

## Saving Grace Daily Devotion

Monday, January 25

*Listen*

Mark 1:27

<sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

The authority that Christ has is real authority. It's because He Is God incarnate. When He speaks people take notice. He speaks with an authority, not because of a position He held, or appointments, but The Word who created all that exists was made flesh and dwelt among us. (John 1-4, 14) When Jesus spoke, He spoke with the very authority of God, for He Is God.

Even the unclean spirits recognized Him and He spoke with the authority above all things. He will command the wind and the waves, "Peace be Still," (Mark 4:39) He will walk through crowd ready to throw him off the brow of the hill. (Luke 4:28-30) He will raise the dead (John 11:41-44) and in the end die for our sins. After Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem where the people praise Him "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9) In six days they would be calling for Jesus to be crucified. He will be hung of a tree and accursed by all (Deut. 21:22-23) in our place. This is real love. This is real authority.

Next time you wonder who's in control or the radio station or television makes you question who is in control of the world. Remember that God is in control. Remember, <sup>20</sup>***Daniel said: "Blessed be the name of God from age to age, for wisdom and power are his. <sup>21</sup>He changes times and seasons, deposes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding." (Daniel 2:20-21)*** He still guides us today and is there to give us the strength we need. ***"God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11)*** He helps us understand what we need to know, giving wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. Never be afraid to give an account to who Jesus is, for all will see Him as He Is when he comes again in glory. (Revelation 1:7) You don't stand alone; He is always there to guide and support You. He has the authority. It's there we find peace.

Almighty God, thank you for Your Son Jesus who still speaks to us through the scriptures. Teach us to place our trust in Him and to listen to His call in our lives. Teach us never to be afraid, to tell others what You have done, as we are called not to be served, but to serve to Your glory. Amen

## Saving Grace Daily Devotion

Tuesday, January 26

*Pray*

1 Corinthians 8:13

**"<sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall."**

**If you really love your spouse, then love "real love" is knowing that your absolutely right and not saying anything so that you don't hurt them.** This is what Paul is writing about in 1 Corinthians 8. The Corinthians had many Greek gods that they worshipped before Paul came and shared the good news. **He even defines what the good news is.** Paul says, he proclaimed it to them, which they in turn received and now stand. **"...that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,<sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me."** (1 Corinthians 15:3b-8) He knows that they struggle with seeing so many worshipping idols around them and eating the food sacrificed to the idols. How do you tell them about Jesus when they're concerned with trivial things?

Paul makes it easy. He says, **there is only One God, The Father who created everything** that exists and **it's for God that we exist. There is One Lord Jesus Christ through whom everything exists and through whom we exist.** (1 Corinthians 8:6) That makes it pretty simple. If there are no other gods and Only God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Then food sacrificed to idols means nothing. We know that it was common practice for the extra meat from sacrifices went to the market to be sold. So, in order to protect the weak, Paul says even though everything is lawful, **"if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall."** (1 Corinthians 8:13)

Paul decided that we have to act in a manor worthy of the gospel. We have to protect those who are weak in faith by not eating meat sacrificed to idols. He acts in love in light of their weak so that he may witness without offending others. This is love.

***Lord, teach me not to cause others to stumble, because of my actions. Help me to respond to others in love, so that they may be encouraged in faith and trust in You for everything. Amen***

## **Saving Grace Daily Devotion**

Wednesday, January 27

**As the first month of 2021 comes to a close, I reflect on the goodness that God has bestowed upon me this month. Every day is filled with hope of what God has planned and it's that hope and God's unending love that guides us.**

**After reading today's verse, take time to reflect on what God has done for you so far this year. Did He speak to you and your heard Him? Did you see Him at work? Did you feel His presence guiding you?**

Isaiah 40:28

Have you not known?

Have you not heard?

The everlasting God, the Lord,

The Creator of the ends of the earth,

Neither faints nor is weary.

His understanding is unsearchable.

Activity: After writing today's verse, reread it and think about it using your senses: I see God \_\_\_\_\_, I hear God \_\_\_\_\_, I feel God \_\_\_\_\_. Then answer "I know God\_\_\_\_\_."

## Saving Grace Daily Devotion

Thursday, January 28

*Study*

### Deuteronomy 18:15

**“<sup>15</sup> The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.”**

You know the old adage, “Do as I say, not as I do.” Here Moses is telling the people of Israel that prophets who will reveal who God is to new generations. There will come prophets that Israel is to listen. These prophets will live their lives in a way so that what they say they also do.

Moses spoke “face to face with God” then he’d tell the people what God told him. Moses was a tangible reminder of God’s presence with the people of Israel so when he lost his temper and struck the rock twice, to get water from the rock, even though he was to speak to the rock, he violated what God desired him to do. (Numbers 20:8-12) The consequence was that he couldn’t enter into the promised land.

Today we look to “Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.” (Hebrews 12:2) We are to, **“<sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.” (Philippian 2:4-8)** We are to “not look to our own interests, but the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4) To be obedient to Christ no matter the cost so that others may see and believe. It isn’t an easy thing to do, but we look to Christ Jesus to give us the Holy Spirit that we may serve Him.

***Lord Jesus, teach me to look to you when I am weak and to trust in Your strength in my life. Help me to encourage others in their faith that I may point them to You. Amen***

## Saving Grace Daily Devotion

Friday, January 29

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name (Edward Perronet: 1721-1792)

Scripture: Mathew 1:21-28 - "The Man with an Unclean Spirit"

**History:** (from Hymnary.org) "It is interesting that those who express the most eloquent praise are often the people we would deem the least likely to have the ability. Yet David, the adulterating, murdering, lying king of Israel wrote a good deal of the Psalms, which we still use today as our guide for worship. In the same way, all accounts show Rev. Edward Perronet (1721-1792) to be a sharp-tongued, difficult personality, who would rather pick a fight over theology than display brotherly love.

Though Perronet was a minister of the established Church of England, his evangelical, or "dissenting" roots grew deep. His father had been associated with Whitefield and the Wesleys, and Perronet himself worked with the Wesleys until they split over the question of administering the Sacraments. Perronet then found work as a chaplain for the famous patroness of the evangelical movement, Countess of Huntingdon, but was soon removed from his post due to his violent attacks on the established church.

The text first appeared anonymously in 1780 in Gospel Magazine with the title "On the Resurrection." Many argue that the hymn has experienced continued popularity due to the hymn tune MILES LANE which appeared with it in Gospel Magazine and the tunes CORONATION (which we use) and DIADEM which have accompanied the text since that time. The poem was edited and added to by Rev. John Rippon for his book A Selection of Hymns, from the Best Authors intended to be an Appendix to Dr. Watts's Psalms and Hymns (1787), and his edition is the one commonly used in hymn books today." [1]

*1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!*

*Let angels prostrate fall;*

*Bring forth the royal diadem*

*And crown him Lord of all.*

*Bring forth the royal diadem And crown him Lord of all.*

*4 Hail him, you heirs of David's line,*

*Whom David Lord did call -*

*The God incarnate, man divine -*

*And crown him Lord of all.*

*The God incarnate, man divine-*

*And crown him Lord of all.*

*6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe*

*On this terrestrial ball*

*To him all majesty ascribe*

*And crown him Lord of all.*

*7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng*

*We at his feet may fall!*

*We'll join the everlasting song*

*And crown him Lord of all.*

**Devotion:** “This hymn is a declaration of praise, but it’s also much more than that. The words both declare the majesty of Christ and task us with making that majesty known to all. Like many hymns describing the glory of God and the hope that one day all people will see that glory, this hymn alludes to Philippians 2:9-11: “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” We long for this day, and declare our hope in its arrival in the text of this hymn. But are we willing to declare that hope to those who have not heard it? The phrase, “Easier said than done” comes to mind here. After we have sung these words of victory and longing, what do we do? Do we act on those words and turn our expectancy into realities? Or do we wait for someone else to do it for us? The fourth stanza of this great hymn declares, “We’ll join the everlasting song....” Everlasting means that we are a part of that song right now – are we willing to lift our voices together to sing more than a hymn, and truly crown our God Lord of all?” [2]

**Prayer:** Dear God. We thank You for sending Your Son to this world to save us from sin and evil. As Jesus cast the unclean spirit out of the man, help cast out the sin and evil in our lives. Help us to walk in Your ways and praise You so that we join our voices in Your song in our present daily life and into eternity. In Your name we pray. AMEN.

Source: [1] Greg Scheer, 1997 - Hymnary.org

[2] Notes - Hymnary.org

## **Saving Grace Daily Devotion**

Saturday, January 30

*Prepare for Worship*

### **Deuteronomy 18:18**

**<sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.**

Deuteronomy is a retelling of the law that the Israelite people would have first heard at Mount Sinai in Exodus and Leviticus. The people that Moses is speaking to now would have only been children and many were not even born at that time. Deuteronomy is Moses' final address to the people before he is taken by the Lord in the wilderness and the Israelite people enter the promise land. In our Scripture reading for this weekend, we find a word of promise in the midst of all these laws. God promises that he will raise up another prophet like Moses to guide his people and share his word with them. When God came to the people in his heavenly glory on Mount Sinai, they said, "Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire anymore, lest I die," (Deut. 18:16). God in all of his glory and majesty can be a terrifying experience. God agrees with the people's sentiment and promises to send a man like Moses to be the link between God and man. God sent many teachers and prophets to his people generation after generation. For those who know Christ, we know the man who is the ultimate fulfillment of this promise. God has given us his Son so that we might not be terrified by his presence. This is the God that we come to worship.

Prayer: Dear Lord, Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending us the fulfillment of your promised prophet. Jesus shared your words with us so that we might be the children of God. You could appear to us in a way that would cause us to shake in our boots, but instead, you come to us in a way that we can understand so that we might love you. Stir our hearts up to worship we pray in Jesus' name, Amen

## Saving Grace Daily Devotion

Sunday, January 31

*Praise*

**Mark 1:21**

**<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.**

What we anticipated yesterday is now here! God's prophet, in the flesh, speaking God's words to God's people. We see that Jesus' work began in the synagogues; the local Jewish worshipping communities scattered across Judea. He went to God's people in order to guide them in the salvation that God had been crafting for thousands of years. And it would have been revealed to them if the word had been written on their hearts! For God gave his people a proof back in Deuteronomy to distinguish between a false prophet and a true prophet. "When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the words does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken," (Deuteronomy 18:22). And in our gospel reading this morning Jesus rebukes an unclean spirit that has overtaken a man and he commands the spirit to get out. "And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him," (Mark 1:26). Jesus speaks and his word comes to pass. Earlier Jesus spoke, "Follow me." And what happened? "And immediately they left their nets and followed him," (Mark 1:18). The word of God in the mouth of Jesus is powerful throughout the gospels to accomplish what is spoken. Jesus speaks what is true and he is faithful to accomplish what he promises. Let us worship.

Prayer: Dear Lord, Heavenly Father, we come to you with hearts full of wonder at the power of your word. Jesus comes to us speaking your words and not a single word falls flat. We rejoice that he shows us just how gracious and merciful you truly are. We praise you in Jesus' name, Amen