Christian Life December 26

Prayer

Our only tool of communicating with God, upon the death of Jesus the curtain in the holy of holies was torn to allow anyone, not just the chief priests, to approach God. We have Jesus to take our pleadings and praises to God – And so he is able, now and always, to save those who come to God through him, because he lives forever to plead with God for them. Hebrews 7:25. Jesus pleads for us, like when we were children, if we did something wrong at grandma's she would plead for leniency from our parents, same with Jesus, he understands what the world is like and pleads to God in our behalf.

Use prayer for all needs, praises and hopes, God can do ALL things! Nothing is too small or too large for God! We often think God doesn't want to be bothered by our little problems, or it's just too confusing or complex to take to God, or God doesn't care! God does care and will handle anything and everything large or small. He is waiting for you to call on his name!

Remember the mechanics of prayer, praise God, ask for forgiveness, have a thankful heart and asked for your needs.

Our prayers have to be sincerely prayed and have the faith that God can and will answer – “…If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” Matthew 21:22.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Is anyone among you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? He should sing praises. James 5:13.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to call upon your name, O Lord, not only in good or bad times but at all times.

Christian Life December 27

Forgiveness

Our lives are filled with people that wrong us, whether on purpose or by the “slip” of hand or tongue.

Jesus teaches – "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in one day, and each time he comes to you saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him." Luke 17:3b-4. We need to be ready to forgive others as many times as it takes to live in harmony.

We have to forgive if we expect to be forgiven by God. In this Lord's Prayer, each time we say it we ask God to forgive us as we forgive others, so we have to forgive others before God will forgive us – “…And when you stand and pray, forgiving anything you may have against anyone, so that your Father in heaven will forgive the wrongs you have done.” Mark 11:25.

Forgiving is one thing, forgetting is another, we can forgive but always bear a grudge in our heart against the person, God does not work this way, he forgives and has no memory of the sin and so should we – And then he says, "I will not remember their sin and their evil deeds any longer." Hebrews 10:17. We must practice forgiving and forgetting.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Now, however, you should forgive him and encourage him, in order to keep him from becoming so sad as to give up completely. 2 Corinthians 2:7.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, help me to forgive others and to be able to completely forget the sin against me and to know that you have forgiven my sins and forgotten them when I confess unto you my wrong doings.

Christian Life December 28

How to be Faithful

Faith is a personal thing; it is rooted and grounded in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul writes to Timothy giving him advice – But you, man of God, avoid all these things. Strive for righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Run your best in the race of faith, and win eternal life for yourself; for it was to this life that God called you when you firmly professed your faith before many witnesses.1Timothy 6:11, 12. How firmly did you profess your faith before witnesses?

How have you worked to build that faith through the year(s)? On the rocky road of human life, striving for a perfect life is about all we can do, run the best race that we can.

We who accepted Christ have to learn to live with him – Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, live in union with him. Keep your roots deep in him, build your lives with him. And become stronger in your faith, as you were taught. And be filled with thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6, 7. Sink your roots deep in the love of the Lord and don't ever let the root be damaged or cut, but keep your faith growing stronger. Read, pray, fellowship and work daily to build your faith in Jesus.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who firmly professed his faith before Pontius Pilate, I command you to obey you your orders and keep them faithfully until the Day when our Lord Jesus will appear. 1Timothy 6:13, 14.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to be steadfast in my faith and to grow to more understand you and your will for me.

Christian Life December 29

Gods in Control

We talked about this in the beginning of the year, how God created and keeps the world together, isn't it wonderful how God is in control, what's wonderful is that there's someone in control of things we can't control. We can't control the weather, keeping the lakes in their shores, flowers and trees growing, it's wonderful to know someone is bigger than we are and keeps it all together.

God has set a time for everything and Solomon in Ecclesiastes says it best –

Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses. He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting and the time for pulling up, the time for killing and the time for healing, the time for tearing down and the time for building. He sets the time for sorrow and the time for joy, the time for mourning and the time for dancing, the time for making love and the time for not making love, the time for kissing and the time for not kissing. He sets the time for finding and the time for losing, the time for saving and the time for throwing away, the time for tearing and the time for mending, the time for silence and the time for talk. He sets the time for love and the time for hate, the time for war and the time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8.

What a comfort to know God is in control and all we have to do is put our faith in him!

VERSE FOR TODAY: . . . Just remember: God sends both happiness and troubles; you never know what is going to happen next. Ecclesiastes 7:14b.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank you, O Lord, for being in control may I never doubt your decisions for me and may I strive to do my best in fulfilling your will for me.

Christian Life December 30

Birthday

This may seem strange title for today, but today is a person's birthday, very dear to me and a good time to reflect on a year gone for him as well is pretty well gone for us. We sometimes get downhearted as we see our lives passing before us; time seems to be going faster and faster.

As each day passes we must not think of it as our life's passing but is heading for the new and better life with Jesus. If we like our lives here on earth as we should we don't want to die but we know we will sooner or later so we shouldn't lament about the passing of time. We can't do anything about it anyway and we can best use our time searching and researching the things of God.

Jesus lived such a short time here on earth, only thirty-three years, but he used his time wisely, learned the things of God, and started about his Father's business at age twelve. Even if you die young, or what you consider young, your time on Earth can be used wisely, if not the quantity of time but the quality of the time given. Birthdays are not the time to think about dying but living, rejoicing that we were born and thanking God for every day he has given us and that we will use the time he does give us wisely.

VERSE FOR TODAY: And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them. Revelation 14:13. KJV.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to look to you as my life passes and look forward to the life you have in store for me in your kingdom.

Christian Life December 31

The Last Day

This is the last day of this year; it could be the last day of the rest of our lives. As we reflect on the year gone by, have we lived up to our own expectations? Could we have done better, in the things of God, forgiveness, loving one another and sharing with those in need?

Today is the end but if we are lucky enough to have tomorrow, it is a new beginning as every day is but is also a new year, another chance to know and to get acquainted with Jesus.

If you have read faithfully this year you can know you have salvation, know how to pray, to forgive, to remain faithful, to know you can rely on God's promises and to have peace and love beyond any human understanding. Who in this life can give you more, than Jesus? Don't waste another minute, confess your sins, give a testimony to knowing Jesus as the Son of God and be baptized into the family of God! There's no bigger better family to be associated with in this life and unto eternity!

Hopefully these short lessons have peaked your curiosity and you will go back to find a day and read more about the subject, like Daniel, read the whole book, see what it is all about.

I hope you have had a good year and that the coming year will even be better.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.

Proverbs 3:5, 6.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank you, O Lord, for another year and help me to be and do even better in the coming year.