

Friday, 6/15

Gentleness (Meekness) ! Gentleness is sometimes translated meekness. It reflects a true understanding of our sinful nature and the forgiveness we received through Christ. This attitude allows us to interact with others in a compassionate manner, always remembering how God has delivered us from his wrath.

Devotional: Consider the gentle words of Christ in Matthew 11:28-30. How he called us to the rest that can be found only in Him. Look at I Peter 3:15 and consider how we are to likewise gently call out to others.

Pray For a spirit of gentleness and meekness as you minister to the physical and spiritual needs of others.

Saturday, 6/16

Self control! Remember, we are speaking of attributes derived from the Holy Spirit. Therefore, true self control does not emanate from oneself. Spiritually induced self control provides for the godly obedience of body and mind.

Devotional: Obedience provides a visual witness to the transformation that has occurred in our life. A controlled life underscores the words we speak. It emphasizes the changes that Christ has initiated. Read Titus 2:11-14.

Pray That love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self control would characterize each interaction with your neighbors. That these traits would spur you into a life of witnessing for the kingdom of God.

It Is Well With My Soul

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

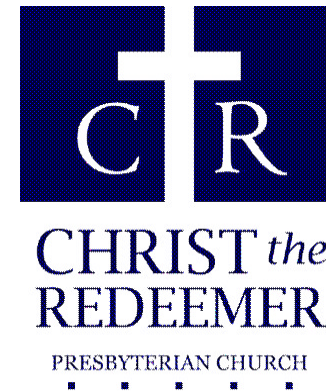
Refrain

*It is well, with my soul,
It is well, with my soul,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

Taking Gathered Worship Home



Family and Individual Devotions Meditations in Acts

Week of June 10, 2007

The Essence of the Church

Daily Devotionals

Acts 1:8 lays the foundation for what we learned as we journeyed through this section of scripture. Gods people would receive power and they would be His witness. As promised, the Holy Spirit did descend upon the people (Acts 2:2-5). Gods people responded by boldly moving forward, faithfully witnessing for the God they were serving. The fruit of this obedience was the strengthening of the church in the faith, and a daily growth in numbers (Acts 16:5). Paul not only followed Gods commands, he did so despite his personal circumstances. What in Paul's God given character facilitated this exemplary obedience to the commands of God?

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, "It is Well With My Soul" found on the back page as your song, your prayer, and your reminder this week about what the church is all about.

Sunday, 6/10

Love! Gods love for us is the very reason for our renewed relationship with Him. God showed His love by sending His son, the Son showed His love by dying for us while we were yet sinners. Gods love is sacrificial and unmerited.

Devotional: God given love provides the basis for our obedience and service to Christ. Read Matthew 12:34-40. Why do you suppose the two greatest commandments are listed in this order? How did love allow Paul to show sacrificial and unmerited love to others? How can we do the same?

Pray That by truly loving God you will be fully enabled to love others. That you will faithfully show your love towards God by consistently loving your neighbors.

Monday, 6/11

Joy! Joy is not synonymous with happiness. Joy is spiritual, founded in the blessings of God. Happiness is emotional, dependent on our particular circumstances. Joy is eternal because Gods blessing is eternal, happiness is temporal because circumstances are temporal.

Devotional: Consider the statement "joy leads to happiness but happiness does not lead to joy". Do you think this was the attitude of Paul? Does this explain how Paul was able to remain focused on the kingdom of God despite his circumstances? Reflect on Psalm 1:1-3. How does this description of

"blessed" result in a spirit of you?

Pray For an understanding of the eternal joy that results from your reconciliation with God. That this joy will lead to happiness in your circumstances.

Tuesday, 6/12

Peace! According to Webster's, peace is "an undisturbed state of mind, an absence of mental conflict". Such is not our natural existence. The disturbances of life and its resulting conflicts throw us into paralysis. Was Paul incapacitated by a lack of peace? Are you?

Devotional: Philippians 4:6-7 talks about a supernatural inward peace. A peace that exists despite our natural human affinity to be disturbed and in conflict. This Spirit given peace allows us to respond appropriately in all situations. Now read Ephesians 2:14-17, Ephesians 4:3 and Hebrews 12:14. What do these verse say about how this peace should be applied to others?

Pray You would have an inward peace that enables you to effectively carry out your God given ministries. That there would be no spiritual paralysis resulting from a lack of peace.

Wednesday, 6/13

Patience! Do you ever consider the patience of God? Look at your own life, both before and after you turned your life over to God. Do these considerations help you perceive in some measure what it means to be patient?

Devotional: Take into consideration Romans 9:22-23. Verse 22 speaks of the patience of God towards the "objects of his wrath". Just as importantly, verse 23 shows the reason for this patience. How might our patience reveal God to those around us?

Pray A divine patience will encompass your life that will reveal the riches of God glory to others.

Thursday, 6/14

Kindness and Goodness! These two related characteristics are often an outflow of the inner love, joy, peace and patience we have in Christ. These inward traits allow us to treat others with kindness and goodness whether or not we feel these mercies are deserved.

Devotional: Read Romans 5:8. Now reflect on Titus 3:3-5. How did God treat us when we were still walking in disobedience? Would you say that Gods attitudes were acts of kindness and goodness?

Pray For a heart that desires to treat others with the same kindness and goodness shown to us by God.