

Sisters and Brothers, we are blessed as the Lord has chosen us to be his own!
5/30/2021

Covenant Life

- Wow, what an awesome Gathering we experienced on Pentecost. I want to thank all those who served and made it so special. I would especially like to thank Laura Dorsey who helped us all prepare with the [Let the Fire Fall Challenge](#). It was clear that the Holy Spirit was present and that He was moving in our midst. Our job now is to claim the Gifts bestowed and put them into practice. Exercise makes us strong. You can listen to the audio of the prayer meeting [here](#).
- Our next in-person prayer meeting will be June 13th at 4pm in the MSMCS gym.
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Reflection - I must confess that I have favorites. There is no denying it. There are passages in the scripture that I really connect with and, I must admit, scriptures that are hard to hear. The second reading today ([Rom 8:14-17](#)) is one of the scriptures that is not easy to take in. Despite this fact, as Paul points out, it is a fact of life for all who commit to follow our Lord Jesus Christ. Verse 16 starts out incredibly positive announcing that we are children and heirs of God. Who would not want to be an heir to the almighty, all-loving, creator of the universe? But then a dose of what that means... We are joint heirs with Christ. Paul is asking us to comprehend this. While his letter was to the Church in Rome in his day, as inspired Word, it is instructive for us to ponder it today. As joint heirs with Christ, Paul points to the reality that we will have to suffer with Him if we are to be glorified with Him. This is the hard word that I was referring to. Life in 2021 seems to be about avoiding pain, suffering, and anything that might lead to these. We insure everything...we develop thick skin...we isolate our families, our lives...we surround ourselves with those who are like us...we minimize life's risks... But this was not the example that Jesus set.

As we read in the Gospel today ([Mt 28:16-20](#)) Jesus' words to His disciples was to go make disciples of all the nations. This was His life. He sought out the needy and downcast. He surrounded Himself with whomever would listen. He went where

the Spirit led. He was not afraid of anyone or anything. He took on all challengers and whatever suffering was asked of Him. This is what He asks of us. *"If only we would suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him."*

While it may be a hard word it is not one without hope and confident assurance.

Upon hearing the first reading from Deuteronomy ([Dt 4:32-34, 39-40](#)) I had the sense that I was hearing these words for the first time (despite the highlight in my bible when I looked it up 😊). Here was Moses trying to explain God's fidelity. He wanted to assure the Israelites of the hope they have in God. He wanted to give them confident assurance. He wanted them to recall the ways that God had shown them His love! As I read 32b through 34 the Holy Spirit led me to personalize the words. As I thought back on my own journey, I could see instance after instance where God showed me love. I encourage you to fan this flame of hope and confident assurance in your life, today. Consider taking a few minutes right now and contemplate this for yourself. Is there anything so great as when you realized God love for you? Ponder the times that God intervened in your life. Did God reveal Himself? Did you experience Him? Was there any question that He loved you?

This is what Moses was conveying to the people of his day. God revealed Himself to them, but they had lost sight. Have we at times?

Moses' message was clear and straightforward and applicable to us today. Fix our hearts on the Lord our God and no other. Keep His statutes and commandments. If we do this, if we focus on Him, His message, His ways...then as His heirs we can claim His promise *"that you and your children after you may prosper, and that you may have long life on the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you forever."*

Let us pray *"Heavenly Father, I repent of the times I have held back from fully living for You, from living Your statutes and commandments or just closed myself off from the words of Your Son to go make disciples of all nations. Today, I reclaim my place as Your heir and all the hope and confident assurance that comes*

with this! I recommit to loving You with all my being, to spending time with You every day and to loving those You have sent and will send into my life. I thank you for the Gifts of Your Holy Spirit. I accept the new ones You are bestowing upon me and I pledge to look for ways to exercise them today and every day until You call me home. Amen."

God bless,

David