

Covenant Life

- Our next **prayer meeting** is next Sunday, November 24th at 3pm. We plan to have Children and Youth ministries.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** After the prayer meeting on December 8th, we will have a **CCGD Christmas dinner** sponsored by the CCGD Youth Ministry. Please make plans to stay after the meeting and enjoy food and fellowship.
- Our **2025 Stewardship Promise & Recommitment Drive** is active. We want to hear from all members (also welcoming those not yet a member) by clicking here: [2025 Promise](#).
- [GodsDelight.org](#) has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), and [teachings](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

Reflection

We know we are approaching the end of the liturgical year when the church readings focus on end-times. We have all heard a range of sermons on the topic from passing over the issue to fire and brimstone. Overall, the subject of the afterlife is one often simply ignored despite the prophecies and assurances like those in the [First Reading](#) today. We are coached to have confidence as David proclaims in the [Responsorial Psalm](#) today. And David's advice to "*set the LORD ever before me*", certainly rings true.

In praying through the readings today I was drawn to the words in the [Alleluia](#) proclamation from [Luke 21:36](#): "*Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to stand before the Son of Man.*"

Reading this verse recalls past teachings on having a **healthy fear of the Lord**. Adding the word healthy transforms the phrase 'fear of the Lord' from something that could be interpreted as just fear of eternal judgement to one of focusing on the necessary awe and reverence that we must have for our Lord God. It does not downplay the reality of our end-of-life accountability, but it does challenge us to go about our days with wisdom regarding the purpose for which we were created.

Luke records Jesus' teaching to beware and vigilant that our hearts do not become trapped in the anxieties of daily life. These are easy words to read but it is wholly different to really embrace and live by.

The world, the flesh, and the devil present us with a non-stop barrage of distractions. What are we do to? It is good and right to prioritize time for God, family, service, rest...but we must ask ourselves to what extent are we aware and vigilant. To what extent are we ready? What does it mean to *live ready*?

I offer my opinion that one of the best ways to 'live ready' is to detach from this world and live every moment of every day with our eyes on our Lord and focus all our decisions on why we were created.

Living detached from this world is not easy. I reread my notes from a teaching I heard by Fr. Richard Rohr on **detachment** many years ago. I would like to end this letter by sharing three points he shared that I think we can all take to prayer:

- There are two ways to be a prophet: 1) tell enslaved people they can be free and 2) tell people who think they are free that they are enslaved. Are there areas of my life where I think I am free, but I am actually enslaved?
- A line in TS Elliot's poem *Ash Wednesday* "Teach us to care and not to care. To sit still even among these rocks." What are the 'rocks' in my life that rob my peace?
- A Ken Keys quote "So much more suffering comes into the world by people taking offense than by people giving offense."

Let us pray, *"Heavenly Father, I know my judgement day will come but I also know that You love me unconditionally and want me to spend eternity with You. Give me a healthy fear of You that enables me to detach from all the alures of this world so that I can truly focus, every moment of every day, upon Your good and perfect will for my life. Reveal to me any area of my life where I am enslaved. Teach me to not care about things that rob my peace. Give me the grace to never take offense. Send me Your Holy Spirit to respond to these challenges and enable me to detach from anything the world, my flesh, or the devil might tempt or distract me with. I love You and desire to live every moment with my eyes fixed on You!"*

God Bless,

David