

The Abiding Word

Back To The Bible & Let The Bible Speak

February 19, 2020

Reflections No. 14

*Yesterday
is history*

*Tomorrow is a
Mystery*

*Today
is a gift*

*That's why we call it the
Present*

Hope

Guide me in Your truth and teach
me, for You are God my Savior,
and my hope is in You all day long.

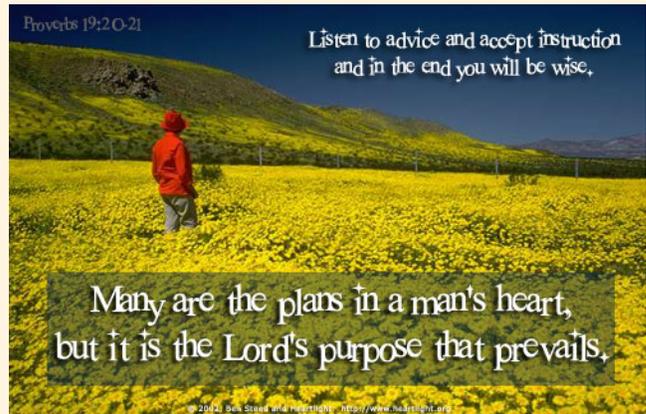
Psalms 25:5

PROVERB FOR THE DAY

One of the key methods I have learned over the years for dealing with the everyday challenges that living throws my way is to meditate on the Word of God each day as I walk with God.

I have found that reading the Proverb for the day in the morning and reflecting on that Proverb and seeing how I can put it to action in my life as I go through the day has become a great faith builder and strength when trials and conflicts come my way.

Each day has its own Proverb and in one month I have applied all 31 Proverbs ready to do it again the next month. It really works, try it.



ABOUT REFLECTIONS

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The Church That Christ Built

What is the church of Christ? This is one of the most common questions I am most always asked when I am asked anything about my faith and where I “go to church”.

Basically, the church is the body of Christ. Jesus said that upon the belief/confession that He is the Son of God He would build His church and later He prayed for unity among His disciples. By Scripture, we know that there is one Body, one Lord, one God, one Father, one Baptism and one Faith. However, because of the complexity of our world today and the different factions of the “christian belief”, those who seek to be disciples of Christ should be aware of knowing the truths found in God’s Word, and most of all, knowing upon what their faith is based. Be ready to give an account of the hope that is within you. [1Peter 3:15]

The church of Christ is neither Catholic, Protestant nor Jewish. What does this mean then? Well, those who are members of Christ’s church are just Christians, disciples, followers of Jesus the Christ. They are people of like faith based upon the Word of God found only in the Scriptures. They are seeking to live their lives by the Godly principles of Christian living presented in the inspired Word of God, the Bible. Therefore the foundational basis of living is the revealed Word of God and all that it contains.

Seeking to be a disciple of Christ we should use only the Bible as our guide and authority. We should strive to go back to the unity and oneness Jesus prayed for and speak only where the Bible speaks when it comes to matters of faith.

As just Christians we are devoted to establishing the purity and unity of fellowship that Jesus prayed for and the apostles preached about in the New Testament writings. To be divided is not unity; and true spiritual unity can only come from one standard, which is God’s Word. This is why if something is not contained in it by word or practice according to the first century church then we do not add or subtract in our effort to restore that church today with its unity in a divided world.

How should we view our friends in the religious world about us? After all, some do practice “Christianity” with great devotion. The biblical answer is the only answer. Love them; pray for them; and share with them why you believe the way you do. Note the ministry of Priscilla and Aquila explaining the way of God more accurately. [Acts 18:24-28] Then in [Acts 19:1-7], Paul directed some disciples into more perfect knowledge concerning Jesus.

Yes, as Christians let us with love and boldness share with all what it means to be part of Christ’s church and seek that unity for which He prayed.

How Many Churches Are There?

HOW MANY CHURCHES ARE THERE?

- **ACCORDING TO MEN** . . . There are hundreds splintered into thousands of branches
- **ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE** . . . There is **ONE CHURCH!**
 - The church is His (Christ’s body).
Ephesians 1:18-19 - “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the Church, which is His body . . .”
- **The Church is the Body . . . And the Body is the Church.**
Colossians 1:18 - “And He is the head of the body, the church . . .”
Colossians 1:24 - “. . . For the sake of His body, which is the church.”
- **The Church is the Body . . . And the Body is the Church.**
 - There are as many bodies as there are churches. There are as many churches as there are bodies. Thus, How many are there?
 - Answer: **Ephesians 4:4** - “There is one body . . .”
- Since the church is the body and the body is the church, and since the Bible says there is “one body,” the rightful conclusion is that there is **ONE CHURCH!**

An Invitation!

Each Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM
we host a Bible Study in our home.

If you are near and able,
Joy and I invite you to join our study group.

