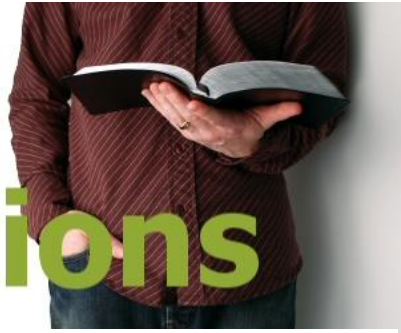


Daily Devotions



South Burlington Church of Christ

Set your mind
ON
Things above

Colossians 3:2

**For the Week of
October 12-18
2020**

Monday
October 12, 2020

Blind Trust



Lex Gillette, a blind long-jumper from North Carolina, participated in the 2004, 2008 and 2012 Paralympic Games. Before an event, his guide shows him around the course. During competitions, the guide positions Gillette at the starting line, then goes to the sand pit, where he claps and calls steadily so the athlete can follow the sounds and run straight ahead. Gillette knows to jump when he hits his 16th step.

Unable to see where he's going, nor the line from which to jump, nor where he'll land, Gillette entrusts himself fully to his guide. The result? Three consecutive silver medals, and a world record set in 2011.

We're all blind to what lies ahead in life, so our guide, the Holy Spirit, goes before us and beckons us forward in the way we should go. Entrusting ourselves to God, we can do great things.

Tuesday
October 13, 2020

Family Mealtime



Amid busy and varied schedules, many families find a way to sit down together for dinner regularly. Family-health advocates describe the benefits: an increased sense of unity, children sharing news and feeling listened to, and the physical perks of a planned, seated meal.

In Scripture, many great encounters between people and God happen around meals. Abraham and Sarah prepare a meal for three guests who turn out to be angels (Genesis 18). God instructs the Hebrew slaves to eat a special meal together before their delivery from Egypt (Exodus 12); every year since, Jews have celebrated the Passover feast. Elijah is strengthened with food served by an angel (1 Kings 19). Jesus shares meals not only with religious leaders but with “sinners” (e.g., Matthew 9). Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples before his death has become a weekly observance in the church and a “foretaste” of the heavenly banquet to come.

When Christian families eat together, it’s a holy time in God’s presence, just as when the church shares in the Lord’s Supper — a true fellowship dinner!

Wednesday
October 14, 2020

Consumed by Stuff



In *The Man in the Mirror*, Patrick Morley writes that the word consumption means something totally different to modern people than it did 150 years ago. Consumption, now known as tuberculosis, is a wasting disease. “Before the advent of antibiotics, tuberculosis could be slowed but rarely cured,” Morley writes. “The long-term effect of the disease was to slowly devour — to consume — all the victim’s health and vigor.”

Today, consumption is viewed as positive for merchants and the economy, Morley notes. But for people mired in debt, “the 19th-century understanding of the term may be more true-to-life.” Our wants are consuming us.

To avoid being consumed financially — and spiritually — consider these words from Jesus: “*Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*” (Matthew 6:20-21, NRSV).

Thursday
October 15, 2020

Love Conquers All



The love for equals is a human thing — of friend for friend, brother for brother. It is to love what is loving and lovely.

The world smiles. The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing — the love for those who suffer, for those who are poor, the sick, the failures, the unlovely. This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world.

The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing — to love those who succeed where we fail, to rejoice without envy with those who rejoice, the love of the poor for the rich The world is always bewildered by its saints.

And then there is the love for the enemy — love for the one who does not love you but mocks, threatens and inflicts pain. The tortured's love for the torturer. This is God's love. It conquers the world.

1 Corinthians 13

Friday
October 16, 2020

Buckle On the Straps



A cowboy once offered this sensible notion of living the Christian faith:

“Lotsa folks who’d really like to do right think that servin’ the Lord just means shoutin’ themselves hoarse praisin’ his name.

“Well, I’ll tell ya how I look at that. I’m workin’ here fer Jim. Now, if I’d sit around the house here tellin’ what a good fella Jim is, and singin’ songs to him, and gettin’ up in the night to serenade him, I’d be doin’ just like a lot of Christians do. But I wouldn’t suit Jim, and I’d get fired mighty quick.

“But when I buckle on my straps and hustle among the hills and see that Jim’s herd is all right and not sufferin’ fer water and feed, or bein’ off the range and branded by cattle thieves, well then, I’m servin’ Jim the way he wants to be served.”

It’s time to buckle on the straps and start servin’!

Saturday
October 17, 2020

We Have Tomorrow



During the Korean conflict, Marguerite Higgins, an award-winning reporter covering the war, asked a young soldier, “If I could give you anything in the world you wanted, what would you ask for?”

It was a freezing day. The soldier was eating out of a tin can. His face was a bit muddy. He thought about Miss Higgins’ question for a few seconds, and then replied, “Give me tomorrow.”

Christians are people who not only have today, but also have tomorrow. That is, because we are people who believe in the resurrected Christ, we believe that whatever comes, whatever happens to us in this life, we will be victorious. The Bible proclaims that “*Death has been swallowed up in victory*” (1 Corinthians 15:54).

St. Paul put it this way: “*Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Corinthians 15:57). We who trust in the God who raised Jesus from the dead have tomorrow already assured.

Sunday
October 18, 2020

Trusting the Unseen



A gardener planted two peony bulbs side by side. In a few weeks, as expected, the first one poked a single stem through the ground. The other would soon follow, the gardener thought.

But it didn't. Many more weeks went by with no sign of life. Then one day, to his surprise, not one but five leaf points poked through the soil at once. When the peony bloomed, its flowers were more beautiful and numerous than those of the first bulb.

In every situation God is doing a thousand things that we cannot see and do not know. When God seems to have forgotten you and hope fails, don't despair. God is at work, and someday you will see.

Daily Devotionals
Provided by the

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