



Palm Sunday  
March 25, 2018

# Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues

From **Gluttony** to **Balance**  
1 Timothy 6:6-11

\*Please stand if able.

## 8:30 AM BLENDED

CCLI # 182374

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dave Steane

\*SONGS OF PRAISE

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

SONG OF RESPONSE

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE *Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues: From Gluttony to Balance*

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

## 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WORSHIP INVITATION

Michael Middleton

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

\*MOMENT OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Phil Warman

MESSAGE *Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues: From Gluttony to Balance*

Alf Halvorson

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Musicians in these services: Gisele Duque and Michael Middleton, worship leaders • Daniel Amaya, bass • George Heathco, guitar • Daniel Martinez, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums

## 11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE *Meditation and Toccata on 'All Glory, Laud, and Honor'* arr. Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)

WELCOME Dave Steane

CHORAL INTROIT AND OPENING HYMN The Music Box Kids' Choir

*Alpha and Omega*  
*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God Almighty*

#138; vs. 1, 4 | NICAEA

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE Amy Delgado

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* #89; vs. 3 | ELLACOMBE

ANTHEM *Sanctus (from Requiem)* Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986)

OFFERTORY *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* arr. Gilbert Martin (b.1941)

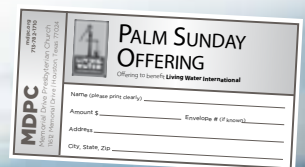
MESSAGE *Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues: From Gluttony to Balance* Alf Halvorson

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* #282; vs. 1, 2 | WER NUN DEN LIEBEN GOTT

POSTLUDE *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* arr. Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conductor • Kathryn White, organist

Today's Palm Sunday offering benefits the life-saving efforts of **Living Water International**, a global ministry transforming communities by offering clean water in Jesus' Name. Make checks out to "MDPC" and write *Palm Sunday offering* in the note line, or place check or cash in one of the offering envelopes provided in the pews.



# Holy Week & Easter

**Maundy Thursday, March 29**

7:00 PM • Sanctuary

**Good Friday, March 30**

Noon • Sanctuary

**Easter Sunday, April 1**

7:00 AM • Courtyard

8:15, 9:45, & 11:15 AM • Sanctuary

11:15 AM • Chapel (Spanish)

## Dr. Mark Labberton

President & Professor of Preaching, Fuller Theological Seminary



**Thursday, April 26**

at 7:00 PM

speakers.mdpc.org



"If God is God, and if God has spoken in Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world, then none of this personal or global reality lies beyond God's arms..."

### Lily Deadline Is Today!

Dedications of Easter lilies in memory of and/or in honor of loved ones are inserted in the Easter bulletin.

**\$9 per dedication • Order today by 5:00 PM**

[flowers.mdpc.org](http://flowers.mdpc.org)

### The Spoken Word Starts Tomorrow

Experience God's Word in a special way and prepare your heart for the miracle of Easter! Come to read (readers still are needed!) or to listen.

**Pastor Alf kicks off reading tomorrow at 6:00 AM; we conclude on Maundy Thursday by 4:00 PM.**

*Sign-up and details: [spokenword.mdpc.org](http://spokenword.mdpc.org)*

### Discover MDPC with Alf

Want to know more about MDPC? Thinking about membership? This info meeting is about who we are and how we operate, within our walls and out in the world. No commitment required!

**Today, 10:45-11:10 AM | Gathering Room**

### Next New Member Class

For those interested in membership, or in learning more about our faith. Taught by our Pastors and Elders, the class includes an outreach service project.

**Sundays, April 8-29 | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM | Parlor**

*Registration: [membership.mdpc.org](http://membership.mdpc.org)*

### Journey to the Cross

Children and families: Walk with us through Holy Week on a guided tour of the stations of the cross.

**Good Friday, March 30 | 9:30-11:30 AM**

*Register: [journey.mdpc.org](http://journey.mdpc.org)*

### First Communion Retreat

This special event is for 1st-5th graders and parents, designed to prepare children for First Communion and give them a clear understanding of this important sacrament.

**Wednesday, April 25 | 6:00-8:00 PM | The Galaxy**

**First Communion: Sunday, April 29**

*Register: [communion.mdpc.org](http://communion.mdpc.org)*

### Help Pick the Summer Sermon Series

Is there Scripture with which you struggle? This summer, the pastors take on the Biblical passages that you as a congregation deem to be the tough ones...

*Take the 2-question survey: [scripture.mdpc.org](http://scripture.mdpc.org)*

### Easter Cookie Orders

Homemade sugar cookies, baked and iced by MDPC's own Chef Bernie, will add a festive, yummy surprise to your Easter baskets.

**Order by tomorrow, Monday, March 26**

*[cookies.mdpc.org](http://cookies.mdpc.org)*

### Concert Series Season Finale

MDPC's Sanctuary Choir welcomes Prairie View A&M's concert chorale in a program of Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, and *Requiem* by Maurice Duruflé. With organist Kathryn White and a professional orchestra conducted by Charles Hausmann.

**Sunday, April 15 | 6:00 PM | Sanctuary**

**Free Admission • Open to the Community!**

*[concerts.mdpc.org](http://concerts.mdpc.org)*

### Does the OT Have a Dark Side?

Speakers tackle Old Testament topics such as Violence, Women's Issues, Rituals & Sacrifices, and Slavery. Each scholar or professor will bring his/her own flavor to the discussion and Q&A follows, so it's sure to be interesting. This is for ALL ages and stages of faith.

**Sundays, April 8-29 | 11:00 AM | Amphitheater**

*Details: [darkside.mdpc.org](http://darkside.mdpc.org)*

### Women's Speaker Series: "Roadblocks"

Join us at The Well, our semi-annual gathering for women of all ages and life stages to commune and connect. Hear a panel of real, honest women talk about how the "roadblocks" they encountered prepared them for the rest of their lives. All ladies age 12+ are invited!

**Wednesday, April 18 | 6:30-8:00 PM**

**Join us at 6:00 PM for refreshments in the Parlor.**

*RSVP: [thewell.mdpc.org](http://thewell.mdpc.org)*

### The Red Rose is in honor of

Amelia Ann Trevino, born March 14, 2018, to Ginny and Xavier Trevino. Amelia is the granddaughter of John Kemper.

### The White Rose is in memory of

Mildred Kemper, who passed away March 11, 2018.

Steve Tacconelly, who passed away March 17, 2018.

### WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2018 Operating Budget	\$11,600,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 2,250,004
Actual Income to Date (3/18/18)	\$ 2,266,308
Current Income Surplus	\$ 16,304
<b>Needed to Meet 2018 Budget</b>	<b>\$ 9,333,692</b>



Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.

11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | [mdpc.org](http://mdpc.org) | 713-782-1710



## From Gluttony to Balance

1 Timothy 6:6-11

Alf Halvorson preaching

This is our last study of the deadly sins and saving virtues. Over the past weeks we have considered the deadly sins of pride, envy, anger, sloth, greed, lust, and now, gluttony. We have been encouraged by the saving virtues of humility, concern, faith, caring, contentment, love, and now, balance.

As this study concludes, it is important to remember that we do not gain favor with God by our good works, such as acquiring the saving virtues. Only by God's grace and initiative do we have a relationship with Him. Arising from

this relationship is a natural desire to obey God's will and to seek what pleases Him.

This week we discuss the sin of gluttony, and the virtue that overcomes it: balance. While many associate gluttony with food, gluttony can take over many different areas of our lives.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

#### 1 Timothy 6:6-11

*ESV: But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 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. 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. But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.*

*NLT: Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### Introducing: Getting Ready to Discuss the Passage

- Share briefly your definitions of gluttony. Next, go around and share briefly what balance means to you.
- The media oftentimes glamorizes the deadly sins. How do advertisers appeal to our inclination to gluttony in advertisements? How often do they make us feel that if we only had more money, we would be happy? Briefly discuss examples of this.

#### Discovering: What the Passages Say

- As we compare the two translations above for the Scripture passage, we notice they are very similar. What do you notice about differences in the passage?
- According to Paul, what brings great gain or wealth? Why is godliness alone not enough? What must it be coupled with?
- Is contentment the same as happiness? How do they differ? How do they agree?
- In verse 7, how does Paul justify his statement in verse 6? Is this convincing? Why or why not?
- What two things does Paul say we need to be content in verse 8? What else do you need to be content?
- In verse 9, Paul warns about those who desire or long to be rich. What troubles do they experience? Please discuss examples where these have happened.

- In verse 10, is it money or the love of money that is the “root of all kinds of evil”? Is this distinction important? Why or why not?
- In verse 11, Paul speaks directly to Timothy, calling him a man of God. What does he instruct Timothy to run from? What things does Paul tell Timothy to pursue?

### Exploring: What the Passages Mean

- 1 and 2 Timothy along with Titus are commonly referred to as Paul’s pastoral letters. These letters are practical and were written late in Paul’s life to his younger colleagues, Timothy and Titus, who will assume leadership in the church. Theologian N. T. Wright in Paul for Everyone calls these letters “Paul’s Teacher’s Manual” for Timothy, Titus, and anyone who wants instructions about living the Christian life. How is this evident in the scripture passage for today?
- Are you surprised that the passage for the discussion of gluttony has to do primarily with money rather than food? Donald Capps in *Deadly Sins & Saving Virtues* says that while gluttony is normally associated with food and drink, it fundamentally reflects an attitude of mistrust about whether our needs will be met. How do the rich person and the person who loves money distrust God’s provision for them?
- How does pursuing righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness bring balance to our lives?

### Applying: Wrestling with the Implications of the Passages for Our Lives

- One implication of this study is we have a problem with gluttony in the area of money. How does the gospel speak to this problem for you?
- Another implication is that, at least in part, we may choose to pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness, to bring balance to our lives. Where are you in the pursuit of these qualities? What changes do you need to make to pursue these? Which ones are the most challenging for you? As you reflect on this implication, please consider the following areas:
  - My behavior and/or attitude with family members, work colleagues, and others with whom I spend a great deal of time
  - My response when someone wrongs me
  - My schedule
  - My personal priorities and goals
  - Other areas not listed.
- Yet another implication is any kind of gluttony is dangerous and destructive. What leads you to be gluttonous? How does the media influence you, and how can you manage that? What patterns or habits can you establish to resist any form of gluttony and pursue righteousness?
- One more implication is we should trust God to meet our needs and that we should seek balance. How might this passage help?

#### Proverbs 30:8-9 (NLT)

<sup>8</sup>*First, help me never to tell a lie.*

*Second, give me neither poverty nor riches!*

*Give me just enough to satisfy my needs.*

<sup>9</sup>*For if I grow rich, I may deny You and say, “Who is the LORD?”*

*And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God’s Holy Name.*

*How comfortable are you with asking God to give you neither poverty or riches, but just enough to satisfy your needs (not your wants)? What bothers you about such a request and why? What liberates you about such a request and why?*

