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ONE IN CHRIST!

Galatians 3:27-28

(Martin Luther King Day)

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Learning from our Calendar (2)

My purpose - Reminder

- This year, I am preaching through the calendar - an ongoing study of holidays and observances we find on our calendars.
- This is not about observing these days as the church, but addressing various subjects related to these days from a Biblical perspective (since holidays often cause us to pause and ponder their meaning).

Martin Luther King Jr Day

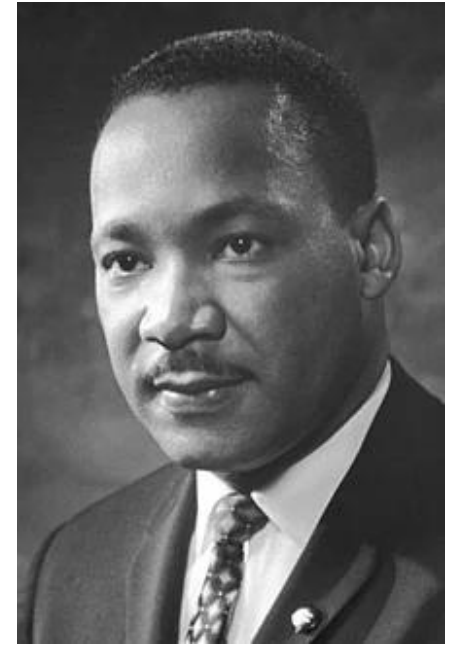
- Tomorrow, the US will observe MLK Jr Day. It is a holiday encouraging Americans to appreciate his efforts to promote improved race relations and human equality.
- The goal of this day is to encourage us to treat each other with kindness, regardless of our differences.
- It was first observed January 20, 1986, and is designated for the 3rd Monday in January each year.

Martin Luther King Jr Day

- NOTE: As the church, we do NOT honor any man except Jesus Christ.
Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 1:22-23 - it is HIS church!
- But we can recognize good qualities and accomplishments others have done, especially from a Biblical perspective.
- Many NT passages recognized both good (**Romans 16:1-16**) and bad (**3 John 9-11, 2 Timothy 4:14**) examples, with the goal that we learn from them (**Hebrews 6:12, 1 Thessalonians 1:8, 2 Corinthians 8:1-3, etc.**)

Martin Luther King Jr Day

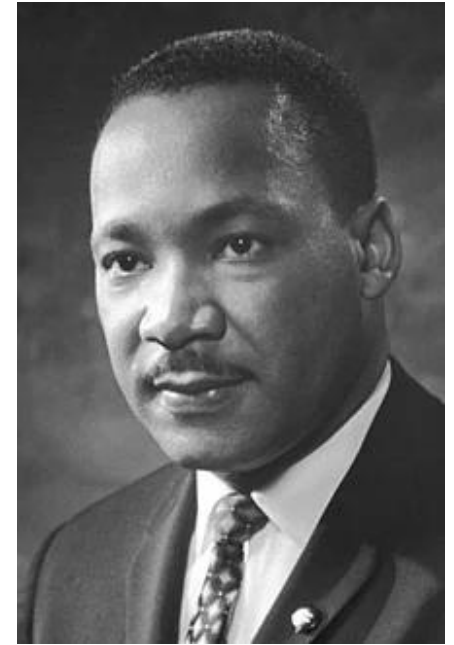
- Michael King Jr was born January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, GA.
- After his father (a Baptist preacher) returned from a trip to Germany in 1934, he change his name to Martin Luther King (Sr. & Jr.) after the reformation leader who resisted corruption in the Catholic church.



King in 1964
www.Wikipedia.org

Martin Luther King Jr Day

- MLK Jr was a highly educated Baptist preacher. He is known for his activism to end discrimination laws including voting rights, segregation in the south, labor rights and other racial inequities. He paid a great price being arrested 29 times, violently attacked, and ultimately assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, TN. He advocated for passive resistance & protest.



King in 1964
www.Wikipedia.org

Martin Luther King Jr Day

- I certainly do not agree with many of his doctrinal beliefs, nor some of the methods he used, but he addressed a serious and sinful condition that was prevalent in our society during his life, and to a degree is still an issue.
- The subject of racism
- But what Biblical lessons can we learn from observing this day.



King in 1964
www.Wikipedia.org

All men are made in the image of god

- EVERY man is – **Genesis 1:26-27**
- God is the one who created us and made each of us different.
- **Genesis 11:1-9** – the tower of Babel explains why we are so different throughout the world.
- **Acts 17:26**, we are all of one blood. Human blood is different from animal blood.
NOTE: While “types” are important with transfusions, one’s race/ethnicity is not!



Every human being has worth

- EVERY man is in God's image - **Genesis 1:26-27**
- **Genesis 2:7** - God breathed into man life and he became a living being
- **Genesis 9:6**, whoever sheds man's blood will pay with his blood. Why? *"For in the image of God He made man."*
- All humans have a soul - **1 Thessalonians 5:23**
Ecclesiastes 3:21, 12:7. James 1:21 - saved
- ALL can be saved -
John 3:16, 1 Timothy 2:3-4
- EVERY person is valuable - **Matthew 6:25-26**



The sin of partiality

- **Acts 10:34-35** – God is no respecter of persons
- **James 2:1-10** – partiality IS a sin!
- **Galatians 2:11-12** - Peter condemned for it
- Racism is a form of partiality – you are judging one's worth based on pigment, not moral standards - **James 3:8-10**
- **1 John 4:20-23** – professing to love God and hating your brother



The sin of partiality

- Continually, scripture emphasizes that we should consider moral conduct, NOT appearance!
- **Psalm 1:1** – Blessed is the man...
- **2 Corinthians 6:14-17** – ... Come out from among them and be separate
- **Ephesians 5:11** – have no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness
- **1 Corinthians 15:33** – evil company corrupts...
- NOTE: There is a big difference between race and sexual preference. Homosexuality is about moral conduct. Skin color is about how one was created.



The sin of partiality

- In his “I have a dream” speech, Aug. 28, 1963, King said, *“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”*
- This OUGHT to be our mantra as well!
- NOTE: Yes, racism and ethnic partiality is a sin. And this is a two-way street.
- Be careful who you align yourself with!



Who is my neighbor?

- This is the 2nd greatest commandment - **Matthew 22:36-40**
- **Leviticus 19:17-18** - its origin in the LOM
- **Galatians 5:14** - all the law fulfilled in this...
- **James 2:8** - the royal law
- **Luke 10:25-37** - answers the question, "Who is my neighbor?"
- **1 John 3:15** - whoever hates his brother...
(**cf. Matthew 5:21-22**)



Love your enemies

- **Matthew 5:44-48** – Jesus taught this.
- I am NOT implying that race is cause to call one an enemy! This is in response to those who “do not get it”.
- As Christians, we cannot hate in return. Consider **Matthew 5:38-39** – turn the other cheek.
- **Romans 12:14-21** – bless and do not curse, leave it in God’s hands.
- In matters of race and other dividing issues I have seen incredibly bad behavior on “both sides”.
- Do NOT be a part of ANYTHING that is sinful or places a bad light on Christ and His church –
**2 Corinthians 6:17, Romans 2:24,
1 Timothy 6:1, etc.**



The pursuit of unity

- God's people are called to strive for unity
- **Ephesians 4:1-3, Romans 14:19** – pursue peace...
- **Psalm 133:1**, *"Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity..."*
- If we cannot be united together as brethren, how will we be a light to the world to encourage unity?
John 13:34-35
- Our love and example is one of our greatest tools to reach the lost



The pursuit of unity

- But this unity is not limited to brethren
- **Hebrews 12:14** - *pursue peace with all people...*
- **Romans 15:2** - *Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.*
- We cannot let the faulty judgment of others keep us from being Christians.



Concluding remarks

- Martin Luther King Jr. addressed many of these subjects in various speeches he made.
- It is my hope that in these matters, we can find reminders of how God wants us to behave toward ALL of mankind.



Concluding remarks

- One day, we will all stand before God in judgment and give an accounting for how we treat each other (among other things).
- The righteous will spend eternity with Him – and their outward appearance will be on no account!
- If it doesn't matter to God, it should not matter to us either!
- **Galatians 3:27-28**



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**Am I striving for the unity
God wants in me?**

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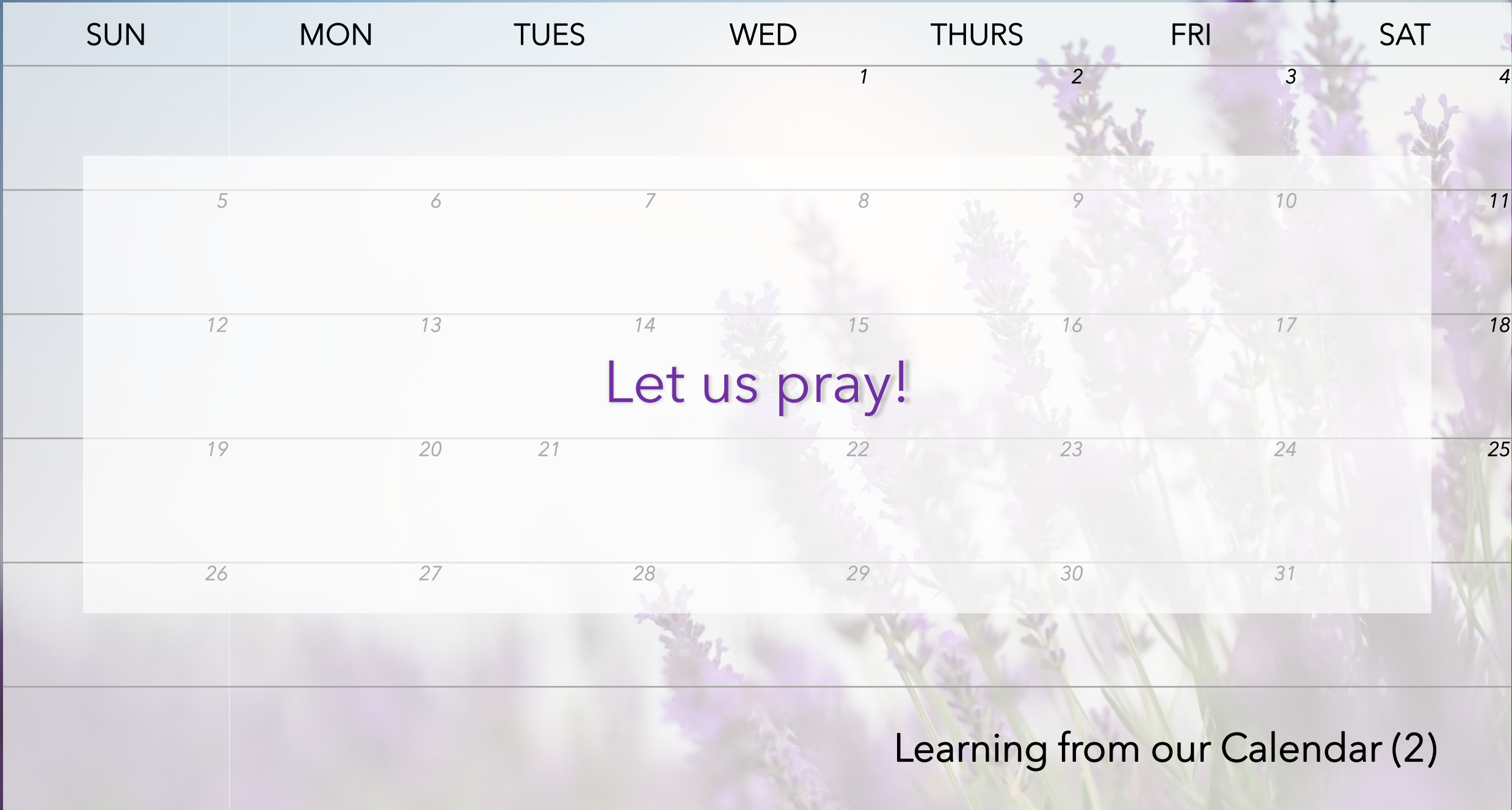
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Learning from our Calendar (2)



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Let us pray!

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Learning from our Calendar (2)