

## May The Mind of Christ My Saviour

May the mind of Christ, my Savior,  
Live in me from day to day,  
By His love and power controlling  
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly  
In my heart from hour to hour,  
So that all may see I triumph  
Only through His power.

May the peace of God my Father  
Rule my life in everything,  
That I may be calm to comfort  
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me  
As the waters fill the sea;  
Him exalting, self abasing,  
This is victory.

May I run the race before me,  
Strong and brave to face the foe,  
Looking only unto Jesus  
As I onward go.

May His beauty rest upon me,  
As I seek the lost to win,  
And may they forget the channel,  
Seeing only Him.

# Taking Gathered Worship

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## Family and Individual Devotions

### Meditations in Acts

Week of March 18, 2007

## *The Essence of the Church*

## Daily Devotionals

**C**hrist continues to care for His church. He has called men and women around the world into the service of His kingdom. These Christian men and women have been gifted to perform the works that God has set before them. To care for His church, God has placed some men in positions of leadership. Elders and deacons are to care for the church through diligently shepherding and guarding the church.

**I Timothy 3, I Peter 5** and **Titus 1** define the many attributes that are to characterize the leaders of the church.

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Please pray that we as a community of faith will learn His ways and walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

*Throughout the week we encourage you to use the hymn, "May The Mind of Christ, My Saviour" found on the back page as your song, your prayer, and your reminder this week about what the church is all about.*

Sunday, 3/18

**Read:** Everyone is called to serve. To some, the responsibility to lead the church is given. **Hebrews 13:17** instructs the rest of church to submit to the authority of those God has chosen to lead. That submission will bring joy to the work of gods leaders.

**Pray** For a heart that submits to the authority God has given the leaders of His church. That by doing so you will be an encouragement and a joy.

Monday, 3/19

**Read:** If you haven't already done so, take a look at **I Timothy 3, I Peter 5** and **Titus 1** These are the qualifications you should expect from those who lead you. They are to teach just as Christ taught, lead just as Christ led.

**Pray** For the leaders God has given the church. That they will live a life worthy of their calling, diligently shepherd the congregation.

Tuesday, 3/20

**Read:** Both the leaders and the congregation must share a common goal to maintain the purity of the church. **Joshua 1:8** tells us to meditate on the word of God day and night. It is the responsibility of the leaders to teach the word of God.

**Pray** For a unity of purpose in serving the kingdom of God. For a knowledge

Wednesday, 3/21

of Gods word, planted in your heart, making you a productive member of His church.

**Read:** In **Acts 15:1** we see a challenge to the purity of the church. Some were teaching that without circumcision you could not be saved. This teaching was clearly at odds with **Ephesians 2:8,9**. We see in the following verses how the elders maintained the purity of the church by dealing with this erroneous teaching.

**Pray** The church leaders will boldly stand up whenever error is introduced into the church body.

Thursday, 3/22

**Read:** **Acts 20:29** declares the danger that lurks within the church. There are wolves within the church threatening the flock. The elders are charged with guarding the flock from these attacks. Every Christian is charged with resisting these attacks by donning the armor of God.

**Pray** That you would encircle yourself with the truth of Gods' word in defense from attacks.

Friday, 3/23

**Read:** The defense of the church is our common goal. So is the defense of each other. Read **I John 3:16-18**. This defense is both physical and spiritual. Are you willing to help meet the needs of others?

**Pray** That you would willingly serve others, always ready to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Saturday, 3/24

**Read:** In **Romans 15:1-7** we find a splendid assessment of how to live the Christian life. Taking care of each other, relying on the teaching of scripture for encouragement and hope, accepting one another.

**Pray** That you would strengthen and encourage others, exhorting them towards a strong Christian life.