

REFLECTIONS

This was written for the **Center for Congregational Ethics** on-line **Lectionary to Life Series** and is based on *Psalm 103:8-13; Genesis 37:12-36; and 1 John 3:11-16 for September 14, 2023.*

When the unpleasant befalls us, we may lament, “It’s not fair. Why me? Why this? Why now? I do not deserve this.” Our passages for today outline a few examples of lamentable, undeserved actions. In Genesis 37:12-36, the plot by his own brothers to kill Joseph and say an animal did it was altered to his benefit, but Joseph did not deserve to be sold into slavery. And their father Jacob did not deserve decades of inconsolable mourning for Joseph.

In 1 John 3:11-16, the writer points to Abel who, while living righteously, did not deserve to be murdered by his brother Cain. It was an evil betrayal of the bond of love. In the same way, John goes on to caution that believers should not be surprised by undeserved persecution and hatred.

It is in Psalm 103:8-13 that we confront our own sins toward God and the people we encounter each day. Do others deserve the sins we commit against them? Just as Joseph showed grace when he later confronted and forgave his brothers; just as God showed compassion to Cain and marked him with a sign of protection; so too we do not deserve God’s abounding love and mercy. Yet the psalmist sings, *God does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.*

How then should we, whose sins have been removed from God’s sight as far as the east is from the west, respond? Let us meditate this day on our own undeserved love from God. Let’s give those we encounter today undeserved compassion, forgiveness, and mercy. *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.* Undeserved.

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Think about His love. And let’s experience the love and power of God together.

Bro. Darryl

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Tulsa, OK
USPS #180-140

The Evangel

Braden Park Baptist Church
4739 East Fifth Street (5th & Yale)
Tulsa, OK 74112-2716

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning
Continental Breakfast 9:20 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study & Conversation 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday Evening
The People’s Pantry 5:00 p.m.
The Clothes Closet Ministry
Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Darryl DeBorde, Minister
Bill Ess, Music Minister

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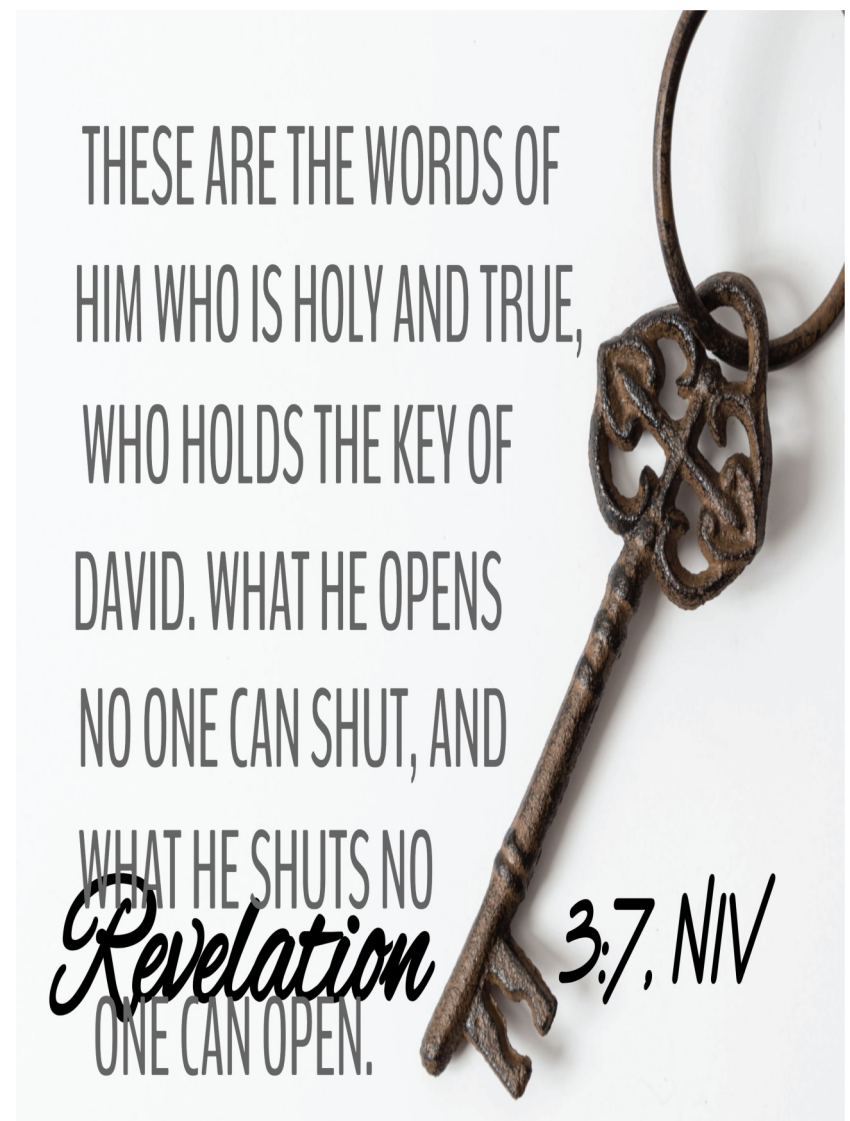


Proclaiming the Good News!
Braden Park Baptist Church
Tulsa, Oklahoma

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THESE ARE THE WORDS OF
HIM WHO IS HOLY AND TRUE,
WHO HOLDS THE KEY OF
DAVID. WHAT HE OPENS
NO ONE CAN SHUT, AND
WHAT HE SHUTS NO
Revelation
ONE CAN OPEN.

3:7, NIV

Our Church Family

AT HOME

Kevin Avery	Paula McPherson
Alice Barrett	Georgia Metcalf
Elizabeth Burke	Bonnie Nutting
Marion Corbett	Margaret VanHorn
Lydia Ford	Leslie White

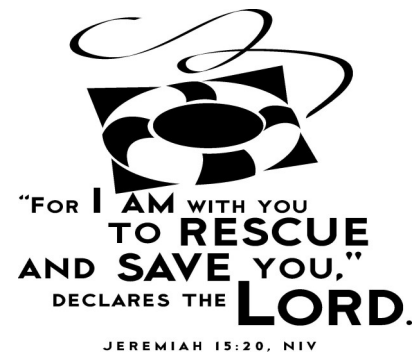
IN REHABILITATION CENTER

Bill Barrett PAM Rehabilitation Hospital Room 2027

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

SEPTEMBER

21	Josef Lindholm
24	Lori Dryer
30	Hudson Avery



Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
 10:00 a.m. **The Promise to the Church, part 2**
 —Matthew 16:19

When did Jesus first talk about *the Church*? When Jesus announced He was building “My Church,” He made a promise to and about the church—the keys to the kingdom of heaven. What does that mean for the church today? Invite your family and friends to church, and be blessed.

11:15 a.m. Conversations with the Pastor
 Ladies Bible Study
 11:55 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

8:45 a.m. Monday Morning Prayers
 Call (712) 832-8330, then access code: 887-7647

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

8:00 p.m. Prayer for the Nations
 Kevin Avery’s Facebook Zoom link

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

5:00 p.m. People’s Pantry Ministry
 Clothes Closet Ministry
 6:30 p.m. **Bible Study and Prayer**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

10:00 a.m. **Get Behind Me, Satan**

Behind the Scenes

LADIES BIBLE STUDY SERIES BEGINS SUNDAY

Nothing to Prove: A Study in the Gospel of John will begin **this Sunday morning, September 17**. In this 8-session video study the class will follow *Jennie Allen* through key passages in John’s Gospel that demonstrate how Jesus is more than enough and how our thirsty hearts can only be quenched by the living water He offers. He alone is enough. This class meets following the worship hour on Sunday mornings. Connie Connely leads the class.

Celebrating
50 Years

As Minister of Braden Park Baptist Church

Dr. Darryl DeBorde

*Join us on Sunday, October 1 at 10 am
 For a time of celebration with a reception and light
 luncheon following the worship service*

FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need	\$ 2,050.00
General Receipts September 8	\$ 1,966.45
Special Offerings September 8.....	\$ 0.00

Thank You to all who are providing sustaining tithes and offerings.