

Monday, 15 January 2018 Titus 3:3-5a

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, ...

Look at the contrast here. That litany of foulness and foolishness. But He saved me—because of His goodness and loving kindness. Not what I did, but what He did. Hallelujah, what a Savior is Jesus Christ, my Lord.

Tuesday, 16 January 2018 Titus 3:8

The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

Seven of the times Paul uses the Greek word, 'pistos' it is translated as 'trustworthy' in the ESV as a verification of the reliability of Paul's words. Should that not be a worthy aim for me that my words would be rated as trustworthy by those I am called to minister to? A noble goal, but one to which I cannot aspire except through the transformation of the Holy Spirit. Anything less is driven by pride and doomed to failure.

The second point of this passage is that I must heed Paul's words and devote myself to demonstrating my love of neighbor in action not just in the words of my mouth.

But, Lord, it is so much easier to talk about Your love than it is to do Your love.

Wednesday, 17 January 2018 Hebrews 3:16-18

For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?

And we think that obedience to the Word of God is of no import? We know how our lives out to be run. Right? We are smarter than God. God just does not understand what the requirements of this world are; we need to get ahead. What

does that mean—to trust Him in all things? I can take care of some of this little stuff; just not pester Him unless its something like cancer, you know, heavy problems. He's not interested in whether or not I begin my day with thanksgiving.

Thursday, 18 January 2018 Hebrews 3:19

So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

A powerful verse when we link it to the prior phrase. There is a tight connection between disobedience and unbelief. Essentially synonymous. It was that way for the Israelites and still is so for us.

We're no better at believing and obeying than those ancient Israelites were, not at all. But we have the Holy Spirit to remind us of everything that Jesus taught, lead us into all truth and help us grasp the true meaning of saved by grace. Hallelujah, I'm forgiven and am being transformed.

Friday, 19 January 2018 Hebrews 4:11-12

Let us, therefore, strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

The writer of Hebrews stresses over and over that there is a close relationship between the verbs "to have faith/believe/trust/commit/obey." Here he points out that there is no fooling the LORD, God the Almighty. The most secret thoughts and intentions of my heart are a blazing beacon to Him. There is NO getting away with it in the Kingdom of Heaven, whether in Heaven or on earth. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Thy will be done in me in the here and now as it will be in Heaven for all eternity.

Saturday, 20 January 2018 Hebrews 5:8-9

Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

It is hard to grasp that Jesus had to suffer, that he had to

learn obedience in the same manner that I have to learn it. I have always looked upon that prayer of agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:41-44) as a prayer of obedience but never considered that as a man, He had to experience the trials of learning to obey.

As the Son of God, He was always perfect but He had to become the perfect Son of Man to be the perfect sacrificial Lamb of God.

Lord's Day, 21 January 2018 Psalm 119:108

Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your rules.

My freewill offering--not coerced, not forced, given freely and with thanksgiving. You are the Everlasting God, the Lord God, the Almighty. You move mountains and control the winds, yet You are the God of Love and Peace, Gentleness and Righteousness, Joy and Forgiveness, Justice and Light, the Creator and the Father. Praise to You, my Lord and my Master. Let Your praises be ever in my mouth!

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



January 15-21, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 1:18a, 22-23

I pray also that (incomparably great power) ... And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Lord, we pray that we, Your Church, will be the vessel through which that incomparably great power will be brought to bear for Your glory and for the enhancement of the presence, promise and power of the Kingdom. Let us always recognize that we are Your body, the fullness of You in every way. Amen

Creational Theology hint for the week--Christ's Cross

*Christ's cross over this face I wear, and over my ear. /Christ's cross over my eye. /Christ's cross over my nose. /Christ's cross to accompany me before. /Christ's cross to accompany me behind me. /Christ's cross to meet every difficulty both on hollow and hill /Christ's cross eastwards facing me. /Christ's cross back toward the sunset. /In the north, in the south, /Increasingly, may Christ's cross straightway be. /Christ's cross up to broad Heaven. /Christ's cross down to Earth. /Let no evil or hurt come to my body or my soul. /Christ's cross over me as I sit. /Christ's cross over me as I lie. /Christ's cross be all my strength /Until we reach the King of Heaven. /From the top of my head to the end of my toenail, /O Christ, against every danger I trust in the protection of the cross. /Till the day of my death, when my flesh goes into the clay, /And I shall once more take Christ's cross over this face. Anamchara Books. *Earth Afire with God: Celtic Prayers for Ordinary Life* (Kindle Locations 419-431). Anamchara Books. Kindle Edition.*

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