



FROM THIS VIEW

WILMORE FREE METHODIST YOUTH MINISTRY

CONTINUE TO LIVE

A NOTE FROM PASTOR ANDREA

Dear WFMY,

Hey there!! How are you? As of today, April 3, 2020, it has been 22 days since we were last together. Can you believe that?!

We have missed prayer breakfast, youth group, afterglows, open gym, Sunday school, Sunday Worship, the Greenville Quiz meet, quiz practice, Junior~Senior, Spring Break Mission Trip, small groups...You have missed school, friends, tournaments, exams, family trips, grandparents...and I'm sure you have more to add to these lists.

All these losses leave me (and maybe you) feeling frustrated, sad, and even a little lonely.

Though these are the Apostle Paul's words, they ring true for me as well, today:

"For though I am absent from you in body, (I MISS YOU!!) I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness". (Colossians 2:5-7)

HERE'S THE CHARGE:

- LIVE YOUR LIVES
- ROOTED & BUILT UP
- STRENGTHENED
- OVERFLOWING

Let's take a look at three of these challenges....

- **Live your lives in Him**

Much of what we've known of our lives has changed in the last 3 weeks. Our schedules have changed, our moods have changed, some of the ways we think about life has changed. But our God has not. And we can continue to live our lives in Him. Confident of His presence. Assured of His goodness. We can continue to live in Him. Last month our theme was, "I AM the True Vine." Jesus' invitation to His disciples, and to us in that passage is to abide in Him. LIVE in HIM. So no matter the culture, the circumstance, the loss, we as His children can ABIDE-LIVE IN HIM.

- **Rooted & Built up in Him**

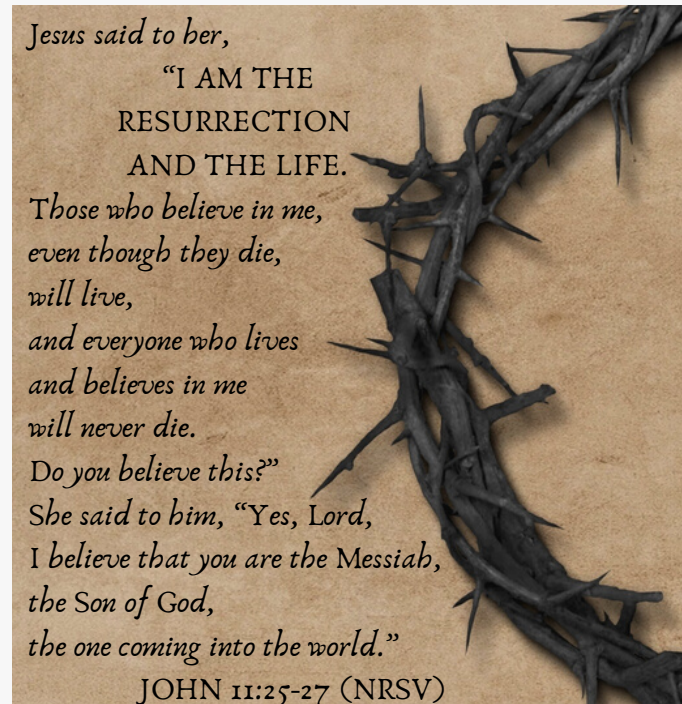
I googled *rooted*: established deeply and firmly. I'm sure you know this, but I was reminded this week that there are two main functions of roots. 1) to bring nutrients & water to the plant and 2) anchor the plant in the soil. Being *rooted in Him* means we are seeking Him for our nutrients, for our life sustaining needs, and we are anchoring our lives in Him and in His Word. The world is changing, and our lives are being shaped by this pandemic. And yet, God's word does not change. It will not fail. Root your life in your relationship with Jesus, in prayer and reflection. And build your life upon His Word. (Matthew 7:24-27)

- **Strengthened in the faith you were taught**

I was on the phone with a pastor friend of mine yesterday. When I admitted some of the worries and questions I had been feeling, he responded with with this statement, "Don't undo in a time of desolation what God confirmed in a time of consolation." What?! Well, as we talked, it became clear to me, that what I know of myself and of God, what I have experienced with Jesus and His words to me, those things do not become untrue or untrustworthy, because my circumstance feels unsteady. The faith I have been taught, the words of Scripture that I know from childhood (and from three weeks ago), strengthens my heart and my resolve, to continue walking with Jesus, living as He's commanded, and doing as He says.

- **Overflowing with thankfulness**

I'm praying for you today, that you will stop and take a moment to look around. What do you see? Name the blessings, the good things. Write down your thanks. Start with a list of 10... then build on that every day. Adding new words and phrases of thanksgiving and praise to our God, our refuge, our help in times of need (Psalm 46:1).



-Jesus' I AM statement for April-

