

DEVOTION FOR THE SEVENTH WEDNESDAY OF EASTER

PSALM 119:17-24

Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word.

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not your commandments from me!

My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times.

You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments.

Take away from me scorn and contempt, for I have kept your testimonies.

Even though princes sit plotting against me, your servant will meditate on your statutes.

Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen

Old Testament Reading: Numbers 16:1-50 *Korah rebels, God sides with Moses*

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 12:1-29 *Look to Christ for endurance*

“ENDURANCE IN CHRIST”

The Christian life is similar to an endurance race such as a marathon. The course is long and we have to keep moving. The Christian life is different from an athletic contest, in that the victory has already been won and everyone who completes the course, receives the prize. The prize is eternal life, received in part now through faith and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; received ultimately in its fullness in our share of Christ's resurrection to life everlasting. The victory has been won by Christ, who more than any athlete or saint, truly endured agony as He suffered and died on the cross for our healing, forgiveness and restoration to God. In that agony, He won for us the prize, which we receive through faith in His Name.

The prize has been won and received in part through faith, but we run with Jesus as we wait to receive the prize in its fullness, in our share of Christ's resurrection to life everlasting. An athlete doesn't stop running, until she or he has completed the course. Likewise, the Christian is constantly engaged in the motion of faith. In baseball you can call "time" and scratch your foot. There are no time outs in the Christian life. We run with Jesus each and every day. Each morning begins in Christ and each night we lay down to sleep in Christ.

We run the race by consciously and actively seeking the Lord in His word. The Lord speaks to us through His word. He gives us faith through His word. He sustains our faith and gives it expression through His word. He guides and directs our lives through His word. Through His word Jesus refreshes our spirits when the path seems too hard and too long. Through His word the Lord sets before our eyes the goal and destination of our faith; eternal life in His presence. We live in the Lord and run the course set before us in the power and promise of His word.

“LEAD ME, GUIDE ME” CCLI #453681

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, along the way;

For if You lead me, I cannot stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need Thy strength and power,

To help me over my weakest hour.

Help me through the darkness Thy face to see.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,

Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.

I am putting all my trust in Thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain

**I am lost if You take Your hand from me.
I am blind without Thy light to see.
Lord, always let me Thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain**

PRAYER

Lord Jesus you are the founder and perfecter of our faith. You ran the race and completed the course in our place, enduring the agony of the cross. You won the victory and claimed the prize in your resurrection and ascension to heaven. Through the word and by the working of your Spirit, you have opened our hearts to receive you and begun the good work of faith within us. Give us strength and encouragement as we make our way along the course of life that we endure in faith and with all the saints, receive the prize of eternal salvation you give to all who look to you for forgiveness and life. In your name we pray. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven.
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen**

THE CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

BENEDICTION

Hebrews 12:28-29

“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.”