

Devotion for Pentecost 25

Psalm 150

Hallelujah! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens!
Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!
Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp!
Praise Him with tambourine and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!
Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

*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*

Joshua 2:1-24

Rahab and the spies

Why did Rahab help the men of Israel?

Was it proper for her to deceive the king about the men? (Consider the actions of Christians who hid Jews during WWII)

What was the significance of the red cord as a sign to the Israelites? (Think of the Passover)

1 Corinthians 3:1-23

What were divisions in the Corinthian Church a sign of?
Which works of Christians will God bless on the last day?
If believers are God's temples, how should we treat each other?

“The Church’s Foundation”

What is the Church's foundation? When we think of the Church, the first thing to come to mind might be the building where we gather for worship. In that case the church's foundation would be nothing more than the hardened concrete base upon which the building rests. But the church is more than a building. In 1 Corinthians Paul says Jesus Christ is the foundation and that more than a building of wood, metal or stone, believers are the Church. Believers are God's building. Correctly spoken, the Church are the people who gather in the building for worship and Christ is the foundation.

More than the gathering of believers, Paul says that each believer is a little church, for the Spirit of God dwells within each person who believes and is baptized into Christ Jesus. The building in which believers gather is a special place. It is a place set apart for the church to gather as a body for worship, prayer and fellowship. We treat our church building with deep respect, because it is a meeting place between us and God and with each other. We treasure our church buildings, because the Spirit of Jesus dwells in them.

If the Church truly is the believers in whom the Spirit of God dwells, consider how we should treat each other as sisters and brothers in Christ. Some times we treat the building with more respect than we treat the Church that meets in the building. Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church, because they were not treating the Church with respect. They didn't have a building. They had each other! Sadly, there were divisions, not based on the teachings of scripture, but upon sinful human desires, such as the desire to appear better and more important than others.

The Church is the body of Christ, in which Jesus dwells through His Spirit. Jesus loves the Church. He loves us, each one! Jesus bled and died to create the Church. He daily and richly washes the Church in the waters of Holy Baptism with the forgiveness of sins. He calls us to love the Church even as He does. He blesses us with His Spirit to empower us to forgive one another, bear one another's burdens and put up with each other's faults and failings; even as He does for us. Believers are the Church and Christ Jesus is the Church's foundation.

The Church's One Foundation Samuel J. Stone (Public Domain)

**The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation, By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her, to be His holy bride;
With His own blood he bought her, And for her life He died.**

**Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation; One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder, The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms torn asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.**

**Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious, shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heavenly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace,
That we like saints before us, May see You face to face.**

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank you for faithful believers, by whom you planted the seed of faith in our hearts through the gospel and through whom you, watered and nourished it through your word. Bless us also to share the gospel with believers and non-believers that faith may be strengthened and encouraged in those who believe; and faith may germinate and blossom in those who do not yet know you as Saviour. Bless us to see each other as you see each of us that we may love each other deeply from the heart of your love. In your 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 Psalm 28:9

"Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever."

Bible Knowledge Quiz

What was the name of King David's father?

What did God tell Moses to do when He called from the burning bush?

What were Andrew and Peter doing when Jesus called them to follow Him?

Answers to last week's Quiz

Day six, Friday. Genesis 1:26;31

Day seven, Saturday. Genesis 2:2-3

The Lord's Day. Revelation 1:10