

Saturday, 4/14

You have been set apart for the holy work of God. You have been given the means to carry out that work.

Equip yourself for that work by sanctifying yourself

through the word of God.

Devotional: Study II Timothy 3:16-17 and Ephesians 2:10. Just as Acts 1:8 promises the power to witness, these verses help us understand how the word of God prepares us for the works God has prepared for us.

Pray That through the power of the Holy Spirit and the word of God you will

endeavor to “go and make disciples of all nations”.

Onward Christian Soldiers

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle see His banners go!

Refrain

*Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.*

At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;
On then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
Brothers lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.

Refrain

Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.
We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

Refrain

What the saints established that I hold for true.
What the saints believèd, that I believe too.
Long as earth endureth, men the faith will hold,
Kingdoms, nations, empires, in destruction rolled.

Refrain

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the church of Jesus constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never gainst that church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.

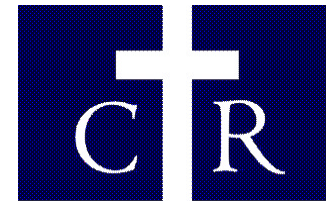
Refrain

Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.
Glory, laud and honor unto Christ the King,

Words : Sabine Baring-Gould. Music: Arthur Sullivan.
CCLI License Number 1958155.

Taking Gathered Worship

Home



CHRIST *the*
REDEEMER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Family and Individual Devotions

Meditations in Acts

Week of April 8, 2007

The Essence of the Church

Daily Devotionals

Our study of the book of Acts has taught us a great deal about the essence of the church. Its' foundation in Jesus Christ and its' empowerment by the Holy Spirit. However, some churches are visible, while others are almost invisible. I'm not speaking about the traditional definitions of the church referring to the visible/invisible church that is made of all Christians past, present and future. Rather I am speaking of churches that have widely different impacts because of their visibility to the world around them.

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, "Onward Christian Soldiers" found on the back page as your songs, your prayers, and your reminder this week about what the church is all about.

Sunday, 4/8

Whether a church is visible or invisible depends largely on two things. How its members handle their calling to be a witness of Christ, and whether its members endeavor to make disciples. It is by witnessing and making disciples that others around us become aware of our existence.

Devotional: Re-read Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:19-20. Reflect on how following these verses will help you move towards visibility in the world. It would be appropriate to consider how faithful you have been to these commands.

Pray That the Holy Spirit will guide you on how to plant these verses in your heart. That you will gain wisdom in how to use these verses in your life.

Monday, 4/9

In our human approach to matters such as witnessing and making disciples, there is usually an element of fear. If you looked closely at Acts 1:8 yesterday you will note that you were given power when the Holy Spirit came upon you. God does not leave us alone in the command to be His witness.

Devotional: Look at II Timothy 1:6,7. Do these verses add further import to the promise of power found in Acts 1:8?

Pray For the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome those human attributes which make you ineffective in your witnessing and deter from your ability to minister to others.

Tuesday, 4/10

During the past two days we have seen how scripture calls and empowers us to be visible. Meditating on these verses will keep us focused on what we have been

empowered to do. But how do we move from this intellectual understanding to an outward application of our calling to witness and make disciples?

Devotional: Matthew 5:14-16 are the consummate verses for initiating visibility in your life. Does your "light shine before men?" Consider what verse 16 says will be the result of your visibility.

Pray That you would be proactive in seeking opportunities to let your "light shine before men".

Wednesday, 4/11

In its fullness, a church is not just you or any other individual, it is a body. A whole made up of many parts performing many functions. It is marvelous to consider how God has placed the multi-functional church into a multi-needful community. The two are made for one another.

Devotional: Read I Corinthians 12:12-20. Do you play a part in the body? Look at Romans 12:6-8 to gain insight into the some of the many parts the church plays.

Pray For insight into your role within the body of Christ at Christ the Redeemer.

Thursday, 4/12

The church must firmly grasp its' foundation in Christ and its' power to serve in His name. It is important to understand who we are and what it is God requires of us. Knowing these things will allow us to see how we should proceed as a church.

Devotional: Take time to look at the vision of Christ the Redeemer. This church "exists to worship Christ in community, as we celebrate and extend His grace to Portland, New England and the world". This vision sounds very much like Acts 1:8. How does this vision relate to being a visible church?

Pray That the vision of Christ the Redeemer will live in your life and in the life of everyone within this church community.

Friday, 4/13

As you look at your role in this church it is important that you also consider the role of others within the body. Often you can help another understand where they could best serve within the church.

Devotional: Hebrews 10:24-25 provide instructions on how we can actively participate in the lives of others in the church. What do you think it means to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds". Do you have an encouraging nature?

Pray That as you seek how you should serve within the church, you would help others come to understand their role in the church.