

Friday, 4/20

Peace, purity and unity within the church must be real. These three endeavors must be based on a correct understanding and application of Gods word. True peace, purity and unity are not merely outward expressions but are an inward reality based on a common relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit. It is not peace, purity and unity as the world gives, but true peace, purity and unity as only Christ can give.

Devotional: There is great individual and corporate joy in the God given ability to serve in His kingdom. You are now serving God as children of light. Take a close look at Ephesians 4:17-32. Consider how you might use these verses to study the peace, purity and unity of Gods church.

Pray That the new “attitude of your minds” you have received through Christ will “spur you on towards love and good deeds”. That in love you will live in true harmony with everyone.

Saturday, 4/21

Your life is a song. Every word you speak, every deed you perform, sings loudly about who you are and what you regard as important. The Bible teaches us to season our conversation with salt, and exhorts us to ensure our works are a fruit of honor to God.

Devotional: Study Acts 16:16-34. Consider the lives Paul and Silas were leading before their arrest. Consider their lives when they were thrown in prison. Did their arrest have any impact on their words and deeds? What was the end result of the consistency of their lives?

Pray That your life would sing a song of unswerving commitment to your faith in Christ.

Battle Hymn of the Republic

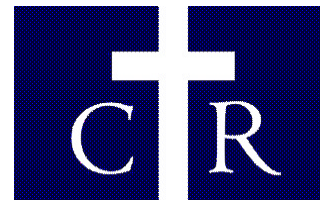
Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! (Refrain)
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on.
(Refrain)

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet;
Our God is marching on.
(Refrain)

Words-Julia W. Howe 1861, Music-John William Steffe

Taking Gathered Worship Home



CHRIST *the*
REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Family and Individual Devotions Meditations in Acts

Week of April 15, 2007

The Essence of the Church

www.MainePCA.org

Daily Devotionals

If you have followed “Taking gathered Worship Home” during the past few months you are aware that you are participating as a part of “a holy nation, a people belonging to God”. People set apart to accomplish the holy work of God, work that God himself prepared in advance for you to perform. The opportunity to serve God is an awesome privilege. Along with that privilege comes responsibility. An obligation to the church to perform that work in the proper manner and with the proper motive and attitude.

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, “ Battle Hymn of the Republic” found on the back page as your songs, your prayers, and your reminder this week about what the church is all about.

Sunday, 4/15

Our personal desires and wishes should not be the driving force behind how we function in the church. Rather, our every thought, each word we speak and every deed we perform should be an act of worship to God, giving thanks and praise to Him for who we are and what He has accomplished in our lives. As we perform Gods work the motive should be His glory.

Devotional: Read I Corinthians 10:31. Just how deep does doing “all for the glory of God” go? How should applying this verse to your daily life affect the manner in which you serve God?

Pray For an understanding that the primary purpose in faithfully performing your work for God is to give glory to Him.

Monday, 4/16

Along with a proper motive it is equally important to maintain an attitude suitable to our calling in Christ. There should be no self serving nature to what we do. Our work should be accomplished with the realization that it is only through the redeeming blood of Christ that we are able to do anything.

Devotional: There are many verses that would help us develop the right perspective on our work. Two in particular come to mind. John 15:5 and Philippians 2:3 reveal at least four ways that help us maintain a proper attitude towards anything we do in Gods church. Study these verses carefully.

Pray That you will fully comprehend the truth that it is only in Christ that you are able to do anything. That your service would not be performed for your own gratification and goals, but humbly carried out for the glory of God through serving others.

Tuesday, 4/17

When you become a member of Christ the Redeemer and commit to this body of believers you will be asked to make a promise to the church to “study its peace and purity”. The word study is no accident. It instills a sense of pro-activity in endeavoring to maintain peace within the body of Christ. You are being asked to humbly rely upon the grace of the Holy Spirit to guide and teach you how to be a peaceable member of Gods church.

Devotional: Look carefully at I Peter 3:8-11. In what ways can these verses help you pursue peace within the church? How should this portion of scripture affect your thoughts, your words and your deeds?

Pray Your heart will have sincere desire to live in a godly manner among your brothers and sisters in Christ. That the word of God will continuously reveal ways for you to pursue the peace God requires.

Wednesday, 4/18

It is possible to carry our desire for peace so far that there is a negative impact on the purity of the church. Remember the membership question we looked at yesterday. That question asked you to promise to “study the peace and purity “ of the church. The church must keep itself free from the corruption.

Devotional: The distinction between evil and sin is what the Bible is all about. It is only through the sanctifying word of God that we can maintain the purity of the church. Read Psalm 19:8. Note how the word of God is “right, giving joy”, and “radiant, giving light”. Consider how the instructions found in Philippians 4:8 help each Christian maintain the purity of the church.

Pray That you will endeavor to maintain peace within the church. That you will use the fullness of Gods word to keep Gods church pure.

Thursday, 4/19

Peace and purity in the church are essential, and so is unity. The Bible declares that “there is one body, and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called...”. There is a singleness in our sentiment and our purpose. We are unified in our desire “to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”.

Devotional: Read I Corinthians 12:14-26 paying particular attention to verse 25. We have been made a part of the body of Christ to fulfill Gods plan in the life of the church. There “should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.” Gods work exhorts us to unity in Ephesians 4:1-16.

Pray Your service in the church would lead to unity in the body of Christ. As you faithfully carry out Gods plan in your life you would also be encouraging others to perform their God given responsibilities. That there would be a unity of purpose in glorifying God.