

Devotion for the Tenth Week of Pentecost

Psalm 139:1-12

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.

You hem me in behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

even the darkness will not be dark to you;

The night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to 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

Deuteronomy 21:1-23 Atonement, Rebelliousness and Curse

- 1) With what was an unsolved murder atoned?
- 2) Why was rebelliousness dealt with so harshly?
- 3) What is the significance of Jesus' death in view of verses 22-23?

Romans 5:1-21 Sin, death, life in Christ

- 1) Why can we rejoice even in our sufferings?
- 2) How does the law reveal the presence of sin?
- 3) Why does Paul call righteousness a free gift?

JESUS GIVES US REASON TO REJOICE

Do you have peace? Do you have joy? Can you rejoice in all things, even in things that are devoid of joy? Whether our life situation is one of joy or sadness, we have peace, because we have a good relationship with God. We have a good relationship with God, because we have been justified by faith in Jesus Christ. We have been justified, which means declared forgiven and at peace with God, because Jesus reconciled us to God through the obedience of His life and by the sacrifice of His cross.

In Colossians, Paul wrote of Jesus saying, "*In Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether in heaven or on earth, making peace by the blood of His cross.*" This means Jesus took everything that stood against us and God and removed it through the blood of His cross. Our peace is not that we live sinless lives. Jesus is our peace. We have access to God not because we want to do better. We have access to God as Father through Jesus, because He lived a perfect life in our place and sacrificed Himself for our forgiveness.

In Jesus we have an active, living, breathing relationship with God. We have a good relationship with God, because of Jesus. His righteousness covers over our sin so that God does not count it against us. We can rejoice in all things, because God has poured His Spirit into our hearts. Whether we are alive in our bodies, or our bodies rest in the earth, whether we feel joy and gladness, or sadness and sorrow, whether we are well or we are ill, in Christ we always have peace with God. And because of that we always have reason to rejoice.

The Old Rugged Cross (CCLI #453681)

On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross, where the dearest and best, For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Chorus

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross. Till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me; For the dear Lamb of God, left his glory above, to bear it to dark Calvary.

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see; for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross, I will ever be true. It's shame and reproach gladly bear; Then he'll call me some day to my home far away, Where his glory forever I'll share.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you bore the curse of our sin through your death on the tree of the cross. Our rebelliousness is an effect of our sinfulness. The Law shows us our sin, so we see that through sin comes death. Despite our rebellious ways, you loved us so dearly that you bled and died to take away our sin. We thank you for the gift of faith, inspired by the Holy Spirit through the word. In you, we always have reason to rejoice. In you, we have forgiveness and the promise of rising to a new and eternal life. Bless us to live in your peace each day, until the day faith passes into sight. In your holy name we pray. Amen

THE LORDS'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 5:12

"But you bless the righteous, O Lord; you cover him with favour as with a shield."