

DEVOTION FOR PENTECOST 6

Psalm 123

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant look to the hands of her mistress,

So our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He has mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.

Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

*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*

2 Corinthians 9:1-10:18

The Collection and Paul's Ministry

- 1) Why does God love a cheerful giver?
- 2) How is our gift giving related to God's gift giving?
- 3) What weapon did Paul use in waging spiritual warfare?

Mark 6:1-13

Jesus preaches and sends the disciples to preach in His name.

- 1) What prevented the Nazarenes from accepting Jesus?
- 2) Why is a prophet without honour in his hometown and household?
- 3) What does it mean to repent?

“THEY PROCLAIMED THAT PEOPLE SHOULD REPENT”

Mark 6:12

Repentance isn't a popular theme even among Christians. We would rather hear that we are forgiven than that we need to repent! Yet repentance is at the heart of the gospel ministry and integral to receiving forgiveness. John the baptizer prepared for Jesus' ministry, by calling people to repent and providing a baptism for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus continued in the ministry of repentance. After He was baptized, Mark says, "*Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'*" Jesus trained disciples and sent them to share in the same gospel ministry. In our gospel Mark says, "*They went out and proclaimed that people should repent.*"

Why did Jesus and His disciples need to replicate the work of John and his disciples? The reason is that repentance is not something we need once and then we are done with it. Repentance is the beginning of believing, by which we respond to the gospel with faith in Christ and receive forgiveness. But repentance is also the daily life of every believer, as we stand in constant need of God's grace and mercy received through faith in Jesus. Repentance is something we do daily and always, as long as we live in this sinful flesh in this world of sin.

Repentance is praying to God for His mercy and seeking His Spirit for power to walk in newness of life. Repentance isn't just once, or only for people who need to turn to Jesus in conversion. Repentance is something believers always need and always do. Each day, morning and night, we return to God in repentance in the promise of our baptism that He may wash away our sin with the forgiveness Jesus earned for us through His death on the cross. The Christian life is a life of repentance; a life of seeing our sin, of confessing our need for Jesus as Saviour, of receiving from Him forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, power and guidance for daily living and the promise of resurrection to eternal life.

HYMN: "I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY" (CCLI: #453681)

I love to tell the story, of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; It satisfies my longings, as nothing else would do.

Chorus

I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, 'Tis pleasant to repeat, what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, For some have never heard, the message of salvation, from God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best, seem hungering and thirsting, to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, 'Twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for your mercy in sending Jesus to earn our salvation through His sinless life and sacrificial death. In our place as a human being, He lived a life of perfect repentance, fully atoning for human sin by offering His perfect self on the cross. Through the gospel call you open our hearts to faith that we may receive Him as Saviour and live lives of repentance, daily walking in your grace. Bless us always to live with you in repentance, relying only on Jesus and His merit for our salvation, seeking to share the riches of your mercy in Christ with others. In Jesus' 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

1 Corinthians 12:26-27

"If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

Bible Knowledge Quiz

- 1) What things did Ezekiel do to symbolize the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians?
- 2) How many times a day did the psalmist pray?
- 3) Where did Habakkuk the prophet go to wait for the Lord's answer to his prayer?

Answers to last week's Quiz

- 1) In Babylonia at the Chebar canal (Ezekiel 1:1).
- 2) In the wilderness (Luke 3:2).
- 3) On the prison island of Patmos (Revelation 1:9)