

"You show that you are a letter from Christ..."

I inadvertently came across a chapter of scripture in II Corinthians that has been nourishing my soul the past few days. Paul writes to the believers in Corinth, beginning in chapter 3:2, "You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." (II Cor. 3:2-3)

This small section of truth communicates so much. We celebrated five men graduating from the program this past Sunday. After the service, we proceeded to the waters of Lake Elijah where they were immersed in the water and raised again to symbolize the 'New Life' they now have within them. They have committed to living their lives in a way that brings Jesus Christ glory and honor. By His divine grace, they have decided to follow Him - no turning back.

These men are our letter, written on our hearts and now read by everyone. They are an epistle of love from Christ, composed by the Spirit of the living God. This is hard for some to understand or comprehend; yet, we cannot take away from the testimony that is now inscribed on the hearts of these men. They have collided with the 'Creator of the universe' and the 'Redeemer of their souls'; they have been captivated by Him and are now taking hold of Him and His great purpose in return.

Later on in the same chapter, verse 16 and 17 says, "But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." The Spirit of the living God causes this turning towards Himself and the "veil" to be removed; eyes are opened and hearts are softened. The author of our faith imparts His message into the hearts of these men. He leaves His everlasting mark, identifying those who are now His and sending out an announcement to others of His relentless love, power, and grace through each one. We hope you enjoy the letters of each of these men shared on the back of this *Campfire*!

In love and gratitude!



Nick

p.s. The weekend of March 3rd – 5th we will be celebrating our 61st 'Annual Homecoming'. You can find the schedule of events on our Facebook page. We would like to extend an invitation to all of you. Hopefully, we will see you face to face and worship the Lord together through the weekend as we praise Him for all He has done.





Graduates

February 12, 2023



"I'm 25 years old and come from a 6 year addiction. I lived a destructive and selfish lifestyle. I found myself hopeless and there seemed to be no way out. I had given up on God but He hadn't given up on me. He pulled me out of the darkness and brought me to Dunklin. Since being here, the Lord restored me and has given me a purpose. He's brought my family back together and my heart is full of gratitude for all He's done."

- Cole Dudley



"I come from 20 years of addiction to drugs and alcohol. My life was full of chaos, crime, and destruction. I was homeless, heartless, and filled with shame and guilt over the man I had become. Since being here at Dunklin, the scales have been removed from my eyes and I can see how far I was running from the Lord. Today, my heart of stone has been replaced with a heart of flesh. I have learned to love and be loved. God's grace and mercy have saved me and given me a new purpose in life."

- Dustin Adams

"I come from 20 years of addiction. I tried to medicate all the pain in my life. I have stolen time, energy, and hope from my family. I have been absent for half of my daughter's life. I was selfish and only cared about what I wanted. Today is different because God placed a calling in my heart and brought me to this place of refuge. I have been restored and have witnessed a healing take place in my family. I am learning to live each new day selflessly."

- Trapper Reynolds



"I was a selfish, critical, prideful person that thought I knew better than others because I had some success in my life. However the success was temporal and the Lord was after the eternal. He brought me to Dunklin to teach me His perspective of mind, will, and emotions and to save my marriage. The Lord is making me into the godly man He wants me to be."

- Ezra Norman

"I come from over 40 years of off and on addiction to drugs and alcohol. I've lost everything countless times. I've lost my marriage, kids, family, and good jobs. Before coming to Dunklin, I was drinking from morning till night. But the Lord drew me back to himself and brought me to Dunklin. I needed help and was dying on the inside, but through the regeneration program and inner healing, the Lord has brought me to my senses and has given me a new life. I'm eternally grateful!"

- Steve Ray

