



Sunday, July 1, 2018

# WRESTLING WITH SCRIPTURE



**All Is Rubbish** | Philippians 3:4b-12 | Pastor Alf Halvorson Preaching

**8:30 AM BLENDED**

WELCOME		Dan Aikins
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE		
SONG OF PREPARATION		
OFFERTORY		
MESSAGE	<b>All Is Rubbish</b> (Philippians 3:4b-12)	Alf Halvorson
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		

## 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WORSHIP INVITATION		
YOUTH TESTIMONY		
MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE		Kyle Collins
MESSAGE	<b>All Is Rubbish</b> (Philippians 3:4b-12)	Alf Halvorson
OFFERTORY		

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

## 11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE	<i>A Song of Liberty</i>	arr. Kathryn White
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Beth Case
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>O Beautiful for Spacious Skies</i>	#564; Vs. 1, 2, 3   MATERNA
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20	
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
HYMN SING • PATRIOTIC	<i>My Country, 'Tis of Thee Eternal Father, Strong to Save Battle Hymn of the Republic</i>	Charles Hausmann #561; Vs. 1, 3   AMERICA #562; Vs. 1, 2   MELITA Vs. 1, 4   BATTLE HYMN
OFFERTORY	<i>My Faith Has Found a Resting Place</i>	arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)
MESSAGE	<b>All Is Rubbish</b> (Philippians 3:4b-12)	Alf Halvorson
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i>	#101; Vs. 1, 2, 4   HAMBURG
POSTLUDE	<i>Hymn to the Fallen</i>	John Williams (b. 1932)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conductor • Lisa Vickers, soloist • Kathryn White, organ/piano

\*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

## Know the Bible Better with Pastor Pods

MDPC staff teachers, seminarians, and pastors paired up for podcasts on the *Wrestling with Scripture* summer sermon series, tackling some of the toughest texts of the Bible!

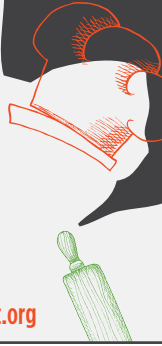
All five episodes are available online, or for streaming through iTunes or Google Play.

More info: [pastor pods.mdpc.org](http://pastor pods.mdpc.org)



During Summer Cel (esp. July 10-12), please donate sandwich bread for a project the kids will do for Kids' Meals.

Drop-off information:  
sc.mdpc.org



We need your help to make VBS a success! Please consider volunteering, or donating:

electronics (none with glass or screens can be accepted)

snacks/drinks for volunteers (nut-free, please)

Drop donations at the Front Office or in Children's Ministries.

Monday-Friday, July 9-13 • 9:30 AM-12:30 PM • sc.mdpc.org

**Summer Ushering Opportunity**

Summer is here and we need you! Join the Ushering Ministry at MDPC. Only one Sunday a month, or as often as you'd like - you set your ushering schedule!

For more info, contact Tracy Curtis-Stidam: [tstidam@mdpc.org](mailto:tstidam@mdpc.org) or 713-490-0946

**Host Homes Needed for Counselors**

Families are needed to host college-age counselors for Kanakuk Kampout, providing a place to stay plus breakfast and dinner each day. We also need medical volunteers for the week (CPR and First Aid trained).

August 5-10 (Camp info: [kampout.mdpc.org](http://kampout.mdpc.org))

Please contact Alicia if you can be a medical volunteer or host family ([aboykin@mdpc.org](mailto:aboykin@mdpc.org), 713-490-9261).

**Hymn Sing Every Sunday in July at 11:15**

In July, come to the 11:15 service ready to sing the great hymns of the faith! Each Sunday's Hymn Sing will have a different theme.

**All-Youth Tubing Trip**

Float the river in New Braunfels!

Tuesday, July 24 | 8:00 AM-8:00 PM | Meet at MDPC

Details and registration (\$40): [tubing.mdpc.org](http://tubing.mdpc.org)

**We're All in This Together!**

Psalm 133:1 "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity..." Mark your calendar for Annual Teacher Training for volunteers in Equipping, Youth, Children's, Relationships, and anyone in discipleship, teaching, or leadership ministry! It'll include lunch, prayer & commissioning, and breakout time with your ministry area.

Sunday, August 12 | 12:30-3:00 PM

Details will be sent out closer to event.

**Make a Difference this Summer!**

Our local ministry partners need volunteers all summer long. From serving a family dinner to facilitating fun activities at a Christian camp, these opportunities are a way for you to make a real impact for Christ!

See a variety of ways to serve: [summeroutreach.mdpc.org](http://summeroutreach.mdpc.org)

**Married Life Prep**

Are you engaged? Did you get married in the last few years? Then grab your spouse(-to-be) and join us for Married Life Prep! Taught at MDPC by Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement, it combines Biblical teaching with the best current marriage research.

Sundays, July 8-29 | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Register: [mlp.mdpc.org](http://mlp.mdpc.org)

**Perspectives**

Interested in learning more about God's global purpose and how you can be involved in His plan? The Perspectives course is a 15-week study around four vantage points or "perspectives" on the world Christian movement - Biblical, Historical, Cultural, and Strategic. This class has been held around the nation since the mid-80's and will be offered this fall at a church in the Heights.

Mondays, August 20-Dec. 10 | 6:30-9:30 PM

For more information and registration details, contact Kelsi McCormack: [kmccormack@mdpc.org](mailto:kmccormack@mdpc.org)

**Frustrated in Your Job Search?**

WorkFaith Connection's 8-Day Job Search Workshop can energize your job search and possibly change the course of your life. WorkFaith Connection offers hope, encouragement, and resources to job seekers at 4555 Dacoma.

For more info, visit [workfaithconnection.org](http://workfaithconnection.org) or contact 713-984-9611 or [ghouse@workfaithconnection.org](mailto:ghouse@workfaithconnection.org).

**Please Pray for MDPC Ministry Partners**

This week, join us in lifting in prayer these MDPC partners in ministry:

**Help Us Grow (HUG)** provides one-on-one tutorial help to at-risk second grade students at Housman Elementary School in Spring Branch ISD.

Contact Laura Bushong: [laurabushong@att.net](mailto:laurabushong@att.net)

**IMPACT** is a mentoring ministry at Spring Woods Middle School in Spring Branch ISD. MDPC members volunteer for a simple one-year commitment to visit a student weekly, but often end up staying connected with their students from when they enter mentoring in sixth grade, all the way through high school!

Contact Charlotte Adams ([12102pebblebrook@gmail.com](mailto:12102pebblebrook@gmail.com)), Robin Helbling ([robin.helbling@gmail.com](mailto:robin.helbling@gmail.com)), or Kathryn White ([kwhite@mdpc.org](mailto:kwhite@mdpc.org)).

**The Micah Project** ministers to young men who have spent anguished childhoods in impoverished homes or on the streets of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The youths learn to become Christian leaders through discipleship, education, and service to others. The Micah Project supports these young men as they become the next Christian leaders of Honduras.

Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. - Micah 6:8

[micahprojecthonduras.org](http://micahprojecthonduras.org)

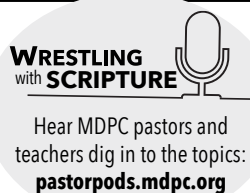
WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE	
2018 Operating Budget	\$ 11,600,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 4,388,757
Actual Income to Date (6/24/18)	\$ 4,512,603
Current Income Surplus	\$ 123,846
Needed to Meet 2018 Budget	\$ 7,087,397



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

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# WRESTLING WITH SCRIPTURE



## All Is Rubbish

Philippians 3:4b-12 | Alf Halvorson preaching

We are well under way in our summer sermon series, *Wrestling With Scripture*, looking at the tough texts of the Old and New Testaments; texts you selected for us to address either in sermons or podcasts. Today, on this July 4th Sunday, when we celebrate our Independence from Great Britain, we look at a section of Scripture where Paul gives his credentials, his resume, his pedigree; he defines “who he is” to perhaps the favorite church, the church at Philippi. And he gives us a couple of principles in dealing with an allegiance other than God.

1. Read Philippians 3:4b-6. What gives Paul “confidence in the flesh”? Go through each phrase in these short verses and try to grasp what Paul is saying. For example, Paul’s phrase, “circumcised on the eighth day” comes from Genesis 17:12 and is reaffirmed in Leviticus 12:3.
2. If you were to summarize what you think Paul is articulating in verses 4b-6 using modern language, what would you say? How would you put it?
3. Read verses 7-9. After having set up all the pins of his pedigree in a theological bowling alley, Paul then knocks them down in these two verses. How could he regard them as “loss”? Why does he now see these credentials as “rubbish”? Note: The word *rubbish* in Greek is a very strong and earthy word, virtually meaning feces. Why use that salty of a word at this point?
4. Read verses 10-11. What does Paul say he wants? Why does he say he wants it? Have you ever prayed to God that you wanted the same things? Are you willing to experience these negatives to receive those positives?
5. In verses 12-14, Paul is not talking about “works righteousness,” trying to save ourselves. We have talked in previous Notes about receiving salvation by grace through faith in Christ’s life, death, and resurrection (justification). Once made right with God through Christ, we (in gratitude) seek to become more Christ-like in our lives, through the power of the Holy Spirit (sanctification). How does Paul talk about that in his own life? How are you putting those ideas into practice in your own life?
6. In the last part of the sermon, I tried to make a connection between Paul’s fighting of idolatry and our need to do the same thing. Can love of country be an idol? Can our love of country supersede our love of God? How? On the other hand, can love of country be a good thing? How did I suggest that we could love God and country? Hint: It was a John Knox quote, which says, “The best servants of the state are those whose highest loyalty is not to the state, but to God.” How might that work for you/us?

