

## The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her 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.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder, Men see her sore oppressed  
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed  
Yet saints their watch are keeping, Their cry goes up "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping, shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish, her dear Lord to defend  
To guide, sustain and cherish, is with her to the end  
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale  
Against a foe or traitor, she ever shall prevail.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war  
She waits the consummation, of peace for evermore  
Till with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three on One  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won  
O happy ones and holy, Lord give us grace that we  
Like them the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

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Words by Samuel Stone.

# Taking Gathered Worship

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CHRIST *the*  
REDEEMER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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## Family and Individual Devotions

### Meditations in Acts

Week of January 21, 2007

## *The Essence of the Church*

## Daily Devotionals

The early church has received power through the Holy Spirit. Peter has already used this power to witness about the forgiveness to be found in Christ. We are now seeing the effect of this power. First, on the crowd listening to Peter's words. They were led to inquire "what shall we do?" Peter's response was concise, "Repent and be baptized". This call led many in the crowd to repent, and "three thousand were added to their number that day". However, the church was merely engaged in growing quantitatively, it was growing qualitatively as the church committed itself to the apostles teaching, to prayer, to fellowship, and to the sacraments.

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Please pray that we as a community of faith will learn His ways and walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

*Throughout the week we encourage you to use the hymn, "The Church's One Foundation" found on the back page as your song, your prayer, and your reminder this week about what the church is all about.*

Sunday, 1/21

**Read :** Last week we talked about sanctification, becoming more "Christlike" through the truth as it is revealed in scripture (**John 17:17**). Read **Hebrews 10:19**,

**22.** Faith in Christ allows us to spiritually enter into the presence of God. How does being sanctified by the word draw us closer to God?

**Pray** that through your study of God's word you would draw near to Him. That you would have an undivided allegiance to Christ.

Monday, 1/22

**Read:** In **Acts 2** we learned that the early church committed itself to fellowship. In **Hebrews 10:25** scripture reveals one of the positive aspects of fellowship.

How do you suppose your spiritual gifts relate to encouragement? What opportunities do you have to fellowship with other believers?

**Pray** for fellowship within Christ the Redeemer that allows you to be encouraged, and for you to encourage others.

Tuesday, 1/23

**Read: Colossians 4:2-4.** What do these verses say about our attitude as we witness to those outside the church? Do you think **Colossians 4:6** also has implications on how we relate to those within the church?

**Pray:** That you would always be watchful for opportunities to proclaim the "mystery of Christ". That your actions would be wise and your conversation graceful.

Wednesday, 1/24

**Read: Ephesians 4:25-32**

God's word has a great deal to say about how we relate to fellow Christians.

**Pray:** That you may also be diligent in your speech and actions towards other Christians. That you would use the gift of the Holy Spirit to rid yourself of the sins mentioned in verse 31. That you live a life of kindness and compassion to others.

Thursday, 1/25

**Read:** Sometimes, it seems impossible to comply with scripture like Colossians 4:2-4 and Ephesians 4:25-32. The change required by these words appears almost too radical. Look at **II Corinthians 5:17**. Does the fact you are a "new creation" in Christ give you any hope?

**Pray** That you would have complete faith in the ability of God to complete the work he has begun in you through Christ. That you would endeavor to live a life of obedience.

Friday, 1/26

**Read:** Look at **Psalms 119:11** and **Joshua 1:8**. In what ways does hiding the word of God in our hearts and meditating on the word of God "day and night" aid us in being obedient? Reflect on **Philippians 4:8** and **James 1:13-15**.

**Pray:** That you would use the word of God planted in your heart, controlling your thoughts, as a means of sanctifying your life in Christ.

Saturday, 1/27

**Read:** Consider carefully the state of the church in **Acts 2:42-47**. How does our church stand up using these measures? What can you do to help Christ the Redeemer mirror more closely the early church?

**Pray:** For our church to take hold of the example of the church in Acts 2. That we would go forth with confidence to be a witness for Christ. That we would dedicate ourselves to each other as we commit our life to Christ.