

DEVOTION ford PENTECOST 19

PSALM 128

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways!

You shall eat of the fruit of the labour of your hands; you shall be blessed and it will be well with you.

**Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your table.**

Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.

The Lord bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!

May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!

*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*

Hebrews 1:1-2:18

God Speaks Now through His Son

Why is Jesus superior to the angels?

What is the work of angels?

Why is it important that Jesus tasted death for "everyone?"

Mark 10:1-16

Marriage and Children

Why is marriage so important to God?

Compare our society's attitudes to marriage with the Pharisee's attitude.

Why are children an important sign of the kingdom of God?

"GOD NOW SPEAKS to us THROUGH HIS SON"

Angels are part of God's revelation in scripture and part of the human imagination and popular culture. In the new age movement and in other forms of spiritualism, angels seem to have an existence independent of God. Good angels watch over us and evil angels get after us as they see fit, a little like the gods of ancient Greece. According to scripture all angels are created by God and under His sovereign rule. Even the evil angels cannot exceed the limits God has set for them. The good angels are God's ministering spirits "*sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation.*" Salvation is a gift that God gives, not through angels, but through His Son Jesus.

Angels were important as messengers through whom God spoke to His people in the past, especially as He spoke to the prophets. The prophets spoke of many things in terms of believer's lives in relation to God and to one another, but the most important message they spoke was about God's Son, who was to come into the world and be our Saviour. "*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers through the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.*" God speaks the clearest and fullest word of salvation, through His Son.

In Jesus, God shows both the heart of His love and the seriousness of human sin, which necessitated such a radical intervention into human affairs. The author of Hebrews says Jesus came to "*deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to life long slavery.*" Are you afraid of death? Not everyone fears death. Some seek it, especially if they are ill and see no hope of recovery. Some see it as a natural part of life and prepare for it, as though it were nothing more than a long night's sleep. Jesus' death puts death in its proper perspective. Jesus' death shows us that death is not something to be accepted blithely, or taken lightly. Jesus' death puts our spiritual condition and God's deep love for us in its proper perspective. We deserve death, because death is the wage of our sin. Jesus died to pay a debt that we owe.

Christians need not fear death, because Jesus has paid the debt of our sin and triumphed over death through His resurrection. What great love moved God to give His Son to taste death for us and for all people. We honour the angels as messengers of God, along with the prophets through whom we received their message in the scriptures, by honouring Jesus. We give Jesus our highest honour by praising Him with our lips and with our lives. He did what no angel or prophet would or could do. He tasted the bitterness of death for us that in Him we would drink the sweet wine of mercy, forgiveness and eternal life.

“JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES”

CCLI#453681

**Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.**

**Jesus, loving Shepherd, Vine of the branches, Son of God.
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counsellor, Lord of the universe, light of the world.**

**Jesus, Way of Salvation, King of kings, Lord of lords,
the way the truth and the Life, Mighty creator, my Saviour and friend.**

PRAYER

Holy God, we offer our thanks and give you our praise for your kindness in the world and in our lives. Thank for the holy angels that do your bidding as they minister to us and all who are to inherit salvation. We praise you for the messages they proclaimed to the prophets, foretelling the Christ who was to come; and especially for the good news they shared with the shepherds the night He was born into the world. We offer our highest thanks and give you our greatest praise for Jesus, through whom you speak to us in these last days, proclaiming the good news of salvation through His sinless life, sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. Give us ears to hear His voice and open our hearts to receive His love. In Jesus’ Name. Amen

THE LORD’S PRAYERS

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 5:11

“But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you.”

Bible Knowledge Quiz

According to the Psalmist what does “the fool say in his heart?”

What did God say to the rich fool in Jesus’ parable?

According to Paul in whom does God hide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge?

Answers to Last Week’s Quiz

King Hezekiah (Second Chronicles 30:23-24.)

A measuring reed (Ezekiel 40:3).

A golden rod (Revelation 21:15).