

Philippians 2:3-4. These verses teach the proper balance between your own interests and the interests of others.

Pray That your life would be characterized by a love of the word of God expressed through a love of those around you.

Saturday, 5/5

The fruit of the early church was evident. Their new life in Christ was lived with great fervor, boldly proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ at every turn in the road.

Devotional: This early church is our model. Our lives have been reformed by the knowledge of Jesus Christ. We ought to live as people worthy of this new life.

Pray That God will plant His word in your heart and these words will transform your life.

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love

We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love

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Taking Gathered Worship

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Family and Individual Devotions

Meditations in Acts

Week of April 29, 2007

The Essence of the Church

Daily Devotionals

The Bible is the word of God, providing a firm foundation for the Christian life. By these words we come to know who God is, and what it is He requires of us. It quenches our desire for wisdom and knowledge, teaching us the principles of life. The word of God lays this all before us. We have seen the harvest that results when Gods word is boldly proclaimed. When advantage is taken each time an opportunity to speak the truth comes before us.

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, “ They’ll Know We Are Christians By our Love” found on the back page as your songs, your prayers, and your reminder this week about what the church is all about.

Sunday, 4/29 Here we find ourselves in Athens, among the Epicureans, who used their senses to find pleasure in life, and in the midst of the Stoics, who had determined virtue was attained by reason, and were indifferent to the passions and emotions of the external world.

Devotional: In the people of Athens we find some who take pleasure in their senses, in others, those who attain pleasure through reason. Examine Luke 9:23. How does the Epicureans drive to find pleasure stand up to this verse? Read Proverbs 3:3,4. What do these verses teach us about the attitude of the Stoics?

Pray That your life style would contain a Biblical view of who God is, and who God has made you to be in Christ.

Monday, 4/30 Paul pays close attention to his surroundings. In Athens, he quickly noticed the idolatry and the multitude of errors in the Athenian understanding of God. These observations allowed Paul to gain insight into who the Athenians were as people.

Devotional: A you go through life do you take notice of the people around you? Do you survey their conformity to God? How does an understanding of others help you pursue the goal to be a witness for Christ? How does it help you make disciples? In Acts 17:16-34, how did observing the Athenians help Paul minister to them?

Pray For an ability to develop relationships with those around you.

Tuesday, 5/1 Learning about people helps us understand them. Through that understanding we are capable of discerning their needs. Stated simply, there are really only two kinds of people. Those who are in Christ, and those who are not.

Devotional: How does a persons relationship, or lack of, to Christ affect the way you minister to them? Do you find it easier to witness to, and disciple, someone who is in Christ? If so, is this attitude Biblical?

Pray God would give you the comfort to minister to everyone. That you would not show favorites but be equally eager to witness and disciple others whether they be in Christ or not.

Wednesday, 5/2 Graciousness is a most necessary attribute for the Christian. Note how Paul approached the Athenians in Acts 17:22-23. He might well have responded with offense at the sight of the idols before him. Instead, Paul politely and compassionately indulged the people of Athens.

Devotional: Colossians 4:6 defines the gracious speech that must accompany the Christian witness. It is the salt of our speech that keeps it savory and free from corruption, and able to instruct.

Pray For speech that is not unwholesome, but rather, is able to instruct others in the ways of God.

Thursday, 5/3 Paul was not faint in his desire to teach about the things of God. Despite his reception as a “babbler” by some, he boldly taught the Athenians the truth. There is only one God, creator of all things, and that the Athenians should zealously seek out this God.

Devotional: Read I Peter 3:15. Paul was prepared to “give a defense for the hope that is in him.” Are you prepared to do the same?

Pray For an understanding of the Bible that enables you to proclaim the truth of Gods word. For the boldness to always be ready to give the reason for the hope that you have in Christ.

Friday, 5/4 The Bible provides true wisdom, knowledge and the proper principles for life. Those who profess Christ as Lord are called to live according to every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. The Christian life is to be lived in service to God and others.

Devotional: Remind yourself again of the call of scripture found in