

"Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: we humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus christ our Lord.

Amen."

collect for Guidance , BCP 100

Personal Concluding Thoughts



Sermon Notes: "Becoming the Body of Christ"

Deuteronomy 11.18-23, Philippians 3.8-16, Matthew 4.17-22

"But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)."

-Romans 10.8



"Building up the Body of Christ"

During the US civil war Abraham Lincoln met with a group of ministers for a prayer breakfast. At one point one of the ministers said, "Mr. President, let us pray that God is on our side." Lincoln's response showed far greater insight, "No, gentlemen, let us pray that we are on God's side."

What came up in the sermon that you were surprised at? Did anything in the sermon speak directly to you, personally?

"82 PERCENT OF AMERICANS SAID THAT THEY FELT THE NEED TO EXPERIENCE SPIRITUAL GROWTH."

MARK DEVER

"WE SHOULD GROW AS CHRISTIANS AND HELP OTHERS DO THE SAME BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS, WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US IN CHRIST, AND WHO HE HAS MADE US IN CHRIST."

Fear is a great motivator; so is love. However, forgiveness is probably the greatest.

Is there anything in your life that you're required to do, but you consistently struggle to find motivation for? How do you respond?

Where do you go to find the motivation you need?

Read Colossians 3.1-13

If we never spend time with God, then our relationship with Him will never be strong.

Paul is saying that although we were spiritually dead, we have now been raised to life with Christ, and now we are seated with Christ in heaven. Does this make you want to grow as a disciple of Jesus? Why or why not?

How is this motivation for discipleship different from a 'just do it' approach, where we seek to obey God out of a bare sense of obligation?

In v3, Paul says that, if you're a Christian, you've died. You've died to your old self. You've died to sin. You've died to the power of this world which once held you captive. How does the fact that you've died to sin encourage you to pursue holiness?

What does Paul command us to 'put away' in v8? What does he command us not to do in v9? What reason does he give for why we shouldn't do these things?

"ONE THING THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT GROWTH IS THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WILL GROW." (ISAIAH 9.7)

MARK DEVER

What are some ways you can use the truths in this passage to spur on your own and others' growth in godliness?

How can you practically reshape your heart's motivations?

When all is said and done, the life of faith is nothing if not an unending struggle of the spirit with every available weapon against the flesh.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

