Christian Life March 17

A Blessing

 A blessing is a divine favor, a favor from God. God has bestowed his blessing since creation – He blessed them all …. Genesis 1:22a.

 We can also be blessed here are some ways:

* By obedience -You bless those who obey you, Lord; Psalm 5:12a.
* Remaining faithful – Happy are those who remain faithful under trials…they will receive as their reward the life which God has promised to those who love him James 1:12a, c.
* By helping others – Blessed is he that considerth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. Psalm 41:1. KJV.
* By Believing – Abraham believed and was blessed so all who believe are blessed as he was. Galatians 3:9

Some of the blessings are:

* Rain – But he has always given evidence of this existence by the good things he does; he gives you rain from heaven and crops at the right times; Acts 14:17a, b.
* Food and happiness – he gives you food and fills your hearts with happiness. Acts 14:17c.
* Kindness – The Lord is our protector and glorious king, blessing us with kindness and honour. Psalm 84:11a.

 The above lists are only a few ways to receive blessings and only a few blessings we can receive! COUNT your blessings.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Lord Almighty, how happy are those who trust in you! Psalm 84:12.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for all my blessings.

Christian Life March 18

Follow the Example

 We have the perfect example and the gifts of the Spirit have given us, these gifts although different are or should be used to the Glory of God.

 We constantly have to be building our character so that we don’t have a Christian Life and a regular life but our Christian life is our regular life.

 Recognizing we have faults and sins and trying to make ourselves over is the goal of our entire life once we know Jesus, using Jesus as our example and patterning our life after his perfect example – This is how we can be sure that we are in union with God: whoever says that he remains in union with God should live just as Jesus Christ did. 1 John 2:5b, 6. - He committed no sin, and no one ever heard a lie come from his lips. When he was insulted, he did not answer back with an insult when he suffered, he did not threaten, but placed his hopes in God, the righteous judge. 1 Peter 2:22, 23.

 The perfect example is very hard to follow because we are human that is the reason for forgiveness. Our goal is to obtain this perfection which can only be done in glory, but we have the example of Jesus to follow to correct our errors as they are brought to light.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “. . . I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you. …” John 13:15.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for your example so that I have a pattern which to mold my life and a goal to strive for, using your instructions for a perfect end product with you in glory.

Witnessing March 19

Our Witness

 Jesus’ last instruction, what is known as the Great Commission – Go ye therefore, and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: an, lo I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:19, 20. KJV. An effective witness is not easy, we try so hard because it is our duty to witness, there are so many forms of witnessing, and just being a friend when someone needs us is a witness, not losing our cool in a situation, because the Holy Spirit is helping us. The Holy Spirit will help you in witnessing if you are willing to let the Spirit lead you.

 Witnessing to others takes on many faces – as Paul says - Among the weak in faith I become weak like one of them, in order to win them. So I become all things to all people, that I may save some of them by whatever means are possible.1 Corinthians 9:22.

 As a child, I remember our minister came to visit; my father was mending horse harnesses, with tools and materials all over the kitchen floor. The minister took an interest in the proceedings, not a word of Gospel was spoken but that day the minister was an effective witness. We just need to meet people on their terms.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect.1 Peter 3:15b, 16a.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, help me to explain the hope in me and to do it with the proper gentleness and respect as a witness of your love.

Christian Life March 20

God’s Handiwork

 It is Spring! Spring is the season for new beginnings, the start of flowers, the budding of trees and the budding of new loves.

 When we really stop to think about the beauty of nature, you have to know that there is someone bigger than us. The velvet feel of a rose petal, the spicy aroma of the lilac blossoms, and the woodland carpet of varieties of wild flowers.

 Look up to heaven on a cool clear night and see the stars and moon, who keeps them hanging there? We can figure it out through science, the composition of most everything, but we cannot recreate anything without using something that God has made. They have even made test tube babies, but they started with elements first created by God.

 We must learn to see, feel, and mostly appreciate everything God has made for us – The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Psalm 19:1. KJV.

 As a new spring brings new life to the things in nature, so let there be a renewal of hope and love in our hearts.

VERSE FOR TODAY: He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water. Psalm 23:2

PRAYER THOUGHT: As spring shows itself around me, may I always remember that you made everything, even me, and be thankful for everything and to praise your name always!

Christian Life March 21

Witnessing

 Part of our life now in Christ must be spent in witnessing our faith and love in the Lord. After all how will others learn about Jesus if we don’t witness to them as the Holy Spirit leads us – And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself. I John 5:6b, 10a.KJV. Don’t worry about witnessing the Holy Spirit will lead you.

 As Jesus told the original disciples – “…But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8. To the ends of the earth is where we come in, we are given the same Spirit as the first disciples.

 We must also heed the commandment and with the confidence Jesus gave us in the Great Commission – GO ye therefore, and teach all nations… and, lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world. Matthew 28:19a, 20b. KJV. To have this type of confidence should help us to look forward to witnessing for Jesus.

VERSE FOR TODAY: The believers who were scattered went everywhere, preaching the message. Acts 8:4.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord to be a faithful effective witness for you.

Christian Life March 22

Be an Example

 We have to live with others that don’t know Jesus, it can be hard to be friends or business associates with non-Christians but don’t fall into their ways but show them Jesus though the way we live and work. We mustn’t be haughty but humble. We may be able to win them over, by our example – Your conduct among the heathen should be so good that when they accuse you of being evildoers, they will have to recognize your good deeds and so praise God on the Day of his coming. 1 Peter 2:12.

 Not only our example to others is important but the example we set for our own family is equally or even of greater importance, if we drink, commit adultery and curse the Lord those we live with will follow our example and end up in eternal anguish. We don’t need to be old to set an example as Paul told Timothy – Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith and purity. 1 Timothy 4:12. We can be young in age or in our Christian walk but our example starts immediately so we must be aware of our conduct at all times!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Now that you know this truth, how happy you will be if you put it into practice! John 13:17.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to always set a good example, an example that is pleasing to you and helpful to others.

Christian Life March 23

Guiding Others

 In our walk through life we must not cause someone else to fall - Instead, you should decide never to do anything that would make another stumble or fall into sin. Romans 14:13b.

 Just because we feel something is wrong, it is not necessarily wrong for someone else, although it is wrong for us – Keep what you believe about this matter, then, between yourself and God. Keep what you believe about this matter, then, between yourself and God. Happy are those who do not feel guilty when they do something they judge is right!But if they have doubts about what they eat, God condemns them when they eat it, because their action is not based on faith. And anything that is not based on faith is sin. Romans 14:22, 23. Here Paul is talking about whether to eat food that was once judged unclean and now as Christians if they should eat, this concept can also be used for different situations, say you were an active card player for fun as a non-Christian, so as a Christian would the game be considered sin? Only if you thought it was because it certainly is not against any law.

 With God’s help you must decide through faith what is right and wrong for you, if it is not an outright sin or against civil law.

VERSE FOR TODAY: For God's Kingdom is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of the righteousness, peace, and joy which the Holy Spirit gives. And when people serve Christ in this way, they please God and are approved by others. Romans 14:17, 18.

PRAYER THOUGHT: My prayer is that my personal opinion does not cause another person to fall, help me never to be a stumbling block.

Christian Life March 24

Knowing God’s Will

 God’s will reigns supreme – You don’t even know what your life tomorrow will be! You are like a puff of smoke, which appears for a moment and then disappears. What you should say is this:”If the Lord is willing, we will live and do this or that.” James 4:14, 15.

 God’s will is what must be done – “Not everyone who calls me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do.” Matthew 7:21.

 What is God’s will? Here is a list of a few things that are God’s will that we should do: From 1 Thessalonians 5:13-22:

\*Be at peace among yourselves – verse 13b. Warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. – verse 14. \*No one pays back wrong for wrong, aim to do good to one another and to all people. - verse 15.\*Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances – Verses 16, 17, 18a. \*Do not restrain the Holy Spirit; do not despise inspired messages. Put all things to the test: keep what is good and avoid every kind of evil. Verses 19-22. This is what God wants from us in our live in union with Christ Jesus. – verse 18b.

 There is a reward for dedicating ourselves to the will of God – he who does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:17b.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Do this not only when they are watching you, because you want to gain their approval; but with all your heart do what God wants, as slaves of Christ. Ephesians 6:6.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to live within your will, O Lord, seeking your will in your Word and through prayer.