

Devotional: Open up a concordance. Look for the word purpose. Reflect on the purposes of God and the purposes he has given us.

Pray For excitement and anticipation as you consider the purpose of your life in Christ.

Saturday, 6/9

In reality, the whole Bible reveals to us the character of God. God has graciously communicated to us some of that character enabling us to reflect a measure of his nature. God has molded us into who we are.

Devotional: Read Isaiah 64:8. You are the work of Gods hand.

Pray That realizing you are the works of Gods hand will give you a zeal for your purpose in life, provide you with comfort in your life circumstances, and give you an eagerness for your service to the kingdom of God.

Take My Life and Let it Be

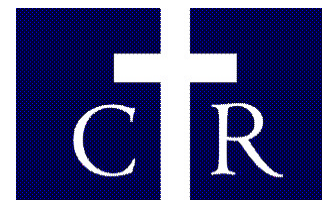
Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

Taking Gathered Worship

Home



CHRIST *the*
REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Family and Individual Devotions

Meditations in Acts

Week of June 3, 2007

The Essence of the Church

Daily Devotionals

Paul has been arrested, his freedom taken away. His captors were in the process of carrying him away to the barracks. Without regard for himself and his present circumstances Paul instead directs his attention to Christ. After receiving permission to speak to the crowd Paul proceeds to give honor to Christ. Paul was being physically restrained but there was no restraining his spirit. He confessed the errors of his past and boldly spoke of how God had called him into His service.

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, "Take my Life and Let it Be" found on the back page as your song, your prayer, and your reminder this week about what the church is all about.

Sunday, 6/3

Under arrest and about to be thrown in jail should make us consider the unusual actions of Paul. His attention is not on escape to remedy his physical situation. Rather, Paul placed his attention on using his arrest as a springboard for presenting the gospel.

Devotional: Read Colossians 4:5 and consider how Paul's present actions are in concert with his instructions. How did Paul's response live up to scripture such as I Peter 3:15?

Pray God would bless you with a heart and mind that focuses on the spiritual opportunities presented with each situation you face.

Monday, 6/4

Notice how Paul's first words to the crowd were words of confession. Despite his religious teaching Paul acknowledged he once lived the life of an oppressor. As a Jew he worked unto death to hold back the Christian faith.

Devotional: Paul's willingness to be transparent to the crowd in Acts 22:3-5 is a testimony of his humbleness and submission to God. Read Romans 12:3. When speaking to the crowd Paul displayed a sober judgment of himself. Are you able to humbly reflect that same soberness of self?

Pray That God would give you the humility to understand your human weakness.

Tuesday, 6/5

Paul's hatred for Christians pointed him towards the road to Damascus. This journey was to be one that changed Paul's eternal destiny. God intercepted Paul, taking the scales off his eyes and allowing him to see Christ.

Devotional: Perhaps your conversion wasn't quite so dramatic. Nonetheless, it was just as effective. You were made a new creation in Christ just as surely as Paul was. We often look upon the ministries of Paul with awe. We should be quick to remember that the word of God equips us (II Timothy 3:16-17) just as it did Paul, and God has set works before us (Ephesians 2:8-10) just as he did for Paul.

Pray For understanding of how the same power that possessed Paul also possesses you.

Wednesday, 6/6

Not all that was of our old nature is gone. On numerous occasions Paul lamented the power the old nature continued to exert on him. We often succumb to this realization and allow it to paralyze our ability to carry out what God has laid before us.

Devotional: Read Philippians 3:12-16. Are these the thoughts that are in your mind as you seek to serve Christ? Consider how this attitude of Paul affected his ministry. Consider how such an attitude would affect your service.

Pray God would relieve you of the burden of wallowing in what might have been and direct your attention to His promises that lie before you.

Thursday, 6/7

Paul was inoculated against the sting of his present circumstances by the reality of his hope in Christ. Nothing could separate him from what God had given him. All that God gave him was good.

Devotional: Return to Romans 8:28, 38-39. Now turn to Philippians 1:12-18. While Romans provides the comfort, Philippians provides the purpose. Being comfortable in your circumstances presents the opportunity to advance the gospel.

Pray That the peace of God will allow you to consistently reflect Christ's nature as you minister to others.

Friday, 6/8

Our life in Christ has a purpose. We are to carry out the works God has given us. We are to be His ambassador to mankind, representing Christ with each word we speak and each action we take.