

Good News Daily

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Sunday, November 3

Luke 12:22-31 “*But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.*” (v.31 NKJV)

Years before I accepted Christ into my life I used to really get caught up in the world. I called it “pedaling my bike fast to keep ahead of the others behind me.” I worshiped things like job status, money, and the “in” things pop culture was offering. The end result was feeling empty and finally stumbling into alcoholism to numb the pain.

The process of becoming sober with God’s help caused me to look at the value of life in a different way. What mattered now was how *God* felt about my heart and my actions—not my peers. My character and service to others began to define me instead of my status and possessions. I finally accepted God’s promise that if we seek Him first, the other things will fall into place. My life is more meaningful and joyful today—with deeper relationships. Oh and, by the way, my career is better than ever. Thanks, God.

Nehemiah 5:1-19; Psalms 24, 29; Acts 20:7-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for the Church of Bermuda (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury)

The Rt Revd Nicholas Dill – Bishop of Bermuda

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Carlinville, The Rev. John R. Henry, Rector; Tura Mission, Tanzania, Rev. Ernest Lugenzi, Vicar; The Mission of Santiago Apóstol, Selva Alegre, Peru, Rev'd Victor Condori, Vicar.

Monday, November 4

Matthew 13:36-43 “*The Son of Man will send out His angels and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those that practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*” (vv.41-42)

While tending my flower beds the other day, I thought about some similarities between me and God. Before planting, I work the soil. Then I open a seed package and spread the seeds with care. For weeks I water and wait with hope until I finally see the little green shoots push through the soil; hundreds of little green leaves beginning to grow as I care for them. The problem is that I know about 5% of them will be weeds, and not the flowers I enjoy. At this young stage, I still can’t tell which the flowers are, and which are the weeds, which will try to overtake my garden.

Finally, the plants are big enough to identify and fate steps in. I won't tolerate the weeds and I pull them all up to die. God promises the same for us, but there is a difference. He warns us and encourages us to change and become a son or daughter with love. He doesn't want us to be separated from Him, but He also allows us free choice. I bet those weeds would choose to change into flowers if they could.

Nehemiah 6:1-19; Psalms 56, 57, 58; Revelation 10:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Rockhampton (*Australia*) The Rt Revd David Robinson; Delhi (*North India*) The Rt Revd Warris K. Masih; Kutigi (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Jeremiah Kolo.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: The things, good Lord, that we pray for, give us the grace to labor for.

ST. MATTHEW'S: THE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF Valerie & Rex Schaeffer.

Tuesday, November 5

Psalm 62 *He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.* (vv.6-7)

When I read this Scripture, I am reminded of the movie *The Passion of the Christ*. A movie, I think, every believer and nonbeliever should see at least once to give themselves a clearer visual of what Christ did to pay for our sin.

The Bible doesn't really read like a novel, and many times we have to fill in between the lines. For myself, I know that after seeing the movie, the passages about the horrors Jesus took upon himself brought a deeper sense of grief in me. How could he have chosen to suffer that for me? So many times, I have chosen not to suffer for him and sought after my own personal pleasure.

Realize the love God had for us to allow His Son to go through that pain to make possible our salvation—our refuge.

Nehemiah 12:27-31a, 42b-47; Psalm 61; Revelation 11:1-19; Matthew 13:44-52

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Rokon (*South Sudan*) The Rt Revd Francis Loyo Mori; Derby (*England*) The Rt Revd Janet Elizabeth McFarlane (Assistant Bishop).

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Grant, O Lord, that from the written word, and by our spoken word, men and women may catch a vision of the Incarnate Word, through the power of the Holy Spirit. - *D.Coggan.*

Wednesday, November 6

Psalm 72 *For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper.* (v.12)

That Scripture sure sounds like a loving father who has nothing but a big heart for his children; a place on his lap where needy little children can rush to and feel secure and loved. Our Father waits daily for us to come to Him with our needs.

The problem is that sometimes we are independent and try to get through life on our own self-will. Years ago, when alcoholism finally broke me and humbled my pride, I was ready to sit in the Father's lap. There was a necessity for humility. When we are unbroken, proud and arrogant, it is hard to accept God's love. The spirit of humbleness opens the door to the Father.

God used the darkest moment of my life, my alcoholism, to bring me home to His lap. He had to transform my heart, but first I had to be open and humble. Are you in God's lap today?

Nehemiah 13:4-22; Revelation 12:1-12; Matthew 13:53-58

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Rorya (*Tanzania*) The Rt Revd John Adiema; Derry & Raphoe (*Ireland*) The Rt Revd Kenneth Raymond Good; Dhaka (*Bangladesh*) The Most Revd Paul Shishir Sarker.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. Scott M. Hoogerhyde, St. Louis, MO

Thursday, November 7

Revelation 14:1-13 *Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”* (vv.6-7)

I always have trouble sitting with a friend of mine who doesn't believe in Christ and explaining there will someday be a judgment made on his life; to explain it in a way that doesn't cause a wall to go up. There are three things I try to do: First, I try and be sensitive and tell my story of how Christ saved me from alcoholism—pointing a finger at my trials and sin, and then finally the transformation of my heart. Second, I commit to pray for a softening of my friend's heart towards God. Finally, I just have to trust God is working in ways I don't see and understand.

I have several close friends for whom I pray daily, hoping they will soon accept Jesus as their Savior. They know my story and hopefully see me walk my faith out every day. It took years for me to come around and I must have that same love and patience that God had with me.

Ezra 7:1-26; Psalms 70, 71; Matthew 14:1-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ruaha (*Tanzania*) The Rt Revd Joseph Mgomu; Diocese in Europe (*England*) The Rt Revd David Hamid, The Rt Revd Robert Innes; Europe (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Pierre Whalon.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Eternal God, take from us pride and vanity, boasting and forwardness, and give us true courage that shows itself by gentleness.

Friday, November 8

Matthew 14:13-21 *And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.* (v.14)

I sit here today writing this in a reclining chair with a heating pad on my worn out back. I'm feeling blessed because ten months ago I couldn't get off my knees and stand up. I had re-ruptured two discs in my lower back and was screaming from the pain. Eighteen years ago, I had already had one back surgery from my days of rodeoing and here I was crippled again, unable to move or work.

The doctors thought about fusing my spine, but I went a different route with cortisone shots, rest, swimming, and lots of prayer. It was slow and painful, but over a seven-month period I gradually got back on my feet. During that time, I was blessed with deeper relationships with friends, old and new, that I depended on to get through the day. My best golf buddy prayed for me and regularly drove me, numerous times, to the doctor. Some other friends got me groceries or fed my horses. I'm single and very independent, but God brought a wonderful single woman and her kids into my life, which kept me smiling and was so helpful. My back today is 80% healed, but my life is 100% richer because of those deeper relationships. I thank God for the miracles of the medicine and doctors He created, and also for the touch of the hearts He created.

Ezra 7:27-28, 8:21-36; Psalm 69; Revelation 15:1-8

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Rumbek (*South Sudan*) The Most Revd Alapayo Manyang Kuctiel, The Rt Revd Elizabeth Awor Ngor; The Bahamas and The Turks and Caicos Islands (*West Indies*) The Rt Revd Laish Boyd; Kwara (*Nigeria*) The Most Revd Olusegun Adeyemi.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, we pray for our world, especially for those nations where there is war and unrest.

Saturday, November 9

Revelation 17:1-14 *“These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”* (v.14)

I'll be the first to admit that the book of Revelation is a hard book for me to understand. The Gospels, Psalms, and New Testament books like Hebrews and Ephesians are much easier and less disturbing to read. But there is a final important answer that is found in the Book of Revelation. Verse 14 sums the whole story up.

There is good and evil, and God will finally make sure the reign of evil will end. Those that are with God will be chosen, and those against Him should take cover—short and simple; we know the ending. Now, I have a question for you: If you knew how the Civil War would end and you had a choice before the war began

of having all your money in dollars printed by the North or all your money in currency printed by the South, which currency would you want to be holding when the war was over?

Ezra 9:1-15; Psalms 75, 76; Matthew 14:22-36

ANGLICAN CYCLE: The Free State (formerly Bloemfontein) (*Southern Africa*)

The Rt Revd Dintoe Letloenyane.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Church of the Redeemer, Cairo, Consecration of present church building.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Sandy Kohlhase' birthday.

by Steve Ford

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Pray for the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Margret L., Allan H., James G.

Pray for the Faithful Departed:

Pray for those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., Barb W., and Margaret P.

Pray for: The Diocese of Tabora, Anglican Church of Tanzania, The Rt. Rev. Elias Chakupewa, the clergy and people. The Missionary Diocese of Peru, The Rt. Rev. Alejandro Mesco. Fr. Kari Marcelle, the clergy and people of Holy Trinity St. Vincent. Fr. Dave and all clergy, for whom we light the candle on the west side of the Altar.