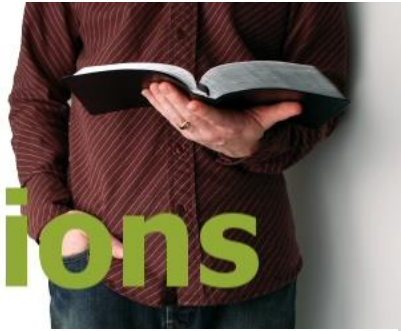


# Daily Devotions



**South Burlington Church of Christ**

Set your mind  
ON  
Things above

*Colossians 3:2*

**For the Week of  
October 5-11  
2020**



Monday  
October 5, 2020

## Ownership & Stewardship



We get so caught up in acquiring and securing that we may forget the wisdom of the psalmist who wrote: “The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof, the world, and those who dwell therein ...” (Psalm 24:1). That is as clear as it gets. The bottom line is we do not own a solitary thing. God the Creator who brought everything into being owns it all: the earth and everything on the earth, even “those who dwell therein.”

Yes, we, too, are “owned” by God, not as slaves but as children of a loving Creator whose desire is to have a parent/child relationship with us. Furthermore, God loves and respects us so much that we have been given stewardship over God’s beautiful world in its totality. You and I are responsible for the earth and “the fullness thereof.” God trusts us to be caretakers of the whole of creation.

Remember, we have final and absolute ownership over nothing. Yet, we have the privilege of stewardship over everything. How thoughtful of God! Of course, such an honor given to us obligates us to manage the time, talent and resources God has given to us in very responsible ways.

Think of it as a wonderful privilege!

Tuesday  
October 6, 2020

## Take Time to Be Holy



There is an old hymn that used to be sung in our sanctuaries much more than it is today. Entitled “Take Time to Be Holy,” its theme is that a person who would be whole and wholesome in life has to take time to be alone with the Lord. There have to be intimate interludes with Christ in which he can convey his life and character to us.

It takes time for the special little gifts his gracious Spirit sees fit to bestow upon us in the common rounds of our daily lives. Like shells upon the sand, they may not always be obvious. They may not be so large we just stumble over them. It may take time and effort and thought to find them. But it can become a habit for us to be constantly on the lookout for bits of divine loveliness and natural beauty all about. There is such a thing as God’s child learning to look for the exquisite touch of his Father’s hand and heart in the world around him.

Wednesday  
October 7, 2020

## Surpassing Grace



The word “surpass” means to exceed, to go beyond, to transcend the reach or capacity of. In his second letter to the church at Corinth, Paul refers to

“the surpassing grace of God that he has given you” (2 Corinthians 9:14). Paul was reminding the Corinthians of the amazing, abundant grace God had showered upon them.

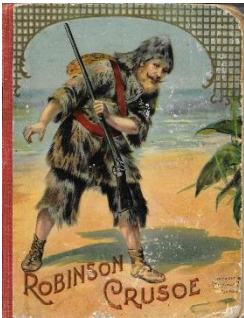
When Paul wrote that letter, the church in Jerusalem was suffering intense persecution. The members were poor and struggling to be faithful under dire circumstances.

Paul knew the church at Corinth was doing fine financially and that they had a mind to help out the Jerusalem church. He wrote: “You glorify God ... by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they ... pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you” (2 Corinthians 9:13-14).

Consider how you can share God’s surpassing grace with others in need.

Thursday  
October 8, 2020

## Making a List



In Daniel Defoe’s classic *Robinson Crusoe*, the shipwrecked protagonist begins keeping a tally of his life. He lists his problems as well as a corresponding inventory of things for which to give thanks.

Crusoe’s pros and cons surprise him. For every evil, a good is present to even it out. For example, the castaway doesn’t have any clothes — but the weather’s so warm he doesn’t need any. He lost all his provisions at sea — but has access to water and fresh fruit.

Under the “evil” category, Crusoe writes: “I am singled out and separated, as it were, from all the world to be miserable.” Yet the corresponding “good” puts things into perspective: “But I am singled out too from all the ship’s crew to be spared from death; and he that miraculously saved me from death can deliver me from this condition.”

When you’re tempted to hold a pity party, step back and thank God, your Rescuer, for all the blessings he provides.

Friday  
October 9, 2020

## A Call to Serve



Ruth M. Walsh wrote: “I was naked, and you questioned my lack of modesty in my appearance. I was imprisoned, and you debated the legal aspects of interference. I was penniless, and you discussed tax-deductible donations from your wealth. I was sick, and you thanked the Lord for the blessings of your health. I was hungry, and you formed a committee to study malnutrition. I was homeless, and you said God’s love was shelter under any condition. I was lonely, and you left me by myself while you and your friends prayed. You seem so holy and close to God, yet I’m still sick and alone and afraid!”

By contrast, in the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus says, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). When we fail to serve our neighbors, we fail to serve Jesus. Yet when we feed the hungry, we’re actually feeding Jesus. When we visit the sick, we’re actually visiting Jesus. And when we love one another, we’re actually loving Jesus.

Saturday

October 10, 2020

## Sharing a Toothbrush?



Are you as careful with your soul as you are your toothbrush?

When one goes to brush their teeth and they reach for one of the brushes in the toothbrush holder they get a certain one. I'm assuming that most people have their own personal toothbrush and not a family community toothbrush that is used by everyone in the family. Even in the family we want our own toothbrush. Even in the family we don't want each other's germs.

That's understandable.

Now are we as careful about our most precious possession, our soul? Do we even spend as much time caring for it with spiritual food from God's word as we do brushing our teeth? Jesus asked, "For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:26)

Today when you reach for the toothbrush remember to care for your soul. You will want it to be pearly white, too, when you meet Jesus.



Sunday  
October 11, 2020

## Sticks and Stones



Do you remember back when you were a kid what it was you used to say when someone said something mean to you? “Sticks and stones may break by bones, but words will never hurt me.” It’s something we have all said, but the last half of that little jingle is just as wrong as it can be. Words do hurt, and they hurt a much longer time than broken bones do.

We live by words. In Luke 4:4 Jesus says, “Man does not live by bread alone, by every word of God.” In Proverbs 18:8 we read, “The words of a tale bearer are as wounds and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.” Words hurt very much. Are we careful with our words? Matthew 12:36 says that our words will be brought with us into judgment.

Are we concerned with how our words affect other people’s lives? We should be! We should speak with the desire that our words will be to God. We should be trying to say the right thing at the right time. May we use our words to the glory of God and to the good of mankind. Proverbs 25:11 reads, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” This can be true of us if we follow Colossians 4:6: “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer every man.”





Daily Devotionals  
Provided by the

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