

Week of May 24, 2009

Monday

Heb. 4:16 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

Sin is a salacious master tempting us even after we understand its horror. Enticing and seducing us, it will not fully relent nor relinquish its claim until we enter heaven's gates. Believers must constantly turn to the scriptures and there commune with the Savior of their souls. By His scriptures, you must daily allow the Holy Spirit to convince you of sin's sinfulness. By the scriptures you must allow the surgery of the great physician to separate you from the selfishness, sinfulness, and desperateness of our base life. Draw near to Jesus that He may keep you clean, refreshed, and healthy. Turn not away. Turn not aside.

Tuesday

John 10:10 I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.

God desires to fully restore our fellowship with Him. In His presence there is joy and life. In His presence there is wisdom and purpose. After the fall, we must come to Him to understand our sin. After the cross, we may come to Him to understand His love. He has returned us to the garden of His heart. He offers us the delight of walking in fellowship and abundance each day.

Wednesday

Gen. 3:9-10 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of Thee in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

It seemed expensive, that little piece of fruit pilfered. Adam and Eve wept at its consequence upon their lives. They were forced to leave the security and pleasure they had known. They were forced to live in toil and terror. Yet they never really knew the cost of their sin. It was God who paid the price, not them. It was God who contemplated the horror, not them. It was God who must have bitterly wept at the debt incurred, which He alone would bear.

Thursday

Prov. 6:20 & 23 My son, observe the commandment of your father, And do not forsake the teaching of your mother... For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life.

Parents are successful in raising their children only to the extent that they lead them to Jesus and teach them the truth of His word. Teaching them to make money will leave them empty and poor of soul. Teaching them to marry well will leave them lonely, trying to fill the heart's void with another, when only God's presence can fill that place. Too many parents, even Christian parents, set their children toward failure while thinking they are leading them to success.

Friday

Rom. 3:22-24 for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

Some people never see themselves for who they really are because they compare themselves consistently with the wrong model of mankind. If we compare ourselves with others, we will always justify ourselves in self-righteousness. We fool ourselves into exaggerating our goodness and others faults. Instead, we must stand close to God to truly see ourselves. Only as we compare ourselves to the perfection of His holiness will we see the truth of our horrible state. Only as we see the truth of our condition will we fully appreciate God's grace.