

WE ARE A VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE**MONDAY 5/22/23**

PSALM 24:1-10//1-2 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; 2 for he founded it on the seas, and established it on the waters.

JOHN 17: 1-11/ 1-2 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

REFLECTION Jesus' reign on earth to glorify God is about to change. He has been physically present demonstrating God's love through the many miracles He has been performing. John 3: 2 says, "For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." Within a few days, God's love is going to be expressed in the future by another means. Jesus prays that when people hear God's Word they will be empowered by the Holy Spirit. As Jesus' time on earth is about to end, He wants to prepare His disciples for His departure. Jesus does this by asking His Father to take care of His disciples. In a few days Jesus will die on the cross; He will be raised from the dead on Easter morning. Then 40 days later He will be taken up to heaven. Jesus knows His followers will need strength in faith and courage to face these events.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, once again I come before you thanking you for the gift of your Son who grants me eternal life. Help me to share your gift to me with others. In Jesus Name Amen.

TUESDAY 5/23/23

PSALM 24:1-10//3-4 Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

JOHN 17: 1-11//3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

REFLECTION There are three articles of faith that help us define us being a child of God. By these articles we are to accept and understand eternal life. The first is having faith in the kingdom of Christ who brings life, and salvation. When God created life in human beings its intent was eternal life. God loved those He created in His image. Jesus Christ was not only created in the image of God, He is God in the flesh. John 1:4 says, "In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it". When we are born from above by God's grace we are given the ability to see and accept Jesus as our Lord, He is the pathway to real life. The second article of faith is a truth that there are two kinds of people, those who believe and those who do not believe. We know the difference by the way they show their love for Christ. Not all people receive life from God. It is not the role of Christ to give people life but to provide the road to have true life. Only whom God the Father has chosen will come under Christ's protection. You know your election by your desire to know God, to love God and to share God. The third article is new life of faith. We see with our own eyes the gift of illumination and heavenly wisdom with a person born of the Holy Spirit. This is not common to all people but only happens to the elect. It is unquestionably true that the preaching of the Gospel is offered to all people. But Christ speaks here of the secret and effective approach of His Word which leads the children of God to faith.

PRAYER: Lord how will I know? I will know by not being ashamed of your gospel nor of you. You are in me and may I never forget that. In Jesus Name Amen.

WEDNESDAY 5/24/23

SALM 24:1-10//5-6 They will receive blessings from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.

JOHN 17: 1-11//5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. 6 I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.

REFLECTION Jesus is asking His Father that He may be magnified in such a way that His greatness and His power will cause every knee to bow to Him. Philippians 2:10 says, “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Even though Christ is immortal,



He was willing to die for our sins. He willingly obeys His Father’s command. Those who accept Him are granted immortality. This Divine Man has always possessed this position of immortality. But now He has asked the Father that His Divinity will be put on display so that people will accept Him as a Mediator from God. Even though people see Jesus in the flesh, He prays people will see He is clothed in righteousness. Christ is not only the eternal God, but also the eternal Word of God. Jesus’ prayer is given with warmth and love. He now pleads to His Father for our salvation. He reminds God (John:6 “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world.”) He was sent in order that people of the world will embrace the Gospel doctrine and be transformed into actual children of God.

PRAYER: What a gift that you should choose me. I pray that by your example, I too will spread the word of your by example, by living it. In Jesus Name, Amen

THURSDAY 5/25/23

PSALM 24:1-10//7-8 Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

JOHN 17: 1-11 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

REFLECTION In verse 7, Christ declares that the elected have always belonged to God. God’s people are obviously different than the unprincipled people of this darkened world. Historically we know them by their acts of being virtuous and their love for others. These people of true faith are freed from the bondage of sin and assist God in fulfilling His promise to redeem the world. We know them not by faith, or by any of their merits, but we know them by the pure grace sent upon them by God. Until Christ came in the flesh we were alienated from God. Yet, God, in His mercy and love reconciles us to Himself. This was for His secret purpose. God has brought us under the guardianship of His eternal Son, Jesus Christ, who will not let us perish. The predestination or mystery of God’s election is hidden, but it is manifested to us in Christ alone as we are received by Christ and gathered into the whole Church. There, the Word of God flows out to all the unprincipled and virtuousness people of the community. At different times it takes root and people discover their true identity. They are one with Christ and thus a chosen child of God.

PRAYER: Lord, the grace you have given me is like no other, I pray that I have learned how to show grace to others and let your light shine. In Jesus Name, Amen

FRIDAY 5/26/23

PSALM 24:1-10//9 Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors that the King of glory may come in.
JOHN 17: 1-11// 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.

REFLECTION The truth is, God does chooses who He thinks are fit to receive eternal life. This is shocking news to many people. For example, God chose Noah, then He chose Abraham and gave him a Covenant. Gen 17:1 says, “When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, 2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly. 3 Then Abram fell on his face.” He chose Jesus Christ, His Son, to lead the people back home. The Bible clearly teaches God chooses to whom will be heirs of the kingdom. This distinction is not made according to our works, nor does it depend on God’s good pleasure. The cause of being chosen begins with faith. Abraham had a transcendental moment with God, and it created faith of God in Him. Abraham’s faith changes the course of world history. Christ declares that God gives to Him the people who belong to the Father. We as believers have been given the capacity to believe in God. As a result, our faith flows outward into the world testifying of God’s goodness. So, the origin of our faith is based on the act of God’s grace being giving freely to those who openly want to meet God. These are transcendental moments in all believer’s lives. When they come it shatters our physical realities of the world. We are moved by the physical realm into the spiritual realm of God. When we encounter the unseen truth of Christ it can never be unchanged. As a person of faith I readily acknowledge that those whom God wishes to be saved are elected by His free grace. There are preachers who cause serious injury by inflicting a false narrative about God’s elect. They try to blot out the doctrine of election by teaching your goodness counts in God’s decision to choose us.

PRAYER Gracious God, I lift up my heart towards your kingdom and sing praises to your glory. Thank you for enlightening my mind to receive your righteous Son. I’ll praise you every day! In Jesus Name Amen

SATURDAY 5/27/23

PSALM 24:1-10//10 Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty— he is the King of glory.
JOHN 17: 1-11//11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

REFLECTION Our unity with Christ brings a great joy and happiness to us. This unity gives us a unique identity of being an image bearer for God. In this prayer Jesus is asking God that once He is no longer a visible guardian to God’s children He will continue to be their Mediator from heaven. Jesus bids us to raise our eyes directly towards heaven and there we will find Christ is present and still serious about our salvation. Before Christ leaves this physical world, He will greet us in His spiritual world. He keeps an eye, so to speak, on us by sending down His love through the sacraments to relieve us from our distresses. No matter our troubles, our souls are still being fed by Christ. Christ is discharging His duties back again into the hands of the Father. As believers we are to enjoy God’s protection and be upheld by his power. After a few years of Jesus’ protection they are now deprived of Christ’s bodily presence. They are like us, when we lose a loved one we suffer the loss. But we know God grants us His grace and it will never cease.

PRAYER: God, you are the King of kings. Your glory shines throughout the world. You are mighty and strong and I praise you for being my protector and guardian. Lord Almighty and everlasting God, I ask you to bless my family and friends with your love. In Jesus Name Amen.

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