

DEVOTION FOR THE THIRD FRIDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PSALM 119:161-168

Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words.

I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.

I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law.

Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous rules.

Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

I hope for your salvation, O Lord, and I do your commandments.

My soul keeps your testimonies; I love them exceedingly.

I keep your precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are before you.

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: Deuteronomy 3:1-29 *Og disposed, Moses denied entry to the land*

New Testament Reading: Acts 17:1-34 *The Gospel proclaimed in Greece*

“MAKING GOD KNOWN”

Have you ever been presented with the perfect opportunity to bring something up and speak your mind about an important matter? In broadcast media “segue” is the term used for a bridge between two topics. A good segue allows one topic to flow smoothly into the next. A golden opportunity to bridge a gap came to Paul in our lesson from Acts. He both received an invitation to speak his mind to the philosophers of Athens; and in one of their altars found the perfect touchstone to tell them about Jesus. Paul was always on the lookout for an opportunity to tell people about Jesus.

Paul had seen many temples in Athens. The Greeks had many gods. One altar was even dedicated to “*the unknown god.*” Paul proceeded to make the unknown God known to them as life, love, forgiveness and eternal life; by telling them about Jesus the Saviour, who through His sacrifice did what no other sacrifice in any temple could do; take away the sin of the world. The Holy Spirit never misses an opportunity either. He worked through Paul’s words and created faith in the hearts of some who heard. Luke says, “*Some men joined him and believed...Dionysius...and a woman named Damaris.*” We pray the Holy Spirit to give us the opportunities to speak the words, by which we might make God known as Lord and Saviour in Jesus Christ.

God is unknown to many people. Many who acknowledge His existence, do not know Him personally in love through faith in Jesus. Many people know God as an intellectual concept that has little effect on their lives. Some know God as an angry judge, who watches them and waits for judgement day to condemn them. Through the word and by the illumination of the Holy Spirit, we have come to know God in a different way. We know God in Jesus; as love, mercy, compassion, kindness and forgiveness. John 3:16 “*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have eternal life.*” That’s how we know God. That’s how God wants all people to know Him.

“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. Chorus**

**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. Chorus**

PRAYER

Lord God, by the word and through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, you have made yourself known to us in Jesus as love. In Ephesians St. Paul wrote, "*But God being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ, by grace you have been saved.*" We who are by nature dead through sin, have been made alive in Christ. We who are by nature blind and in the dark about your nature, have been blessed to see your love shine in the face of Jesus. We thank and praise you for your great mercy that we now see you in love. Bless us by your Spirit to make you known to others as love, by sharing with them the gospel of Jesus. In His Name. 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

Colossians 1:19-20

"For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross."