

Monday, 8 January 2018 2 Timothy 3:14-15

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

"what you have...firmly believed...are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ" See the progression here, the order of events? To firmly believe implies the sequence, belief/trust/commitment/obedience/faith, i.e., becoming a disciple, that results in salvation. It is not "say the Sinner's prayer, and you will make the cut." It is the grace of God which I am called to believe and center my life upon firmly. He, through His agent, the Holy Spirit, begins the process of transformation, once I become a willing participant.

Tuesday, 9 January 2018 Titus 1:1-3

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

Where do I go to become a disciple of Jesus Christ? It has been manifested by God, through His Word. Referring back to 2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.* I grow as a disciple through the study of the Scriptures as the Holy Spirit unfolds them to me.

Wednesday, 10 January 2018 Titus 1:6

if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.

I have to wonder. Was Paul from Missouri, the Show Me state? How can I aspire to the position of Elder if I cannot demonstrate that I can perform those leadership functions

within my own family? This one clause stresses to me that Paul intends this section, vv 5-16, to be taken very seriously whenever someone considers or is considered for a leadership position in a local congregation.

Thursday, 11 January 2018 Titus 1:9 (ESV)

He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Titus 1:9 (KJV)

Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

I find the ESV to be a bit strong while the KJV and other translations indicate a more reasoned approach to convicting someone of the errors in their behavior and beliefs. One who serves as a leader needs to be well grounded in the Scriptures and in their willingness to let the Word of God and the Spirit lead the conversation.

Friday, 12 January 2018 Titus 1:15-16

but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

To summarize, the defiled and unbelieving are oblivious to the obvious. They refuse the very evidence of their own eyes as the heavens declare the handiwork of the LORD, God, the Almighty. (Psalm 19) All creation declares His handiwork, and it cannot be denied.

Saturday, 13 January 2018 Titus 3:1-7

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Remind who? Remind all who claim to be believers in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Remind all who claim to believe that they have been brought into a special relationship with the Trinity.

Remind me that I have declared Jesus Christ to be my Lord and Master and that my life must reflect Him in every aspect.

Lord's Day, 14 January 2018 Psalm 119:103

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Yes, Lord, as I read and study Your word, the sweetness pervades my soul bring joy, peace, and freedom from anxiety. Praise You, Lord Jesus, my Lord, and my Master.

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VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



January 8-14, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 1:18a, 19b-21

I pray also that (incomparably great power) ... is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

LORD, God the Almighty whose incomparably great power is directed towards and made available to us, those who are called by Your name, has been proven and made manifest through the resurrection of Your Son. Hallelujah!

It is beyond my comprehension, LORD, to grasp the degree to which You have exalted Him. He is seated at Your right hand, above and beyond any measure I can name, above and beyond all temporal authority, above and beyond all earthly titles. I must acknowledge Him as Lord and Master, the only begotten Son of the Living God. *Amen*

Creational Theology hint for the week--My Desires

*May I speak each day according to Your justice, /Each day may I show Your authority, O God; /May I speak each day according to Your wisdom, /Each day and night may I be at peace with You. /Each day may I count the causes of Your mercy, /May I each day give heed to Your laws; /Each day may I compose for You a song, /May I harp each day Your praise, O God. /May I each day give love to You, Jesu. /Each night may I do the same; /Each day and night, dark and light, /May I praise Your goodness to me, /O God. Bless My Life /God, bless the world and all that is therein. /God, bless my spouse and my children, /God, bless the eye that is in my head, /And bless, O God, all that my fingers touch. /What time I rise in the morning early, /What time I lie down late in bed, /Bless my rising in the morning early, /And my lying down late in bed. **Anamchara Books. Earth Afire with God: Celtic Prayers for Ordinary Life (Kindle Locations 399-410). Anamchara Books. Kindle Edition.***