



Week 50

DAVID SHORT

DECEMBER 16-22 READ:

Ro 11-13 • Ro 14-16 • Act 20-23 • Act 24-26
Act 27-28 • Col 1-4; Phm • Eph 1-6

DEVOTIONAL

If you live in Spotswood Estates, the neighborhood behind the church, it was an afternoon you will never forget. Leaves, sticks and tree branches whirled everywhere. Inside the house, the kid's anxiety level was rising with the wind speed. I could hear tree limbs snapping, one of them falling through the fence on my side yard. And then the whole thing was over... Meteorologists called it a microburst because of the small geographical area that was impacted.

MEMORY VERSE

EPHESIANS 5:25

—
Husbands, love your wives, as
Christ loved the church and gave
himself up for her,

And then I heard it... chainsaws! A group of men, including a few church members, were already hard at work in the awful mugginess. Before neighborhood ditches could empty their storm runoff, men were out clearing roads and trimming branches left leaning dangerously against houses.

After observing post storm male behavior, I asked myself, "Are we men as eager to work on our marriage as we are to clear a blocked intersection after a storm? Guys, are we as eager to repair and maintain our marriage, as we are to trim a twisted tree branch hanging precariously over the corner of the house? Guys, are we bringing as much tenacity, energy, and determination to loving our wives as we would to

removing a tree from our car? Men, are we as interested in mending wrongs done to our wives as we are in mending a storm-battered fence? Do I put more effort into cleaning up yard debris than marital debris? Let it never be so!

APPLICATION QUESTION

Do you pray daily for your wife?

What is one practical way you can express love to your wife **today**?