

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
HOME DEVOTIONS - Week #10 (Continued)



Friday - Philippians 4:4-7 Strength and endurance for all trials---JOY! Christ humbled and exalted for us---JOY! Christ's righteousness covers us---JOY! A walk even now in heaven---JOY! What else could be said? v. 4 "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice!" v. 5 - Exercise self-control. Don't go to extremes. Contrast the rejoicing parties of Christians with the rejoicing parties of the world. v. 6 - Be carefree by taking all cares to God. v. 7 - We are preserved by the peace of God in Christ.

Saturday - Philippians 4:8-17 Make a list of the things we are to think about (v.8). Where does the filth of pornographic books, magazines and movies fit in here? Notice the God-pleasing care that we are to give our fellow Christians - in body and soul. For our part we must learn contentment and not always seek to have more. What a blessing to have the great Treasure of Christ, for then we can truly say, "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content." May Christ strengthen us to be content and to share all our goods generously.

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church is a confessional Lutheran Church. We proclaim to a world dead in sin that salvation is a gift of God's grace; that Jesus Christ paid the full sacrificial price—His very life—so that gift of salvation could be ours.

If you are interested in learning more, please call Pastor Bernthal at 608-233-2244 or e-mail him at mbern@juno.com

More Information and Audio Sermons at middletonlutheran.org



Member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession.
www.clc.org

Peace Thru Christ

Lutheran Church and School

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Organist: Mrs. Karen Schaser

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Pre-service Ps. 139

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Communion Liturgy, p. 15 L.H.

Opening Hymn: . . 292 (1-3, 5, 8-9)

Before Sermon: 347

Offering Hymn: 788

During Distribution: 311

Closing Hymn: 291 (1-2, 4-5)

Scripture Readings:

Acts 16:1-40

Paul's first missionary effort in Europe was in the city of Philippi. Small wonder he speaks so highly of this congregation. But it wasn't easy in Philippi. Paul and Silas are thrown in prison and treated harshly, but the Lord intervenes and we see divine fruit resulting from the preaching and hearing of God's Word. The jailer and his family are brought to faith and another congregation is founded.

16 Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was

there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek. 4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. 5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily. 6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. 8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them. 11 Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. 14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us. 16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. 19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace

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Monday - Philippians 1:12-26 "JOY" is the predominant theme of this epistle. But the apostle writes this from a Roman prison and in view of all the "bad" things that had happened to him, one really wonders how he could be joyful. (See II Cor. 11:23-27) Yet he has the Spirit-wrought conviction that all these "bad" events worked to spread the Gospel (v.12) and for his own salvation (v.19). Paul answered the question that comes to each of us - "Will I die now or continue to live on earth?" - by concluding that he could not decide. (Wisely God has reserved the right to decide this.) But Paul knew to die meant heaven - the best thing for him; but to live meant preaching the Gospel - a joy for others. May we be enabled to find joy in whatever comes our way, joy in living for Christ, and our greatest joy in dying in Christ.

Tuesday - Philippians 2:5-11 This classic section on Christ's stages of humiliation ("made low") and exaltation ("lift up") is the New Testament digest of Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12. The eternal Son of God took flesh and blood and humbled Himself to death on the cross. This God-Man has been exalted very high. His is the only name whereby we can be saved, therefore we should use that name of Jesus carefully, properly, and often. Everything - good and evil angels, believer and unbeliever, even all creation - will on Judgment Day acknowledge the work and person of Jesus. Some in fear and trembling will be condemned, others saved - both by that name, Jesus.

Wednesday - Philippians 3:7-14 Christ is the one thing needful and Paul regarded everything else - precious jewels, a sharp mind, his good deeds, houses, food, and even life itself - as dung, manure. Why? His own righteousness was filthy and brought death. The righteousness of Christ brought life, perfection, fellowship with God. The righteousness of Christ is the greatest Treasure a person can have; in fact, in comparison there is no other treasure.

Thursday - Philippians 3:15-21 v. 20 - Citizenship (NKJV) means "way of life, conduct, walk." Our walk is in heaven, even now. This obviously affects how we walk on earth - in the steps of Christ, and not with the enemies of Christ. But how are we to walk in heaven with these sin-filled bodies? Christ on His return will change these bodies into perfect bodies like His own. The Lord has everything under control. Just walk in Him and trust Him.

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Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church & School • Announcements

This Week:

Today 10:20 a.m. Evangelism Meeting

4:00 p.m. Installation of Mike Schierenbeck at Faith

Mon-Fri 9:00-11:45 a.m. VBS

Saturday 6:30 p.m. Outdoor Worship Service at Mendota Cty. Park

Next Sunday 9:00 a.m. Family Worship

LAST WEEK: Worship 42

OFFERINGS 7/26 for Unified Budget: \$ 3,639

IN SERVICE TO OUR LORD:

Cleaners this week:

Church---Greve

Counters today:

Matt Schaser & Gail Schaefer

IN YOUR MAILBOX: August Calendar & Newsletter

CLC NEWS: Mrs. Leah Ude has returned the call extended to her by Trinity Lutheran, Watertown SD, be its teacher. Redeemer Lutheran has also called Leah Ude to be their pre-school teacher.

Student Account Help:

Occasionally families are in need of financial assistance to pay their current Immanuel student account due to factors out of their control. This impacts the ability for students to return. Some people have been willing

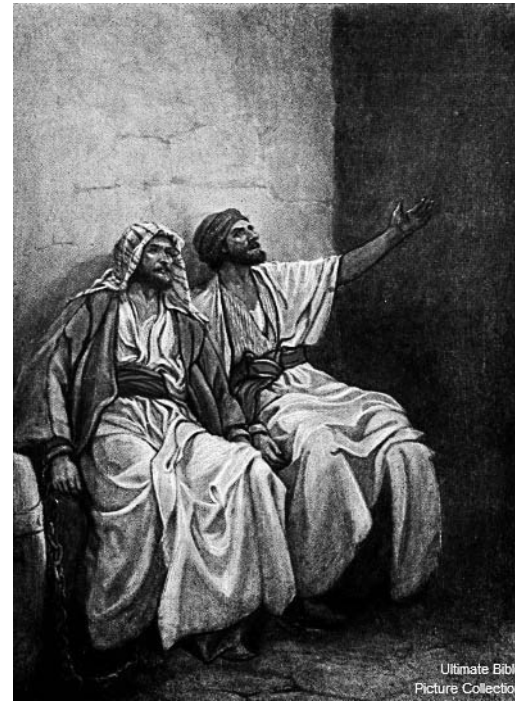
to help students anonymously in such situations. Perhaps there are others. Those interested in learning more about how you can help, please contact Pastor John Hein (612-408-1635/ john.p.hein@gmail.com). Thank you for your consideration. ILC Board of Regents

THANKS: to all who have been mowing this summer. The grounds look great! We are still in need of mowers for the rest of the summer.

VBS STARTS TOMORROW: Bring friends! We request your prayers for our students, teachers and helpers. May God's name be glorified and His children edified during this week of Biblical learning. Teachers this year: Pre-K: Miss Claire Abbas; 1st-2nd: Mr. Matt Schaser/James Schaser; 3rd-6th: Pastor Bernthal.

SNACKS FOR VBS: If you would like to donate snacks—cheese, crackers, chips, fruits, etc.—for our VBS, please bring them to the kitchen and mark them clearly. Thank you!

OUTDOOR WORSHIP: This Saturday, Aug. 8th we plan on having an outdoor worship service at Mendota Cty. Park Pavilion 2. Service begins at 6:30 p.m. We hope many of you can make it.



to the authorities. 20 And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; 21 and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." 22 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. 28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." 29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. 35 And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go." 36 So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The

magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace." 37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out." 38 And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. 39 Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city. 40 So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

The Sermon: read/listen to sermons at www.middletonlutheran.org

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Sermon Text: Philippians 3:1-11

Theme:

WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD NEVER TIRE OF HEARING THE GOSPEL!

I: Because God wants His servants to preach it and hear it time and time again.

II: We need the Gospel for our confirmation in the faith and for our defense against sin and error!

III: Because the Gospel leads us to KNOW Jesus as our Priceless Treasure.

3 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe. 2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, 4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning

the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.



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PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU!

We thank God that you are worshiping with us this morning. We should never tire of hearing the Gospel of our Savior because it strengthens and confirms our faith and is our defense against sin. Only through the Gospel can we really KNOW Jesus as Lord and Savior and walk with Him in this life. What a blessing to know that Jesus is our Priceless Treasure who gives us forgiveness of sin, salvation and everlasting life. If you would like more information about our congregation, Peace Thru Christ, or school, please speak with Pastor Bernthal. Come, worship your Savior with us and hear God's Word again. Please also sign our guest register.

HOLY COMMUNION: The Lord's Supper is being celebrated this morning. We encourage all of our members to attend this meal of forgiveness from our Savior. Since it is a confession of oneness in faith and doctrine, we ask that only members of Peace Thru Christ or of a sister congregation in the CLC come forward to partake of the Lord's Supper. If you have any questions concerning this practice called "Close Communion," please see Pastor Bernthal. Thank you.