

Monday, 13 March 2017 Habakkuk 2:18-19

"What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.

I don't worship wooden idols, I'm a modern man with too much sense for that, I'm a product of the Enlightenment. I worship the gods of Rationalism, the gods of science, the gods of my own understanding, the gods of my own comprehension. I am a thoroughly Modern Man!

This LORD, God, the Almighty of yours. Ha! If He exists, I'm going to stand before Him and demand that He explain Himself, that He justify His actions.

Ya, sure, little man. Let me know how that works out. Don't forget that you are putting your eternal life in the hands of someone (yourself) who has proven time and time again that he makes very serious mistakes. This is the Big One, the only decision that you will ever make that truly counts.

Tuesday, 14 March 2017 Zephaniah 3:1-4

Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, the oppressing city! She listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD; she does not draw near to her God. Her officials within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves that leave nothing till the morning. Her prophets are fickle, treacherous men; her priests profane what is holy; they do violence to the law.

Is this a description of the culture in which we live and labor? Not too far off.

We, who are called as Ambassadors of Reconciliation, need to understand the enemy. We need to be thoroughly familiar with the reasoning, the motivating influences, and the warning clues of those we are called to minister. That does not mean that we must participate in their unholy acts of worship but it does mean that we are capable of showing where their worldviews collapse in the face of reality.

Wednesday, 15 March 2017 Haggai 1:9, 12-14

You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.... Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel,

and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD. Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke to the people with the LORD's message, "I am with you, declares the LORD." And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. And they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

This passage, Haggai 1-15, describes a period in the return of the exiles to Jerusalem where they were much more interested in their own welfare rather than the house of the LORD. I find it very analogous to the state of the Church today. We have come through the most divisive election in the history of the United States and we are more interested in continuing the battle than addressing the condition of the Church. We need to hear the Word of the LORD, we need to carefully examine our own relationship with the Almighty, we need to preach and teach to bring the Church into conformance with the Word of God.

It is time for the Church to take a stand against the mores of the culture and bring the message of the Good News as the way of Truth and Life.

Thursday, 16 March 2017 Zechariah 6:15

"And those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the LORD. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And this shall come to pass, if you will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God."

Isn't this a beautiful promise? One of the great blessings of obedience is that we do not have to walk a lonesome valley alone; the LORD will and does send others alongside to walk with us.

We need to learn to welcome those that the LORD sends; perhaps more readily accept the guidance of Ephesians 4:1-7 as we judge whether or not we are in communion with someone else.

Friday, 17 March 2017 Matthew 8:13

And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

A beautiful story, bringing many elements of our faith into sharp focus, especially the dictum to love our neighbor as ourselves. The centurion, a Gentile and worse, a Roman soldier. The servant, most likely a slave with little cost to replace other than training to properly serve his master. The action of Elijah towards the widow of Sidon and of Elisha in the healing of Naaman the Syrian, just the mention of which got Jesus driven out of Nazareth, is demonstrated in living color before the Pharisees.

The Gentile believed and the LORD acted. May each of us be as outspoken and forthright as this Roman.

Saturday, 18 March 2017 *Matthew 8:23-27*

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

"And the men marveled" How often do I marvel as a prayer is answered? They, and I, fail to comprehend the He is in control of all things. He causes the winds to roar and the waves to toss; He, by His Word, causes them to cease.

The question I need to resolve is do I really, truly and completely believe that He is in control of ALL things? Right down to the most infinitesimal, as yet undiscovered subatomic particle? Do I really, truly and completely believe that all things work together for my good? Do I really, truly and completely believe that I am forgiven and made pure in the sight of the LORD, God, the Almighty? Do I?

Lord's Day, 19 March 2017 *Psalms 119:166*

I hope for your salvation, O LORD, and I do your commandments.

Lord, my hope and prayer is for my children, that You will lead them into lives that honor and glorify You.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



March 13-19, 2017

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in 1 Corinthians 16:23

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

This is a necessary and sufficient statement. There is nothing that I can add to these words from Paul to make it more appropriate for each of us to pray for our fellowship. Let us each use this for the week as we meditate upon the richness of our Lord and how it is displayed through our community.

Creational Theology hint for the week--Springtime in Vermont: *Psalms 147:16-18 He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs; who can stand before his cold? He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow and the waters flow.*

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