

Devotions: 12/28 to 1/2

Monday: Life-Path

Revelation 21:1 - Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”¹ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, Christ is doing a new thing! He is a God of surprises; infinitely more creative than we can imagine. The universe displays some of His creativity, but there is more, much more. He is making a new heaven and a new earth. Moreover, He is preparing His people including us, all around the world, to live there with Him in endless ecstasy. Let this eternal perspective strengthen and encourage us.

As we journey along our life-paths with Him, refuse to let the past define us or our expectations of what lies ahead. We may feel as if the road we are on is tiresome or even a dead end. That is because we are projecting the past into the future. The roadblock we are straining to see up ahead is really just an illusion. The future is in His hands, and He can do surprising things with it.

Our greatest danger is giving up: ceasing to believe He can still do wondrous new things in us and our world. Our assignment is to keep moving forward in trusting dependence on Him. Stop focusing on obstacles we might encounter, and concentrate on staying in touch with Him. As we continue taking steps of trust, expect the path before us to open up in refreshing newness. He is making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

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

Tuesday: Hope

Revelation 21:4 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

this life to the next, his Presence beside us will shine brighter with each step. We have nothing to fear because He is with us for all time and throughout eternity.

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

Thursday: Peace

John 20:19-21 - On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. As He said to His disciples, He says also to us: Peace be with you. Since He is our constant Companion, His Peace is steadfastly with us. When we keep our focus on Him, we experience both His Presence and His Peace. Worship Him as King of kings, Lord of lords, and Prince of Peace.

WE need His Peace each moment to accomplish His purpose in our lives. Sometimes we are tempted to take shortcuts, in order to reach our goals as quickly as possible. But if the shortcut requires turning our backs on his peaceful Presence, we must choose the longer route. Walk with Him along paths of Peace; enjoy the journey in His Presence.

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

Friday: Provides All Our Needs

1 Timothy 6:15-16 - which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords,¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords, dwelling in dazzlingly bright Light! He is also our shepherd, Companion, and Friend, the One who never lets go of our hands. Worship Him in His holy Majesty; come close to Him, and rest in His Presence. We need Him both as God and as Man. Only His Incarnation on that first, long-ago Christmas could fulfill our neediness. Since He went to such

extreme measures to save us from our sins, we can be assured that He will graciously give us all we need.

Nurture well our trust in Him as Savior, Lord, and Friend. He has held nothing in His provision for us. He has even deigned to live within us! Rejoice in all that he has done for us, and his Light will shine through us into the world.

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

Saturday: Christ Is With Us

Matthew 28:20 - and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Christ is with us always. He spoke these words to His disciples after His resurrection. He continues to proclaim this promise to all who will listen. People respond to His continual Presence in various ways. Most Christians accept this teaching as truth but ignore it in their daily living. Some ill-taught or wounded believers fear (and may even resent) His awareness of all they do, say, and think. A few people center their lives around this glorious promise and find themselves blessed beyond all expectations. When His Presence is the focal point of our consciousness, all the pieces of our lives fall into place. As we gaze at Him through eyes of our hearts, we can see the world around us for His perspective. The fact that He is with us makes every moment of our lives meaningful.

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