

# LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

**W**alter Payton, who was five feet ten inches and 202 pounds, was not a particularly large running back for the National Football League. But he set one of the sport's greatest records: the all-time rushing record of 16,726 yards. Doing the math, Payton, during his twelve-year career, carried the football over nine miles!

What is truly impressive is that Payton was knocked to the ground every 10 feet of those nine miles by someone bigger than himself, he kept getting up, and he kept getting up, and he kept getting up.

Great victories await those with great endurance and determination. Think about the determination needed for our spiritual lives. That is why the Hebrew writer wrote in Hebrews 10:19-25 (ESV):

*Since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Look up, get up if need be, and keep going. Let us hold fast and spur others on. He is calling us forward to a place of rest and reward.

# SERMON NOTES

## Does God Prefer to Destroy?

August 29

### Three important questions (\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_)

- Do \_\_\_\_ think about \_\_\_\_?
- \_\_\_\_ do I \_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_?
- Do I think \_\_\_\_\_ about God?

### 7 Truths about God -

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

### Where we intersect with God

- 

SEPT. 5, 2021

PSALM 46:9-10

**Next Week:**

**GOD CAN'T HELP ME**

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## PERSONAL STUDY

It is rewarding to invest time each day in God's Word.

### **Mo** Eph. 3:20–21

Now - Do you remember Pharaoh's answer about getting rid of the frogs? He said tomorrow. In Proverbs, the diligent worker uses today to prepare for tomorrow. Decide to take faithful action today.

### **Tu** Eph. 3:20–21

To him who is able - to keep you and present you as faultless (Jude 24), to make you stand (Rom. 14:4), to build you up (Acts 20:32), to subdue all things (Phil. 3:21), and save you (Heb. 7:25). Praise him!

### **We** Eph. 3:20–21 & Luke 10:2

To do immeasurably more! The more is not more money or vacation days. "More" refers to the growing opportunities to speak about God's kingdoms. Jesus said, "The fields are ready for harvest." Pray for more.

### **Th** Eph. 3:20–21

His power at work in us - Have you ever intercepted God's praise because you acted like it was your mind or talent that solved the problem? God is at work in us. Give him the praise due him!

### **Fr** Eph. 3:20–21

Glory in the Church and Christ - the immeasurably more is not for our gain or pleasure, it should give recognition to the Church and Christ. Start today by praising the Church and Christ to someone around you.

### **Sa** Eph. 3:20–21

Throughout all generations - have you ever felt the world is getting worse? Do you fear for tomorrow? I don't know what tomorrow holds, but I know who holds tomorrow. God is still at work! Let's join him.

## STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Ephesians 3:20-21. What is exciting and empowering about this promise? What is scary and challenging?
- Share one Bible story that reminds you of God's power, love, and care.
- Share one Bible story that shows God's judgement, wrath, or anger.
- Describe an experience you've had in which you witnessed firsthand the awesome majesty of God.
- Many kids write a letter to Santa with their wish list. If you were to write a similar letter to God, what would it include?
  - ◊ How would the letter change if you were writing to your best friend (God), instead of a Santa-type figure?
- Would you say that you have responded to God most of your life out of love, out of fear, or out of duty? Why?
- How has your image and requests of God changed from the time you were a kid, teen, and now?
- How do you feel your perspective of God has influenced your life choices?
- Why is it difficult for us to feel as close to God as children do?