

My Thoughts for Sunday, Sept 7, 2014

Recently I was invited with friends to a Contemporary Christian Worship Service. It was interesting, though lacking in many of the features of my well known Liturgical service. There was no confession and absolution of sins; which I missed the most. No reference to any of the basic Christian Creeds and I found the music was much too loud and lacking in much of any true message and quite repetitive. Please, don't misunderstand me; I truly love much of **our** great Christian Contemporary music.

Although the sermon was scriptural and well delivered I became turned off by the traditional 'Altar Call' at the close of service. I have never seen any scriptural reference to this practice and found it extremely unfounded. With this in mind I wish to offer my latest Thoughts for Sunday as I see the promises given by our Savior and the very plain and simple instructions He has given us.

God's Promise of Fulfillment and Godliness

"... Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

2 Peter 1:2-4 (KJV)

Listen to this great promise given by our Lord and Savior. He has given us ALL things that pertain to life and godliness. How marvelous is this? He gives us all these things through the knowledge of Him. He is not just giving us a few minor blessings, but ALL things that pertain to life and godliness. He gives us the ability to be partakers of His divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is around us in this world.

Yes, we are still in this world and still have to bear many of the evil and uncomfortable effects of all that is around us, but now we are sharing in His promises and even in His divine nature.

Peter then goes on to explain all the additional virtues added to us through this divine calling by our Lord. (Please note; this is His divine calling, not our calling Him)

"...And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. "

2 Peter 1:5-8 (KJV)

How very blessed we are to receive freely all these many virtues that are so lacking in the world around us. so that, as Peter says, *"you will not be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"*. My dear brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors, these promises are not held out for a few special people. We are not required to come before a room full of people and ask Jesus to enter our hearts. This is not His means of salvation for us. No, these promises are for all who long for that special relationship with our Lord. He gives this freely to ALL who believe in Him and are baptized. Yes, to all who are born again into Him through the washing of rebirth through the water and the word. Nothing else is required of us, nothing can be given by us, He gives all freely as was stated in **John 3:16-17 (KJV)** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."*

With this in mind, my friends, I invite you all to come and worship with me and enjoy the prayer and praise we offer our Lord and the great promises He lavishes on us for forgiveness of our sins and the strength to travel the remainder of our journey through this sin filled world.