



# Westside Baptist Church Bulletin

August 24, 2025  
11th Sunday after  
Pentecost

Speaker: Pastor Mark Wong

## During Worship

- ▶ Be still and prepare your heart for worship.
- ▶ Please close the main hall doors gently during worship services.
- ▶ Please take care of your personal belongings to avoid theft.

## Offering

- ▶ Welcome to donate via E-transfer, email: [westsidebaptistoffering@gmail.com](mailto:westsidebaptistoffering@gmail.com)
- ▶ To donate by cash or cheque, please use an offering envelope and put it into the offering bag during worship.
- ▶ When making a donation, please indicate your donation envelope number and your full legal name. The offering envelope number can be obtained from the church office.

## Notes to CitRUs parents:

- ▶ The enrollment age for CitRUs Children's Ministry starts from age 3; one parent can accompany children under 3 to participate in worship in Room B.
- ▶ Classes are held on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am at Room E & F.
- ▶ Please supervise your children after you have picked them up from the classroom.

## Parking

- ▶ The upstairs parking lot (Parking Lot 1) is designated for new comers, people with reduced mobility, the elderly and families with young children.
- ▶ The indoor parking lot downstairs (Parking Lot 2) will be closed at 1:00 pm on Sundays. Afterwards, you will have to wait until 10:00 am on Tuesday morning to collect your vehicle.
- ▶ Additional parking spaces are available at 8508 Ash Street (Parking Lot 3) on Saturdays from 4:00 - 7:00pm and Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. [Maps](#) are available in the foyer.
- ▶ To be considerate of our neighbors, please do not park in the residential area.
- ▶ When parking in the outdoor parking lot downstairs (Parking Lot 2), please be careful not to block the emergency exits and keep a distance of 3 feet from the building's exterior wall so that the emergency exit doors can be fully opened.
- ▶ Please park and lock your bike/e-bike outside. Do not park the bike inside the building.
- ▶ Congregants are required to register online annually to park at the church or 8508 Ash during worship services. Registration link: <https://forms.gle/TDSft5sAJgk5QMeN8>



## Scripture Reading Plan

- ▶ In Romans 1-8, Paul leads us on a journey from our deepest need to our greatest hope. He begins by reminding us that all people, no matter who they are, fall short before God and cannot earn righteousness on their own. Yet into this hopelessness, God shines the light of grace: through faith in Jesus, we are made right with Him, just as Abraham was by trusting God's promise.
- ▶ This gift brings peace, joy, and life, even in suffering, because Christ has undone the curse of Adam's sin. United with Him, we are set free from sin's power, though we still wrestle with weakness. But the Spirit assures us we are God's beloved children, and nothing—not hardship, failure, or even death—can ever separate us from His love.
- ▶ Reading Plan for this week:
  - ▶ August 24 (Sunday): Romans 2:12-29
  - ▶ August 25 (Monday): Romans 3:1-31
  - ▶ August 26 (Tuesday): Romans 4:1-25
  - ▶ August 27 (Wednesday): Romans 5:1-21
  - ▶ August 28 (Thursday): Romans 6:1-23
  - ▶ August 29 (Friday): Romans 7:1-25
  - ▶ August 30 (Saturday): Romans 8:1-17
  - ▶ August 31 (Sunday): Romans 8:18-39

## Co · Mission

**39. Unashamed in a Broken World**

[ Romans 1:18-31 ]

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

[ Romans 1:20 ]

**Sermon Outline****Introduction: The Illusion of Control**

- ▶ Story: Friend who seemed to have it all together but suffered a panic attack
- ▶ Psychologists call it *the illusion of control*
- ▶ Paul says the real problem isn't just psychological—it's spiritual (Romans 1:18)
- ▶ Key Truth: When we suppress the truth, God lets us go

**Point 1: Suppressing the Truth (Romans 1:18–23)**

- ▶ Humanity's problem: not ignorance, but resistance
- ▶ God's fingerprints are everywhere (creation, conscience, beauty)
- ▶ To suppress = to hold truth down (like keeping a beach ball under water)
- ▶ Idolatry: we never stop worshiping—we just worship the wrong things (Stott: "*The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God*")

**Point 2: God Gave Them Over (Romans 1:24–28)**

- ▶ God's wrath here = abandonment (MacArthur: "*The wrath of abandonment*")
- ▶ Three stages when God lets go:
  - ▶ Lust replaces love – desires turned inward, pornography as example
  - ▶ Passion becomes perversion – desires reshape identity apart from God
  - ▶ The mind becomes unmoored – depraved mind, moral reasoning collapses

**My Reflection**

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### Point 3: A Society Unraveled (Romans 1:29–31)

- ▶ Sin is not just private—it breaks society
- ▶ Paul’s “vice list” = envy, greed, gossip, arrogance, family breakdown
- ▶ Evidence of divine abandonment isn’t ritual sins, but relational collapse (Moo)
- ▶ Modern parallels: division, outrage culture, breakdown of trust, loss of mercy

### Point 4: Approving the Darkness (Romans 1:32)

- ▶ The final step: not just committing sin but celebrating it
- ▶ Keller: *“It’s one thing to sin. It’s another to rejoice in sin. But it’s darker to declare it righteous.”*
- ▶ Society now applauds what God grieves
- ▶ The descent:
  - ▶ Suppress truth → Exchange God’s glory → Given over → Relational ruin → Celebration of sin

## My Prayer Response

- ▶ Write down your responsive prayer for God’s word today.

## My Action Response

- ▶ What changes will you make in response to God’s word today?

## Small Group Discussions

### 1. Breaking the Ice:

When have you experienced “*the illusion of control*” in your own life—thinking you were in control, only to realize you weren’t? How did that moment affect your faith or perspective?

### 2. Suppressing the Truth (vv.18–23):

Paul says people “suppress the truth.” What are some ways people today try to push down or ignore the reality of God? How do we sometimes do this in more subtle, personal ways?

### 3. Idolatry and Substitutes:

John Stott said, “*The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God.*” What are some modern “idols” (things we put ultimate trust in) that might not look like statues but function as gods in our lives?

### 4. God Gave Them Over (vv.24–28):

Paul repeats three times that “God gave them over.” What do you think this means? How does the idea of God’s wrath of abandonment (MacArthur) challenge the way we usually think about God’s judgment?

### 5. A Society Unraveled (vv.29–31):

Paul describes relational breakdown—envy, gossip, arrogance, disobedience. Which of these do you see most clearly in our culture today? Which ones quietly sneak into our own hearts or communities?

### 6. Hope in the Gospel (Romans 1:32 leading to 3:23; 5:8):

Romans 1 paints a dark picture, but Paul is setting up the hope of the gospel. How does seeing the reality of human sin make the good news of Jesus’ cross and resurrection even more powerful? What does this mean for how we live and witness in a broken world?

## Announcements

- ▶ Our **short-term mission team** set off for Bolivia on August 21! Please continue to lift them up in prayer for a safe journey and a fruitful time of ministry. You can follow their updates and learn more about the trip at: <https://bolivia.causevox.com/>.
- ▶ **WBC 101** will begin at the end of September. Those who wish to be baptized or transfer membership during this Christmas season and become members of Westside are welcome to join. The course dates are September 28, October 12, October 19, November 30, and December 7, held on Sunday afternoons. Please register at [universe.com/westside](http://universe.com/westside).
- ▶ **CitRUs Friday & CitRUs Sunday** begins on September 5th with meetings on Fridays and Sundays. There are many new changes coming. Registered parents should have received an email about these changes. Please read or watch it before the launch.
- ▶ The church is joining Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) to participate the **Active In Mission**, supporting food aid programs in 14 countries, including Canada. This year’s national fundraising goal is CAD \$100,000. There are 20 fundraisers from WBC this year. Please donate on the individual participant’s page: <https://www.activeinmission.ca/t/wbc>. Donations are eligible for a tax receipt issued by CBM. **The last day for donations will be on August 31, 2025.**
- ▶ **Monthly bulletin** has already published. Please refer to it for important notices.



## Fellowship Life

- ▶ **Westside 101** is a course designed for anyone who wishes to join us as a member through baptism or transfer of membership. It consists of approximately five 90-minute classes. Please register at [universe.com/westside](http://universe.com/westside)
- ▶ **Small groups** are the heart of our fellowship life and an essential part of our holistic Christian living. We invite you to join our small groups if you are willing to commit. To register, please visit [universe.com/westside](http://universe.com/westside)

