

Devotion for Lent 3

Psalm 19

**The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.**

There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

**In the heavens He has pitched a tent for the sun,
which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.**

It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous.

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. Who can discern his errors?

Forgive my hidden faults.

Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight,

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

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

1 Corinthians 1:1-31

The wisdom and power of God in Christ Jesus

1)What does Paul thank God for when he thinks of the Corinthian believers?

2)What is the cause of division in the Corinthian Church?

3)Why should we boast in Christ alone?

John 2:1-25

Jesus reveals Himself the Holy One of God

1)Why did Jesus give His first sign of divine glory at a wedding?

2)Why did Jesus refer to His body as the temple?

3)What does Jesus know about humans that He needs no one to tell Him about?

The Word of the Cross

What is the most foolish thing you have ever heard? Have you ever been told something so ridiculous that only a fool would believe it? In the ancient world nothing sounded more foolish than the word of the cross. The cross was a stumbling block to the Jews, because according to the words of Moses in Deuteronomy, all who died on the cross were under God's curse. How could Jesus bring God's blessing to those who believed, when He had died in such a way?

The cross was foolishness to the Gentiles, because in their view death was the end. As they saw it, since Jesus had died, it was impossible for Him to rise and give blessings of forgiveness and life to others. The Greeks in Athens listened to Paul speak about God until he began to speak of the cross, Jesus' dying and rising for the forgiveness of sins. That sounded just plain foolish. To those who were perishing, Jew and Gentile, the word of the cross was foolishness.

But to those who believed, Jew and Gentile, there was no word sweeter, more beautiful and life giving than the word of the cross. To those who believed, the word of the cross was the good news that God was not angry with them, as they had been taught and naturally believed. The word of the cross was the assurance of God's love, the blessing of His forgiveness and the promise of life in His kingdom in the resurrection of the dead. Jesus died on the cross to take away our sin. In Him there is forgiveness for the sake of His cross. The cross is God's word of forgiveness offered for all to receive, given freely to all who believe.

“NEARER MY GOD TO THEE” (Public Domain)

Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me;
Still all my song shall be: Nearer my God to thee,
Nearer my God to thee, Nearer to thee!

Nearer, my Lord, to thee, Nearer to thee,
Who to thy cross didst come, Dying for me!
Strengthen my willing feet, Hold me in service sweet
Nearer, O Christ, to thee, Nearer to thee!

Nearer, O Comforter, Nearer to thee,
Who with my loving Lord Dwellest with me!
Grant me thy fellowship! Help me each day to keep
Nearer, my Guide, to thee, Nearer to thee!

But to be nearer still, Bring me, O God,
Not by the visioned steeps Angels have trod.
Here where thy cross I see, Jesus I wait for thee,
Then evermore to be Nearer to thee!

Prayer

Dearest Lord Jesus, on the cross you suffered and died to bear our sins and make peace for us, with your Father in heaven. Through the word of the cross, the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see our sin and opens our hearts to receive your grace in forgiveness. In the cross, you bless us with healing in our relationship with the Father and with each other. Bless us through the word of the cross that we may live in your peace, until the day your peace and the word of the cross is made full in our share of your resurrection to a new and everlasting life. 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

Isaiah 49:13

*“Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the Lord has comforted His people and will have compassion on His afflicted.”*

Bible Knowledge Quiz

- 1)What did Solomon ask from God?
- 2)What did God promise Solomon, if he kept His word?
- 3)What does the fool say in his heart?

Answers to last week's quiz

- 1)The fear of the Lord. (Proverbs 9:10)
- 2)Forgiveness. (Psalm 130:4)
- 3)Amnon (2 Samuel 3:2)