

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
September 24, 2017

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Sunday Morning 09-24-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"

When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/285352>

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Baseball. Life. Jesus.

If Jesus came to our community now, he might say, "Friends, everything I needed to know about life I learned on the ball diamond. Life and baseball are full of fresh starts. Every batter will strike out and every player will make an error from time to time. Keep swinging. Keep trying. Never; never; never; ever give up!"

This is FRESH START SUNDAY! Grab this chance for a fresh start as we launch a new series - TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME (Baseball. Life. Jesus.) Stay for a picnic complete with hot dogs and apple pie at noon.

Support Needed for AWAKEN Youth Ministry

AWAKEN is back in full swing again and they need our support - both prayer and financial. On the youth bulletin board, there are envelopes with \$ amounts on the outside and a list of prayer requests inside. If you can support them in this way, please grab an envelope and begin praying for the requests. Return the envelope with the corresponding money amount enclosed. Please, place the envelope in the offering. Thank you

Ephesians 2:1-10 NIV

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

<http://bible.com/111/eph.2.1-10.NIV>

2000 years ago, when Jesus walked the roads of Israel, he told stories about every day experiences to help people understand God's plan for our lives. For example, he said, "Life in God's kingdom is like making bread. A little bit of yeast is all you need."

If Jesus came to our community now, he might say, "Friends, everything I needed to know about life I learned on the ball diamond. Life in God's kingdom is like a baseball game."

if Jesus is not deeply involved in our lives, we will end up worshiping idols. The most dangerous idols are not statues or carvings in wood or stone.

The most dangerous idols are good things that we make into god things. Idol worship is enslavement to something we love.

An idol is anything or anyone we love more than we love Jesus.

Ephesians 4:17-24 NIV

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.  
<http://bible.com/111/eph.4.17-24.NIV>

Sermon in a Sentence:

We need to tear down our idols and love Jesus more than anything and anyone. #Baseball-Life-Lessons

We are POWERLESS to stop hitting foul balls in our moral decisions until we love Jesus more than everything else.

Our foul balls (our idols) are POWERLESS to satisfy our deepest needs and desires.

How do we get unstuck? How can we be free from our idols? How can we love Jesus more than anything and anyone?

Stand at the foot of the Cross and watch Jesus love you.