



WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit www.wepc.org/lectionary.

Sunday, September 29, 2019

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time

[Amos 6:1a, 4-7](#) *Woe to Those*

[Psalm 146](#) *Help & Hope*

[1 Timothy 6:6-19](#) *The Good Fight*

[Luke 16:19-31](#) *The Rich Man & Lazarus*

Monday, September 30

[Psalm 62](#) *My Soul Waits*

[Amos 6:8-14](#) *Justice into Poison*

[Revelation 3:14-22](#) *So be Zealous and Repent*

Tuesday, October 1

[Psalm 62](#) *My Soul Waits*

[Hosea 10:9-15](#) *Double Iniquity*

[James 5:1-6](#) *Corrosion*

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

[Psalm 62](#) *My Soul Waits*

[Hosea 12:2-14](#) *Ah, But I Am Rich*

[Matthew 19:16-22](#) *Treasure in Heaven*

Thursday, October 3

[Psalm 37:1-9](#) *Wait for the LORD*

[II Kings 18:1-8, 28-36](#) *Hezekiah Trusted in the LORD*

[Revelation 2:8-11](#) *Be Faithful Unto Death*

Friday, October 4

[Psalm 37:1-9](#) *Wait for the LORD*

[II Kings 19:8-20, 35-37](#) *O LORD our God, Save Us*

[Revelation 2:12-29](#) *Therefore Repent*

Saturday, October 5

[Psalm 37:1-9](#) *Wait for the LORD*

[Isaiah 7:1-9](#) *Firm in Faith*

[Matthew 20:29-34](#) *Lord, Have Mercy On Us, Son of David*

The Good Fight

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [1 Timothy 6:6-19](#).

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before

Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

- Paul had struggles and concerns about desire, coveting, and contentment.
- “What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, ‘You shall not covet.’ But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead.” ([Romans 7:7-8](#))
- His counsel to Timothy boils down to:
 - In the supreme challenge of life, money is useless
 - It is perhaps the most dangerous thing to your soul (Why? desiring something so much that you lose your contentment in God. Or: losing your contentment in God so that you start to seek it elsewhere.)
- There are three ways to flee these things:
 - 1.) Pursuit by faith of what Jesus provides
 - 2.) Practice generosity (v18); “The opposite of the love of money is generosity. Instead of hoarding our money, we hand it over. Instead of building bigger barns, we nurture bigger hearts. Instead of looking to take, we seek to give. We who have been given everything—life, food, family, freedom, new birth, forgiveness, redemption, the Holy Spirit, the promise of an unimaginable inheritance—surely ought to give something to those who need our help. Gospel people know that to whom much is given, much is expected.” (*Kevin DeYoung*)
 - 3.) Asking Jesus to see properly. “Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.” ([Philippians 3:7-8](#))
- And what was the secret? What had he learned? What freed him from the money-loving heart that cloaked itself with Pharisaic zeal? He tells us very plainly in Philippians 3:7–8. This was the secret: the greatness of all that God was for him in Christ — the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus. Compared to Him, everything — all money and all moral achievements — is rubbish.
- “Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.” ([Proverbs 30:7-9](#))