

Children's Sermon: none

The grace of the Father, the mercy of His Son, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with each of you both now and into eternity.

Intro: *What is a Mile-stone?*

-pretty straight forward... physical distance, in miles/but also in life!

What might be some of the milestones in a human life?

-Crawl/walk, swim, bike, school, HS, college, career, married, kids, age, death?

1 Sam 7:12 (rock, diploma, wed ring) Memorial milestones –last one in this life: tombstone
Bottom line... (how was your trip? – were you focused on your upcoming exit?)

(NIV) **Galatians 1:10** Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Prayer: *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight Oh Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.*

Theme: Graduate Today “With Honors!” –Do we do that here at St. Stephen? GPA?

1. Because today is more than about your “honorable mention”

- a. Competitive nature? I do. (ex: sports, activities, later in life – school/studies)
 - i. Honorable mention? –for me... dishonorable. Why? –who to please?
- b. World's way... **V10a** “win approval of men” –please, favor, acceptance, love
- c. Paul warns of this way... **V7** “pervert/distort/twist” Word (? above) **Deut 4:2**
- d. What is God's way? **Eph 6:5-8** “not as...” – “...rather as” **Col 3:17-22**

App: In my life... “I want AT LEAST honorable mention!” –acts/deeds/faith **Matt 6:12**

Trans: Today IS milestone, graduates of ss/ everyone... God's Word graduates “moves on” our usual... dishonorable self-focus: “All about me.” to the serving focus “All for Thee...”

2. Because today is about living to honor...again and again

- a. Recap: We're NOT trying to please men. **V10** If-then. (2ndcl –contrary to fact)
- b. Paul is NOT...servant of men “men-pleasers” **Eph 6:6/Col 3:22** self-honor
- c. Paul is...servant of Christ. [III: Slave set free...serve(on-going) to honor/thank]
 - i. **Rom 6:22-23** Christ set us free from our dishonorable master...sin!
 1. Christ's gift of faith -gives us the hope of His forgiveness!
 2. Christ's gift of faith -makes us alive, to honor and serve Him!

App: **1 Thes 2:4** – You and I are entrusted... to speak/honor God's Word (have to/want to)

Sum: Today is about seeing my own dishonor before God's righteousness...

-The fact that without Christ -I don't even deserve “honorable mention.”

Today is about a graduation, a “moving on” by God's grace...

-To a life of continued thanks to my Savior -living every day “with honors” to Him.

Today is about another God-given milestone...

-Bringing me that much closer -to my final exit, the exit to my eternal Home with my risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

This peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard and keep your hearts and minds in our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen!

1 Samuel 7:10-12 Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel. 11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car. 12 Then Samuel took a stone and set *it* up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the LORD has helped us.”

Deuteronomy 4:2 “You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”

Ephesians 6:5-8 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

Colossians 3:17-22 And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. 18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. 20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. 22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

Matthew 6:1-2 Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men.

Romans 6:22-23 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Thessalonians 2:4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

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- j. Paul is...
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