



Monday, October 14, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 119:97-104

The psalmist praises God's holy Word which provides guidance and structure for our lives. Most translations use the word "law" calls to mind for us a legalistic tone. A better expression of the Hebrew word is "instruction" which implies teaching, shaping, leading and guiding rather than something rigid, punitive or legalistic.

REFLECT-

- Although the psalmist was referring here to the Torah – the first five books of the Hebrew Bible – the whole canon of the Bible is full of "instruction" for us on God's ways and will that can shape and inform our lives. What is God's most important "instruction" to you from the Bible?

PRAY-

Gracious God, help me to love you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength and my neighbor as myself. Amen.

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

READ- Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:27-34

Finally, after many years of prophesying destruction, exile, famine and punishment, Jeremiah receives a vision of hope for the people of Israel that God will once again restore their lives and make a "new covenant" with them written, not on stone tablets, but on their hearts.

REFLECT-

- Do you have a covenant with God "written on your heart"? A covenant is a binding agreement made by two parties to do certain things no matter what. God agrees to love us unconditionally, to be with us always, to guide and sustain us. What is your part of your covenant with God? What does God ask of you?

PRAY-

Lord, help me to hear your voice clearly and understand what you would have me to do so that I may be faithful to that covenant with you that is "written on my heart". Amen.

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

READ- The Epistle: II Timothy 3:14 – 4:5

As in the psalm, Paul emphasizes here to Timothy the importance of scripture in teaching people the ways of God and reminds him of the urgency of his message of the gospel of Christ. He is not to wait for a "favorable" time to preach and teach – he is to forge ahead so that all may know the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

REFLECT-

- How important is daily reading of the Bible in your life? Do you have a routine of making time to read the Bible, reflect and pray every day? If not, how can you carve out a set time each day to do that? Both the psalmist and the Apostle Paul remind us this week of the importance of making time for reading the Bible.

PRAY-

Father, I thank you for giving us the Bible; for within its pages we may find all we need to know you, love you and follow you. Amen.

Thursday, October 17, 2013

READ- The Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus uses the example of someone who is almost totally powerless in that society – a widow – to show that God responds to our persistence in prayer. We, as sinful human beings, have no right to ask God for anything; yet God loves us and Jesus says will respond to our pleas if we come to him with regularity.

REFLECT-

- We don't always get what we pray for, even if we are persistent. However, many times we find that God had something different in mind that is far better than what we asked him for. God wants us to stay in constant communication with him and will do what is best. What is the desire of your heart offered to God today?

PRAY-

O God, shape and influence my prayers so that the desire of my heart is in accordance with your will. Amen.

Friday, October 18, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: II Timothy 3:2

Proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time if favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.

As a Christian, each of us is a teacher and example of the gospel. Our words and actions proclaim to those around us what we believe. Today, be mindful in all you say and do that you are a living testimony to what you believe. Will you influence those around you toward faith in Christ or will you make them cynical about those who call themselves Christians? Look for opportunities to "convince, rebuke and encourage" the people whom you encounter today so that their hearts may turn toward Christ.