

DEVOTION FOR THE THIRD SATURDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PSALM 119:169-176

May my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word.

May my supplication come before you; deliver me according to your promise.

May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees!

May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous!

May your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts!

I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight.

Let me live that I may praise you, and may your laws sustain me.

I have strayed like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commandments.

*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*

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-49 *Only the Lord is God*

New Testament Reading: Acts 18:1-28 *The Gospel continues to have its effect*

“PASS IT ON”

When Peter preached the gospel of forgiveness in Jesus’ Name on Pentecost Sunday, many were cut to the heart, confessed their sins, turned to Jesus in faith and received baptism in His holy name. Later when Stephen preached the same message, a mob seized him and stoned him to death. The Jewish believers went first to the synagogues to share the good news that the Messiah was Jesus. As in Jerusalem, there were some who believed and others who refused to believe and rejected the gospel message. As time went on and the gospel progressed, those divisions became hostile and violent.

Jesus told His followers not to be surprised if they encountered hostility for the gospel message. In the Sermon on the Mount, He said believers would be persecuted for His sake and that they would be blessed in it: *“Rejoice and be glad for great is your reward in heaven.”* Paul experienced as much rejection and persecution for the sake of the gospel as any of the apostles, perhaps more! Jesus reminded him that his work was bearing fruit and that he should not let his suffering prevent him from continuing in the work of the kingdom. He said, *“Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent. I am with you...”*

Paul spoke the gospel and the Holy Spirit opened hearts to believe and receive Jesus as Saviour. The Holy Spirit raised up other Jews to believe and to proclaim Jesus as Saviour and make Him known as the Christ; Apollos, Aquila and his wife Priscilla. Jesus told Paul that his work was not in vain. He said, *“I have many in this city who are mine.”* Many more came to know Jesus and to belong to Him. These took up the work and shared in the work of the apostles, Gentiles as well as Jews. As today, many rejected the message, but many received with joy the good news of life in Christ and passed it on to others. What we have received we pass on, knowing that Jesus is with us and His word never returns empty.

“PASS IT ON” (CCLI #453681)

It only takes a spark to get a fire going.

And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.

That’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it,

You spread his love to everyone; You want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding.

The birds begin to sing; The flowers start their blooming.

**That’s how it is with God’s love, once you experienced it,
you want to sing, it’s fresh like spring; You want to pass it on.**

I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I’ve found.

You can depend on Him, It matters not where you’re bound.

I’ll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know;

The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, even as you stood by the Apostle Paul and encouraged him to speak the good news of the gospel, bless us with the assurance that you stand with us. Bless us with your Holy Spirit that we may speak words that lead others to you. Open their hearts by your Spirit so they may know you as Saviour and Lord. In your Name we pray. 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

1 Corinthians 6:11

*“...But you were washed, you were sanctified,
you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”*