

Walking in Christ's Light
Daily Prayer Journal

January 3-8, 2011

*Growing our souls is a partnership with Christ.
To enable your soul's growth, use this material with Christ as your guide.*

Next Week's Sermon

Scripture: Psalm 72: 1-14 and Isaiah 60:1-2

(www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+72) (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+60:1-2)

Theme: Jesus is the one we have been waiting for.

Sermon: "The Good King"

MONDAY **1-3-11**

Read: Matthew 3:13-17 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+3:13-17)

Prayer: O God, today I come before You as one among many who behold Christ, the light dawned upon the world that cannot be extinguished. In this New Year, I offer special thanks for my family, my work, my neighborhood, and especially for my church. Help me to joyously share bear Your light and share Your love this year. Amen.

Journal Reflection: (From Howard Thurman, *The Mood of Christmas*, p.23) "When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers, to make music in the heart."

Resolve: I will share in the Christmas work all year long.

TUESDAY **1-4-11**

Read: Acts 10:34-43 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=acts+10:34-43)

Prayer: "Lord, help us to see you, and in seeing you to receive you, and receiving you to follow you and in following you to be obedient to you, and in being obedient to you to receive eternal life in your name. You come to us, dear Jesus, not in a form that we had expected, not even in a form we had wanted. We love power and pomp, but you came as a lowly servant. Lord, help us to see you and to serve you in all things." Amen (Prayer by Wm. Willimon, *Pulpit Resource*, p. 9)

Journal Reflection: The Apostle Peter declares the truth of Jesus Christ to the Roman Cornelius. The cultural differences do not matter. The different nationalities do not matter. The vast difference in personal wealth does not matter. What is most crucial is that Jesus is alive! Through Jesus' resurrection God affirmed and assured life! Today is a great day to celebrate God's gift of life and eternal life through Jesus Christ!

Resolve: I will share Christ's eternal message of love today.

WEDNESDAY **1-5-11**

Read: Isaiah 42:1-9 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+42:1-9)

Prayer: (Prayer from James G. Kirk, *When We Gather*) "Source of salvation and Bringer of light, we fail to sense the mystery of your love. We bear grudges against our neighbors, while it is your nature to forgive. We hold tightly to our possessions, while Christ blesses the poor. In him you have spoken peace, yet we live in turmoil. We care little for this planet, which you in goodness created for our habitation. In mercy forgive us, and help us to amend our ways." Amen.

Journal Reflection: Jesus is a light to the nations! He invites you to bear his light in your part of the world! What can you do this week to be a light bearer in your home, neighborhood, and place of business?

Resolve: I will carry Christ's light of hope into my world today.

THURSDAY **1-6-11**

Read: Psalm 29 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+29)

Prayer: Everlasting and Almighty God, Light of Light and King of Kings, You brought the nations to Your light and kings to the brightness of Your rising. Fill the world with Your glory! Show yourself to all the nations! Through Christ the true light and the bright morning star, bring peace to our planet and joy to our hearts. Amen

Journal Reflection: The Psalmist celebrates the awesome power of God! God speaks and the world is transformed. God is still speaking. The world is still in transformation. Your choice today is whether to listen and be one of God's agents of change, or to ignore God's voice and hold onto the past. Let the Holy Spirit give you power and courage to join God in God's great creative process building an eternal kingdom of light and love.

Resolve: I will be one of God's light bearers and love sharers today.

FRIDAY 1-7-11

Read: **John 5:19-24** (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=john+5:19-24)

Prayer: God of Grace, who at this time is giving me Jesus Christ to be my Savior: I humbly ask You to overcome my darkness with Christ's light, my selfishness with Christ's love, my indolence and cowardice with Christ's steadfast devotion, that I may live and perform faithfully my appointed tasks today. Thank You for the promise that through Jesus Christ I will finally come to everlasting life! Amen

Journal Reflection: (From *Tensions*, by H.A. Williams) "There is within me a me which is both greater than me and at the same time authentically myself. One way of approaching this mysterious fact would be by what is called the paradox of grace. The more God gives me his grace (i.e. himself) the more I am myself. The more I discover within me the greater than me the more I discover that the greater than me is authentically me."

Resolve: I am open to God's grace creating in me an authentic me.

SATURDAY 1-8-11

Read: **I John 4** (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=I+john+4)

Prayer: Forgiving God, You embrace all people through Your Son Jesus, and yet I still show partiality. In Christ, You proclaim the joyful news of peace, and I still get all excited about war and news of war. In Christ, You wish to reconcile the whole human race in love, and I still put up walls of mistrust. Help me to remember that Jesus healed the oppressed and freed the captives. With His power, I can also reject isolation, and cast out fear so that I can actively share His light and love with each person I meet. Amen

Journal Reflection: (From *And a Time to Die*) I keep thinking it is an awesome thing to look into the face of the living God. I feel God is turning the screws so I will get into an ultimate position of transition, but I also feel that the center of the circle is buoying me up, holding me in suspension as though I were in God's hands. And God, terrible and loving, is with me now in his presence."

Resolve: I will live today preparing to face God, living in God's presence.

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

For Sunday, January 2, 2011's Sermon

Foundational Scripture: Psalm 72:1-14 (NRSV)

(<http://www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm>)

Featured Scripture Reflection: "The Good King" (Psalm 72:1-14 NRSV)

Opening Icebreaker: What leaders have made the most significant positive impact in your life? What leaders have made the most negative impact in your life?

Scripture Questions

What is the scripture saying?

- According to this passage, what does the writer hope for in a king?
- What other kingly characteristics would you add to the list?
- What effect does a righteous leader have on the people he/she leads?
- According to this psalm, how does a righteous leader use their power?
- The writer uses several metaphors taken from the natural world (see vv. 5-6 & 8), what do you think he is trying to say?

How is your life touched?

- Psalms were the prayers and songs of ancient Israel. Have you ever heard a song or read a poem that celebrated or "blessed" a modern-day leader as this psalm does?
- How have leaders inspired you?
- How have leaders disappointed you?
- Do you ever pray for your leaders? If so, what do your prayers sound like?
- How does Christ's leadership compare to human leaders?

What is God's invitation to you?

- What keeps you from making Christ the leader of your life?
- How can you pray and bless your leaders this week?

What can you pray for?

Pray that you would daily surrender to the leadership of Christ in your life. Pray for your leaders and bless them regularly, rather than curse or criticize them.