

TIMOTHY J. DERNLAN

I was blessed with parents who loved Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior. My father was a pastor of a conservative non-denominational church and I began to understand the truth of God's Word and my need for a Savior at an early age. I was a young boy when I realized that Christ was my only hope for salvation and I asked my mother to help me pray to God to be forgiven from my sins. Throughout my time growing up, I enjoyed attending church, reading my Bible, going to church camps, and praying. My parents were great role models for me and when I left for college I felt prepared to live out my Christian faith.

While in college, I attended Kossuth Street Baptist Church and was actively involved in the campus ministry sponsored by the church. I also enjoyed attending Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and leading Bible studies for the wrestling team in my apartment. I continued to grow in my commitment to Christ and understanding of the Bible during this time. During my last year at Purdue University, I met my wife at FCA and we were married two years later at the Church of the Brethren in Mexico, Indiana.

In each of the cities God has taken us, we have always found good churches to attend and have become active members. We have been involved in many of the ministries at each of the churches. I have enjoyed teaching Sunday school, work in the nursery, and seek ways to live out my faith in Christ each day. While living out my Christian faith, I also strive to strengthen my understanding of the Bible by engaging in personal and academic studies. Our family currently attends Church of the Redeemer in Fairhope, AL.

My doctoral studies focused on organizational leadership, but I also minored in Christian theology. The biblical studies for this degree have furthered my understanding of the Bible and remind me of my need for a Savior. My understanding of God's Word is best summarized by the Westminster Confession of Faith, but the variety of denominational experiences I have had allows me to hold many of my personal doctrinal beliefs with an open hand when interacting with individuals of various denominations.

Like most people, I have gone through many ups and downs in life, but God has kept His hand on me and blessed me with an amazing journey and spiritual growth. I am looking forward to continuing to grow in my understanding of Him and His Word. My wife and I were married in 2000 and have been blessed with four wonderful children. It is great to see how God is using our children to sanctify me and challenge me to live rightly as a role model for them.

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

I Corinthians 10:31