

Devotions: 11/23 to 11/28

Monday:

Worship Jesus

Hebrews 12:28-29 - Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our “God is a consuming fire.”

Jesus’ kingdom cannot be shaken! This present world seems to be shaking more and more, leaving us off balance much of the time. As we worship Jesus, however, our perspective changes and we regain our balance. To worship Him acceptably with reverence and awe, thankfulness is essential. He designed us to be thankful on a daily, moment to moment basis. We need to resist the temptation to grumble when things don’t go as we would like. Remember that He is our God is a consuming fire. If we saw Him in all His Glory, we would be much too awestruck to venture even the tiniest complaint.

His unshakeable kingdom is for all people who love Him, who know Him as Savior. This everlasting kingdom consists of things that no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived. He has prepared infinite, wondrous delights for those who love Him. Moreover, at the end of the age He will come back and take us to be with Him so that we may be where He is. Let these precious promises ignite our thankfulness, till we are aglow with His living Presence, shining brightly in this dark world.

Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

Tuesday:

Take Refuge in Jesus

Matthew 23:37 - “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”

Jesus is Immanuel, God with you, and ever-present help in trouble. No matter what may happen, He is sufficient to provide whatever we need. Instead of imagining how we might respond to terrible things that could happen, draw our minds back to the present and take refuge in His Presence. He is much like a mother hen, eager to

cover us with His protective pinions. As we snuggle under His wings, we will not only find refuge; we will also discover a growing ability to trust Him. It is in closeness to Him that we realize how trustworthy He is.

Remember that He is both our Rock and our Redeemer. Though He is impregnable in His vast strength, He became a vulnerable Man so He could redeem us for our sins. The more we take refuge in Him, the more aware we become of His overflowing Love. In Him we are utterly safe, for He is Our Rock of everlasting Love!

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Wednesday: Christ is with Us

Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV) - Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Christ will never leave us or forsake us. Many of His followers think they have to jump through all the right hoops to "stay in fellowship" with Him. If that was true, they would never be able to enjoy His Presence. They would have to be perfect to gain an audience with Him. Instead of striving to be good enough, He invites us to come confidently into His bright Presence.

If we walk in the Light as He is in the Light, His blood continually cleanses us from all sin. When we become aware of sins, He wants us to confess them and seek His help in making needed changes. Nonetheless, our status with Him is not based on confessing our sins quickly enough or thoroughly enough. The only thing that keeps us right with Him is His perfect righteousness, which He gave us freely and permanently when we joined His royal family.

Walking in the Light of His Presence blesses us in many ways. Good things are better and bad things more bearable when we share them with Him. As we bask in His Love-Light, we are better able to love others and enjoy fellowship with them. We are less likely to stumble or fall because sins are garishly obvious in His holy Light. As we walk in this Light with Him, He encourages us to exult in His righteousness.

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Thursday: Today is a Precious Day of Life

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Jesus is the Risen One who shines upon us always. We worship a living Deity, no some idolatrous, man-made image. Our relationship with Christ is meant to be vibrant and challenging as He invades more and more areas of our lives. Do not fear change, for He is making us new creations, with old things passing away and new things continually on the horizon. When we cling to old ways and sameness, we resist His work in us. He wants us to embrace all that He is doing in our lives, finding our security in Him alone.

It is easy to make an idol of routine, finding security within the boundaries we build around our lives. Although each day contains twenty-four hours, every single one presents a unique set of circumstances. Do not try to force-fit today into yesterday's mold. Instead, ask Him to open our eyes, so we can find all He has prepared for us in this precious day of Life.

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Friday: Member of Christ's Royal Family

1 John 3:2 (NKJV) - Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

We are children of God, and we are Christ's forever. Someday we will see Him as He is, face to face in Glory. We have been a member of His royal family since the moment we trusted Him as Savior. He is training us in the ways of His kingdom: to be made new in the attitude of our minds; to put on the new self, created to be like Him. Although our new self is being conformed to His image, this process does not erase the essence of who we are. On the contrary, the more we become like Him, the more we develop into the unique person He designed us to be.

Since we are part of Christ's royal family, we are a fellow heir with Him; sharing His inheritance. However, we must share His suffering if we are to share His Glory. We do not need to search for ways to suffer. Living in this broken world

provides ample opportunity to experience pain of many kinds. When adversity comes our way, search for Him in the midst of our struggles. Ask Him to help us suffer well, in a manner worthy of royalty. Everything we endure can help us become more like Him. Remember the ultimate goal: We will see His Face in righteousness and be satisfied!

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Saturday:

Words of Peace

Romans 8:1-2 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Jesus speaks to us from the depths of our beings. Hear Him saying soothing words of Peace, assuring us of His Love. Do not listen to voices of accusation, for they are not from Him. He speaks to us in love-tones, lifting us up. His Spirit convicts cleanly, without crushing words of shame. Let the Spirit take charge of our minds, combing out tangles of deception. Be transformed by the truth that He lives within us.

The Light of His Presence is shining upon us, in benedictions of Peace. Let His Light shine in us; do not dim it with worries or fears. Holiness is letting Him live through us. Since He dwells in each of us, we are fully equipped to be holy. Pause before responding to people or situations, giving His Spirit space to act through us. Hasty words and actions leave not room for Him; this is atheistic living. He wants to inhabit all our moments; gracing our thoughts, words, and behaviors.

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