

Focusing on the Son

In 1889 Vincent van Gogh completed his famous painting "Sunflowers," which has become one of his most noted works.



Symbolizing a long life and lasting happiness, the sunflower stands tall and in full bloom throughout the summer. Providing flour, food, and oil, the plant is a food staple of various cultures. Yet, it has one distinguishing characteristic: the flower's massive head always follows the sun. In the morning, it faces East. In the afternoon, the direction changes and it turns Westward. If a

hail storm or wind beats down the sunflower, it struggles to lift its head in following the sun's path.

Like the sunflower, we need to keep our focus on God, whose Son is Jesus. Following Christ, we find lasting happiness. And yes, we may experience hardships, frustration, and difficulties in life, but God will see us through. "For God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts" (2 Cor. 4:6, NIV).

If we turn our attention to worldly things, we will never know the happiness and joy that God, the Father, and the Son intended for His followers. Worldly things are temporary. Godly things are eternal.

How can you focus everything in your life on Jesus Christ, the Son of God? What about your time, your finances, your family, and your career? Everything we have and own belongs to Christ. Are there people in your church that need your prayers in following the Son? Pray that they will turn to God and find true happiness in Him.

Carolyn Tomlin lives in Jackson, Tennessee, and writes for the Christian magazine market.

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Front photo by iStock, back photo courtesy of Carolyn Tomlin.

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**"For God
so loved
the world
that he gave
his one
and only Son."**

JOHN 3:16 (NIV)

SAPPONY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Michael Dickey

July 21, 2024

www.sapponybaptist1773.org

Invocation and welcome

Hymn No. 446 "Take Time to be Holy"

Hymn No. 224 "Holy Ground"

Missionary Prayer Calendar

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Hymn No. 2 Holy, Holy, Holy"

Doxology

Scripture 2 Samuel 6:1-19

Message Rev. Mike Dickey

"The Ark Comes to Jerusalem"

Hymn No. 490 "Lead Me to Calvary"

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be in prayer for our sick and shut-ins as they are unable to be here with us.

Nominating Committee will meet at 10:00am Monday, July 22, at church.

The children will be collecting coloring books and notebooks for the month of July for The Shoe Box Ministry.

The following items are needed for backpacks for West Virginia: Non-rolling backpacks, 3 ring binders, notebook paper (wide rule and college-rule), spiral notebooks, rulers, scissors, crayons (24) #2 pencils, glue sticks, bottles of glue, blue/black ink pens. Socks and underwear are also needed. The packing is on August 12th at 8am at the PBA. For more information contact Elinor Antis at 804-931-8939

Look for our daily devotional on our website www.sapponybaptist1773.com.

To subscribe to our text alerts, text "JOIN" to 804-430-6282. We send out prayer requests and reminders.

Missed a sermon? Or just want to hear it again? Our past sermons are available on our website, Facebook, Youtube, and your favorite podcast app.

PRE-READ FOR NEXT WEEK: 2 Samuel 7:1-14