

DEVOTION for PENTECOST 20

PSALM 148

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the heights above.

Praise Him, all His angels, praise Him all His heavenly hosts.

Praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him, all you shining stars.

Praise Him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created.

He set them in place for ever and ever; He gave a decree that will never pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, Lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do His bidding.

You mountains and all hills, fruit trees and cedars, wild animals and all cattle;

Small creatures and flying birds.

Kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth.

Young men and maidens, old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted;

His splendour is above the earth and the heavens.

He has raised up for His people a horn, the praise of all His saints, of Israel;

The people close to His heart. Praise the Lord.

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

DEUTERONOMY 31:1-29

The book of the law to serve as a reminder

- 1) Why did Israel not need to fear as they entered the Promised Land?
- 2) What was the book of the law to remind the people of Israel?
- 3) What sin did the Lord know Israel would commit?

ROMANS 15:1-33

Paul's ministry to the Gentiles

- 1) Why is it important for us to bear with one another's failings?
- 2) In what ways do the scriptures give us encouragement and hope?
- 3) Why was it important for the Gentile Churches to share material benefit with the Jewish Churches?

“FAITH and LOVE in the BODY of CHRIST”

Paul was called by Jesus to be the apostle to the Gentiles and to the Jews who lived among the Gentiles, in what was called the dispersion or diaspora; referring to the exile of Israel in 722 BC and of Judah in 586 BC. The descendants of those exiled still lived scattered throughout what was then the Roman world. As many Jews lived outside the Old Testament Land of Israel as lived within, perhaps more. Paul sought to share the gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus as the Christ with both Jews and Gentiles. He typically began sharing the gospel in local synagogues, where Jews and Gentile converts and seekers worshipped. Although the church today is largely a Gentile church, in the first century as many Jews became believers in Jesus as Gentiles.

One of Paul's great concerns was that there be unity among believers in faith and in affection towards each other. In Ephesians 4 he wrote, “*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.*” He said that Christ has broken down, not only the dividing wall of sin in relation to the Father, but also the wall of hostility between Jews and Gentiles. Paul wanted people in the church to live in harmony, bearing patiently with each other as God bears patiently with us for the sake of Christ Jesus.

In chapter 15 of his letter to the Romans, Paul spoke of believers bearing with each other's failings and of the offering, he was collecting among the Gentile churches, to help the churches in Judea who were suffering from a famine. In our Christian lives two things are of greatest importance. First that we hold in our hearts Christ as Lord. Second that we share the love we receive from God through Christ, by treating others (especially fellow believers) with extreme patience, deep love and profound respect. For that is how God deals with us in Christ

“I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY” CCLI #453681

**I love to tell the story, of unseen things above,
of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it’s true;
It satisfies my longings, as nothing else would do.**

Chorus

**I love to tell the story; ‘Twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story, of Jesus and His love.**

**I love to tell the story, ‘Tis pleasant to repeat,
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.**

**I love to tell the story, For some have never heard,
the message of salvation, from God’s own holy Word.**

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best,
seem hungering and thirsting, to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
‘Twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long.**

PRAYER

Dearest Lord Jesus, although you are in very nature God from eternity, you set aside the privileges of your divine being to take on human flesh and live as one of us. You experienced the weakness, sin and suffering of our humanity, as a human being. As God and a human being, you suffered the full effect of our sin through your death on the cross. You did this out of love for each one of us and for every human soul. Bless us to respond to your love with faith towards you and love toward others.

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 117:2

“Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples! For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!”

Bible Knowledge Quiz

- 1) Moses was 120 when he died, how old was he when God called him to go to Egypt to set Israel free?
- 2) What was John the Baptist’s father’s name?
- 3) What was the name of Adam and Eve’s third son?

Answers to last weeks quiz

- 1) Joshua Deuteronomy 31:3
- 2) Abram and Sarai Genesis 12:4-5
- 3) Joshua