

Walking in Christ's Light

Daily Prayer Journal

March 16-21, 2009

*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

Rev. John Harris, Sr. Pastor Milford Presbyterian Church

MONDAY 3-16-09

Read: Mark 8:31-38 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+8:31-38)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, work within this heart of mine and teach me how to trust you more. My ego gets in the way. My feelings get hurt, then I get angry. Holy Spirit, I need more patience and less self centered ego in my life. Teach me how to raise you up and lower me down. Teach me how to let go of my need to control and affirm your loving guidance in all I say and do. Teach me how to be more transparent so that You might work through me to the glory of God! Amen

Journal Reflection: In this passage of Scripture the hard word from Jesus comes to challenge you. Peter had his own view of what Jesus should be about and was rebuked for it. Imagine how Peter must have felt! You probably have your own view of what your life should be about and how you should be able to control it. Could it be that Jesus has a different plan than you do? Let today be the day you let go of your agenda so that you can listen to Jesus' agenda for your life. Once you hear from Jesus, then follow him!

Resolve: More of Christ and less of me today!

TUESDAY 3-17-09

Read: Psalm 22:1, 23-31 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+22:1; 23-31)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I thank you for teaching me how to live in the present moment. In this way I enjoy each simple task as I do it without thinking that I must hurry on to the next thing. I do what I am doing with all my ability and all my concentration. My mind is no longer divided, and life is more peaceful. Thank you for teaching me how to do this, and please help me now to show others the way to learn to trust you more completely and to do everything which has to be done at your time and your speed. Amen (Prayer by M. Hollings and E. Gullick, in *The Oxford Book of Prayer*)

Journal Reflection: Jesus quoted this Psalm on the cross. Notice the trusting spirit shared with God in the writing. It was a familiar Hebrew practice to quote the first verse of a Psalm and to know that the entire message of the Psalm was what you intended. In the midst of suffering and death Jesus affirms his faith in the goodness of God as written down in the last verses of this Psalm.

Resolve: No matter what happens today, I will trust in God.

WEDNESDAY 3-18-09

Read: Romans 4:13-25 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=romans+4:13-25)

Prayer: Lord God, ruler of the world, creator and preserver all humanity, teach me to look for your work in all things. Enable me to have confidence in the movements of your grace, even when those movements are not readily apparent. Fix in me a determined willingness to let you work with your world on your own timetable, at your own wise pace, toward you own ends. Restore in me a sense of your providence, moving behind the events of this day toward your promised future. Amen

Journal Reflection: Abraham "grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God."(vs.20) Decide today to give glory to God in all things. Focus upon God's glorious presence in your life. Bless the Lord God with your whole self. Whatever you do today, give God glory!

Resolve: My life today will give God glory.

THURSDAY 3-19-09

Read: Genesis 17:1-16 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=genesis+17:1-16)

Prayer: God of ancient wisdom, present faith, and future hope, I thank you for your covenant made with Abraham and Sarah and with all the generations that have followed. You have shown me the promise of life given to Sarah and Abraham; and in Jesus you have shown me that even after death you are with me. May these Scripture stories of your faithful people live in my mind as a beacon of hope and faith when times are difficult! May I learn from them how better to follow your ways! Amen

Journal Reflection: Our God is the God of the covenant. From the beginning of creation God has sought us out in order to be in relationship with us. You are created with a deep inner longing to be in relationship with God. God entered into a covenant with Abraham and Sarah so that their family for generations to come would be blessed with the opportunity of serving God. Jesus extended the covenant to you. Through Jesus Christ, you are an heir of Abraham, a child of the covenant, a servant of the One True God. In Christ, God brought you into the covenant family! Celebrate today your covenant inheritance.

Resolve: I will praise God today with my life, language, and love.

FRIDAY 3-20-09

Read: Proverbs 28:25-27 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=prpverbs+28:25-27)

Prayer: Almighty God, forgive me for becoming lost in this consumer driven society. Forgive me for looking only at my wants and forgetting to remember all the people in the world who have genuine needs. My list of wants that I think are needs is so long! I get so confused between what is a real need and what is just a want. Guide me, O Gracious Lord, along your path of responsible stewardship. Teach me to trust you more, love you more, and give you more. Amen

Journal Reflection: The people of Athens worshipped the goddess Athena. The Canaanite people worship Baal. Americans worship greed. Greed is the god of our land and too often the god of our families. Decide today to place Almighty God upon the altar of your heart. Let God be first as you consider your time, your energy, and your money. Look at that way you spend your money and decide to give more to God no matter if you have to postpone a want, or drop something your family thinks is a need (cable TV, etc.) After all, do you really want to stand before God and be held accountable for your stewardship of all God's resources entrusted you your care? Decide today, that God's agenda will rule your life, not greed's!

Resolve: God and God alone is the Lord of my life.

SATURDAY 3-21-09

Read: Ephesians 5:3-5 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=ephesians+5:3-5)

Prayer: Thank you Jesus for giving your life for me. Without You, I am unable to clean my life up. I know how often I fail. I know often I fall short. I know how often I sin. As good as I try to be, I find myself missing the mark. Thank you for making sure that my life with God does not depend upon my purity. Thank you for cleaning me up and making me acceptable to our perfect and pure God. Amen

Journal Reflection: The One True God accepts us as we are and immediately demands that we grow better. Yet, even the Apostle Paul said he could not measure up to God's standard. Hence, we are totally dependent upon the Risen Christ for our purity and our entrance into heaven. Christ and Christ alone will save. Celebrate Christ's cleaning job in your life today! And, if there is a closet that still needs Christ's cleaning power, open up the door and invite Christ into your life in a deeper way than ever before.

Resolve: I put all my faith and trust in Jesus Christ, my Lord.