

the season of
lent



A REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DEVOTIONAL

WRITTEN AS A COLLABORATION BETWEEN...

DEREK MCCOLLUM

LEAD PASTOR, HOPE NEW BRAUNFELS

QB and captain of Seabrook Spartans 7th Grade B football, that managed to not score any points.

Favorite vacation spot: Gruene Hall or whatever is free!

MICHAEL NOVAK

LEAD PASTOR, TRINITY GRACE SAN ANTONIO

Converted in 2010 from Memphis Pulled Pork to Texas Brisket.

Favorite vacation spot: Any golf course.

BILLY CRAIN

LEAD PASTOR, CHRIST CHURCH KERRVILLE

Runner-up in tryouts for the part of “Scrooge” in the 5th grade play.

Favorite vacation spot: The Alamo.

BEN HAILEY

LEAD PASTOR, REDEEMER COLLEGE STATION

Two-time Calhoun County, MS greased pig wrestling champion.

Favorite vacation spot: The pond out back.

BENJIE SLATON

LEAD PASTOR, GRACE + PEACE CHATTANOOGA

Got his 4th grade girlfriend to marry him by playing Bon Jovi’s Living on a Prayer.

Favorite vacation spot: Hiking any mountain.

BUT GROW IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. TO HIM BE THE GLORY BOTH NOW AND TO THE DAY OF ETERNITY. AMEN.

II PETER 3:18

My earliest childhood memories of Lent were most informed by McDonald's, King Cakes, Mardi Gras parades, and Doubloons (affectionately pronounced "Deblooms" for those of us who didn't know any better). I grew up on the MS Gulf Coast close to New Orleans and had a ton of Catholic friends. On Friday's when we had an away high school baseball game, they would always order Filet-o-Fish off the menu, because they fasted from meat on those Fridays during Lent. (As a side note, I thought fish was meat, but an older friend of mine also said that while chicken is food, it is definitely not meat. Brisket is meat.) Anyway, I didn't think much of it at the time as I proceeded to order my regular: the two-cheeseburger meal with another quarter pounder. Over the years though, I've grown to appreciate the long tradition of seasons in the Church. These are occasions when the Church can focus on specific aspects of the Christian faith, particularly focusing on Christ, in unique ways. We celebrate Advent as a season of not only thanksgiving that Christ has come, but to ignite afresh our longing that He will come again. We celebrate Epiphany as we focus on the missional heart of God, the abundance of life we have in Christ, and the light of Christ as the light of the world. We come now to the season of Lent. Our friend

Joe Dentici summarizes the point well, "Lent is a season of owning that our flesh has a profound influence in our lives, and we are slower to repent than we want to admit. It's not a season of self-flagellation, however. It calls us to repentance in pointed ways as we fly to the Lord Jesus." While we do not believe that observing Lent is a biblical mandate, or even a mandate of the church, we believe that spiritual formation and spiritual disciplines in the Scriptures are a thing. Church seasons like Lent, for example, provide some definite structure in which we can corporately cultivate a deeper sense of our separation from God because of our sin, and at the same time a sense of Christ's great sacrifice for us on the Cross, and His victory over the grave in the Resurrection. We hope this devotional aids you in this season to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Ben Hailey

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

