

Devotional: Carefully investigate Ephesians 2:1-10. Here, scripture lays out our new life in Christ. Reflect on how we once served our self, but by the grace of God, are given the ability to perform good works in the name of Christ.

Pray For a renewal of the excitement that is found in our relationship with Jesus. For an eagerness to do the work that God has prepared for us.

Take My Life, And Let It Be

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

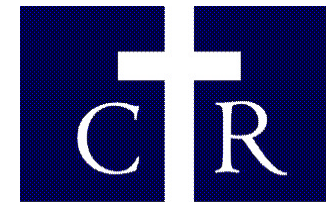
*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long; Refrain
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Take My Life and Let It Be: Words: Frances R. Havergal, Music: Louis J. Herold.
Blessed Assurance: Words: Fanny Crosby, Music: Phoebe P. Knapp.
CCJ License Number 1958155

Taking Gathered Worship Home



CHRIST *the*
REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Family and Individual Devotions

Meditations in Acts

Week of March 25, 2007

The Essence of the Church

Daily Devotionals

In **Acts 15** the early church was challenged. Certain men were disturbing the church by adding a requirement for salvation. It was the responsibility of the apostles and elders to defeat this false teaching and defend the church. The apostles and elders did the right thing and successfully accomplished their obligation. **Acts 15:31, 32** shows that by doing the right thing the church was encouraged and strengthened. Peace and purity was maintained bringing an increase to the church.

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 hymns, "Take My Life and Let It Be" and "Blessed Assurance" found on the back page as your songs, your prayers, and your reminder this week about what the church is all about.

Sunday, 3/25

The early church was encouraged and strengthened by the teaching of the apostles and elders. What was it that invoked this response from the people?

Devotional: Read III John 7-8. Does this verse give us any insight into the reason for the positive response of the people? Are you uplifted and encouraged when others faithfully adhere to the truth?

Pray That our church would be faithful to the truth. For church leaders who encourage and strengthen, and for a church body that remains obedient to Christ.

Monday, 3/26

Encouragement does not come solely from the leaders. Every Christian is called to encourage and strengthen others. There are multiple benefits when all Christians

participate in the ministry of encouragement.

Devotional: Study Romans 15:4-6. There are at least three benefits found in this portion of scripture. Can you identify the?

Pray That your Christian life would give others hope, develop unity in the church and glorify God.

Tuesday, 3/27

The overt attack on salvation through Christ alone found in Acts 15:1 was easy to recognize. This is not always the case. There are times when heresies are covertly

introduced into the church.

Devotional: Look at II Peter 2:1-3. Consider the dangers of these secret attacks. Consider the results these attacks can bring. How do you protect yourself from the "made up stories"?

Pray For a heart that relies on the revealed word of God. That you will faithfully weigh the words and deeds of others against the truth found in scripture.

Wednesday, 3/28

With attacks on your belief a promise of scripture, are you prepared to stand up against them? How are you to view the works that God has laid out before you?

These are questions that get to the very core of our life in Christ.

Devotional: There are several sections of scripture relevant to standing on the word of God. Look at Psalm 119:11 and Joshua 1:8. What do these verses have to say about our approach to the word of God? Now turn your attention to I Corinthians 15:58. To what are you exhorted in this verse?

Pray For an understanding of scripture that allows you to immediately draw upon the word of God. That this planting of the word of God in your heart will make you successful in standing firm and devoting yourself fully to the work God has given you.

Thursday, 3/29

Ensuring our own heart is firmly planted in God is not our only priority. Scripture instructs to be involved in the lives of others as well. We accomplish this by the use

of our gifts, but we also accomplish this task by being actively involved in the lives of others in the church.

Devotional: Hebrews 10:24, a proactive verse that has a tremendous impact on our ministry to others. Consider this command of scripture and in what ways you can spur others onward to love and good deeds. Read on to Hebrews 10:25-26 for answers on how we can impact the lives of others.

Pray That the Lord will make you to be an encourager in His church and that you will develop and use the gifts He has given you.

Friday, 3/30

The church is not just you, or for that matter, any particular group of people. It is a community that extends beyond our own church doors to Christians everywhere.

The church of God is universal.

Devotional: I Peter 2:9-10 defines the nature of the church. Consider the scope of the church, and your place within that holy nation.

Pray Giving thanks that God has granted you a place in His church. That God has chosen you as an instrument of His service.

Saturday, 3/31

The power of the church is the cross. The cross is the source of our forgiveness. The cross is our deliverance from our sin and the wrath of God. The cross is the

source of our power to serve His Kingdom.