

DEVOTION FOR THE FIFTEENTH WEEK OF PENTECOST

PSALM 145:9-14

The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power.

To make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Lord is faithful in all His words and kind in all His works.

The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

*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 26:1-19

Offerings of thanksgiving to the Lord

Questions for reflection

What great event did Israel remember with every offering?

What greater event do we remember and give thanks for with our offerings?

What did Israel proclaim with their offerings? (Verse 17)

Romans 10:1-21

The Word of Faith brings Salvation

Questions for reflection

Why do we not want to submit to God's righteousness? (Verses 1-4)

What is the difference between the righteousness based on faith and the righteousness based on law? (Verses 4-10)

What will never happen to those who believe in Jesus?

“NEVER BE PUT TO SHAME”

Have you ever been put to shame? In the old days school children were commonly disciplined by being made to stand in the corner in front of the class, or by receiving corporal punishment in front of their peers. The embarrassment was worse than the physical discomfort and pain. When being chastened as a child, I recall being told “You should be ashamed of yourself.” I suppose the presumption was that a person might just feel bad about getting caught as opposed to feeling bad for what she or he had done. Shame is still used in our society, especially on social media to make people tow the line.

In the ancient world people were publicly shamed as punishment for a wide range of offenses against the law. Crucifixion was a form of public shaming as the victim, suffered for all to see. Paul's words in Romans 10 would have been particularly meaningful to people used to this kind of punishment. The fear of judgement was never far from people's minds. Believers would have found great comfort in the fact that because of Jesus and their faith in Him that they would never be shamed, or otherwise punished for their sins against God.

How do you feel about the judgement day? Do you fear being exposed and shamed before the eyes of God, the angels and the saints? Apart from being caught and exposed, does your conscious ever put you to shame? Fear not! Jesus has paid fully the debt of our sin, experiencing also the shame of our sins on the cross. Paul assures us that on the day of judgement there will be no shame for those who believe in Christ Jesus. When we feel ashamed or our conscience accuses us, the words of Romans 10 assure us, “*No one who believes in Him will be put to shame.*”

HYMN: OH, FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES (Public Domain)

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing, My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, The honours of your name.

The name of Jesus calms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,
Sings music in the sinners ears, Brings life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin; He sets the prisoners free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.

Look to the Lord who did atone, For sin O fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone, Be justified by grace.

See all our sins on Jesus laid; The Lamb has made us whole.
His soul was once an offering made, For every human soul.

To God all glory, praise and love, Be now and ever giv'n.
By saints below and saints above, The Church in earth and heaven.

PRAYER

We give you thanks Lord Jesus that in you we have no fear of being put to shame. You bore the shame of our sin in your suffering and by your death on the cross. Everything that stood against us has been nailed to your cross. In you and through you, we are declared forgiven and at peace with God. Bless us with your Holy Spirit and with the confidence of knowing that no one who trusts in you will be put to shame and that everyone who calls on your name will be saved. 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 Psalm 67:1-2

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.”