students—those going home to their families or on a mission trip, as well as those touring the country with our music ensembles. May this be a restful and fruitful time for them!

SUNDAY
MARCH

5

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Psalm 139:13

Designed in the Womb

While today ultrasound technology is often associated with viewing a child while still in the womb, bats and porpoises have always used ultrasound to locate their food and predators. In addition to its use in prenatal care, scientists, inventors, and doctors also use sonar and ultrasound to detect icebergs below the surface of the ocean, to determine the height of the ionosphere, and to diagnose brain tumors.

In today's psalm, David again talks about God's intimate knowledge of us, but this time, he says that God sees us within the womb. The passage implies that conception is not merely a biological function but the creative working of God Himself (v. 13). David credits God with creating not just our physical features but our "inmost being." Our identity, our looks, and even our personality have been designed by God.

Here David introduces the concept of God's omniscience. God has the ability to see further than an ultrasound. He not only saw our physical frame in the womb but was also able to look at the details of our life. Each moment of our lives are "written" in God's book (v. 16). Some may question whether this means we have no individual choice. But really it suggests that God has foreknowledge of the choices we will make, and He has a special purpose for each of us.

God knows our successes and failures. He knows when we will rejoice and when we will weep. Because of that, this psalm conveys an intimacy with God that surpasses all other relationships. David exclaims over his feelings toward God in verses 17 and 18. God's thoughts are "precious" to him—yet they also escape his ability to comprehend them. God is both far beyond our scope and intimately acquainted with us, His creation.

APPLY THE WORD

From the very beginning, your life was and is precious to God. As you spend time in prayer today, thank God that He knows you so intimately. Rest in the knowledge that your days are written in His book. Throughout every event in your life, God knows you and will be with you each step of the way.

PRAY WITH US

Steven Mogck, executive VP and chief operating officer, heads talented teams at Moody in Chicago and oversees the important details of our ministries' operations. We thank God in prayer today for Steve's able leadership.

Therefore . . . sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all have sinned.

Romans 5:12

Designed to Choose

The French word *marionette* means “little Mary.” According to scholar Scott Cutler Shershow, puppets often intertwined theology and theater, and the name *marionette* probably came from the figure of the Virgin Mary in a Nativity crèche. Marionettes are controlled by pulling strings attached to its limbs. The puppeteer is usually located up above the stage, controlling the actions and movements by lifting the strings up or down. The puppet can do nothing on its own.

God did not create us as marionettes. We are designed by God to think and choose. Adam and Eve had to decide whether to obey God’s instruction in the Garden of Eden or whether to listen to Satan and disobey. Their choice, of course, had far-reaching consequences, even for us today.

The serpent offered a tempting proposition: “You will be like God,

knowing good and evil” (v. 5). First Eve and then Adam considered this enticing proposition and then made a choice. Would they obey God’s clear instruction? Or would they believe the glittering alternative of the serpent? They chose to eat the fruit, and instantly they realized the consequences of their action (v. 7).

God did not create mankind to be His puppets or slaves or robots. He created human beings with the capacity to process and think and decide. They could choose to listen, to worship, and to obey. Or they could choose to doubt, to disappoint, and to rebel. God desired the love of Adam and Eve, but He did not require it. And, He gives us the same choice today. As our key verse today reminds us, all of us are born with the inclination to choose sin as a result of the choice made by Adam and Eve. Thankfully, through Jesus we can also choose life and obedience.

APPLY THE WORD

You are designed with the ability to make choices. You can obey God, or you can ignore His prompting and follow the temptations of the world. Our freedom to choose does not guarantee that we will make wise decisions or escape the consequences of foolish ones. Ask the Holy Spirit today to help you make choices that obey God and bring Him glory.

PRAY WITH US

Today and tomorrow, uphold in prayer the Donor Development team headed by Bruce Everhart, VP of Donor Development and Channel Strategy. Ask the Lord to bless the service of Paul Currie, Joe Forrider, Claire Kniewski, and Hadassah Lachmann.

TUESDAY
MARCH

7

*But who are you, a human being,
to talk back to God?*

Romans 9:20

Designed to Question

Dorothy was a young girl desperately trying to get back to her home in Kansas. She began a long and arduous journey to meet the Wizard of Oz, believing he would know the answer to her problems. But when she arrived, the Wizard gave her impossible tasks to accomplish, and she was frustrated. The Wizard refused to answer her questions, booming his reply: “Do not arouse the wrath of the great and powerful Oz!”

Sometimes we may feel like Dorothy, wanting answers to life’s complex questions and frustrated by God’s power and seeming silence. Romans 9 makes it clear that humans have been given the capacity to question our Maker. But the apostle Paul also urges us to put those questions in a proper perspective. He compares us to clay that has been shaped by a potter (v. 21). God has the right to do what He wants with us. Who are we to question Him?

He will do with us what He sees fit. And we can trust His love and sovereignty.

The passage describes the direction of purpose in our relationship with our Creator. First, God chose us and has a plan for us (v. 22). He is patient when we disobey, and, despite our actions, He has rescued us from destruction. Some of His choices are made in order to prepare us for eternity (v. 24). We are chosen, we are redeemed, and we are loved.

Men and women throughout Scripture asked God difficult questions. Job asked God why he suffered. Jonah wanted to know why he should go to Nineveh. Sarah wondered how she could bear a child at her advanced age. While we must acknowledge that God can and will carry out His will for His creation (v. 28), He also made each of us capable of asking hard questions and desiring answers.

APPLY THE WORD

What questions do you have for God? In the psalms, we read David’s questions that became prayers to the Almighty. Today, give your questions to God in prayer. You can also discuss those difficult questions with your pastor, Bible study leader, or even submit them to our Q&A column in *Today in the Word*. No question is too difficult for God.

PRAY WITH US

Today, please add to your prayer list Scott Veigel and Teri Vaughn from Donor Development on our Chicago campus. May God guide them every day as they plan donor outreaches and oversee important fundraising efforts.

The LORD . . . has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills.

Exodus 35:30–32

WEDNESDAY
MARCH

8

Designed to Create

We know God is creative because we see His handiwork on display everywhere around us. Witness a spectacular sunrise, or a sunset that is an explosion of color. Each tiny snowflake is perfectly formed of crystals. Rock canyons have layers of earth sculpted into formation. Who can doubt that the almighty God we serve is an artist? Is it any wonder then we, too, are designed to create?

In today's passage, Moses held a meeting of the Israelites. After gathering the entire community, he presented the task before them: they were to build a grand and beautiful tabernacle as a dwelling for God on earth. First, Moses asked everyone to contribute, instructing them to give their very best (vv. 4–5).

Second, Moses instructed those who were “skilled” (v. 10). Certainly people were needed who could do labor and

construction, but they also needed people with the ability to make each part with beauty, attention, and detail. These craftsmen would make the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altar, the curtains, even the tent pegs. Everything is to be done according to plan, with no expense or effort spared.

The people who were “willing” and “whose heart moved them” brought an offering in obedience to the Lord's call (vv. 20–21). Notice the interplay between following God's call and their joyful contribution from their hearts (v. 29). Both men and women offered their time, talent, and treasure to make the tabernacle a colorful and beautiful place for the Lord to dwell.

The final verses of this chapter emphasize that creative skills and teaching talents are bestowed by God. Bezalel was filled with the “Spirit of God . . . to make artistic designs” (vv. 31–32).

APPLY THE WORD

God has made us in His image. If He is a creative God, it means you have creativity in you as well! Whether you are a skilled artisan or a novice, take time to enjoy this God-designed part of yourself. Sing. Paint. Color. Sew. Build. Write. Cook. Use your creative skills in a way that honors God with all your heart and blesses others.

PRAY WITH US

Please set aside some time today to lift up in prayer Moody's trustees. We value their dedication in serving Moody Global Ministries with their time, expertise, prayers, and resources. A list of their names is provided on page 5.

THURSDAY
MARCH

9

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

Psalm 34:8

Designed to Relish Life

According to a CNN poll, the most delicious dish in the world was deemed to be an Indonesian specialty called *rendang*. The dish is usually made with beef that is simmered for hours with coconut milk and spices, including lemongrass, galangal, garlic, turmeric, ginger, and chilies.

We are designed by God to relish life, to enjoy the tastes, beauty, and wonders our world offers. In the Garden of Eden, God took Adam on a tour of his surroundings to show him the animals and the garden with its plentiful fruit (Gen. 2:19). Mercifully, even after the Fall we are still able to delight in the abundance of God’s good creation.

In today’s psalm, David praises His Creator. He encourages us to “taste and see that the LORD is good” (v. 8). All things delicious and beautiful should remind us that we serve a good God. The end of the sentence says we are

blessed when we take “refuge” in God (v. 9). In other words, we choose well when we retreat into God’s presence, because He is an abundant host who created things that bring joy to our hearts. When we fear the Lord, we will not lack anything.

Throughout Scripture, God promises to care for our physical needs, but our first priority should be seeking His provision for our spiritual needs (see Matt. 6:33). Our goal in life should not be merely to complete our bucket list of experiences but rather to enjoy God Himself. When we seek God first, He gives us the delights of our heart. When we stay close to God, we will “lack no good thing” (v. 10).

David ends with a guide for life: “Turn from evil and do good, seek peace and pursue it” (v. 14). Life is not simply about satisfying our insatiable desires. It is an opportunity to draw close to God.

APPLY THE WORD

Maybe this devotional has made you think about what you will serve for dinner or where you would love to go out to eat. Remember, the food we eat is meant to be enjoyed, but it should also point us back to God. Take time before you enjoy today’s dinner to thank God for providing food and for allowing us to relish life in this way.

PRAY WITH US

Daniel Ward, Abigail Tennant, Brian Jaworski, Kathleen Hills, Thomas Anderson, and Tina Armagost—the staff of Student Services on our Spokane campus—welcome your prayers that their ministry to students would bring abundant fruit.

The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders.

Psalm 65:8

Designed to Delight in Nature

When asked to name the most beautiful natural scenes in the world, a group of travel readers selected Pulpit Rock (Preikestolen) in Ryfylke, Norway. The cliff rises nearly 2,000 feet above the Lysefjord and juts out, providing a stunning view of lakes and mountains—without any safety rails! More than 150,000 visitors visit Pulpit Rock each year.

God has created an abundance of natural beauty in our world, and we are designed to delight in it. The psalmist rejoices in a God who answers prayer and forgives sins (vv. 1–3). He describes those as “blessed” who choose to come and worship God in His temple (v. 4).

The answers of God, says the psalmist, are seen in nature. God reveals Himself in the beauty and wonder of creation. “The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders,” he exclaims (v. 8). As

created beings, is it any wonder that we are drawn to God’s creation? We see His hand in the mountains, the seas, and the waves (vv. 6–7). To believers, they are a reflection of the God who formed them with the same care.

The psalmist also notes that God’s care for us is seen in the way He sustains the natural world. God cares for the land, so that it, in turn, can provide and sustain us (vv. 9–13). Certainly that increases our incentive to care for it as well.

The tone of this psalm is one of joy. When we gaze upon the wonders of creation, we do not feel oppressed and weak. Instead, we are filled with wonder and singing. We recognize God’s “bounty” and “abundance” clearly displayed in the world around us (v. 11). We are designed to delight at this evidence of His hand.

APPLY THE WORD

Beautiful sunsets. Snow-covered mountains. A springtime flower or buds on a tree. Each of these wonders points us to our Creator and fills us with His hope. Thank God today for His provision for us through the beauty and sustenance of nature. If you are able, make time to be outside and appreciate His beauty in the world around us.

PRAY WITH US

Dr. James Spencer, vice president and dean of Moody Bible Institute, requests your prayers for our Undergraduate School. We are thankful to all Moody’s friends whose prayers and support continue D. L. Moody’s vision of tuition-paid Bible education.

SATURDAY
MARCH

11

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

Colossians 3:23

Designed to Work

Michelangelo, the Italian sculptor, painter, architect, and poet, is remembered for his masterpieces, including the frescoes that cover the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. But his admirers might forget that his art required an incredible amount of painstaking work. Michelangelo said, “If people knew how hard I worked to get my mastery, it wouldn’t seem so wonderful after all.”

Work can be rewarding, but it can also be just plain hard! The story of creation reveals God’s design for work. God Himself worked at Creation. The text says that God “finished the work he had been doing” (Gen. 2:2). And God also designed that man, created in His image, would work. He placed man in the Garden to care for it (2:15). Adam’s task would be one of caretaking for the garden and he would rule over, or care for, the animals (1:26).

In today’s passage, we see the fall out from the decision of Adam and Eve to disobey God and His design for their lives. Eve would endure the pain of childbirth (3:16). Adam’s curse would transform his work into “toil” (v. 17).

Bearing children and working were both a part of God’s original design. Both of these are intended to be good, intrinsic elements of human flourishing. But now those activities were affected by the Fall. Childbirth became laborious. Work became toil. The ground would be thorny instead of fruitful (vv. 18–19).

After God banished Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, they would need to “work the ground from which he had been taken” (v. 23). Life would no longer be simple and pleasurable but strenuous and often difficult. Work, like childbearing, remained part of God’s design for humanity, but sin made it backbreaking.

APPLY THE WORD

You may work a 9-to-5 job, be part of the new “gig economy,” or be retired. Nonetheless, we are all called to work as unto God (Col. 3:23). Whether or not we have an earthly boss, our ultimate responsibility is to serve God well with everything we undertake. That raises the bar, doesn’t it? Whatever you do today, do it for God Himself.

PRAY WITH US

Pray for the Communications department faculty in Chicago: Brian Kammerzelt, David Fetzer, Jill White, and Karyn Hecht. Please pray for the Holy Spirit’s power and effectiveness in communicating the truth of God’s Word.

*Come to me all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11:28

SUNDAY
MARCH

12

Designed to Rest

In his book *The Radical Pursuit of Rest*, Moody professor and author John Koessler warns us not to simply work for the weekend: “When work loses its purpose and becomes an end in itself, rest also loses its meaning. This is not because rest serves work. Neither is it because work justifies rest. It is because rest in its rightful place needs nothing to justify it. Rest is an end in itself. We do not rest in order to work. Rest as the Bible describes it is our destiny.”

Are we designed to rest? Certainly! The God who designed us showed us how to rest through His own example. God “finished the work he had been doing” and rested (Gen. 2:2). In today’s passage, Moses assembled the Israelites to complete an important task, the construction of the tabernacle. He gave the people a detailed work schedule, but he also included an important addendum to that list. He said they must rest.

They were instructed to use six days for work. It would be painstaking and detailed. They should take care to do “the things the Lord has commanded” (v. 1). But on the seventh day, they were to rest. Notice that they were to “rest to the Lord” (v. 2). The focus of rest is not self-gratification for a job well done but a time set aside to prioritize, to refocus, and to honor their God.

The penalty for abusing Sabbath law was death. God obviously took the practice of rest seriously. But the Sabbath was never intended to be a burden filled with restrictions and rules. It was to be a gift and a way to follow God’s own example.

In Matthew 11:28, Jesus says, “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Rest is not an obligation we fulfill but a necessary part of our design. Work and rest go hand in hand.

APPLY THE WORD

We sometimes pack every day so full that we rarely feel restful or rested. Set aside time to enjoy God’s presence and rest in Him, even if it means “doing” nothing at all. Turn off your electronics and take a break from work and chores to rest with your Creator, whether you take a walk or a nap or close your eyes and appreciate His presence.

PRAY WITH US

Continuing our prayers for the Communications faculty, please add to your list Rosalie de Rosset, Kelli Worrall, Matthew Moore, and Robert Gustafson. Ask for strength and perseverance as they lead their students to spiritual maturity.

MONDAY
MARCH

13

A woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Proverbs 31:30

Designed to Be Productive

In 2012, *The Atlantic* published a widely discussed article, “Why Women Still Can’t Have It All.” The author, scholar and government official Anne-Marie Slaughter, argued that the intense demands of parenting her teenaged sons and trying to work in the U.S. State Department proved too difficult to balance. Both men and women often feel like their to-do lists are never-ending, without enough hours in the day for all that needs to be done.

So for some, Proverbs 31 is met with a sigh of frustration. How can any individual accomplish all of this? This passage actually begins with a rhetorical question: “A wife of noble character who can find?” (v. 10), before describing what that type of woman would look like.

This woman does not fritter away her time with frivolity. She gets up early in the morning and goes to bed late at

night (vv. 15, 18). She is shrewd with her family’s finances (v. 16). She is generous and charitable (v. 20). She cares for her family with foresight and wisdom (vv. 21–22).

Notice that verse 23 also includes her husband. He is a respected leader in the community. And the qualities of both the male and female characters personified in this chapter could be applied to God’s design for both men and women. We are designed to be productive and generous and wise. Most of all, suggests the author, these are qualities of an individual who “fears the LORD” (v. 30).

Being busy is not an end in itself. God does not desire for us merely to work long hours but to live a balanced life, aligning our priorities with His. The woman in Proverbs 31 is hardworking, generous, wise, and caring—an accurate reflection of our Creator.

APPLY THE WORD

Our culture often confuses busy-ness with productivity. We have to ask the Lord to shape our priorities if our work is to reveal our “noble character” as a person who “fears the Lord.” Ask God to reveal any changes you might need to make in order to use your time productively, reflecting His qualities in everything you do.

PRAY WITH US

Would you include in your prayer time Moody’s Stewardship department, headed by vice president Jim Elliott? We thank God for Moody’s legacy of godly stewardship since the Institute’s foundation, the legacy carried on today by this team.

I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

John 16:22

TUESDAY
MARCH

14

Designed to Experience Joy

A 3-year-old Minnesota boy could not wait one more second. His mom had just returned from nine months of military service in Afghanistan and was standing in line with her fellow soldiers, waiting to be dismissed. While she was still standing at attention, her son broke free and rushed into her arms, a huge smile on his face. His unbridled act of joy melted the hearts of the crowd.

One day we will experience this joy of reunion with our Creator. On earth, we experience happiness. But we are also designed to know joy.

Joy is not based on temporary things that bring us pleasure but on the deep assuredness of God's love for us and the realization that we will be reunited with Him. In our reading today, Jesus knew His disciples would experience the devastating grief of separation. They would witness the execution of the One they faithfully followed.

They puzzled over His words, "In a little while you will see me no more" (v. 16). What could He mean? Jesus explained that they would indeed weep and mourn. But, they would also see their grief turn into joy. Both grief and joy would be present.

As Christians, we can experience joy, even during difficult circumstances, because we know what the future holds. Jesus compares this to a woman in labor. She endures incredible pain, but she knows the labor will result in great joy—the birth of her child. The pain is only temporary (v. 21).

We will also have joy that no one can take from us (v. 22). This joy comes from the assurance that Jesus did not stay in the grave but is raised from the dead. We, too, will see Him again, and when we do, our "joy will be complete" (v. 24).

APPLY THE WORD

Are you going through difficult times? Are you experiencing the pain of living in this fallen world? Ask God today to remind you that you will be reunited with Him and that your pain will turn to joy—a joy that no one can take away. Ask God to give you a joyful heart today that looks forward to our heavenly reunion.

PRAY WITH US

Please join us in prayer for Moody Radio's talented Programming team that creates and produces original content on air. Ask for God's blessing on the ministry of Chris Papendick, Dan Anderson, Dan Craig, Jon Gauger, and Nate McMillan.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

by Mike Kellogg, Moody Radio Host (Retired)

Q Does baptism save people? If not, does it matter whether people get baptized?

A When I was a young man attending a Baptist church, another young man came to me, concerned and upset because of the name of our church. He declared that he didn't think baptism saved anyone, and he thought the name "Baptist" implied that our church believed that baptism was part of salvation. I explained the name *Baptist* derived from the Anabaptists, who believed that baptism is an act of obedience in response to our salvation. Salvation comes when we accept by faith the gift of Christ's work on our behalf to deal with our sin and death. Baptism itself does not save anyone.

Frankly, it certainly would be easier to be saved if the only thing necessary to accomplish salvation was to be immersed or sprinkled by water. But instead, we have to repent of our sins and place our trust in Jesus (Acts 2:38). Baptism is the public proclamation that we have aligned ourselves with Jesus Christ and have accepted His gospel. It is the demonstration before others that we are choosing to follow Christ.

Today many people are baptized in front of other believers in churches. Some churches do prefer, when

possible, to host their baptism services in a public place—a public park with a lake or on a beachfront—so that they can offer a testimony to the world of the commitment that believers make to follow Jesus. And for many believers around the world, being baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is a confession of faith that could bring alienation and often death.

When we accept Christ, we are saved. We can do nothing to add to what Christ has already done for us. Baptism signifies our identity as redeemed by God, but the act of baptism is not what saves us—all the credit for that goes to Jesus' death, resurrection, and His work as our Great High Priest.

Q Is the Bible the only rule of faith and practice for the child of God?

A As 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." Further, all Scripture should point our attention toward our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He Himself illustrated this truth on the road to Emmaus: "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself" (Luke 24:27). The Bible is inspired by God Himself, and

Baptism is the demonstration before others that we are choosing to follow Christ.

we can add nothing to it that would be equally authoritative (see Rev. 22:18–19).

Q I have an acquaintance who believes in reincarnation. What does the Bible say?

A Other religions, notably Hinduism and Buddhism, teach various versions of reincarnation. But the Bible says, “People are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment” (Heb. 9:27). In other words, people are born once and die once on this earth.

Jesus did teach that we can be born again (see John 3). But the Christian doctrine of spiritual regeneration is very different from the teaching of reincarnation. Reincarnation means an ongoing process of physical rebirth until an individual improves his or her karma enough to leave the physical, material world. Being born again means that trusting in the person and work of Jesus, which makes it possible for us to have eternal life with God even after our physical death. We have eternal life not because we can do anything to be good enough to live with God but only because God’s love makes it possible (see Eph. 1:1–14).

Some have suggested that Jeremiah 1:5 hints at reincarnation. God says to Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the

womb I knew you. Before you were born I set you apart. I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” But this verse is not describing Jeremiah’s reincarnation. Instead, it means that even before his birth, Jeremiah was loved by God, who had a plan for his life. Psalm 139 also conveys this truth of God’s knowledge and love for us.

Q In the Old Testament, people had to have sacrifices for them made by a priest. But we know that no one is saved by the sacrifice of bulls and goats (Heb. 10:4). So how were these saints saved?

A They believed, and the Scripture says it was counted as righteousness (Rom 4:3). No one is saved by works (Rom. 10:9). They were saved just as we are today, by faith in the promises of God.

Hebrews 11 describes examples of faith by Old Testament saints. By faith, Abraham obeyed God’s call to go to a new land. By faith, Sarah had the child of promise though she was beyond the age of childbearing. By faith, Moses chose to identify with the people of God and experience suffering rather than accept the privileges of Pharaoh’s household. Old Testament saints were saved because they believed in God’s promise for them that He would provide, ultimately through the gift of His Son.

WEDNESDAY
MARCH

15

Jesus wept.

John 11:35

Designed to Grieve

One of the shortest verses in Scripture is also one of the most poignant: “Jesus wept” (John 11:35). Jesus had been called to the home of His friends Mary and Martha with word that their brother, Lazarus, was ill. But seemingly without reason Jesus took His time traveling to their home in Bethany, and when He arrived four days later, Lazarus had died.

We are designed by God to grieve. And we know this because our Savior also grieved. Biblical scholars say that the act of weeping showed the humanity of Jesus, revealing His capacity to experience emotional pain. He was both God and human, and thus, like us, He felt the pain of separation and loss. Even earlier in the passage, in verse 33, Jesus was moved by the grief of others. Again in verse 38, it says that Jesus, “once more deeply moved,” approached the tomb where Lazarus had been buried.

But Jesus was also fully divine and thus He had power over death. He miraculously commanded Lazarus to rise from the dead, challenging Martha to believe. He did this act of triumph over physical death so that many could believe (v. 42).

While Jesus had the power over death and could raise Lazarus from the grave, He also knew what it meant to feel the pain of separation and grief. Jesus wept in sympathy and in loss (v. 35). He was “a man of suffering, and familiar with pain” (Isa. 53:3). We do not serve a God who does not understand our ability to grieve. But through His own death and resurrection, Jesus has conquered the grave and given us hope that extends beyond death. As Paul says in his letter to the Thessalonians, we do not “grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope” (1 Thess. 4:13).

APPLY THE WORD

We all eventually die. But, as believers, we are given hope. We do not grieve as those who do not know the Lord. Pray today for someone you know who is experiencing the pain of grief. Send them a note of love and encouragement. And, if you are sorrowful, know you serve a Savior who has experienced your pain.

PRAY WITH US

Today, please pray for the rest of Moody Radio’s Programming team: Deb Solomon, Denny Nugent, Kurt Goff, Stephen Johnson, and Maureen Ber. Ask God to give them strength, joy, inspiration, and vision for every day at the workplace.

His love is made complete in us.

1 John 4:12

THURSDAY
MARCH

16

Designed to Be Loved

As jigsaw-puzzle enthusiasts can attest, few things are more frustrating than coming to the end of a challenging puzzle of hundreds or even thousands of pieces, only to discover that one piece is missing. Even though the rest of the picture may be beautiful, our eyes are immediately drawn to the empty space. The puzzle is incomplete.

Many people feel incomplete without someone to love. In this letter, John writes the good news that God's love is made complete in us (1 John 4:12). What a wonderful truth: God's love for us is an intentional part of our design. We are intricately and wonderfully made, and God's love in us is that final piece that completes the puzzle. We are made to love and to be loved by our Creator.

The beginning of the passage focuses on the reason we love others. Scripture tells us that everyone who loves is born

of God (vv. 7–8). When we act in love, we reflect God's image. These verses may be confusing. Aren't there people who love who are not born again? More accurately interpreted, John is saying that our own ability to love originates from God's design for us. While some may not believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior, they, too, were created in His image. They too were designed to love and be loved.

While we often think about love as something we desire, God has already demonstrated His love for us by giving His Son to die for us on the Cross. We are made complete both by being loved by God and by giving love to others. Perhaps that is why Jesus said the two greatest commands are to love God with your whole heart, mind, and soul, and to love others as yourself (see Matt. 22:36–40).

APPLY THE WORD

Do you know that you are deeply loved by God? Many of us may spend time searching for love. We can be encouraged to know that God's love is made complete in us. We are lacking nothing. We are a completed puzzle when we act in love, just as God designed us to be. Find one way to show God's love to someone today.

PRAY WITH US

Paul Santhouse, vice president of Publications, invites you to pray with him for the powerful ministry of Moody Publishers teams. We thank God for their dedication and hard work to provide our readers with quality Christian books.

FRIDAY
MARCH

17

All my longings lie open before you, Lord.

Psalm 38:9

We Feel Lonely

Thousands of lovesick teenagers pined for the objects of their affection when Elvis Presley sang about the Heartbreak Hotel, down at the end of Lonely Street. They felt like his angst-filled love song expressed their feelings well: “I get so lonely, I could die.”

While people usually do not die from loneliness, they may feel as if they could. In today’s psalm, David cries out to God about his painful loneliness.

Verses 1 through 10 describe his desperate condition, which he attributes to God’s wrath or punishment. He was heavy-burdened. He spent his days in mourning. He experienced physical as well as emotional pain. He tells it all to God in verse 9: “All my longings lie open before you.” Nothing is hidden.

David explains that this desperation resulted in loneliness. His friends and companions have all deserted him (v. 11).

The only people who gathered around now were his enemies who were bent on destroying him. He compared this soul-wrenching time of loneliness to being deaf or mute, unable to engage with the world around him (vv. 13–14). David knew he had to turn to God. Only God could solve his dilemma. Only God could answer his cry. The end of the psalm ends with a plea for God to intervene (vv. 21–22).

If you remember in Creation, God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone” (Gen. 2:18). We were not created to be lonely. But in a fallen world, sin and suffering (whether our own or that of others) can result in loneliness. This psalm reminds us that God does not ignore our pain. He sees it all. Like David, we can cry to Him in the midst of our loneliness. We were designed to desire companionship, and ultimately only God can satisfy that deep desire.

APPLY THE WORD

You may be feeling alone, or you may know someone struggling with loneliness as the result of losing a job or a spouse. God might use your invitation to a meal or friendly note as a blessing to them. If you are lonely today, open your heart before God. He sees and can help satisfy your need for companionship.

PRAY WITH US

We are grateful for the service of the Editorial team: James Vincent, Elizabeth Newenhuysse, and Connor Sterchi. We pray that the Eternal Word would be their help and strength as they edit and proofread the Moody Publishers books.

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering.

Isaiah 53:4

SATURDAY
MARCH

18

We Endure Suffering

Early in his career, the Dutch master Rembrandt painted a scene of the crucifixion that depicted Jesus' suffering on the Cross. The painting ended up in a small parish church in France and was virtually unknown until it was discovered in the 1950s. Art historians were able to conclusively identify it as Rembrandt's work in part because of his signature, which he etched on the Cross, but also because he used his own features in the face of Christ.

In today's passage, the prophet Isaiah clearly speaks of the physical and emotional suffering of our Lord and Savior. As Rembrandt depicted through his art, Jesus bore our pain through His death on the Cross (v. 4). It was our sin that He bore on the Cross.

Note the repeated comparison to sheep, an animal raised to be killed for food or sacrifice. We are the sheep who stray from the flock, while Christ is the

lamb who is willingly led to slaughter (v. 7). He did not defend Himself or speak out on His own behalf.

The innocence of Jesus is clear. He had done no wrong. But, His suffering served a higher purpose. First, He would redeem the lost. Second, He would fulfill the will of His Father (v. 10). And, finally, He would be glorified as His Father's will was accomplished (v. 11).

Jesus suffered willingly on our behalf. He endured physical pain and humiliation. We should not be surprised that we, too, will experience pain. It is a part of the human condition in a fallen world. But we also have the perfect example of our Savior to encourage us. He provides us with hope and a focus on how God redeems our suffering for His glory. Through Jesus' suffering, God has defeated death once and for all and guaranteed for us eternal life.

APPLY THE WORD

Each of us will one day face suffering, but we can rest in the assurance that we have a Savior who knows and understands our pain. He endured it, even to the point of death. Ask God for help as you walk through each difficult season of your life. And remember others today who may be suffering. We serve a Lord who is acquainted with our sorrows.

PRAY WITH US

Please keep in your prayers Moody Theological Seminary—its faculty, students, and staff—headed by vice president and dean, Dr. John Jelinek. Praise God for His faithfulness to raise Christian leaders in all generations!

SUNDAY
MARCH

19

And in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.

Romans 5:12

We Face Death

Many people feel uncomfortable in cemeteries. Psychologists say it is closely tied to our fear of our own mortality. When we see a gravestone, we may feel the emotional loss tied to the death of a loved one. We may be reminded that we too will one day die.

Although much of Romans 5 is spent discussing sin and death, the apostle Paul begins by assuring us of peace and hope. We can experience “peace with God” through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behalf (v. 1). The word *peace* describes our present condition, and *hope* looks forward, past our own physical death, to eternity.

Verse 12 describes the central problem for humanity: we have all sinned, and because of sin we all face death. The apostle Paul contrasts the sin we inherited through Adam with what we were given through Christ. The death of Jesus, on behalf of the ungodly, is

very rare indeed (v. 7). Christ did not die because we had somehow proved ourselves worthy. Rather, He died for us as we were—sinners (v. 8).

Note the difference between Adam’s actions and Christ’s. The consequence of Adam’s sin was death. Physical death and sickness are a common part of our existence. But this sin also resulted in spiritual death or separation from God. Death “reigned” (v. 14) from the time of Adam onward. The act of Adam had grave consequences, but the act of Jesus on the Cross brought grace (v. 15). The gift of Christ counteracted physical and spiritual death. By rising from the dead, Jesus conquered the grave and guaranteed eternal life.

Every one of us will face physical death. The grave is a bitter reality. But through Christ, we have been given the extraordinary gift of eternal life.

APPLY THE WORD

Graveyards are a stark reminder that none of us will live forever. Does the thought of death fill you with fear or hope? Be assured that you can have a hope for eternity guaranteed by God. When you believe in Christ as your Savior, you can be assured that when your body dies, you will be present with the Lord. Trust in Him today!

PRAY WITH US

We thank God today for the service of Tony Harper, Richard Tatina, Sam Ramos, and Victor Perez in our Campus Post Office in Chicago, as they process thousands of pieces of mail each day efficiently and accurately.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Hebrews 10:24

MONDAY
MARCH

20

Designed to Live in Community

When 16-year-old Hayden Schaumburg broke his neck during a high school football game, his family was devastated. Such an accident would be terrible news at any time, but it was particularly bad timing for the Schaumburg family: their farm was ready to be harvested, and they had to focus on caring for their son. In response, their community showed up. More than one hundred people arrived bringing lunch, sixteen combines, and thirty trucks. In less than ten hours, they harvested 125,000 bushels of corn.

Community is important. We are designed by God to live in relationship with one another. In today's passage, we read about the hope we have in Christ that allows us to draw near to God in faith (vv. 19–22). This faith provides a new template for how we will live. We do not live as those who have no hope. Instead, we hold “unswervingly” to the faith we profess (v. 23). Because of this,

we are called to live in community. Here the author urges us to spur one another on toward love and good deeds (v. 24). Love is translated into action. And this does not just refer to our own action, but also the actions we encourage in others.

We should motivate others toward acts of charity. We are called to meet together (v. 25). Some interpret this as attending weekly worship services, but it actually goes much further, urging us to be part of each other's lives in deep and meaningful ways. In our individualistic society, we often retreat into our private homes and separate lives. Here, we are urged to intentionally seek out community with the body of Christ.

The need for community will only increase as we see “the Day approaching” (v. 25). The imminent return of Christ should motivate us to live not as individuals but together.

APPLY THE WORD

How can you encourage others on to acts of kindness? Do you know someone in need? Perhaps you are familiar with a family or individual who has been the victim of tragedy. Consider uniting with other believers to do acts of love and kindness. How can you show up for someone else? Together, we can care for those in our community.

PRAY WITH US

Moody's Mail Service staff is in our prayers again. As Brenda McLemore and Nga Tran oversee the bulk mail shipments on our Chicago campus, we pray for their safety in the workplace, good teamwork and communication, and encouragement from the Lord.

TUESDAY
MARCH

21

*Now you are the body of Christ,
and each of you is a part of it.*

1 Corinthians 12:27

Designed to Help One Another

After a car crashed and rolled down an embankment in Palm Bay, Fla., people stopped to see if they could help the victim. The vehicle then caught on fire, and police were not immediately at the scene. Time was of the essence and the embankment was steep, so a dozen people grabbed hands and formed a human chain. Together, they pulled the driver up the steep hill to safety.

This letter to the Corinthians describes the importance of working together, comparing believers in Christ to a human body. The physical body is one unit that is composed of many distinctive parts. God created each individual part of the body to be necessary. They work together in order for the body to function successfully. This is also true for the body of Christ. While we may sometimes view ourselves as independent and unique, God has designed us to work together

as one cohesive unit and to help one another in our spiritual journey.

The apostle Paul imagines what might happen if our human body parts were able to speak. The foot gets quite rebellious in verse 15, suggesting it will leave the body because it is not a hand. In a bit of humorous absurdity, the text asks, *What if the entire body was an eye or an ear?* Of course, the answer is ridiculous. That could never be! It couldn't function! Every part of the body is important and relies on the other. The point is clear. We should realize that we rely on each other.

This changes the way we value each member. We should have “equal concern” for each other (v. 25). This also negates division within the body of Christ. We are designed by God to work together. We are individually gifted and united in purpose.

APPLY THE WORD

Have you ever been envious of the gifts given to someone else? Have you ever insisted that things in the church be done your way without accounting for the perspective of others? Have you tried to live the Christian life on your own apart from the community of believers? Today, commit to serving in unity with your fellow members of His body.

PRAY WITH US

Greg Thornton, senior VP of Media, requests your prayer support for Share 2017, Moody Radio's important fund-raising effort that starts today and will last until the end of the week. Thank the Lord for the ministry of Moody Radio!

I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

Jeremiah 31:3

WEDNESDAY
MARCH

22

Designed for Loving Relationships

Author C. S. Lewis once said, “To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken.” But, Lewis insists, that is exactly what God designed us to do. Love is worth the risk.

The story of Ruth is marked by love and loss, both of which are part of the human experience. Ruth had suffered the loss of her husband. Naomi, Ruth’s mother-in-law, was also widowed and had lost her two sons. But rather than mourn separately, Ruth pledged to stay with Naomi.

In today’s passage, Naomi gives Ruth some loving advice. She encourages her daughter-in-law, who had proven to be faithful, to seek out Boaz, a land-owning relative, who could provide a home for her. She saw Ruth as a daughter (v. 1). Verse 5 says Ruth “did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.”

Ruth’s obedient action came as a surprise to Boaz. But his response was one of love and graciousness. Notice his response to Ruth’s bold request (v. 9). First, Boaz blessed her and noted the quality of her character (v. 10). She was not looking for love that would satisfy merely her own needs but had considered her mother-in-law first. He mentioned her reputation as a “woman of noble character” (v. 11). He was also patient and cautious, wanting everything that they did to follow proper procedure and be without fault.

Ruth took a risk, and their story had a happy ending. The couple married, and their child was part of the lineage of David and then Christ Himself (4:17). But this story is not just a love story between Ruth and Boaz. It is also a love story for Naomi. Ruth’s child became Naomi’s as well, and the reciprocal love of the two women brought lasting joy.

APPLY THE WORD

Are you willing to be vulnerable to love? We are designed by God to live in loving relationships. Some of us may be married. Others may be single or widowed. But God can provide love for us in unexpected ways. Consider who you can reach out to in an act of unselfish love today. Love is worth the risk and a part of our design.

PRAY WITH US

WMBI, Moody Radio’s station in Chicago, has been changing lives for 90 years. Thank God for all the hope and encouragement this station brings to its listeners and pray for its staff—Matt McNeilly, Desiree Owen, Diana Berryman, and Jon Hemmer.

THURSDAY
MARCH

23

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:12

Designed to Be Selfless

Bethany and Don Lansaw had just enough time to hide in their bathtub when a tornado bore down on their home in Joplin, Mo. As the vicious storm destroyed their home and entire neighborhood, the young husband shielded his wife with his own body. It was only after the tornado passed that Bethany realized Don had made the ultimate sacrifice. He had given his life to save her own.

Today’s passage describes the sacrificial love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who gave His own life so we could live. And we are told that this type of love is a model for us. We are to love others as Christ loved us (v. 12).

We are to be like a mirror, reflecting in our own lives the love Christ has shown for us. He loved us with the ultimate act of sacrifice. “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for

one’s friends” (v. 13). Not only did Jesus perform the ultimate act of sacrificial love on our behalf but He considered us His “friends.”

We live as His friends when we follow His commands (v. 14). First, we are to “remain in my love” (v. 9). The word *remain* implies that we have already been there. This is not a quality to strive toward but a characteristic to embrace. We have been loved completely. We need to recognize this gift and remain in that attitude of love.

Second, this type of love results in joy. Joy is not temporal happiness but a state of mind that is realized by staying connected to God. When we love, we are filled with His joy and made complete. Knowing how deeply we are loved, how could we not love others in the same way?

APPLY THE WORD

As you wake, eat, clean the house, put gas in the car, do your grocery shopping, or whatever else is regular and ordinary on this Thursday, celebrate the fact that you are deeply loved by Christ. He laid down His own life on your behalf. Even in your daily activities, give thanks for this incredible act of love today.

PRAY WITH US

As Moody Radio’s Share continues today, thank you for praying for the rest of WMBI’s staff: Josue (Josh) Villa, Juni Felix, and Karl Clauson. We praise God for bringing talented people to Moody Radio who minister to thousands over the airwaves.

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie.

Romans 1:25

FRIDAY
MARCH

24

Designed to Know God

In one Mother’s Day commercial, a group of six blindfolded children were asked to identify their moms. One by one they came forward to examine the six mothers. They touched their hair, noses, and hands. Even blindfolded, each child was able to find his or her mother. They removed their blindfold to receive a warm hug from mom. The ad celebrates the unique connection between mothers and their children.

We have spent a good deal of time talking about God’s design for us, and we should not be surprised that God designed us to know and recognize Him. Every person has been created in the image of God and given an implicit connection with our Creator.

In this first chapter of Romans, the apostle Paul explains that we are created to know God. “What may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to

them” (v. 19). God has instilled the truth about Himself to His creation. Because this evidence is available to all, we are without excuse. Anyone who has marveled at the intricacies of the human body or the intense beauty of a sunrise has witnessed God’s eternal and divine qualities (v. 20).

But as the text continues, it acknowledges that humanity often refuses to acknowledge the one true God (vv. 21–23). Rather than deferring to what God has revealed about Himself and seeking our Creator, we choose to create idols made in our own image. Paul’s words identify our tendency to “worship” our own qualities, beauty, wealth, athletic ability. As verse 25 warns, we must be careful not to exchange the truths about God for lies, nor to serve created things rather than the Creator. Our connection is meant to be with God Himself.

APPLY THE WORD

What do you worship? Consider what you place as a priority in your life. Is it decorating your house, making the perfect meal, achieving athletic prowess, or earning that next promotion at work? We must be careful not to exchange God for a lie or give priority to things that are less deserving. How can you make God Himself your priority, not His creation?

PRAY WITH US

On this last day of Share, John Blok, Andrew Leuthold, John Johnson, Kate Bruington, Pierre Chestang, and Ron Maxwell at WKES in Florida will appreciate your prayers for Moody Radio’s listeners to respond with prayerful and helpful generosity.

SATURDAY
MARCH

25

Everyone . . . is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

Isaiah 43:7

Designed for His Glory

During a ceremony to receive the Most Valuable Player award, NBA scoring champion Kevin Durant gave a victory speech that paid tribute to his mother, Wanda Pratt, who supported and inspired him despite the hardships their family faced. “You made us believe. You sacrificed for us. You’re the real MVP,” he said.

Like a child paying tribute to his parent, we are designed to glorify our Creator. In the preceding chapter of Isaiah, God addressed His people’s disobedience. The opening verses of chapter 43 indicate an important contrast. Even though Israel had sinned (42:24), they were still God’s creation (43:1). And the God who had created and formed them would finish the work He began; He would not abandon them.

God is connected to His people. He has a vested interest in them. And because He loves them and knows them, they

should not fear. They can count on God’s presence even in the most dire circumstances (v. 2). Being God’s child does not guarantee freedom from difficulty, but we can be assured that He will be present with us.

Like a parent defending her offspring, God will act in our defense. God went before His people in battle (vv. 3–4). He rescued them from their oppressors. They were not only created by God, they were also “precious and honored.” God’s love for His people is clearly stated in this passage.

Look at this glorious reunion, calling all of the sons and daughters of the Lord “from the ends of the earth” (vv. 6–7). What a grand assurance that, despite our failure, we can know that we are loved by God. We have been created and formed by Him. He has called us to Himself. And we will be used to glorify His name.

APPLY THE WORD

In addition to the reminder that our lives are called to glorify our Creator, this prophecy from Isaiah speaks tremendous words of comfort. Read Isaiah’s reassurance: not only does God know you, He will be with you no matter what difficulty you may be facing. No matter how severe the problem, your God is present and will sustain you.

PRAY WITH US

Please join us in praying for Janet Stiven, vice president and general counsel, and her team in the Legal department. Thank God in prayer today that Moody Global Ministries can always rely on their expertise in all legal matters.

Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Matthew 10:31

SUNDAY
MARCH

26

Protected by God

Wolves are often depicted as the bad guy in stories such as “The Three Little Pigs” and “Little Red Riding Hood.” They are sneaky and deceptive, threatening innocent creatures. Some scholars have argued that these stories were used to warn children about both these dangerous animals and people who exhibited these qualities.

Today’s passage contains a warning and a commissioning by Jesus to His followers. He tells them that they will face trouble, comparing their predators to wolves: “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves” (v. 16). Jesus had given them authority over demons and sickness (10:1), but He also warns them to be on guard for danger.

He describes in alarming detail the trouble they will face. They will endure opposition and public punishment. They will be arrested and even suffer death for what they say, but they must

not back down. God desires to speak through them (vv. 17–20).

Those who follow Christ will face betrayal, even by people who they trust. Persecution should be expected and not come as a surprise. We will be hated and despised on His behalf. While the disciples were to be on guard for this, Jesus also said they should not have a spirit of fear.

Why should we, as Christ’s followers, not fear these wolves? Jesus gave two reasons. First, our opponents can destroy our bodies, but not our souls. And, second, each of us is precious to God. He compares us to a small sparrow. If God is aware of sparrows that sell two for one penny, would He not be aware of each of His children? Yes, we will face opponents as fierce as wolves, but each of us are under the Father’s care. Because we are highly valued by God, we should not be afraid (v. 31).

APPLY THE WORD

Jesus’ words to His disciples apply to us as His followers as well. We should not be surprised when we face persecution for His sake or speak truth on His behalf. Like the disciples, we can take comfort in knowing that we are valued by God. Because He cares for us and knows us, we do not need to be afraid.

PRAY WITH US

It’s our privilege to pray today for Dr. Junias Venugopal, provost and dean of Education, and his ministry at Moody. As you pray, please also mention Dr. Larry Davidhizar, VP and associate provost of faculty.

*What is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?*

Psalms 8:4

Valued by God

The *Mona Lisa* hangs in the Louvre in Paris, shielded behind bulletproof glass. In 1911, the painting was stolen and went missing for two years. It has been attacked four times, with acid, a rock, red paint, and even a teacup hurled by an angry woman. The curators have struggled to balance protecting the valuable painting with making it possible for people to see it.

Today's psalm talks about the value God places on us, His treasured creation. Notice that the beginning and end of this psalm are identical. The psalmist begins and ends by praising the LORD's majestic name (vv. 1, 9). God is transcendent, high above us. The Creator is clearly given precedence over His creation.

The middle verses of the psalm describe how the Creator values us. The psalmist observes the glory of the world around him, including

the magnificence of the night sky. It is impossible for humans not to be awed by Creation. It encompasses our existence and surrounds us by God's presence. But we may sometimes forget that God is also mindful of us (v. 4).

God had a specific design for humans. First, we are made "a little lower than the heavenly beings." Second, we are placed above the animal kingdom, including the birds and the fish (vv. 6–7). This points back to the Creation account in which Adam and Eve were given dominion over the animal kingdom (see Gen. 1:26). Created in God's image, we were made to serve as "ruler" over this part of His creation.

The beauty of God's creation should make us aware of His presence. We, like the psalmist, should be overwhelmed by the fact that God, the Creator of the universe, is mindful of us and values us (v. 4).

APPLY THE WORD

Our care for God's creation is one way we acknowledge Him as Creator. What can you do as a "ruler" over God's beautiful world? Perhaps contribute to a public garden, help to pick up litter, or endeavor to cause less pollution. These can be acts of service for the Lord when done to acknowledge Him as our Creator who loves us.

PRAY WITH US

For the next four days, spend time in prayer for Moody Distance Learning (MDL) that brings Moody education to ministry-minded people around the world. Today, please pray for its Operations team: John Engelkemier and Nida Prukpitikul.

Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

1 Corinthians 13:12

TUESDAY
MARCH

28

Known by God

German chemist Justus von Liebig invented a silver-backed glass mirror in 1835. This new process led to affordable mass-marketed mirrors that could be owned by the average person. Until then, mirrors had been costly and not terribly reflective. It was difficult to see one's own reflection while indoors, especially if you depended on illumination by candlelight.

The apostle Paul describes us as image-bearers of our Creator. Our reading for today immediately follows the discussion about diversity in the body of Christ. It's no accident that Paul transitions from the subject of unity and diversity to an exploration of godly love. The Corinthians were grappling for status. Instead, God called them to reflect His character and to love one another as He has loved us.

Without love, even our spiritual gifts will be diminished. If we do not have love,

we are nothing and we gain nothing (vv. 2–3). God's love, reflected in us, is patient, kind, humble, and enduring (vv. 4–8). Love never seeks to promote one's own interests or gifts at the expense of another. Love never fights for status or hierarchy.

Verse 12 compares our present existence to looking in a mirror. Just as old mirrors reflected images that were dark and difficult to see, we are not able to fully realize God's purpose for us in this lifetime. But this vision problem is temporary. Now, we see in part, like looking into a dim mirror. But, when we are reunited with God, our knowledge will be complete. We will know God, and He will know us. While in this present condition, we struggle to understand our own purpose and to feel connected and understood by those around us. One day, we will know fully, just as we are known.

APPLY THE WORD

When you glance in the mirror, use it as a reminder that God sees you exactly as you are—and He loves you. Rather than looking into a mirror with either disappointment or vanity, offer a prayer of gratitude for God's love. Write 1 Corinthians 13 on a notecard and tape it to your mirror to encourage you to reflect God's love to those around you.

PRAY WITH US

Please pray for the MDL's Administration team: Andrew Beaty, Ashish Varma, Janet Randerson, Kerwin Rodriguez, and Flavius Strain. Their service helps students deepen their knowledge of the Bible while keeping their commitments to work and family.

WEDNESDAY
MARCH

29

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:5

We Love God Completely

How many children (and maybe even a few adults!) have received a much-anticipated toy or gadget and promptly tossed the manual aside? Rather than reading the directions, we plunge ahead to enjoy the new gift. Only later, when the item fails to work properly, do we stop and read the instructions.

In Deuteronomy 6, Moses had just finished delivering the Ten Commandments to the nation of Israel. This Law provided a guidebook for how God created His people to live. Following the Law brought blessing. Failure to follow it caused suffering. Now, Israel stood on the verge of the Promised Land, and they were to follow God's leading even after they finally possessed it (v. 1). They were to teach God's laws to their children and their children's children.

We know from reading the rest of the Old Testament that the Israelites did

not always follow God's commands. Again and again they disobeyed His instructions. Moses reminded them that they had plenty of reasons to live life as God intended. They would experience longevity and enjoy their lives (v. 2). As a nation, they would experience God's blessing and increase in number as God had promised Abraham.

The heart of each commandment could be summed up in verse 5: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Following the commands of the Lord should be a natural result of their love for Him. All their identity and all their activity should flow from this love. Filled with this love, they were to talk about God's Law, teach it to their children, and even wear it as a symbol of their devotion. Their God, whom they loved and who loved them, was with them always.

APPLY THE WORD

Do you think about God when you wake and when you sleep? What spiritual habit can you begin that will help keep your mind focused on God? You might start each day with Bible reading, listen to a Christian radio program, or sing a hymn in the car. These can help us keep our identity rooted in God's love.

PRAY WITH US

Please include in your prayers our Distance Learning's Independent Studies team—Christian Martinsen, Lanna-Marie Enns, and Rick Rogers—who help learners across the globe, cultures, and generations receive a Moody education by correspondence.

*They will see his face, and his name
will be on their foreheads.*

Revelation 22:4

THURSDAY
MARCH

30

Designed for Eternity

One day a Scottish evangelist asked hymn writer Fanny Crosby if she was disappointed that God had not given her sight. Fanny's answer surprised him: "Do you know that if at my birth I had been able to make one petition to my Creator, it would have been that I should be made blind? Because, when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior."

Fanny Crosby understood how glorious that sight of our Savior in eternity will be. Our passage today offers us a sneak peek at our glorious future with Christ. An angel shows John a glimpse of the heavenly city, the New Jerusalem. In the very center is the throne of God with a river flowing from it, "the water of life" (v. 1).

Notice that this paradise reflects and surpasses the original Creation of God.

The Garden of Eden also had a river and the tree of life (Gen. 2:9). Both were placed in the Garden before Adam and Eve were cast out. Now, we are given access to them. Most wonderfully, the curse has been lifted. God is central in this environment. The trees are never barren. Fruit is plentiful. There is no more darkness or night—God Himself provides light (v. 5).

And we will see God! In the Old Testament, people were not able to look on the face of God. Here, we see God's face, meaning we will know Him in perfect fullness and communion. We belong to Him completely, reunited in every way. The things that separate us from our Creator—sin, death, decay, and temptation—will be removed, and we will function as we were originally designed to live in harmony with God and others. What a wonderful day that will be!

APPLY THE WORD

Did you know you are royalty? We will reign forever (v. 5). At creation, we were given dominion over the animal kingdom. But in the new heavens and new earth, we will reign with God. We are heirs of His kingdom. No matter what you might face today, know that it is temporary. Like Fanny, look forward to seeing God face to face.

PRAY WITH US

Will you pray for MDL's Product Development team: Alin Vrancila, Kevin Mahaffy, Mary Oprea, Philip Brown, Richard Lin, and Sandra West? They develop new courses and programs to bring the academic excellence of Moody tradition in education to students.

FRIDAY
MARCH

31

*From heaven the LORD looks down and
sees all mankind.*

Psalm 33:13

Praising Our Creator

Wouldn't it be amazing if you walked through an art museum and could hear the paintings speak about their creators? Walking by *The Starry Night*, we might hear the painting whisper, "My artist, Vincent van Gogh, was wonderful with texture!" *Water Lilies* would interject, "Claude Monet is a master at blending soft colors. Look how lovely he has made me!"

We are God's works of art, and we are able to praise our Creator, the one who envisioned us, formed us, and breathed life into us. We can acknowledge that indeed, we are His. What a marvelous thing to be created by the Almighty God. No wonder the psalmist rejoiced and praised Him!

Our psalm for today reminds us where we should put our trust. National pride or political rulers or military might will not ultimately save us. No king is omniscient, and no weapons are

omnipotent. Only God can look down from heaven and see each one of us (v. 13). What a wonderful thing to know that He observes what is happening on earth. The One who created our hearts knows what those hearts are contemplating (v. 15).

Our focus should be on the Lord who knows every thought and plan. And we can have hope because our God is a God of love (v. 18). Notice how many times the psalmist uses the word *hope* in the final four verses. We have hope because God is strong (v. 20) and His love is unfailing (v. 22). Because of His character, we can rejoice even when the world around us appears to be in chaos (v. 21).

The God who so wonderfully designed you keeps His eye upon you. You can rejoice in His goodness and have hope in His love.

APPLY THE WORD

This month's study assures us without any doubt that we are highly valued by God. He formed us with a purpose. He has a plan for our lives. He knows how we work and hems us in from all sides. He is not just our Creator or distant benefactor but One who is intimately involved with our lives. Praise Him today!

PRAY WITH US

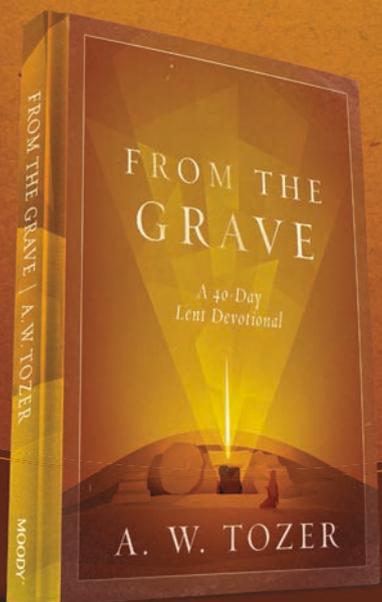
In conclusion of our prayer time this month, let us thank God for His Word and His creation. The God who created us, knows us and gives us the ability to know and love Him. That's a reason to rejoice and praise Him!

NEW
A. W. TOZER
DEVOTIONAL

“

We please God most, not by frantically trying to make ourselves good, but by throwing ourselves into His arms with all our imperfections, and believing that He understands everything and loves us still.

This 40-day Lent devotional features A. W. Tozer's reflections on faith and repentance. Ideal for anyone wanting to grow spiritually. *From the Grave* is a perfect companion for Lent.



Find it at your favorite local or online bookstore, or buy directly from Moody Publishers at moodypublishers.com.



MOODY
Publishers®

From the Word to Life®

THE LAND AND THE BOOK

MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE ISRAEL TOUR — JUNE 6–17, 2017

Visit historical biblical sites from the Easter story, including the Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, and the traditional crucifixion site.

Time is running out! Register today for a unique tour that leads you to spiritual transformation.

(972) 690-0092 | moodyglobal.org/israel



Visit us online to request resources and view past issues.

TodayInTheWord.com



Today in the Word



@TodayintheWord



TodayInTheWordDevotional



MOODY
GLOBAL MINISTRIES®

Moody helps equip you with the truth of God's Word as you impact your community and the world for Christ. We believe that understanding and sharing God's Word is a lifelong journey. Let us help you take the next step in your relationship with Christ.

Learn more at MOODYGLOBAL.ORG or call (800) DL MOODY today.

MOODY
Bible Institute™

moody.edu

MOODY
Theological
Seminary™

MOODY
Bible Institute™
DISTANCE LEARNING

MOODY
Publishers®

moodypublishers.com

MOODY
Radio®

moodyradio.org