Profile: Mary and Martha December 10

The Family

The story of the raising of Lazarus is very familiar; this devotion is about his sisters Mary and Martha.

Martha was the housekeeper, concerned about the work – Martha was upset over all the work she had to do, so she came and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!" Luke 10:40. Martha was worried about her daily tasks as we should be too but we should not let those worries take over to the point of shutting the Lord out of our lives.

Although Mary was the one at the feet of Jesus, gathering all he said, Martha was also a very firm believer, when the Lord asked her if she believed in him – "Yes, Lord!" She answered." I do believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who has come in and to the world.” John 11:27.

Mary also a believer was more impulsive than Martha, like the time when Jesus and the disciples came to visit, after the triumphal entry, when Mary took expensive perfume and anointed Jesus feet.

Mary, Martha and Lazarus were very special friends of Jesus, he visited them on different occasions, and he wept at the grave of Lazarus before he resurrected him.

Jesus knew what it was like to have friends and to be a friend. Jesus is our friend. We need to know our friends and to love them and to cry and laugh with them.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. John 11:5.

PRAYER THOUGHT Help me to serve and believe as Mary and Martha did into truly know you are my friend and love me also.

Profile: Mary Magdalene December 11

From Demoness to Follower

Mary Magdalene must have been a pitiful sight at her first encounter with Jesus, when she was possessed with seven demons, Jesus relieved her of that burden – Mary (who was called Magdalene), from whom seven demons had been driven out; Luke 8:2b.

Although Mary Magdalene is not mentioned by name but when "some women” are mentioned in accompaniment of Jesus, this seems to include Mary Magdalene.

Mary Magdalene was with Mary the mother of Jesus at the cross when Jesus was crucified, she was at the sepulcher at dawn to anoint the body of Jesus, with the other Mary, when they found out that Jesus had risen they went to tell the disciples on their way they saw and recognized Jesus – Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Peace be with you." They came up to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Matthew 28:9. How filled with joy and excitement Mary Magdalene must have been and she rushed to tell the disciples about her encounter with Jesus.

Mary Magdalene was around when the meeting was held that elected Matthias as Judas’ successor and with the group at prayer meetings when "the women" are mentioned that suggests Mary Magdalena was there too. She was a very dedicated follower, if we could only project half this much dedication, we would be richly blessed as Mary Magdalene must have been.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned toward him and said in Hebrew, "Robboni!" (This means “Teacher.”) John 20:16.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to go from sin possessed to loyal servant, thank you for forgiveness.

Profile: You and Me December 12

Every day Christians

We all live busy lives with jobs, careers, children and housework. There never seems to be enough hours in a day and time passes by so fast. We have to take time every day to meet with the Lord before it is too late. We live as if will be here forever, which we know is not true, we'll either die or Jesus will return and either way it will be too late to accept Jesus and turn our lives around to the right.

Every day we must show others Jesus in us, not being ashamed of our Lord but always speaking up for the right:

– This is a true saying:

“If we have died with him, we shall also live with him. If we continue to endure, we shall also rule with him. If we deny him, he will also deny us. If we are not faithful, he remains faithful, because he cannot be false to himself." 2 Timothy 2:11–13.

In these days of sin and immorality we should never be ashamed of doing good, the right thing, it may be the hard thing to do but will never be sorry in this life or in the judgment. Verses like Romans 3:23, KJV,- For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; can be very discouraging but if you read on your find in Romans 3:30 KJV that all can be justified Jew and Gentile – Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith and the uncircumcision through faith. - We are justified through faith and the grace of God. Praise the Lord!

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…If a person is ashamed of me and of my teaching in this godless and wicked day, then the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” Mark 8:38.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, never to be ashamed of you or your teachings. Help me to tell others of your love and peace be own understanding.

Church: Body of Christ December 13

What is the Church?

As we drive down streets and roads we see many building set aside as churches, where the church meets, the buildings are not the church; the church is the people that go there, the body of Christ, the believers. As the hymn “The Church’s One Foundation” by Samuel J. Stone – The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ or Lord; She is His new creation, By water and the word: From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride; With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died. – It could be said that Jesus owns the church because he paid the price for our salvation, with his own life, which makes him the head of the church. When we are believing, baptized Christians, we are members of the Body of Christ, the universal church, not necessarily attached to a certain group or denomination. We owe our loyalty to Christ; the church will not be complete until Christ comes again together his believers unto himself.

Christ is the head of the church, the Bible should be the basis of a church group, if you are looking for a church home look out for those who use practices other than what are outlined in the Bible for the church, today we must be very careful not to be taken in by cults and satanic groups, some of these groups may look okay on the surface but have hidden rituals and meanings of the rituals.

We need to remember that the church is much larger than the group that meets at Seventh and Main, being responsible to that group is being responsible to the Body of Christ.

VERSE FOR TODAY: The church is Christ's body, the completion of him who he himself completes all things everywhere. Ephesians 1:23.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thanks be to you, O Lord, for giving us a perfect example, you, as the head of the church, may we ever be mindful of who paid the price for the church.

Church Life December 14

Why Go?

We are members of the Body of Christ whether we go to church building or not so why go? In this world of sin, the going to be in fellowship with other Christians helps us to renew our faith and kindle our Christian enthusiasm!

Using the human body to symbolize the Body of Christ, if you have a hand or a foot that don't function as it should, your ability to work would be impaired, the same with the Body of Christ, you are part of it and if you don't participate the Body of Christ cannot function completely either. You may say that there are plenty to do the work, but God wanted you as a part of his church and you have a purpose for being there and it is your responsibility to find your place in function within that place.

So often people say, "I can remember and praise the Lord wherever and whatever I choose to do instead of going to worship services." That statement can be true but the question that is raised; WILL you think and praise the Lord? It is doubtful, you get caught up in the golf game or repair job and the Lord will not get a thought.

Take your function in the Body of Christ seriously, and use the gift that God gave you to his honor and glory.

VERSE FOR TODAY: All of you are Christ's body, and each is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord to find my place in the church and to fulfill that place with time, talent and enthusiasm.

Church Life December 15

The Lord's Supper

The Lord instituted the Lord’s Supper with his disciples in the upper room, we now more commonly call it Communion – That the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in memory of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup and said, "This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do so in memory of me." 1 Corinthians 11:23b – 25.

Before we partake of the Lord's Supper, we should examine ourselves – So then, you should all examine yourselves first, and then eat the bread and drink from the cup. For if people do not recognize the meaning of the Lord's body when they eat the bread and drink from the cup, they bring judgement on themselves as they eat and drink. 1 Corinthians 11:28-29

In this examination of ourselves we will realize we are sinners and what God has done for us through grace – If we would examine ourselves first, we would not come under God's judgment. 1 Corinthians 11:31.

Communion should be a very sacred moment that you can share with God and be thankful for the sacrifice of Jesus so that you can be with him in eternity – As the words of the hymn by Isaac Watts, "Would he devote that sacred head for such a worm as I?" He did and we need to remember it not only at Communion time but always!

VERSE FOR TODAY: The cup we use in the Lord's Supper and for which we give thanks to God: when we drink from it, we are sharing the blood of Christ. And the bread we break: when we eat it we are sharing the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:16.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank you, O Lord, for your sacrifice and for the Lord's supper so that we can always be mindful of your sacrifice. Help us never to partake in such a way that would bring damnation unto ourselves.

Christian life December 16

Beware of False Prophets

Today with all the many cults, we need to be very careful of false prophets. Paul had trouble with people trying to undo the teaching he had done in Galatia –I am surprised you! In no time at all you are deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ, and accepting another gospel. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel that is different from the one we preached to you, may he be condemned to hell! Galatians 1:6, 8.

John gives us a guideline in knowing if a prophet is true or false – This is how you will be able to know whether it is God’s Spirit: anyone who acknowledges that Jesus Christ came as a human being has the Spirit who comes from God. But anyone who denies this about Jesus does not have the Spirit from God. 1 John 4:2, 3a.

We are to keep the original message of God's love and Jesus as the Messiah in our hearts – Be sure, then, to keep in your hearts the message you heard from the beginning. If you keep that message, then you will always live in union with the Son and the Father. And this is what Christ himself promised to give us – eternal life. 1 John 2:24, 25.

Don't fall prey to people professing the true gospel, until you have checked out in God's word, don't be gullible!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Yes, my children, we remain in union with him, so that when he appears we may be full of courage and the not hide in shame from him in the Day he comes. 1 John 2:28.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, never to be misled by a false teacher, they are always question and know the truth.

Modern Life December 17

What the World Needs

We were watching a television show, where movie critics were saying that the movies nowadays, seem to need a happy ending for people to go and see them and encourage others to go as well. We discussed that, saying the world at this time (1990) has so much trouble, hate, hostages, drugs, wars, crime, AIDS and other incurable diseases that people need to go away from the movie theater feeling good, in order to face the real world of darkness.

I also read of a new drug coming out that is worse than crack and they just close the tunnel between the United States and Mexico for drug traffic, where will all this end? The only way all of this will end is when the Lord comes again. Hopefully this will be read in the New Earth, and we will not know of such pestilence!

We can have happiness without drugs, we can face today and tomorrow with confidence, confidence that we get through Jesus Christ, he gives us peace, hope, love, strength and understanding through the Holy Spirit.

Give up your old person and put on the new person in Christ. Put your faith and hope in the tender watch care of Jesus, you'll never be disappointed! Praise the Lord!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer. Psalms 19:14. KJV.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, a special prayer today, for those hooked on drugs may they see that their high is only temporary but your love and peace is eternal, it will never fail.

P.S. The original writing was 1990, this was retyped in 1/ 2012 and revised in 10/2014 we are still here on earth and human nature has not changed, there are still illegal use of drugs, AIDS is being controlled some, there is still, war, hate and new diseases being fought etc.