

Saturday, 5/19

Faithfully expounding the word of God is the obligation of all Christians. Gods word “teaches, rebukes, corrects and trains in righteousness”. These instructions are valuable to anyone who hears them.

Devotional: Read Acts 20:17-38. Consider the faithfulness of Paul and his commitment to the necessity of correctly interpreting and applying the word of God.

Pray Your hearts desire would be to know and understand the word of God. That you would be eager to consistently share Gods word with everyone.

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

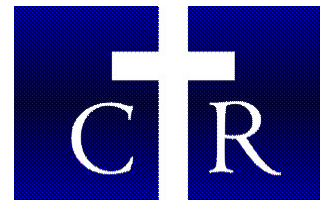
Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward in the triumph song of life.

Words: Henry J. van Dyke. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven

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Taking Gathered Worship

Home



CHRIST *the*
REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Family and Individual Devotions

Meditations in Acts

Week of May 13, 2007

The Essence of the Church

www.MainePCA.org

Daily Devotionals

If God is for us, who can be against us? These words should help Christians feel as if they have everything going for them. In reality, there are times when such a feeling escapes us. We encounter difficult and disturbing circumstances. We are often surrounded by injustice, oppression and hatred. What is the proper response to these situations? As Christians, how can we reflect our status as a new creation in Christ? The answer to these questions lies in a correct understanding of who God is, and who He has made 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, " Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" found on the back page as your song, your prayer, and your reminder this week about what the church is all about.

Sunday, 5/13 We frequently speak of Gods sovereignty but too often we fail to truly grasp the meaning of that word. Gods sovereignty means he is supreme, ruling all things. There is nothing beyond His control and nothing that is beyond His understanding.

Devotional: Read I Chronicles 29:11-12. Do these verses begin to give you an understanding of Gods rule over all things? How should these verses affect your view of the situations around you?

Pray That the Holy Spirit would guide you into the comfort of knowing that God is in control.

Monday, 5/14 An understanding of the absolute rule of God comes to full fruition when we learn to apply the truth of Gods sovereignty. We begin to reach that understanding when we accept the ways of God, not succumbing to the "whys" of the events surrounding us.

Devotional: Take a look at Hosea 14:9. Consider what these verses say about the way you view the things around you. Compare this with Isaiah 55:8.

Tuesday, 5/15 **Pray** For peace and humility as you submit to the ways of God.

A proper understanding of the sovereignty of God and our faithful acceptance of His ways provides us with the first answer on how

we should react to the circumstances and events that surround us.

Devotional: Study Philippians 4:7. How does peace in Christ help us refrain from succumbing to the troubles and tribulations around us?

Wednesday, 5/16 **Pray** For a transcending comfort as you rest in the sovereignty of God and the rightness of His ways.

John MacArthur once noted that we often live our Christian life as if we were fighting for victory rather than grasping the truth that we are laboring in victory. In Christ, the future is already won.

Devotional: Hebrews 13:20-21 provides the foundation for living in peace and victory. Exhorting you to conduct your life according to His will, doing what is pleasing to Him.

Pray The attitude of your mind will be supernaturally converted by the attitude of Christ. That despite your circumstances you will focus on doing all that He calls you to do.

Thursday, 5/17 Sometimes the circumstances of your life may seem overwhelming to the point of despair. I hope understanding the sovereignty of God and the perfectness of His ways helps erase this hopelessness.

Devotional: With the sovereignty of God and his perfect ways in your mind read Romans 8:28 and 8:35-37. Do these verses take on a special perspective when you consider how God reigns in your life? How should these verses affect your day to day life?

Pray That the promise of Gods goodness to you and your eternal relationship with him will help you properly deal with life's situations.

Friday, 5/18 An effective Christian life is steeped in a deep and abiding trust. Trust in Gods love for you, trust He will never leave nor forsake you and trust in His word.

Devotional: Reflect on Ephesians 2:4 & 3:16, Deuteronomy 31:6 and Matthew 4:4.

Pray That your trust in God will be reflected in the peaceful and joyful conduct of your life.