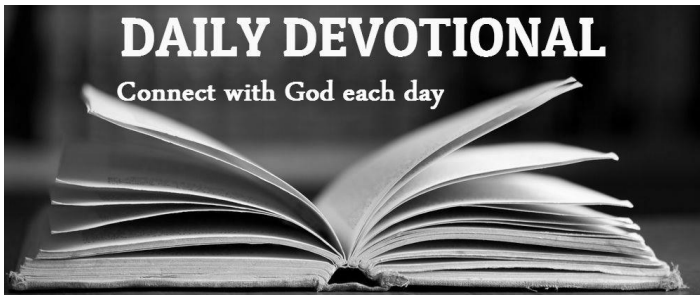


*South Burlington
Church of Christ*



Sept 28 - Oct 4

2020

Monday
September 28, 2020

Like the Spirit

When we lived in South Dakota, we quickly found out that the state is famous for its wind. In fact, what they call a “breezy day” (30-40 mph wind) most people in the south would call it gale force winds. It’s a good thing that I love windy days. Something about the air’s movement — a gentle breeze or ferocious gale blowing through trees, against the house, in my hair — breeds excitement in me, anticipation that something new is astir.

How fitting that in conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus said, *“The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit”* (John 3:8).

Like Nicodemus, we fail to comprehend the Spirit of God. We cannot see where He comes from, nor where He is going. However, Jesus reminds us that though we can’t see the Spirit, we feel His love, see His actions of justice and hear His sounds. These include kind words, bold preaching, weeping for another, shared laughter and songs of praise.

Praise God for the power of His mighty Spirit.

Tuesday
September 29, 2020

Desire for God...Part 1

God existed before all things, and He will exist after all things have reached their destiny. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. And since it is God who sent us out on our journey, it is God to whom we long to return.

This longing is a part of our created nature. We may not choose to reach toward Him as we ought, but inwardly we have a persistent yearning to do so. We can no more change the fact that He is our Source than we can change the fact of our physical parentage.

And what He is always asking us to do in this world is dispense with our denial and deal honestly with our hearts' desire for Him.

Hebrews 11:16

Wednesday
September 30, 2020

Desire for God...Part 2

God is the reason why we reach forward. We long for Him because He made us and put within our hearts a need for Him; we reach forward because He gave us a nature that tends in that direction.

God is also our motive for reaching forward. The mighty force that moves us is nothing less than this: it is for His sake that we want to be better than we are. Deep within our hearts, we want to love God as He has loved us.

Most important, however, is that God is the goal for which we reach. He alone is the answer to our questions, the fulfillment of our needs. And the sooner we're able to view God Himself as our goal, the better we'll be able to move forward with our lives.

Thursday
October 1, 2020

Desire for God...Part 3

To live in the world as it now is, is to be “away” from God. This is still His world, of course, and He is still very much present within it.

But our sins have come between us and God. Like Adam and Eve, whose rebellion meant that they had to leave the Garden, all of us since then have had to live “east of Eden.” What we are is not what we were meant to be.

Yet while this truth is sobering, it need not be our final truth. A way has been made possible for us to overcome what we are. Tomorrow can be better than today, and there is a heaven beyond the best of all our tomorrows.

But let us not be deceived or distracted: it is God who is both our Alpha and our Omega. Heaven is worth reaching for only because He is there!

*From thee, great God, we spring, to thee we tend,
Path, motive, guide, original, and end.*

—Samuel Johnson

Friday
October 2, 2020

The Daily Grind

Occasionally a day comes along when a big event introduces significant, and obvious, change into our lives. If the change is for the better, we go to bed and give thanks for the growth we have experienced that day. Yet all of us know that life is not made up of days like this. On most days, nothing very unusual happens; we simply move through the ordinary routine of our all-too-familiar schedule. And after weeks of nothing but the daily grind, we tend to grow impatient, feeling that nothing is “happening” in our lives. But what should be our attitude toward the ordinary? Do we simply have to endure the commonplace, hoping that sooner or later another “big” day will come along?

Here is the answer: we should not despise the daily grind. That is where the real growth takes place. Our progress on average days may not be as obvious as the progress we make on extraordinary occasions, but the growth is real, and in a sense, it is more important. Healthy spiritual growth does not come in spurts; it comes through “*patient continuance in doing good*” (Romans 2:7).

Saturday
October 3, 2020

Faithful in the Least

When we read the exciting account of the early days of the church in Jerusalem, we are intrigued by the stories of martyrdom and the proclamation of the gospel before kings and other great audiences. But although these brethren did accomplish thrilling things on certain days, no finer thing is said about them in the Book of Acts than this simple statement: *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers”* (Acts 2:42). They continued steadfastly!

We need to pay more attention to the simple doing of our ordinary “duty.” Most people, even those of little character, can rise to the occasion when they are in the spotlight. But the question is, what will we do with today . . . when nothing will happen, when no one will be looking, and when there will be no particular reason to do our best, except a desire to keep on serving our King? It is days like today that are the true test of our love for Him. If we are not faithful in what is “least,” what is “much” will not save us.

*It is the daily strivings that count,
not the momentary heights.*

—A. J. Russell

Sunday
October 4, 2020

Where Was I?

Most of us would have to say that we are guilty of habitual neglect when it comes to putting first things first. We do not act until the threat of some unpleasantness forces us to act. If that is true, does that mean that we have become, at least in one sense, “grudging” givers? If it is only under constraint or necessity that we finally step up to our responsibilities, is that the kind of free and “cheerful” giving that our great and loving God deserves?

Take an honest look at the pattern of your own life: Do you consistently give of yourself to God “cheerfully” — that is, without having to be made to? During times of ease and comfort, do you continue to pour yourself out to God in prayerful reverence and loving thankfulness? Do you delight in the worship of God, or do you only do it to avoid the consequences of not doing it?

Fortunately, God loves us and is patient with us. For the time being, He will continue to goad us if necessary. But He is looking for us to grow beyond the need for goads and threats and negative incentives. He desires the free, cheerful love of a grateful people.

Daily Devotionals
Provided by the

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