

Theme for 2021

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT; WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD!

‘They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love.’

“I have commissioned them to represent me just as you commissioned me to represent you. And now I dedicate myself to them as a holy sacrifice so that they will live as fully dedicated to God and be made holy by your truth.” “And I ask not only for these disciples, but also for all those who will one day believe in me through their message. I pray for them all to be joined together as one even as you and I, Father, are joined together as one. I pray for them to become one with us so that the world will recognize that you sent me. For the very glory you have given to me I have given them so that they will be joined together as one and experience the same unity that we enjoy. You live fully in me and now I live fully in them so that they will experience perfect unity, and the world will be convinced that you have sent me, for they will see that you love each one of them with the same passionate love that you have for me.”

John 17:18-23 The Passion Translation (TPT)



This Week’s Thought – February 21, 2021

“Trust [confidently] in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him. God is a refuge for us.” Psalm 62:8 Amplified Bible (AMP)

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” God is a safe place to find refuge for your weary soul. He can be trusted with your deepest fears and most painful wounds. He does not abuse or manipulate but speaks softly and tenderly, like a loving parent towards a beloved child. In life, we often find ourselves searching for such places of safety. Due to the brokenness of our human condition, trustworthy places of refuge can be elusive and easily lost. A moment of passion or outburst of anger can sow seeds of discord and distrust. You long for refuge, or maybe for someone to pour out your heart to, yet you find yourself regularly hurt or betrayed by those you love the most or who you thought loved you.

Do not misplace your hope. Are earthly relationships a potential means of grace and taste of the perfect refuge of God? Absolutely! Many of us have known, and know today, the joy that comes from living life in a relationship defined by mutual vulnerability and trust.

Few things in life bring greater joy or comfort. Yet we must remember, even the most trustworthy friend, mate, family member, etc., is a fallen and broken creature, capable of great good, yet also someone who will fail to love as they ought.

The failure of others is not a cause for distress! In many ways, a correct view of the human condition should prepare us for these moments. *Every* person is sick and in need of the healing touch of God. As James reminds us, from the same mouth we are able to both speak blessing and worship God, yet at the same time speak curses over our brother or sister. (James 3:10)

Every time we encounter the brokenness of someone we love, it is an invitation to remember our own need of healing. Furthermore, it should create in us a longing for *perfect* love, the safety and refuge that comes from God alone. As the psalmist exhorts us, “*Trust in God at all times...*” (Psalm 62:8) There is never a moment or situation in which God cannot be trusted. Turn to Him today and find refuge for your weary soul.

Application: Have you looked to an earthly relationship to provide you with the unshakable refuge and love that can only come from God?

Prayer of reflection and response you might pray this week: “In You, LORD, I have taken refuge; Let me never be put to shame. In Your righteousness rescue me and save me; Extend Your ear to me and help me. Be to me a rock of dwelling to which I may continually come; You have given the commandment to save me, For You are my rock and my fortress. Save me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, From the grasp of the wrongdoer and the ruthless, For You are my hope; Lord GOD, *You are* my confidence from my youth. I have leaned on you since *my* birth; You are He who took me from my mother’s womb; My praise is continually of You. (Psalm 71:1-6, NASB) I await Your Voice. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King