

Community of Grace

Daily Walk for the week of March 16, 2020

The Goodness of God...To Know and Love **Written by Vernon Mukhlall**

Mon March 16

Our Standing In God's Grace

“ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5: 1 – 2. The blood of Christ that cleanses us from all unrighteousness has brought us into a peaceful relationship with God. The hostility between God and us has ceased. When God looks at us, He sees one who is not a sinner but His child. God has given us the opportunity to approach His throne of mercy through the realm of grace. When we think of God's grace, we think of his unmerited favor. God forgives us out of His unconditional love which means that we have not earned it by any merit of ours. It is His gift to us, given in love. Now we can consider ourselves as securely standing in God's love because of his Son , Jesus Christ. The enmity we had with God is abolished and now we have peace and unity with Him. He has moved us from darkness to light, from enemies to beloved children, and from death to life. Let us continue to stand firmly in God's grace despite trials that may come our way. Prayer: Thank you Lord for bestowing your unconditional love on me and making me one of your children. May your Spirit help me to live in that love so that I may glorify your

name in whatever I do and say. Amen.

Tue March 17

Victory Over Temptations

“There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it.” 1 Corinthians 10: 13 Because we live in a world where moral depravity and sin inducing presence is becoming more prevalent, we will certainly face temptations. Paul provides the Corinthians with a word of comfort that all believers throughout the ages had to resist temptations that they were facing. They should not feel that God has singled them out, for that matter, God does not tempt anyone (James 1:13) because it will be against God's nature and His purpose of molding us into His image. God is merciful, loving and compassionate and He will not let us experience temptations for which He has not prepared us . As His children, God will give us the grace and power to resist any temptation. Christ' death and resurrection have gained the victory for us. When we put our trust in Him as our Lord and Savior , His spirit comes to abide in us giving us the power and wisdom to overcome whatever temptations come our way. Jesus gives us a good example. When He was tempted in the wilderness, He persistently defended Himself with the Word of God, the Sword of the Spirit, until

the devil went away defeated. The Holy Spirit can help us to be persistent in defeating the evil one with prayer and the Sword of the Spirit. Prayer: Lord Jesus, in your temptations, you defeated the evil one, and on the cross you gained the victory for us. Grant me the wisdom and power to overcome all temptations. Amen.

The Goodness of God...Gives Sight

Written by Robbie Schwartz

Wednesday, March 18th

It may seem like an odd comparison, but when I read the text of 1 Samuel 16:1-13, it reminded me of each time we got one of our dogs. I am not here to compare the anointing of a king to getting a dog, though in a way, maybe I am. Because each of the three dogs we have had weren't necessarily the most glamorous. Our first dog, I was in the owner's backyard and the litter of dogs were running around playing. As I watched, I sat down and the runt of the litter stopped, saw me and climbed into my lap. That first sign of loyalty held through to her last days. In a time when we have become obsessed with outward appearance, this text reminds us that God does not care for the outward appearance but rather sees straight through to the heart of a person. God looks beyond the individual to see how we all fit into the kingdom of God.

Thursday, March 19th

Samuel is dealt a harsh reality in the beginning of 1 Samuel 16:1-13. It is almost as if God told him to pull up his big boy pants and move on with this life instead

of continuing to mourn for Saul. Amazingly enough, despite his failings and grief that Samuel is still open to the word of God and following it toward new possibilities. It is something that we are all challenged with when facing our own shortcomings or dealing with a harsh reality of life. We are unable to see beyond the present and see what God's doing in our life for the long term. Our need for instant gratification and understanding prevents us from seeing God working in our life each day. Oftentimes it is not until well after the fact, in hindsight, that we can see the impact of God in our life at a moment of triumph as well as failure.

Friday, March 20th

Psalm 23 certainly offers one of the most well-known statements of our faith, knowing that even though we may walk through the darkest valley, we shall fear no evil because we know that God is with us. God serves as our light during the darkest times, though at times it is to help us see the benefit that may lie ahead or just to provide light and help us get through what lies ahead. It is that hope that resides in each of us with faith that should at times keep us grounded. We are the sheep, He is our shepherd, and our faith allows us to be guided down the right path onto green pastures.

Saturday, March 21st

While the first four verses of Psalm 23 offer us God as our guardian through the image of a shepherd, the latter parts of the reading offer us comfort in knowledge that God greets us as a host and we as

guests at his table. As the image of the shepherd caring for his flock shows in the reading, the same can be found in us as dwellers in the house of the Lord. Through our faith we are able to fill our hearts with joy knowing of God's providence and grace. Our hearts, much like the cup in the psalm, overflow with the reality that we receive so much from God, that his goodness and love will follow us all the days of our lives. Like sheep of a flock, we receive all the care and love of a good shepherd when we accept God into our lives.

Sunday, March 22nd

Ephesians 5:8-14 is not only a call to action but also instructions in a broad sense of how to conduct ourselves as Christians. We are children of God's light from which goodness, righteousness and truth are exuded both through God and through us. Our behavior is to remain pleasing to our Lord so that we in turn are providing light to those who remain in the darkness. By our actions we are to provide a path for others to follow, providing God's light for those who remain in the darkness of sin. We must actively lead our lives such that we are not passively impacting those who remain in the darkness of sin but to help awaken those who remain blind to God's grace.