

Monday, 17 July 2017 John 17:7-9

Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.

"Have received," "have come to know," "have believed"; all part of the faith cycle; all part of forming an intimate relationship with the LORD, God, the Almighty. And as the Holy Seal of Approval, we are brought into a very select circle; those for whom our Lord Jesus Christ is standing at the right hand of the LORD, presenting us continually in prayer.

Just think about this. How awesome! The Son of God is presenting His own--us, continuously to the Trinity. Hear His soul-thrilling assurance, "Trust Us, We've got you covered."

Tuesday, 18 July 2017 John 17:20

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for this brief statement for it is my assurance that I am included in the long line of witnesses that extends back to this very evening in Gethsemane.

Wednesday, 19 July 2017 John 17:21-23

[T]hat they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Isn't the outworking of this part of our Lord's high priestly prayer for His own laid out in detail in Ephesians 4:1-6 and 12-16? He has called for the unity of the Spirit to be on each one of us as we bear together in all humility, gentleness, and patience. This is our Lord's call that Paul refers to, for one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.

Is it not true that to the extent that we deny this unity is an

indication of the extent of our weakness of faith/belief/trust/commitment/obedience? Shouldn't our goal be that of vv 15-16, to grow into Him who is the Head, into Christ" so that so that we "may build ourselves up in love."

Thursday, 20 July 2017 John 19:34-37

But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

John's testimony had an important characteristic; he reported accurately what he saw and could testify to. He witnessed the fulfilling of Scriptural prophecy—no broken bones (Ps 34:20) and that others would look on Him whom they pierced (Zec 12:10)

Likewise, my testimony must be that to which I can truthfully and accurately state. This is who I was; this is who I am is a good start if who I am is a God-honoring individual.

Friday, 21 July 2017 John 20:8-9

Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

John saw and believed; without understanding. That would come later on the Day of Pentecost when the Paraclete (the Holy Spirit) came upon the disciples and led them into a complete understanding. But John accepted the fact that Jesus had risen from the dead and waited for an understanding of the implications.

A good principal—I am called to believe/trust/commit/obey, acting in faith and recognizing that there will always be parts of God's plan for me that I am not able to understand.

Those parts are called "T R U S T M E."

Saturday, 22 July 2017 John 20:24-25

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen

the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

John and Peter saw proof in the empty tomb, the other disciples saw the Lord, yet we castigate Thomas because he had the boldness to ask for similar evidence. He told the others precisely what he needed to see. He said, "Unless I see...I will never believe." What's the converse of this statement? Isn't it "If I see...I will believe." I wonder if there is anyone of us who cannot point back to an incident in their life, or a revelation of truth, or something that caused us to say, "Aha, I see, I believe."

The proof of Thomas' belief exists in India today in the church he planted almost 2000 years ago and that he then suffered a martyr's death.

Lord's Day, 23 July 2017 Psalm 119:81

My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word.

Ah, I thirst for more. You must increase, I must decrease.

Continue, my Lord and Master, to put the old man to death and raise up the new man until there is none of the old man left and the new man shines in Your image.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



July 17-23, 2017

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

LORD, as we meditate on this precious prayer from the Apostle Paul for his flocks and reflect on our callings, we find similar concerns for our [congregation] and our missions.

We pray that we may increase in love for each other. We pray that in spite of the constraints of family and work, that we may find suitable means to employ the technology to bring us into a closer relationship; that we will become as *cara anum*. (soul friends, like Jonathan and David, see 1 Sam. 18:1-3)

We pray that we will be holy and blameless on that Day when You come to carry Your chosen ones home; to enter into Your presence and assume our callings as Your stewards of Your creation. *Amen*

Creational Theology hint for the week—I read an account of a Christian doctor who began early one morning to pray and thank the LORD for every bone, muscle, sinew, nerve, gland secretion, and function that he could remember—and it was extensive. Very few of my readers, would be able to do the same thing but we should take the time to consider an aspect of the human body and what it reveals to us about the LORD, God, the Almighty's creativity and love for each of us.

Voices Together is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to: Pastor John Nunnikhoven, The Church at Prison, Inc. PO Box 8318, Essex Junction, VT 05452

or to prior@ailbe.org

The Fellowship of Ailbe, (www.ailbe.org)
Realizing the presence, promise and power
of the Kingdom of God.