

DEVOTION for PENTECOST 13

Psalm 14

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.

The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man,
to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

**They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;
there is none who does good, not even one.**

Have they no knowledge,
all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the Lord.

There they are in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous.

You would shame the plans of the poor, but the Lord is his refuge.

Oh, that salvation would for Israel would come out of Zion!

When the Lord restores the fortunes of His people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

*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*

Ephesians 5:22-33

The love of a husband for his wife symbolizes Christ's love for the Church

What does it mean to submit to Christ?

How much does Christ love the Church?

How does Christ express His love for the Church?

Mark 7:1-13

Honouring God with lips and heart

Why did Jesus say the Pharisees honoured God with their lips, but not their hearts?

Was the problem the rituals or the attitude of the Pharisees?

How can we honour God with our lips and our hearts?

"PERFECT SUBMISSION"

During a family discussion, a man quoted these words of scripture to his wife, "*Wives submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body.*" His wife thought for a few moments and said: "Perhaps, if you were a little more like Christ!" If you read carefully the words of the whole passage, you will find that they place a far greater obligation upon the husband than they do upon the wife. Husbands are to be Christ to their wives, as Christ is husband to the Church! St. Paul writes, "Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy..."

How did Christ love the church? He loved the church by submitting Himself to His Father's will and being born in the form of servant. He loved the Church by being obedient to the Father's will, unto death on the cross. Christ loved the church by offering his life to bring forgiveness to the human soul and to create peace in the human relationship with God. He did this for the Church, so both male and female would become His sisters and brothers, children of the heavenly Father.

Certainly no one could begin to approach the love by which Christ loves the church. But in these words, the Holy Spirit calls on us to make a beginning and to submit first to Christ' love and then to submit to one another in love, out of reverence for Christ. Whether we are male or female, married, widowed or single, we are all the bride of Christ!

“BLESSED ASSURANCE”

CCLI#453681

**Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.**

Chorus

**This is my story, this is my song, praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Saviour all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight. Visions of rapture now burst in my sight.
Angels descending, bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest. I with my Saviour, am happy and blest.
Watching and waiting, looking above.**

PRAYER

Dearest Jesus in the letter to the Philippians, St. wrote of how you did not count heavenly glory above either your love for the Father, or your love for us. You submitted to the heavenly Father’s will and out of love emptied yourself, took on a servant’s form and were obedient even unto death on the cross. You did this so you would be our Saviour and we would become children of the heavenly Father. Help us submit our will to your will and respond to your love, by loving one another deeply and from the heart. In Your name. 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

Psalm 33:22

“Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.”

Bible Knowledge Quiz

Why was King Uzziah stricken with leprosy?

Jesus healed a group of men from leprosy. How many returned to give thanks?

What were people with leprosy required to cry out, when approaching others?

Answers to Last Week’s Quiz

In the streets, in the markets at the city gates (Proverbs 1:20-21).

Long life in her right hand, riches and honour in her left hand (Proverbs 3:16).

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10).